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Emergency appeal Niger: Food insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNE010 30 January 2012

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,756,836 in cash, kind, or services to support the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) to assist 350'000 beneficiaries for 9 months, and will be completed by the end of October, 2012. A Final Report will be made available by January 2013 (three months after the end of the operation).

CHF 126,768 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

This Emergency Appeal aims to mitigate food shortages resulting from the bad harvests of 2011. This current food shortage is affecting about 3 million people in Niger and millions more over the Sahel region, and is being exacerbated by the rise in prices in the region.

According to current estimates from the Niger Ministry of Agriculture and the Director of Statistics, the 2011/12 agro-pastoral season is marked by a deficit of 519,639 tons of cereals (14 percent of the cereal needs of the population) and 10,222,308 tons of forage. As a result, it is anticipated that the lean season will start early—possibly as early as January—instead of March as is customary, and that the affected population will not have the reserves or coping strategies to deal with this extended lean season.

According to the Niger Government, following the results of the survey *Household vulnerability to food insecurity in rural and urban area* conducted in November 2011, more than 5,458,000 people (34.9 percent of the population) were in a situation of food insecurity, including 1,324,435 people (8.5 percent) who were severely food insecure. The survey found 26.4 percent of the population (over 4 million) were moderately food and nutrition insecure, while 3,622,956 persons (23.1 percent) are classified as "at risk", that means, likely to slide into food insecurity before the next harvest.

A needs assessment conducted by the RCSN and the participating National Societies (PNS) in-country, has confirmed the Government findings, enabling the National Society to define the regions and target populations it will focus on, and its plan of action and proposed activities. The National Society will focus on the six most affected regions of Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabery and Zinder, where around three million people across 228 areas are assessed as being vulnerable. The plan of action is based on extensive experience in food security programmes and will build on the lessons learned from earlier food security operations.

This Emergency Appeal is being issued in response to a request from the RCSN to support them to respond to the deteriorating situation and to provide food security and nutrition assistance for about 50,000 households (350,000 beneficiaries). This assistance will include various activities such as cash for work, cash transfer,



Poor and sporadic rainfall resulted in bad harvest.
Photo: Nathalie Bonvin/IFRC

environmental protection actions, food distribution, seeds and tools distribution, water and sanitation, and support to nutrition centres.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a period of 9 months, and will therefore be completed by October, 2012, before the beginning of the harvest time. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January, 2013).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget; or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The food security situation in Niger is complex, and like the rest of the Sahel region, there are a number of issues which combine to cause the increased vulnerability of an already poor and vulnerable population at this critical time.¹

The nutritional status of children under five years remains a concern in Niger even during “normal” years, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels ranging from 10 to 12 percent over past years since 2005. According to the results of an earlier assessment of nutrition for children between 6-59 months conducted in May and June 2011, all regions recorded a rate of between 10 and 14 percent with the exception of the urban centre of Agadez and there were chronic malnutrition rates recorded across the country of between 40 and 50 percent, again with the exception of urban centres such as Tillabery, Niamey and Agadez. The rates of acute and chronic malnutrition among children under five in Niger are structurally high, even in areas with previously good crop production, due to inadequate feeding practices of adults and children, quality of childcare, inadequate access to health care, poor hygiene practices, and social constraints such as the socio-economic status of women. With the situation worsening, during the last week of 2011, 3,245 cases of severely malnourished children were referred to Intensive Nutritional Recovery Centres (CRENIs) and 6,278 moderately malnourished children were also detected and referred to other centres. For 2011, admissions of severe acute malnutrition at the last count were 299,358, while those for moderate acute malnutrition were 411,031, according to UNICEF.

The decline in nutrition status is due to reduced agricultural production. The combination of repeated dry weather and the onslaught of pests (grasshoppers, caterpillars etc), has meant that several villages in the most affected regions of Niger have experienced significant declines in cereal production. Reduced production has had a knock-on effect on market prices, and according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), there has been an increase in the retail price of millet in Niamey between October and November 2011 of over 15 percent. Prices of other essential foodstuffs have also increased considerably.

The situation further worsened in December and January, with vulnerable households using up their reserve stocks two months earlier than usual. The poorest households therefore had to start buying food items from the markets in December/January instead of February/March, which will extend the normal lean season by two to three months and will force the poorest households to find means to purchase food for over six months.

To cope with this, the poorest people in the affected areas have already started destocking animals (Diffa region) in order to buy cereals. Children are being taken out of school to find work to support their families (Southern department of Tessaoua, Maradi region) and people are leaving villages to find temporary work in the cities or migrating further afield.

