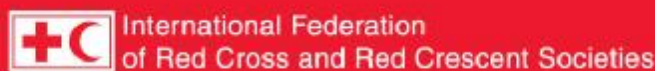


DREF operation



Niger: Food Insecurity

DREF operation n°
MDRNE005
GLIDE n° OT-201000028-
NER
23 February, 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 229,046 (USD 212,828 or EUR 156,142) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Niger in delivering immediate assistance to some 300,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: This DREF aims to mitigate the food shortage due to bad harvests last year affecting about half of the population (7.7 million) of Niger. The DREF is issued to respond to a request from the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) to support sectors of food security and nutrition for about 300,000 people with various activities including cash for work, water harvesting and environmental protection actions, seeds and stock distribution, and support to nutrition centres.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 23 April, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by July, 2010). An emergency appeal is in preparation to extend the activities until the harvest time in October or November, 2010.

[<click here for the DREF budget , here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



The situation

Rains have been irregular, starting late and stopping early in Eastern Sahel countries. Parts of Niger, Mali, Chad, and Burkina-Faso reported floods while other part in the same countries have experienced drought. The annual harvest statistics of Niger have already showed that many departments would experience deficit in the production of cereals. Alerted by these statistics, a rapid assessment has been conducted by the government of Niger by mid December, 2009. The assessment revealed that more than a half of the rural households would have no cereals in stock by the end of January, 2010.

Region	Department			Population
	Deficit in cereal production	Very vulnerable > 35 %	Very + moderate vulnerable > 50 %	very + moderate vulnerable
Agadez	All	Outside of survey representativeness		
Diffa	All	Maina Soroa	All departments	328,781
Dosso	Dosso C	None	Gaya	183,199
Maradi	Dakoro, Maradi city	Tessaoua,	Aguie, Dakoro, Guidan Roudji, Tessaoua	1,216,927
Tahoua	Illéla, Tchintabaraden, Abalak, Tahoua urban city	Illela, Tchintabaraden, Abalak, Tahoua, Keita	All departments	1,983,452
Tillabéri	Filingué, Ouallam, Tera, Tillabery department and urban city	None	Tillabéri, Filingué, Oualam	761,377
Zinder	Mirriah, Tanout, Zinder urban area		All departments	1,707,695
Niamey	All		Periphery	14,168
Total Departments focused with > 50% high and moderate vulnerability				6,195,599
Total				7,772,373

According to the findings of this rapid assessment, more than a half of the population have no cereals left in stock. The most affected regions are Diffa with 328,781 of vulnerable people; 1,707,695 in Zinder; and 1,983,452 in Tahoua. In the region of Diffa, Zinder and Tahoua, all departments are concerned by the assumption that more than half of the rural population has finished their stock since the end of January, 2010.

The peak of the food shortage occurs in normal years in June. For this year, the coping mechanisms of the population have been activated earlier. The planned activities aim to mitigate the effects of the early food shortage and to support early community resilience. Early interventions to support community coping mechanisms will avoid targeted beneficiaries to fall under absolute humanitarian threshold which will lead to a more difficult and longer recovery.

Compared to previous food insecurity situations, the National Society (NS) has better equipped branches, has trained more volunteers and more technical staff are recruited at headquarters. The continual support of the Participating National Societies (PNS) and the Federation since 2005 mainly improved available technical competences. However, there is still need for additional resource to support the NS to deal with food insecurity challenges.

Coordination and partnerships

To facilitate the coordination of the Federation, Movement meetings on the food security situation in Niger have been held; interventions conducted so far by Movement partners in Niger have been identified (who does what? and where?).

