

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency appeal operation update

Niger: Complex Emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNE010

10 month summary update

7 December, 2012

Period covered by this Ops Update: February to November 2012.

Appeal target (current): This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,375,048 in cash, kind, or services to support the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) in delivering assistance to 32,000 households (224,000 beneficiaries of which includes 17,000 Malian refugees) for 12 months and will be completed by the end of February 2013.

Appeal coverage: 48%; [click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, here to view the interim financial report, or here to view the contact details](#)

Appeal history:

- CHF 126,768 was allocated from the IFRC's **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)** on 21 December 2011, to support RCSN to assist 6,500 most vulnerable households in the affected villages of four regions (Tillabery, Tahoua Dosso, and Diffa), and to assess the needs of the population in the most affected areas of 6 Regions (Tillabery, Tahoua, Dosso, Diffa, Zinder and Maradi).
- An Emergency Appeal: **Niger Food insecurity** was initially launched on 30 January, 2012 for CHF 3,756,836 to support RCSN to assist 350,000 beneficiaries for 9 months in the 6 Regions
- The **Emergency Appeal** was revised on 28 August, 2012 and became **Niger: Complex Emergency** for CHF 3,375,048 to support RCSN in delivering assistance to 32,000 households (224,000 beneficiaries, including 17,000 Malian refugees) for 12 months. The appeal was revised because delayed funding led to prioritization of urgent needs and scaling down some food security activities that were no longer appropriate at the end of the planting season. The revised appeal also represented a six month summary report.
- The current update provides information on the progress of the operation under the revised appeal, including interim financial information.



Distribution of improved indigenous seeds, resistant and adapted to the Sahel climate in Tahoua /Photo: Tidjany/RCSN

Summary: The revised appeal focuses on food security and post-harvest season recovery activities for resilience capacity building in Tillabéry and Diffa regions. In Tillabéry region, activities in targeted communities are also focussed on addressing the risk of cholera and other water-borne diseases, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion while in Dosso, Diffa and Niamey regions, focus is on nutritional related activities. Supplementing these activities, an emergency nutritional programme (in partnership with UNICEF) targeting children below 5 years and women will continue in Dosso, Diffa and Niamey regions and monthly food distribution to some 20,000 Malian refugees and host families in Tillabéry and Tahoua regions, will continue. Despite a slow start of the operation due lack of funding and the need for additional operational support, the implementation of most activities has gathered up speed. The three month delay between the end of the DREF

implementation and the appeal funding, made some of the food security activities irrelevant to be able to meet the government plan.

Through the IFRC twin-track approach aimed at saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and strengthening recovery from disasters and crisis by providing short term emergency relief, the following progress has been made in the operation:

- Food assistance has been distributed to 20,000 Malian refugees and host families in Tillabéry and Tahoua regions through a local field agreement between RCSN and WFP. This assistance will continue until end December 2012.
- Cash vouchers have been distributed to 300 vulnerable heads of households unfit for fieldwork in 12 villages of Tillabéry and Tahoua regions. Additionally 325 families were enrolled into the cash for work activities and were involved in soil rehabilitation in the 12 villages giving them sufficient earnings to cover 3 months of food needs. Through the CFW activities 144 acres of dry land were rehabilitated, 39,030 herbaceous plants and trees planted to ensure land rehabilitation and provide fodder for livestock.
- RCSN volunteers have conducted nutritional screening on *over* 20,000 children (6 to 59 months), their mothers and pregnant women and about 2,000 children referred to health centres for further support. In addition over 60 tonnes of food and ready- to-use therapeutic food, 600 food parcels, protection rations, including ready to use therapeutically food (plumpy nut), improved cereal, and oil were distributed.
- To support the health centres taking care of cholera patients, 500 litres of bleach 10,000, tablet of doxycycline, 7,000 ORS were procured as well as 10 tents availed to those health centres in order to isolate cholera patients from other patients. In addition vaccinations and essential drugs to support over 2,000 moderate and severe acute malnourished children on a monthly basis have been provided to the referral health centres through the RCSN and UNICEF agreement.
- Approximately 39 farmer associations in Tahoua region and 500 farmers in Tillabéry region have each received 500 bags of fodder.
- A total of 37.5 tonnes of improved seeds (local resistant Sahel adapted), fertilizer and tools have been provided to 2,500 families in 14 villages as well as support provided to the community vegetable gardens to allow families to diversify their food intake and possibly create sources of income.
- Existing cereal banks have been rehabilitated and new ones built to enable families in remote villages have a direct access to the most commonly used cereal seeds at a low price in times when prices rise during the lean season from June to October.
- Approximately 27,090 people living in 48 villages in districts of Tillabery region (including 4,653 people in the Tillabery and Ayorou refugee camps) have been reached through sensitization campaigns and distribution of aqua tabs. Furthermore 6,000 pieces of soap and 400,000 water purification tablets were procured and distributed to 2,000 and 5,000 households respectively for hygiene promotion and to increase access to safe water.