The socio-political crises in Libya, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria is also an additional threat. The return of over 250,000 Nigeriens who were living and working in these host countries has led to a loss of income for their families. The unexpected return in critical conditions increases the vulnerability of host households and of the entire community.

In addition to this, inter-religious conflicts, tribal conflicts and strikes due to oil prices in neighbouring Nigeria have also contributed to the worsening food security situation, as they have affected food imports from Nigeria and limited the movement of local traders. Agencies are currently monitoring the population

¹ http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/NE_FSOU_2011_11_final_en.pdf

movement from Nigeria to Niger to see how that may impact the situation, as this may be yet another factor that will impact on the quantity of cereals on Niger's markets and the increasing food prices.

The security situation in Niger remains volatile, particularly in the border regions. Rebel groups have conducted sporadic attacks on security forces and mining operations, mainly in the northern Agadez region, but also in central Tahoua and Maradi regions and in Zinder in the south east. There have also been extremist threats towards international personnel, who are at risk of kidnap by militants groups, as seen with the kidnapping of two French nationals last year. The government has recently expressed a concern regarding the passage of weapons across its borders. Demonstrations over socio-economic grievances are also common in the main cities and they occasionally descend into violence.

Finally, the severe flooding, which hit the vulnerable regions of Tillabery, Tahoua, Dosso and Maradi in August 2011, also contributed to increased vulnerability of the population and worsened their food insecurity situation. 5,423 households were badly affected.

All of these complex issues have combined to raise the vulnerability of the population in the six most affected regions of Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabery and Zinder. These are the main regions with serious cereal and forage deficits and with the highest risk of food insecurity in the coming months. The RCSN will target the most vulnerable households across 228 areas (compared to 164 identified at the same time last year), containing 6,981 villages and about 3 million people. The National Society will focus on:

- Diffa (departments of Diffa and N'Guigmi);
- Dosso (departments of Douthi, Loga)
- Maradi (departments of Aguié, Guidan Roumdji, Madrounfa and Mayahi);
- Tahoua (departments of Bouza, Illéla, Konni and Madaoua);
- Tillabéry (departments of Fillingué, Ouallam, Téra, Kollo and Tillabéry);
- Zinder (departments of Gouré, Matamèye and Tanout).

Coordination and partnerships

The Government of Niger, working through its crisis committee led by the Prime Minister and coordinated by OCHA, is monitoring the developing situation and having regular meetings, in which the RCSN and Red Cross Movement partners have participated, alongside UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FAO) and national and international NGOs. The Red Cross has cooperated with both WFP and FAO around food provision and seeds and tools, and there will be opportunities for further partnership at field level during the operation.

The Government has been coordinating and planning based on earlier experience and assessments (assessment of the Ministry of Agriculture from late 2010). A recent preliminary assessment has been carried out and the results are due to be published shortly. In anticipation of this, the Government has drafted an initial, short-term plan of action focusing on four areas to assist vulnerable populations from October 2011 through to March 2012:

- Cash for work, cash transfer, food for work, and cereal banks;
- Nutrition: the care of children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition, pregnant and lactating women, and blanket feeding;
- Non-food distributions: including the distribution of seed, "*cultures de contre saison*", food for and health of livestock in pastoral areas in deficit.
- Reconstruction of national stocks.

A coordination meeting of Movement partners was organized in November 2011 to discuss the intervention strategy for the developing food security crisis and to see how best to support the RCSN. In December, the RCSN, with support from the IFRC country representative, the ICRC and the PNS in country (the French, Irish, Qatari and Spanish National Societies), conducted a food security needs assessment to identify priority areas and actions. Further coordination was subsequently held in-country to discuss the findings and plan future support. All PNS bilateral support will be reported on in the first Operations Update of this appeal. This Emergency Appeal has been developed based on the results of that assessment mission, as well as on the food security survey conducted by the authorities. It also builds on the experience and lessons learned from the IFRC food security evaluation undertaken in 2010.

At regional level, local branches of the RCSN regularly attend meetings of the regional crisis committees.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The RCSN is working closely with the IFRC through its Country Representation based in Niamey. It is also being supported by the Sahel Regional Representation and the Africa Zone Office and has received global support in the form of a DREF allocation for CHF 126,768.