See table below that will be regularly updated:

Who?	Where?	What?
ICRC	Tillabéri: Ouallam, Filingué Agadez: Iferouane, Gougaramé, Tchiro, Dabaga,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural production support: tools, seeds, food distribution
Qatar Red Crescent	Tillabéri Niamey periphery Agadez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food security, nutrition and water and sanitation
French Red Cross	Zinder (functioning office) Agadez (functioning office) Niamey (functioning office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition in 24 Integrated Health Centre (CSI) (14 in Tanout, eight in Maga, and two in Zinder urban area), extension on nutrition, cash for work, distribution of seeds, training on agricultural issues; Whole region, 35 CSI, cash for work, sand

		removal, arrangement of Koris, rehabilitation of wells, 10 CSI.
Irish Red Cross	Zinder (functioning office) field activities in Tanout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security, emergency response; • Cash for work, agricultural production support, subsidies, selling; • 42 Graham banks, plus 7 banks; • 25 water points, seed distribution; • Extension of the zone of intervention to Tanout.
Spanish Red Cross	Tahoua: Illela and Tahoua urban city and department Maradi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency: nutrition, • 4 years, agricultural production support for women, Income Generating Activities (IGA), 21 villages, 50 groups, cash for work, food for training (literacy); • Promotion of agricultural production by women;
The International Federation	Diffa (ECHO) (flight ICRC) Tahoua with SRC (ECHO) Zinder (except Tanout) Tillabery (offer from Qatar Red Crescent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash for work, nutrition, distribution, seeds, Graham bank support

The CCA (Cellule de coordination de crise alimentaire - Food Crisis Coordination Unit) of the Early Warning System (EWS) of the Government is coordinating national and internal NGO intervention according to the plan of support elaborated by the Government. The UN coordination is facilitated by FAO throughout their Food Security Cluster meetings in Niamey. The security issues in Tahoua, Tillabery, Zinder, Niamey and Agadez are followed up by the ICRC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation and the Red Cross Society of Niger have participated to the assessment mission and the coordination meetings organized by the government. In these meetings the Government asked for assistance in the implementation of its plan to face food crisis. The Federation and the Red Cross Society of Niger have started discussions for coordinated interventions with World Food Programme (WFP), FAO and the movement partners.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The plans are to assist 300,000 people in 120 villages in Diffa, Zinder and Tahoua out of the 7.7 million people affected by food insecurity. The following needs have been identified by the food crisis coordination unit:

- 1- Funds for activities of high labour intensity as cash for work for the:
 - Implementation of anti erosion measures;
 - Rehabilitation of existing water harvesting and anti-erosion infrastructures;
 - Erosion protection of river/wadi banks and trees, sand filling protection of lakes and ponds; stone lines; forest and pasture micro-catchments, agricultural micro-catchments, reforestation (dry fruit trees), fixation of dunes);
- 2- Support to cereal banks in collaboration with WFP;
- 3- Support communities with seeds for early recovery;
- 4- Support to nutrition centres: identification/detection, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS), human resources, logistics, extension of key messages, provision of supplementary food;
- 5- Supplementary food for animal food banks (like bran of wheat, cotton grain, mineral and multivitamin blocs).

These needs are based on the current situation. The Red Cross Movement response will lead to a coordinated response – with partners – to reduce food insecurity impact.

The proposed operation

General Objective: To ensure the survival of vulnerable people until the next harvest in 2010 in the zones of intervention covered by the Red Cross Society of Niger.

Specific Objective: To contribute to reducing the effects of food insecurity through:

- The mitigation of the effects of the insufficient agricultural production;
- An improved agricultural production: with techniques to reduce the period of food shortage for the coming growing season and with higher yields;
- Increased community resilience: improve the agro-forestry-pastoral productivity for the coming seasons by following the Communal Development Plans of the concerned rural municipalities. In case the needs grow even further then these plans will be supplemented by intensive labour activities which will provide money to the families who can purchase the food of their choice (cash for work).
- Provision of cereals to the families at village level in their Graham Bank (community stocks).
- Strengthening National Society's volunteers capacities.

