

appeal no: 09/97
29 April 1997

MAURITANIA / NIGER: DROUGHT

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,159,630
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 30,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS***

Summary

Some areas of Niger and Mauritania have received unusually poor rainfall, even though precipitation in the Sahel countries during the last rainy season was slightly above normal. The ensuing poor harvest and damaged pasture land has affected as many as 500,000 people, some of whom are in dire need of relief assistance. Following thorough assessments, the International Federation, together with the concerned National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are launching an appeal to assist 6,000 children and 2,500 pregnant/lactating women in Niger, together with 17,500 vulnerable people and 3,900 children under five and mothers in Mauritania.

The Intended Operation

Niger:

Niger Red Cross Society (NRCS) intends to organise a supplementary feeding programme through ten existing feeding centres for 6,000 children and 2,500 pregnant and lactating women in the arrondissement of Tanout. The necessary food supply could be purchased in the region and transported via Niamey to Tanout. Volunteers in charge of preparation and distribution will receive food-for-work.

Mauritania:

Mauritania Red Crescent Society (MRCS) intends to supply monthly dry rations of cereals, oil, powder milk or niébé beans to 17,500 vulnerable people between May and September in disadvantaged regions which are not included in the general plan of the government. In addition MRCS will provide a supplementary feeding programme for 2,500 children under five through 50 feeding centres in the regions of Nouakchott, Inchiri, Adrar and Assaba. Daily wet rations composed of cereals, oil, powder milk and sugar will be prepared and distributed. The operation is planned to last six months, starting in May.

The Disaster

Niger:

"The arrondissements of N'Guimi, Ouallam, Tahoua, Tanout, Tchintabaraden and all the arrondissements of Agadez departments are particularly vulnerable. In addition, in early November, the national security stock was almost exhausted." (FAO - Foodcrops and Shortages, No.1, December 1996/January 1997). On March 6 the United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs noted "there are increasing reports of food shortages and weak purchasing power in the most vulnerable areas of Niger, especially in the vicinity of Tahoua, Dakoro, and Tanout.

Mauritania:

The overall food supply situation in Mauritania is tight with the population in Brakna and Gorgol regions particularly affected: in Brakna less than 20% of the total need for cereals has been produced, while in Gorgol the figure is just 33%. According to the government, 200,000 people are affected. DHA confirms this figure and adds that two recent assessments "found near famine conditions in several areas of Mauritania."

WFP has committed itself to assisting the governments of both countries.

The Response so far

Government Action •

Niger:

The government of Niger launched an appeal for external assistance for 118,000 MT of cereals to assist up to 2,000,000 people and refill their emergency stocks, which have not been replenished following last year's severe drought.

Mauritania:

The government launched an appeal based on its evaluation of missing stocks. It co-ordinated an emergency plan of action with international partners such as European Union, Japanese Government, WFP and USAID. Eight out of 16 regions are targeted for immediate action in the South, but needs have been identified elsewhere.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action •

Niger:

The Federation sent a consultant to Niger to assess needs and recommend a programme appropriate to the needs of the population, to be realised within the structures and capacities of NRCS. The Regional Delegation in Abidjan will purchase the necessary food items in the region and assist NRCS with the implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the supplementary feeding programme.

Mauritania:

MRCS started relief activities through its feeding centres in Brakna, but had to stop in January due to stock shortages. It is included with other national and international agencies in the government's emergency plan for the southern regions. MRCS required the assistance of the Federation for the two programmes: 50 feeding centres and monthly targeted distributions in four disadvantaged regions for six months. The Regional Delegation in Abidjan participated in the needs assessment for this appeal and designed the plan of action. MRCS would prefer the food items for both parts of the programme to be donated in kind to Nouakchott, from where the needed quantities will be transported into the project areas according to the plan of action. The National Society asked the

Federation to provide a delegate, who will work with MRCS' national relief co-ordinator and liaise with the Regional Delegation Abidjan for monitoring and evaluation.

Other Agencies' Action •

Niger:

MSF (France) assessed the situation at the same time as the Federation and plans a medical programme in the same target areas.

Mauritania:

WFP will provide 16,000 MT of food aid to southern populations through agencies such as Caritas, Terre des Hommes, MSF, World Vision, Lutheran World Federation, and GTZ. The Regional Delegation Abidjan will continue discussions with WFP in order to receive 1,260 mt of cereals, 63 mt of vegetable oil, and 126 mt of milk powder from them for the general food distribution by MRCS.