The RCSN activated its contingency plan for food security in November 2011. As part of this activation, a Food Security Committee was created in Niamey, local branches were activated and asked to assess their response capacity and request support as well as participate in local coordination meetings and send information through to headquarters. In addition, the National Society also mobilised its NDRT and held them on stand-by. As part of this, the National Society carried out a supervision mission to nine of the 10 villages that benefited from cereal banks during the food security crisis of 2010, to assess their status and ability to supply their members with cereals. Similarly, some beneficiaries who received improved seeds at that time have also been visited to monitor the success of those distributions. It appears that some of these villages are again in deficit areas.

The National Society has extensive experience in food security interventions, including livelihoods programming, cash transfer programming and nutritional programming. The RCSN has managed several food security crisis and drought interventions over the last 14 years (e.g. in 1998, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010) and has managed a number of DREFs and appeals during these years to reach the vulnerable population affected by drought and food insecurity. It has strong recent experience of working in the targeted areas. In response to the 2010 food insecurity in Niger, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement provided assistance across a wide range of activities, including nutrition, health and hygiene, water and sanitation, targeted food distribution, cash transfer, cash for work for the restoration of degraded lands, seed distribution, cross seasonal crop production, stockbreeding, market gardening, training (PSBC, health/nutrition, and PHAST method), and cereal banks. This provides much of the experience for planning and subsequently implementing the current operation.

Moreover, lessons learned will be applied to the planning and implementation of the current operation. One key learning was that most of the activities started in 2010 during the food crisis were not extended into 2011, despite the need for more time for beneficiary populations to internalize and sustain the approaches. This was due in part to resources, and raises the need to push for more sustainable approaches to activities conducted during this emergency, hence the importance of including the recovery actions. Therefore, while this appeal focuses on the most immediate needs for an initial period of 9 months, there is a recognition that some of the planned recovery activities may extend further if sufficient funding is secured and that the timeframe may be revised to ensure sustainability of the medium and longer-term initiatives. The development of a more detailed plan of action will address possible changes to the original implementation period. Other challenges from the previous operation included:

- Finding good nutritionists for short-term contracts to act as focal points in the affected regions.
- The late response of donors to the appeal, delaying activities that were supposed to begin in July until September, after the peak of the food crisis.
- The shortage of dry rations (CSB, oil, sugar) in some health centres, which affected the delivery of activities, as it discouraged some mothers from going to Integrated Health Centres (IHC).
- The non-permanent presence of district officials and nutrition's leaders in their IHC.

The interventions of the RCSN were appreciated by the Government and the beneficiaries, for they helped avoid a disaster in Niger. The positive collaborative approach within the Red Cross Movement and with the authorities, as well as the involvement of vulnerable groups in planning and implementation of the activities in the field, was a positive lesson to be repeated. Also, the use of an integrated approach for the recovery phase was also seen to have a positive impact and the aim will be to use this approach more deliberately during the emergency phase this time around.

To date, the RCSN has been working with PNS and the IFRC to finalise their response plan of action for the crisis. Certain activities have already been planned directly with PNS. For example, the National Society will carry out food security interventions in some villages in Maradi with the Spanish Red Cross, in Zinder (Tanout region) with the Irish Red Cross, and in Tillabery, Tahoua and Maradi, Dosso and Zinder regions with the Qatari Red Crescent. The ICRC will also continue supporting the RCSN in the region of Tillabery (department

of Oualam and Fillingue) and has already distributed 500 MTs of cereal to about 5,000 families in 27 villages in the two departments at the end of 2011.

With the support of the related DREF allocation, the National Society is already moving forward with its work to extend its existing cash for work programme. The programme previously targeted 500 households in 12 villages in Tera and Kollo (Tillabery) and was focused on the stabilisation of sand dunes. It is now being extended to include 15 new villages in Tera and two further departments of Tahoua (Illela and Konni). Moreover, 120 heads of vulnerable households in Tahoua region (Illela and Konni) unfit for field work have been identified for a one-off cash transfer for one month. One thousand bags of fodder for livestock have also been procured and will be distributed to 500 small farmers associations in 4 villages of the department of Kollo.

The IFRC has also supported the National Society on information and communications. An Information bulletin to highlight the impact of the forthcoming crisis on populations was posted on the Federation web site in January 2012 and further communications support will be carried out to highlight the situation and raise its urgency with the media. The RCSN has also done some work to raise its profile and raise funds locally. A proposal has been sent to the French Embassy and to AREVA, to support interventions in Agadez and Niamey regions. The National Society has also received support from the IFRC, WFP and UNICEF since 2010, to support nutrition activities being carried out in Dosso region. The RCSN is in negotiation with WFP and UNICEF to extend this programme to new villages and regions (Diffa, and Tillabery).