To date funding for the appeal has been received from Danish Red Cross/Government, Norwegian Red Cross/Government, Japanese, Monaco, and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

The situation

In the years 2011/2012, the food situation in Niger has deteriorated compared to the previous years. The combination of recurrent droughts, locust invasion and the return of large numbers of Niger workers from Libya in 2011 to already economically fragile communities made the situation worse. Some families were heavily dependent on the remittances from these workers thus completely being cut off from support at a time when several regions of Niger are experiencing significant declines in cereal production. The lean season in Niger (June to October) is particularly difficult for poor households since food prices are generally at their highest and food availability at its lowest. After a short price decrease in January 2012, cereal prices have steadily increased throughout the year. According to SIMA (*Système d'information des marchés agricoles – An information system on agricultural markets*) millet was 43 per cent more expensive at the height of the lean season (August-September) compared to the average price over the last five years. The decreasing time between food insecurity shocks in Niger has over the years increased malnutrition, eroded coping mechanisms and increased the vulnerabilities of the population who are already living in harsh conditions in this vast landlocked country.

According to WFP¹, the June 2012 SMART (standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transition, (survey methodology), the global acute malnutrition rate reached 14.8 per cent, compared to 12.3 per cent in June 2011 and 16.7 per cent in June 2010. GAM rates exceed 15 per cent in four regions; Zinder (15.9 per cent), Maradi (16.2 per cent) Tillabéry (16.6 per cent) and Diffa (16.7 per cent).

Overall the 2012 growing season has gone well and the production prospects are generally good, with the exception of Tillabéry and Dosso. In other regions conditions are expected to improve with an above cereal harvest that is anticipated this year², rangelands have also recovered well. The food supply situation is expected to improve significantly during the 2012/13 marketing year (November-October). However, the country's recent successive severe food crises have had adverse, longer-term impact on household assets, savings, levels of indebtedness³, and on the health and nutritional status of the population. Following successive shocks, very poor households are likely to continue to require assistance beyond November and over into the next lean season in 2013.

Food prices remain above the five year average, limiting household food access. Although market supply is improving thanks to good production, the prices remain high due to high consumer demand. In July and August the conditions of pastoralist began improving with their livestock able to graze. With the unusually heavy rains in August, the government estimates that over 400,000 people were affected by floods and severe damages were done to the infrastructure. Already struggling with food insecurity, Niger is now dealing with the worst flooding in 80 years. More than 80 people have died in the floods, according to the United Nations.

In reference to the refugee situation, UNCHR estimates that there are 61,880 Malian refugees in Niger. On 12 October, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2071/2012 to support an international military intervention led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to oust the rebels from the north of Mali. The UNHCR Regional Representation for West Africa in Dakar, in coordination with UNHCR offices in countries affected or likely to be affected by the Malian crisis, is in the process of updating a Mali Regional Contingency Plan in order to prepare for a well-coordinated refugee response to a further mass influx of Malian refugees into neighboring countries in the event of military intervention.

The Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) has become overstretched with pressure on volunteers who have been trying to meet the increasing needs and demands. The partnerships with UNICEF and WFP is generally going well with the food distribution and beneficiary identification, screening, referral and distribution of therapeutic food to malnourished children and women suffering from severe malnutrition.