Co-ordination •

Niger:

NRCS' programme has been discussed and welcomed by the government in Niger. Co-ordination with MSF is planned.

Mauritania:

MRCS is taking part in the national emergency plan co-ordinated by (CSA) with operational partners including WFP, European Union, USAID, LWF and Caritas.

Both Red Cross programmes are complementary to government operations.

The Needs to be met

Assessment of Needs •

Niger:

In February the Federation sent a consultant to Niger to assess the situation alongside NRCS. They found no immediate signs of severe malnutrition, but reported that 15% of children were undernourished - more than ten per cent above normal. Livestock prices were falling while cereal prices were rising sharply. The male population had started to move south, into the cities and towards Nigeria looking for work. Women and children were searching for food in non-cultivated areas and in woods.

These mechanisms are used in order to survive during the dry months of June-September each year, but are not normally seen as early as February.

358 mt of food aid are needed to implement a supplementary feeding programme for 6,000 children (under fives) and 2,500 pregnant and lactating women in four cantons of the Tanout arrondissement. This includes food for work for the volunteers involved in the implementation of the programme (5kg per person per day of work).

The relief aid has been calculated using standard Federation guidelines. By commodity, the food needed is 210 mt of millet, 80 mt of Niébé, 48 mt of oil and 20 mt of sugar. Hire of local means of transport is foreseen.

Mauritania:

As a result of the Sahelian drought which affected Mauritania last June-August and the repairs made to a dam in Mali, preventing fertilisation of the fields on the banks of the Senegal River, there was a large deficit in the last cereal harvest last November. Stockbreeders and farmers in Mauritania are affected by a huge reduction of pastures and of cereal production, since the annual June-August rainfalls and floods did not arrive. As a result stockbreeders left their communities with their cattle in search of other pastures. The women, children and old people left behind have no security stocks and are obliged to go to urban centres to make a living. Women try to compensate by picking wild cereals or grains stored by ants.

To cover 50 feeding centres 285 mt of food are needed for 3,900 beneficiaries (children, women, food for work). Another 1,450 mt of food will be needed for general food distribution to 17,500 vulnerable cases.

Milk is a traditional item of the Mauritanian nomadic way of life. It is a must in the feeding centre activity, but could be replaced by niébé beans, in the same proportion, for the targeted distributions. This item should be purchased in Senegal, Burkina Faso or Mali, not in Mauritania in order to avoid further price hikes. All other food items are expected to be donated in kind to Nouakchott.

By commodity, 1,474 mt of cereals, 89 mt of oil, 158 mt of milk powder and 14 mt of sugar are needed.

For transport the purchase of a truck, a Landcruiser and a Pick-up is foreseen.

Immediate Needs •

Niger:

Contributions in cash are sought in order to purchase the food aid in Niger or in the region and to organise people and logistics for the distribution and for a health education campaign.

Mauritania: A Federation delegate is needed immediately for six months to assist MRCS in setting up the programme, training members of MRCS and supervising the implementation. Donations in kind are requested for the food aid, while cash contributions are required for the delegate, local personnel, distribution (transport, storage) of the food aid, administration, supervision and evaluation.

Later needs can be avoided by an early start to the programme in both countries.

Red Cross Objectives

Niger:

- To assist 6,000 malnourished children and 2,500 pregnant and lactating women in the Tanout arrondissement through a programme of supplementary feeding for six months until the next harvest. The volunteers involved in this operation will receive food-for-work for their activities during the programme.

Mauritania:

- To complement the action of the government;
- To assist 17,500 identified vulnerable people for six months, starting in May;
- To reactivate competencies of its volunteers and officers through 21 branches;
- To prepare long-term activities fitting into the National Society Development Plan.
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National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Niger:

The following will be carried out through ten NRCS feeding centres NRCS in the Tanout arrondissement:

- Identification of malnourished children and pregnant/lactating women in the arrondissement and their registration as beneficiaries;
- Sensitisation of the mothers of these children to accept supplementary feeding;
- Tuition of mothers on how to prepare the supplementary food with local means;
- Provision of sufficient food aid for one distribution per month for six months;
- Monitoring of the children for six months;
- Referral of all cases of severe malnutrition to medical services;
- Tuition of mothers on how to monitor the status of their children, how to provide balanced food for the children and why and how to vaccinate the children regularly;
- Inclusion of family planning in the health education.

In phase one, the emergency phase (April-May), the action plan will be finalised with NRCS, volunteers and beneficiaries identified, and the first two rations distributed.