Due to the security incidents mentioned above (recent kidnappings of expatriates, potential for spill over from neighbouring countries, etc), the IFRC has planned an operation that will focus on building on National Society capacity and regional support, and will mobilize expatriate deployments only as required. The Security Unit and Zonal Security manager will continue to monitor the situation and provide advice as necessary.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: This emergency appeal (and supporting plan of action that will be developed) aims to respond to the needs of 50,000 households in 434 villages in the most vulnerable areas of the regions of Diffa, Tahoua, Dosso, Tillabery, Maradi and Zinder. These areas were selected by the RCSN in a correlation of Government and National Society assessments as the most vulnerable areas of the country and have traditionally experienced some of the worst levels of malnutrition and food insecurity.

The immediate needs identified in the recent assessment were:

- Food provision to those with limited access to food supplies and markets
- Screening and referral of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in need of urgent care and supplementary feeding
- Access to cash (through cash for work or direct cash transfer) to support the most vulnerable who have already exhausted the food supplies and other coping mechanisms. Direct cash transfer will be focused on the most vulnerable who are unable to work, such as the physically disabled, elderly, chronically ill, and pregnant women
- Food for livestock for small farmers to maintain their animals and avoid sale or destocking
- Access to nutrition centres or health centres to improve levels of preventive or restorative nutritional and basic health care
- Provision of clean water and basic sanitation, as well as promotion of good hygiene

The longer-term needs are:

- Access to improved, drought resistant seed and tools to plant and irrigate these
- Strengthening of cereal banks to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness over the coming months
- Improved longer-term access to basic health care, hygiene and nutrition
- Coordination and clear linkages into longer-term Disaster Risk Reduction programming
- National Society capacity to deliver at community, regional and national levels.

The proposed operation

The RCSN aims to assist about 50,000 of the most vulnerable households (e.g. 350,000 beneficiaries) in 434 villages, 230 of which will carry out specific nutritional activities. It will do this with the support of the IFRC, the ICRC and the PNS in-country and will focus on reducing the risk to food insecurity in targeted areas and villages, while simultaneously continuing to assess the needs of people living in deficit areas. The National Society will seek to reduce the impact of the food crisis through a number of approaches, including the provision of food to the most vulnerable without access to food or markets, direct cash transfer for vulnerable groups with access to food or markets, and cash for work for those able to benefit from this. The RCSN will also aim to revitalise or build cereal banks in the targeted villages and will provide animal feed where appropriate. The National Society will try to ensure that it delivers relevant assistance that will increase the resilience of affected populations in the longer-term and prevent them from engaging in further migration to seek food or grazing or further consumption of seed stock or decapitalization of livestock wealth.

An emergency nutritional programme will be conducted specifically in Dosso, Tillabery and Diffa. The strategy will target the screening and referral of acutely malnourished children from six months to five years and pregnant and lactating women. It will also include support to health centres and health promotion. It is expected that the National Society will conduct these nutritional actions specifically in 230 villages, targeting 51,500 beneficiaries as follows:

- Moderate acute malnourished cases will be referred for nutritional recovery to moderate malnutrition centres (CRENAM)
- Severe acute malnourished cases will be referred to nutritional recovery centres for Severe Acute Malnutrition (CRENAS).
- Those with severe acute malnutrition and health complications will be referred to Intensive Nutritional Recovery centres (CRENI).
- Ready-to-use therapeutic food, vaccinations and essential drugs will be provided to severe acute malnourished children living in villages located further than 10 km from the Integrated Health Centre of reference.

Malnourished children will be identified by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method and the diagnosis will be confirmed by their weight-for-height (WFH) at the health facility (Case de Santé). After discharge, children would normally receive supplemental food rations for three to four months (typically corn soy blend and vegetable oil). However, in this instance the National Society plans to implement a cash programme where markets permit, to give more flexibility to mothers/caregivers to meet dietary requirements with local foods. This support will be targeted at 1,000 children and their families. These activities will be complemented by health and nutritional education sessions, to improve infant and young child feeding practices in targeted communities, an issue that was identified as an ongoing, chronic problem in Niger.

In addition, the RCSN will seek to provide access to clean water in targeted communities and will provide a level of sanitation and hygiene education to support the health of the population affected.