Food deficit mitigation	
Objective: Increased community resilience and improvement of agriculture production environment through cash for work and seed distribution in Diffa, Zinder and Tahoua Regions.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Cash for work in 15 villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 15 villages for cash for work in collaboration with the authorities and technical services of Niger; • Identify areas which need anti-erosion and water harvesting measures according to the communal development plan to improve agricultural production; • Conduct training for volunteers, scribes and supervisors; • Equip villages with soil working tools; • Implement and supervise cash for work activities; • Monitor and evaluate cash for work actions and their impact on the harvest; • Assess the impact of cash for work on beneficiaries.
120 villages have received cereal donations to Graham banks (in partnership with WFP) to have cereals to sell at village level and to fill their account (10 tons for the new banks and 5 tons for existing ones)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate and finalize the agreement with WFP; • Identify villages with Graham banks that need to be reinforced in the zone of intervention; • Assist in the creation of Graham Banks in the zones of intervention; • Conduct training/refreshing sessions for the management committee of the Graham Banks; • Select existing Graham banks to be reinforced; • Provide cereals with the support of the WFP; • Carry out monitoring and evaluation activities of cereal management by the Graham bank.
The most vulnerable 40 households in the 120 villages have received improved seeds (15 kg) for the forthcoming seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of improved seeds to 4,800 families and to certificated seed producers in collaboration with FAO; • Identification of the 40 most vulnerable families in the 120 villages; • Implementation of a mechanism to distribute seeds (training of volunteers); • Identification of certificated improved seed producers; • Extension and training on the use of seeds of improved varieties; • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities.
Extension of replanted maize (in coordination with FAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of short cycle maize; • Identification of households with cropping potential in towns; • Training volunteers on replanted maize; • Extension of replanted maize; • Test on plots of replanted maize; • Monitoring and evaluation of replanted maize activities.

Emergency health

Objective: To improve the nutritional status of children under 5, pregnant and breast feeding women.

Expected Results	Activities planned
Assist in the detection of malnourished children under 5, pregnant and breast feeding women and their orientation to reference centres.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Training for 60 volunteers on malnutrition detection, delivery of messages on nutrition and health;2. Extension of key messages:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Nutrition best practices and proper use;b. Detection of malnourished children, pregnant and breast feeding women;c. Use of ORS; andd. Hygiene promotion;3. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities at regional, national and international levels.

Communication on Plan of action:

Information on the situation and plans of action of the International Federation jointly with other Movement partners for early warning and action have been sent to PNS and donors by the resource mobilisation coordinator in collaboration with the communication manager and the disaster management team of the Federation Regional office in Dakar. An information mailing will be shared with Embassies in Dakar, Abuja and Yaoundé.

A communication mission to gather powerful images and stories of vulnerable people and actions already being done by the Red Cross Society of Niger and its volunteers will be carried out with the support of this DREF allocation. Materials will be used to give a human face to the looming food shortage and the early action of the Federation in order to raise the awareness of donors. The communication products will be as follows: a web story with photos will be produced for the Federation web site; the materials gathered during the mission will strengthen the message that will be made known to the donors.

The DREF has been launched for regeneration of start-up funds to immediately mitigate the negative effects of food insecurity. This is a start-up for an Emergency Appeal to be launched soon. Despite the new political situation, the NS is ready to implement the operation as soon as possible.

Budget Summary

CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	7,656
Other Supplies & Services	79,985
Total Relief Needs	87,641

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	12,500

Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	2,762
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>	
Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	6,711
Transport & Vehicles Costs	26,159
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	24,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	11,696
National Society Staff	23,036
Consultants	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>	
Workshops & Training	6,477
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel	7,000
Information & Public Relations	4,391
Office running costs	
Communication Costs	1,786
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
<u>SERVICE FEES</u>	
Service Fees	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support - PSR	14,888
<hr/>	
Total Operational Needs	141,405
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DREF ALLOCATION	229,046
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How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