In phase two (June-August), distributions will continue, nutritional status will be monitored, health education conducted and volunteers/beneficiaries trained in Community based First Aid (CBFA).

In the final phase, up to October, phase two will be continued, evaluation conducted and a final report written.

Mauritania:

In phase one (April) resources will be identified, a Delegate selected, logistics preparation commenced and purchasing completed.

In phase two supplies will be delivered alongside training of staff/branches and elaboration of a distribution plan elaborated. The intervention will start in May by the identification of the beneficiaries for the supplementary feeding programme through MRCS' nutritionists, the mobilisation of the local population (150 volunteers), provision of water, firewood and premises for the preparation and distribution of wet rations.

Through MRCS' branches in Inchiri, Assaba, Adrar and the district of Nouakchott, MRCS volunteers will distribute dry rations to 17,500 vulnerable people.

MRCS branch volunteers will provide nutritional and health education parallel to the food distributions.

Capacity of the National Societies •

Niger:

Most NRCS volunteers have had experience of food distributions in recent years. NRCS headquarters and regional branches have qualified members who can supervise distributions.

Mauritania:

MRCS has 56 local committees, experienced human resources in relief operations and structured departments at the headquarters (logistics, nutrition, development). It has two large warehouses and already operates feeding centres. However, it lacks transport to effect the operation.

Present Capacity of the Federation •

Niger:

The operation will be co-ordinated and supervised by the Relief co-ordinator of the Regional Delegation in Abidjan.

Mauritania •

The Federation co-operates with the National Society through the Regional Delegation in Abidjan.

Evaluation •

Niger:

The evaluation will be carried out by the NRCS staff in close co-operation with the Regional Relief Co-ordinator in Abidjan.

Mauritania:

The evaluation will be carried out by the delegate and MRCS' Relief Co-ordinator with the support of the Regional Relief Co-ordinator in Abidjan.

Reporting for both operations will be done by the Regional Relief Co-ordinator.

Immediate action

Niger:

- ◆ Organisation of refresher courses for volunteers in identification of beneficiaries, registration, food distribution for supplementary feeding and health education campaigns;
- ◆ Preparation of the ten feeding centres;
- ◆ Sensitisation of the population in the target area;
- ◆ Organisation of the purchasing and logistics for distribution.

Mauritania:

- ◆ Mobilisation of resources;
- ◆ Contacts with donors for in kind, cash and services contributions;
- Identification of French-speaking Relief Administrator;
- Quotations for transport and niébé beans.

Budget summary

See Annex

Conclusion

The prompt implementation of this relief operation is required to counteract the effects of a poor harvest. This will be best achieved by targeted assistance to reduce vulnerability. The resultant co-operation with the National Societies will lead to long-term development programmes integrated into the regional strategies of the Federation.

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Disaster Response Operations Co-ordination

George Weber
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY

Mauritania/Niger

APPEAL No.

09.

IN CHF

ANNEX 1

	<u>Niger</u>	<u>Mauritania</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)			
<u>Food Items</u>			
Millet 210MT x 383,10/MT	80,500.00		80,500.00
Local beans (Niébé) 80MT x 766,20/MT	61,300.00		61,300.00
Vegetable Oil 48MT x 1.122/MT	53,900.00		53,900.00
Sugar 34MT x 493/MT (20MT/14MT)	9,900.00	6,900.00	16,800.00
Flour (Maize/wheat) 1.474 x 412/MT		607,500.00	607,500.00
Vegetable Oil 89MT x 1.300		115,700.00	115,700.00
Milk powder 158MT x 2962/MT		468,000.00	468,000.00
<u>TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)</u>	205,600.00	1,198,100.00	1,403,700.00

NEEDS IN CASH

Supplies (Utensils)		9,000.00	9,000.00
Training Material (50 FA Manuals)	400.00		400.00
Capital expenditures (3 vehicles/truck))		229,000.00	229,000.00
Transport, storage & vehicle costs	103,780.00	128,000.00	231,780.00
Personnel (Expat staff)	30,000.00	60,000.00	90,000.00
Personnel (national staff)	18,750.00	58,000.00	76,750.00
Administrative, office and General expenses	5,500.00	10,000.00	15,500.00
Evaluation	8,500.00		8,500.00
Secretariat operational support	15,000.00	80,000.00	95,000.00
<u>TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH</u>	181,930.00	574,000.00	755,930.00

<u>TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND</u>	387,530.00	1,772,100.00	2,159,630.00
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LESS CASH ON HAND **0.00**

<u>NET REQUEST CASH & KIND</u>	2,159,630.00
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