This proposed operation will include the following planned activities in immediate and longer-term.

- Cash for work for community based activities (barrier construction, sand dune stabilization, anti-erosion controls, tree planting) will be provided to 2,700 households
- Cash transfer for 2,000 heads of families unfit for field work (physically disabled person, old people, chronically ill persons, and pregnant women). The cash programme will be carried out in four of the six regions (Dosso, Tillabery, Tahoua, and Diffa) and in each region, 500 households will be targeted (14,000 beneficiaries). Each household will receive FCFA 25,000 to 30,000 (approximately the value of a 100 kg. bag of millet) per month for three months.
- Food: for deficit areas with lack of access to food and functioning markets, a preventive distribution will be made to around 10,000 households (food will be received from WFP, as part of the partnership established with WFP since 2010 to support “blanket feeding programmes”, where food provided by WFP is distributed by partners in target areas)².
- Distribution of food for livestock for 1,500 families via 50 small farmers associations
- Strengthen the capacity of Nutrition Centres within Integrated Health Centres (IHC), e.g. human resources, logistics capacity, supplementary rations, oral rehydration solutions (ORS), as well as the ability to better screen and refer cases, and nutrition sensitization.

²During the Food Security crisis of 2010, with the support of the IFRC, Irish RC, French RC, the NS distributed 2,540 MTs of food to some 19,129 households in 969 villages

- Screening and referral of children under five as well as pregnant and lactating women, through network of trained volunteers working in and covering all of their own community.
- Rehabilitate water points and wells, build or rehabilitate 20 latrines (in IHC, school and community) and provide WASH and PHAST training to improve hygiene practices.
- Capacity building at the community, regional and national levels.

The longer-term needs:

- Develop and multiply improved seeds in cooperation with INRAD, AGRYMET, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Distribution of improved seeds of mil and niebe, with improved seed procured in cooperation with the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, and distributed to 10,000 households (70,000 persons).
- Build 50 new and strengthen 30 existing cereal banks in targeted villages in the affected areas, including provision of cereals for the banks – 10 MTs for the new ones and 5 MTs for the existing ones - and through training and supporting of management committees
- Increase community awareness on good hygiene and nutrition practices, including breastfeeding;
- Support “*démonstrations culinaires*” to strengthen community capacity to make better use of food
- Improve mother and child health (strengthen the maternity capacity of 40 health centres)
- Support communities to set up vegetable gardens, including drip irrigation systems
- Support communities to initiate “*cultures de contre-saison*” or planting between traditional seasons

The RCSN has demonstrated its experience in responding to similar food security and disaster response operations over the past 14 years, and will use that experience and lessons learned to inform this response. However, NS capacities at branch level will need strengthening and staff will be recruited in the following areas: two additional nutritionists; a logistician; five food security focal points and three drivers. Further support will be sought to reinforce coordination and communications systems in the RCSN and an extra 600 volunteers (460 community based and 140 supervisors) will need to be recruited and trained.

The appeal will aim to provide support to 350,000 people as summarised below.

Food security and livelihoods	
Outcome 1 (relief): Enable access to food and other livelihoods to 16,200 households in Diffa, Maradi Tahoua, Zinder et Tillabéry	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate of exodus and seasonal migration is reduced in the targeted areas; • 16,200 households can meet their food needs for three months through cash transfer, cash for work and food distributions (with ongoing assessments to extend support through the lean season as required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and recycle 60 volunteers / supervisors (with training on communication, distribution, and screening techniques) • Supply 5,000 MTs of animal's feed to support some 50 small farmers association (about 1,500 households) in Diffa, Maradi et Tillabery region • Educate and sensitize farmers on the conservation of fodder and pasture. • Distribute cash to 2,000 heads of families unfit for field work (e.g disabled, elderly, female or child headed households) • Cash for work programme (CFW) to fix dunes, barriers and set-up anti-erosion infrastructure (around 2'700 households) • Distribute food to 10,000 families (food to be provided by WFP) • Reinforce the capacity of cereal banks and management committees in targeted areas
Outcome 2 (recovery): To ensure medium and long-term access, availability and utilisation of food by the target population	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 villages have benefited from the building of cereal bank (grain banks) and donations of cereal; 30 villages have benefited from strengthening their cereal banks (in partnership with WFP) – leading to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and select 30 villages with grain banks that need to be reinforced in the zone of intervention. • Identify and select 50 villages with chronic cereal deficit • Assist in the creation of grain banks in the 50 villages; • Elaborate and finalize the agreement with WFP to provide cereals for all 80 banks. • Provide cereal to the cereal banks • Organize training/refresher sessions for the management