RCSN has focused on reducing the food insecurity in targeted departments and villages, while simultaneously continuing to assess the needs of people living in deficit areas. The National Society has implemented the twin-track approach to reduce the impact of the food crisis, with the provision of food to beneficiaries without access to food or markets and with direct cash transfer for vulnerable groups who have access to food or markets, and with cash for work activities for those able to benefit from this activity. There will be monitoring of the impact the improved seeds have had on the 2012 yields compared to preceding years and the creation of new cereal banks should ensure more food access into the lean season.

The security situation in Niger is worsening as in other the Sahel countries, which impacts on the humanitarian operations and movement of humanitarian workers.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC country representation based in the National Society's headquarters in Niamey and the PNS in Niger have worked together with the RCSN to finalize the plans of action for the food insecurity crisis. The Movement partners in Niger are the ICRC, the French, Irish and Spanish Red Cross Societies and the Qatar Red Crescent Society. RCSN has been implementing food security and nutrition activities in a few villages of Maradi and Tahoua regions with the Spanish Red Cross, in the department of Tanout in Zinder region with the Irish Red Cross and in Agadez and Zinder regions with the French Red Cross. It was not possible to report on the bilateral food security activities implemented by the Participating National Societies (PNS) working bilaterally in Niger in this Update but will be done in the subsequent updates. Movement partners hold coordination meetings once a month to ensure smooth communication and coordination.

¹ <http://www.wfp.org/countries/niger/food-security>

² <http://www.unocha.org/aggregator/sources/72>

³ <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp251861.pdf>

The Red Cross Society of Niger as an active member of the national crisis committee lead by the Prime Minister's office and coordinated by OCHA. The crisis committee and OCHA are overseeing the emergency assistance and distributions carried out by humanitarian organizations in the regions. The Prime Minister's office, regular coordination meetings and assessments missions have been taking place since January 2012 with the support from OCHA in coordinating humanitarian activities concerning the Mali refugees and the Niger returnees from Mali at the time when UNHCR did not yet have a permanent presence in Niger.

The RCSN and WFP have signed a local field agreement (LFA) around the provision of food and seeds and with both WFP and UNICEF for ready-to-use therapeutic food for malnutrition cases. The main challenge faced by the National Society is when there are gaps in the supply chain and solutions need to be found to divide smaller rations evenly between mothers in need and make do until the next round of therapeutic food is available.

National Society Capacity Building:

Among the objectives of the Emergency Appeal is to assist RCSN to improve its community, branch and national capacity in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and better preparedness to respond to future crisis and build resilience. Efforts are concentrated to building skills to strengthen livelihoods of the beneficiaries and enhance preparedness in food insecurity with increased awareness and a better analysis of the root causes of hazards and risks. A total of 186 volunteers have been trained in community-based nutrition screening of children below five and pregnant and breastfeeding women. In addition, 20 volunteers were trained to supervise community based cash for work activities and over 500 volunteers trained in sensitization campaigns, referrals, distributions, activity reporting, beneficiary identification or registration of vulnerable communities, on information and data collection.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The Niger country delegation with the support from the Sahel Regional Representation Office provided operational support to the RCSN until the arrival of the operations manager in May 2012. This was also with support by the Norwegian Red Cross, to increase IFRC's surge capacity and support RCSN with the food security operations. The subsequent arrival of funding helped start most of the response activities with the priorities focused on the populations most in need in Diffa, Dosso and Tillabéry.

With the arrival in January 2012 of the Malian refugees and Niger returnees, the authorities, through the office of the Prime Minister and OCHA, organized regular coordination meetings. The RCSN has been very active working with other partners in various sites with distribution of NFIs, in screening and in beneficiary identification. With the support from the IFRC and ICRC, the National Society also conducted a situation analysis and needs assessment mission in the region. During the mission 50 volunteers were trained or re-trained. These volunteers assist in screening, orientation, awareness-raising on tolerance and peace, as well as support for those exhausted or injured through referral to health centres. IEC sessions were organized on hygiene promotion and disease prevention.

RCSN has set-up 8 centres in the various refugee and returnee sites for and orientation and to serve as a Movement base, a place protected from heat and space of a "chatting room" in addition to offices to help conduct refugee related activities in the following departments in the Tillabéry region:

- In the Ayorou department the RCSN is in charge of registering beneficiaries, conducting camp orientation and hygiene awareness.
- In the Filingué and Ouallam departments, the National Society is in charge of registration, orientation and raising hygiene awareness and food distribution.
- IOM in collaboration with RCNS is transporting refugees from one site to another for their security and their wellbeing away from the border areas.