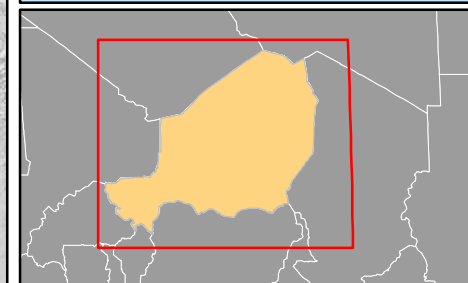
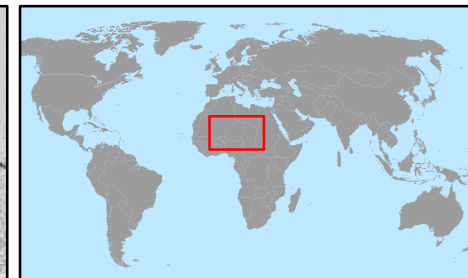
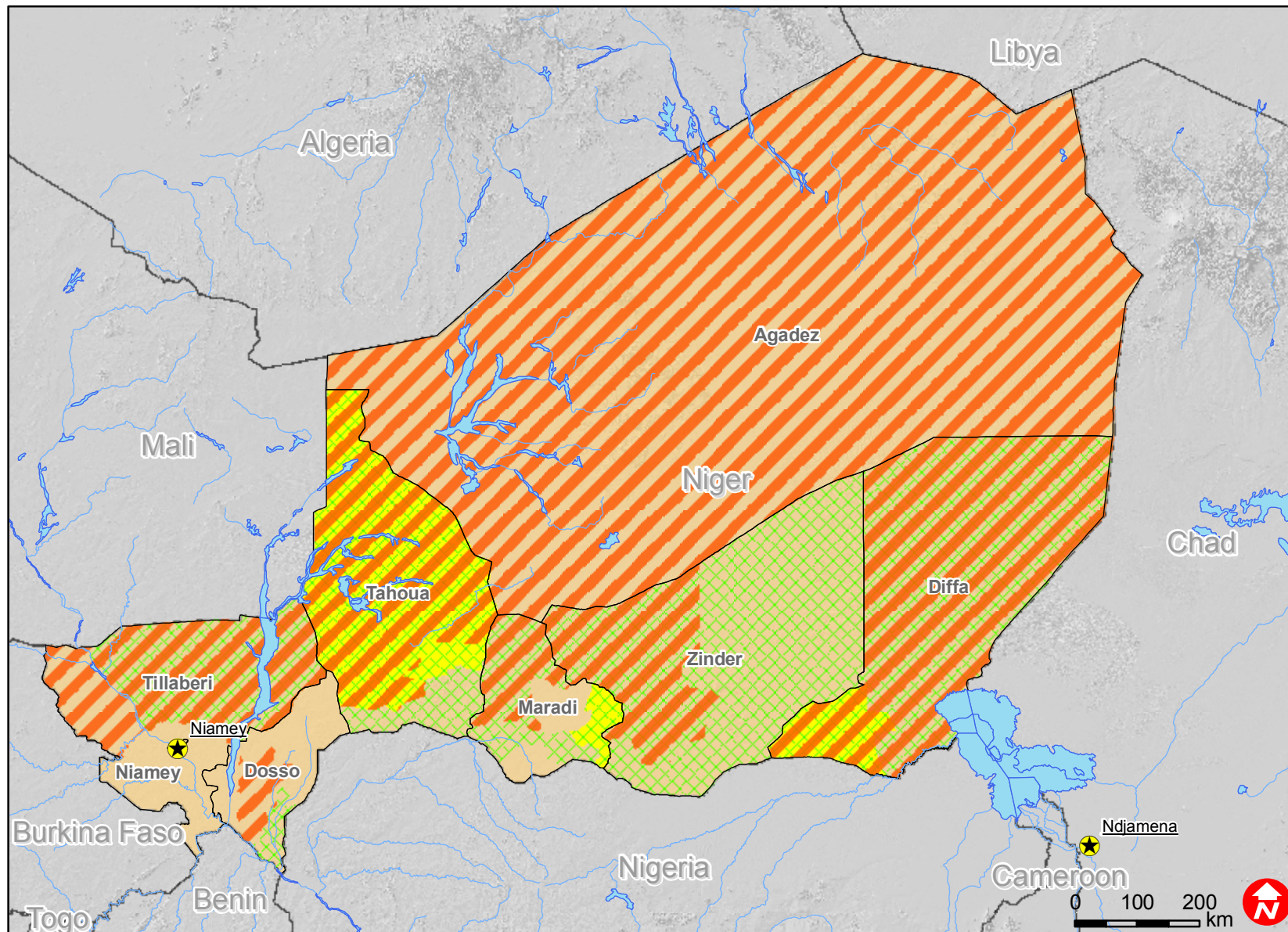
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Niger: Food insecurity



- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Departments
- Deficit in cereal production
- Very vulnerable > 35%
- Very + moderate vulnerable > 50%

Region	Population (Very + moderate vulnerable)
Agadez	
Diffa	328,781
Dosso	183,199
Maradi	1,216,927
Tahoua	1,983,452
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