<p>them having cereals to sell at village level and to fill their account (10 tons for the new ones and 5 tons for existing banks).</p>	<p>committees of the grain banks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out monitoring and evaluation activities of the cereal management by the grain bank. • Document the process and use for learning to improve future interventions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 most vulnerable households in 120 villages have received improved seeds (15 kg) for the forthcoming season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a suppliers list based on approved “improved” seed producers in coordination with regional agricultural authorities and FAO/INRAD. • Identification of the 10,000 most vulnerable households in 120 villages. • Provision of improved seeds to 10,000 households in collaboration with FAO. • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution and storage activities with a view to ensuring sustainability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 households or farmers’ association do drip-irrigated counter-season cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify households and areas with cropping potential • Support communities to set up vegetable gardens, including drop irrigation systems. • Support communities to initiate “<i>cultures de contre-saison</i>” • Provide seed, fertilizer, and agricultural tools • Support repair or improvement of the water infrastructure • Assist the most vulnerable villages with the highest potential in agricultural production with long-term food security interventions. • Identify 10 hectares of land that could be made available for the RCSN to work in partnership with FAO and local agricultural research bodies to pilot “improved” seed production at small scale • Procure and plant/multiply improved seed (niebe and millet) in this land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The targeted communities have anti-erosion and other infrastructures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the communities in 50 villages on anti-erosion and water harvesting measures according to the communal development plan to improve agricultural production. • Equip the above villages with soil working tools and the most appropriate species to plant (e.g. herbaceous plants, fruit trees, trees for firewood or fodder etc.).

Emergency health and care

Outcome 3: Contribute to reducing malnutrition rates among children from six months to five years, as well as pregnant and lactating women, in 230 villages in Dosso, Tillabery and Diffa regions

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children from 6 to 59 months in the 230 villages are screened by trained community volunteers in their own communities and the malnourished children and mother are referred to some 45 IHCs • Women of childbearing age, pregnant and lactating know the importance of breastfeeding • The IHCs in the targeted areas receive and care of all referred malnourished cases • The rate of acutely malnourished children is held below the national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on its successful experience of this approach in Dosso last year, recruit and train/ or recycle 460 community based volunteers at a rate of 2 per targeted village (training in screening of children and mother); and 50 supervisors on anthropometric measurement, bilateral oedema detection and interpretation of nutritional index. • Organize IEC sessions on good nutritional practices and breastfeeding • Organize demonstrations on food preparation for children • Strengthen the screening, baseline and follow-up on the malnourished in the community • NS Health Coordinators to visit the Integrated Health Centres (CSI):CRENAM, CRENI; CRENAS in targeted areas with local / regional health authorities and assess their capacities of centres to receive and manage acute malnourished cases(screening will not be recommended until capacity is build, with support of the authorities and WFP/UNICEF). • Conduct monthly screening of children from six months to 59 months. • Refer moderate acute malnourished children to CRENAM.

average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and training to CRENAM according to needs and provide ready to use therapeutic food / food supplies (from WFP/UNICEF) • Refer severe acute malnourished children without/with complication to CRENAS/CRENI. • Organize weekly distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic food for severe acute malnourished cases without complications, if CRENAS is not accessible. • Provide transport for referral of severe acute malnourished cases to CRENI if there are difficulties with the access. • Distribute cash grants to families of 1,000 discharged children from CRENAS/CRENI to provide follow up nutrition. • Support the rehabilitation of some 20 IHCs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant and young child feeding practices are improved through nutrition and health education sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize workshops for peer educators. • Conduct weekly cooking demonstrations. • Train 80 volunteers on infant and young child feeding practices and balanced diets. • Provide weekly nutrition education focused on hygiene promotion and balanced diet (peer to peer education). • Train the targeted groups on ORS use and hygiene promotion • Raise awareness activities on health promotion. • Organise cleaning up campaign at community level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and lactating women have access to quality health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of “maternity units” and equip 20 units with birthing beds, linen and mosquito nets, as well as medicine • Train community based volunteers to support around 90 IHCs • Organize IEC sessions in the community to encourage mothers and pregnant women to visit the IHCs for prenatal consultation and to vaccinate their children • Train or recycle birth attendants • Negotiate cooperation with UNFPA and UNICEF and MoH • Produce IEC materials on family planning • Meet with district chiefs, traditional leaders and religious leaders to educate them about the benefits of family planning and the misdeeds of early marriage

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 4: To increase access to clean safe water, improve sanitation facilities and promote hygiene among the 20 most vulnerable villages in the targeted areas of Zinder, Diffa, Tahoua, Dosso

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5,000 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries have access to safe drinking water; • 8,000 beneficiaries have access to improved sanitation; • 15,000 beneficiaries reached through hygiene promotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to safe water through building 5 new wells; cleaning or repairing and disinfecting 15 existing water points • Train communities in operation and maintenance of water points to ensure they have financial resources to operate and maintain water facilities, access to technical support, and access to spare parts • Train communities on use of water treatment solutions (aqua tabs, PUR sachets) • Provide improved sanitation facilities (construction of 20 latrines in IHCs, schools and public buildings for public use) • Conduct hygiene promotion • Train volunteers on PHAST and hygiene promotion • Print and distribute 10'000 hygiene promotion leaflets

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Outcome 5: To improve the community, branch and national capacities of the NS to prepare for, reduce risks and respond to future food crisis and build resilience.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branches and National staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and recycle 60 volunteers / supervisors (with training on

<p>have knowledge in FS and develop skills to strengthen livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced preparedness for food insecurity through increased awareness and analysis of hazard risks. 	<p>communication, distribution, and screening techniques).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train the National Society's staff and volunteers (at community, branch and national levels) in food security assessment, planning and project implementation, and Sphere standards. Support RCSN logistics capacity in food security and other operations. Set up community awareness campaign in DP and DRR including contingency plans at the branch and community level. Provide technical training for volunteers to help affected families to reconstruct livelihoods including drop irrigation system, and vegetable gardens. Set up Branch DRT in four regions and improve their skills in DRR Rehabilitate radio stations in five regions and procure IT equipment
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Logistics

Professional logistical support to the operation will be provided in accordance with IFRC standards, procedures and processes. Activities will include the following:

- Mobilize relief items pre-positioned in IFRC's GLS stocks for emergencies and ongoing operations.
- Coordinate within IFRC and RCSN programme managers and in coordination with the Dubai Regional Logistics Office and the Sahel regional office in Dakar for timely and cost-efficient sourcing option for items required in the operation.
- Utilize existing warehousing facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.
- Support RCSN in securing adequate storage solutions.
- Ensure that local procurement of goods, services and transport is in line with IFRC procurement standards and procedures.
- Liaise and coordinate actions with other key actors so that that the IFRC logistics operation processes use all information to be as efficient and effective as possible.
- Provide and maintain an up-to-date mobilization table on the IFRC's disaster management information system (DMIS).
- The IFRC will provide access to five 4x4 vehicles (with four coming from stocks in country or in Dakar) and two trucks (again from existing stocks where possible) for the operation as required.
- As the security situation is very unstable, IFRC should support the rehabilitation and functionality of the radio stations in all six regions and equip vehicles with VHF and HF radio in coordination with PNS and ICRC partners. The radios are currently available in the NS and RCSN has experience of the IFRC radio network.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy as well as to maintaining the profile of the emergency operations. This flow will be maintained between those working in the field and other stakeholders, including the media and donors, to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. This will support the objectives of this appeal, e.g. to increase the profile, the funding mechanisms for RCSN and IFRC, and provide a platform on which to advocate in the interests of vulnerable people.

Donors and national societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote the operation. Relevant information and advocacy materials, including audio-visual products, will be channelled through IFRC's public website – www.ifrc.org.

Activities will include the following:

- Produce press releases, news stories and beneficiary case studies.
- Engage proactively with media (national, and international) to highlight the needs of the food insecurity-affected people and to profile the response of the Red Cross. This will include the use of established IFRC social media tools.

- Develop media packages, including facts and figures, issue briefs and audiovisual products for distribution to partner national societies, other partner organizations and media.
- Develop and produce communications products that highlight achievements of the operation.
- Support field visits by communications colleagues from partner national societies and donor agencies.
- Support programme teams in designing and producing project-specific materials, including forms, banners, brochures, posters and signage.
- Support programme teams to ensure consistent engagement with beneficiaries as part of IFRC's commitment to greater accountability to affected communities.

Capacity of the National Society

As an independent, autonomous organization auxiliary to the national authorities in the humanitarian field, RCSN covers and is active in all eight administrative regions of the country and the major cities of the nation. In delivering services, RCSN relies on a team of skilled, trained and experienced staff and volunteers with different specializations. Currently, it has approximately 37 staff at the national headquarters and regional branches, and approximately 10,000 volunteers and supporters, some 1,000 of them active volunteers.

In addition to the support from the IFRC, the RCSN is working in partnership with a number of National Societies present in Niger: the Irish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Qatari Red Crescent and Iranian Red Crescent. The NRCS also works closely with the ICRC.

Outside the Movement, RCSN works in partnership with the government and non-government agencies as well as private groups in achieving effective networking and delivery of services. RCSN is the only organization, apart from the government structure, which has a wide network, presence and mandate, ranging from the capital, Niamey, to the grassroots level.

The RCSN has extensive experience working on food security and other disaster response, both at headquarters and branch levels. However, in order to have optimal implementation of this appeal, the logistics, financial reporting and managerial capacities of the branches and of RCSN headquarters will need to be further supported, and HR capacity will need to be reinforced, particularly in the area of nutrition. Additional trainings on food security, disaster management, the Sphere standards and other technical areas will be carried out to strengthen existing capacities of the RCSN.

Capacity of the IFRC

IFRC maintains a country office in Niger, hosted at the National Society headquarters. The office is headed by a country representative and has five local staff supporting the ongoing operations.

The coordination capacity of the Niger country office will be strengthened by the deployment of an operations coordinator and an RDRT team member with food security experience.

The Africa Zone Office and Sahel Regional Office will provide technical and operational assistance as needed in the following areas: logistics; communications; resource mobilization; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and finance. It will also look to source and deploy further surge capacity as needed and requested to support the operation.

Security

The Country Representative is responsible for the security of all IFRC personnel in country and all IFRC operations are to be conducted in accordance with IFRC minimum security requirements and the security plans for Niger. In particular:

- All personnel are to be briefed and updated on the security situation.
- It is all RC/RC personnel's responsibility to stay informed about the situation where they are working and to look out for and identify any security problem.
- All field movement is to be approved and then monitored.
- No vehicle movement is to occur at night.
- All personnel are to have a minimum of two means of communications when deploying to the field (i.e. mobile, radio and or satellite phone).

- All personnel are to understand the medivac plan and are to have key contact details in the case of an accident.
- All security incidents and/or suspected security incidents are to be reported.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Matthias Schmale
Under Secretary General
Programme Services Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Bess Cisse, Logistics Officer; phone: +221 33 869 3912; email: bess.cisse@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org



Click here

1. Emergency Appeal budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC'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.
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EMERGENCY APPEAL

30-01-12

Niger: Food insecurity (MDRNE010)

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief				0
Shelter - Transitional				0
Construction - Housing				0
Construction - Facilities	428,431			428,431
Construction - Materials				0
Clothing & Textiles	12,255			12,255
Food	318,627			318,627
Seeds & Plants	299,510			299,510
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	97,059			97,059
Medical & First Aid	140,196			140,196
Teaching Materials	58,711			58,711
Utensils & Tools	54,186			54,186
Other Supplies & Services	755,755			755,755
Emergency Response Units				0
Cash Disbursements				0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	2,164,731	0	0	2,164,731
Land & Buildings				
Vehicles Purchase				
Computer & Telecom Equipment	194,118			194,118
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment				
Medical Equipment				
Other Machinery & Equipment				
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	194,118	0	0	194,118
Storage, Warehousing				0
Distribution & Monitoring	77,353			77,353
Transport & Vehicle Costs	140,980			140,980
Logistics Services				0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	218,333	0	0	218,333
International Staff	190,902			190,902
National Staff				0
National Society Staff	281,402			281,402
Volunteers	96,765			96,765
Total PERSONNEL	569,069	0	0	569,069
Consultants	23,529			23,529
Professional Fees	17,843			17,843
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	41,373	0	0	41,373
Workshops & Training	81,333			81,333
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	81,333	0	0	81,333
Travel	60,078			60,078
Information & Public Relations	44,216			44,216
Office Costs	75,377			75,377
Communications	45,000			45,000
Financial Charges	5,294			5,294
Other General Expenses	8,824			8,824
Shared Support Services	19,800			19,800
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	258,589	0	0	258,589
Partner National Societies				0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)				0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	229,290	0	0	229,290
Total INDIRECT COSTS	229,290	0	0	229,290
TOTAL BUDGET	3,756,836	0	0	3,756,836
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	3,756,836	0	0	3,756,836