The ICRC is also supporting RCSN in the region of Tillabéry in the departments of Filingué and Ouallam where the National Society has distributed 383 tonnes of food to 27,823 beneficiary refugees and returnees and non food items (NFI) of essential relief items such as tarpaulins, mats, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.

The Red Cross Society of Niger has been working bilaterally with PNS in sectors in following regions:

Sector of activities	Agadez	Maradi	Tahoua	Zinder	Niamey	Tillabéry
Nutrition	French RC	Spanish RC		French RC		
Food Security	Qatar RC	Spanish RC	Spanish and Qatar RC	French RC, Irish RC, Qatar RC		Qatar RC
Livelihoods			Spanish RC			
Child protection		Spanish RC	Spanish RC		Spanish RC	
Water and sanitation				French RC, Irish RC		
Livestock feeding			Qatar RC	Qatar RC		Qatar RC

In August 2012, while RCSN was busy implementing the activities under this appeal, heavy rains received in the regions of Dosso, Niamey, Agadez, Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Diffa caused severe flooding. In response, a **DREF Operation** was launched to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 1,500 households affected. The floods have negatively impacted the implementation of some of the food insecurity activities.

Progress towards outcomes

Despite a slow start of implementation due lack of funding and the need for additional operational support, the implementation of most activities has gathered up speed. The three month delay between the end of the DREF implementation and the appeal funding, made some of the food security activities irrelevant to be able to meet the Government plan.

RCSN has faced challenges with its human resources during the implementation. The volunteers are being increasingly solicited by Movement action and within the UN partners. Some Red Cross staff members have been recruited by other organizations creating delays in implementation and the National Society has been overstretched at times, particularly in the light of the additional challenges. To counter this, RCSN has recruited technical field staff (food security and nutrition, finance and drivers) in Tillabéry, Dosso and Diffa regions.

The food supply chain has had gaps related to the provision of sufficient food for malnourished children and mothers. In Diffa region the number of children enrolled to the malnutrition programme are 300 more than planned monthly. These gaps are being discussed and addressed through collaboration with WFP, UNICEF and RCSN within the context of the bilateral local field agreements.

Low funding has resulted in limited implementation of planned activities in response to the cholera outbreak and the Malian refugees. Spanish Red Cross has been supporting the RCSN bilaterally in cholera prevention in Ayorou department (Tillabéry region) where 3,200 households are benefiting from basic hygiene and sanitation items such as soap and water purification tablets (aqua tabs) distributed to the targeted population while disinfectant products for latrines and shower are provided to the main health centre of Ayorou.

Due to the work load with the DREF operation for floods, the cholera, refugees and priorities in the food security implementation, the financial reporting needs some adjustments and entry correction of some of the budget lines to match the activities that have taken place, such as cash disbursement for the CFW activities, the cash and food parcels to the families with malnourished children released from the feeding centres.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome 1 (emergency): Enable access to food and other livelihoods to 5,000 households in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry regions.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of exodus and seasonal migration is reduced in the targeted areas 5,000 households can meet their food needs for 2 months (cash transfer, cash-for-work and food) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize and retrain 30 volunteers/supervisors (with training on communication, distribution and screening techniques). Distribute cash to 2,000 heads of families suffering from cereal deficit and unfit for field work (i.e.: disabled, elderly, female or child headed households). Cash-for-work programme to fix dunes, barriers and set-up anti-erosion

distributions)	infrastructure (around 2,700 households).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 17,000 refugees and host families received food for at least 3 months in (Ayorou, Ouallam, Abala and <i>Tillia</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate and sign local field agreements with WFP and distribute food provided by WFP for 3 months. Conduct quick training of 20 volunteers on distribution techniques. Rent 3 warehouses in 3 locations. Purchase distribution equipment. Monitor, evaluate and report on distribution activities. Prepare specific reports for WFP/UNHCR.
Outcome 2 (emergency): 1,500 families in Ayorou, Ouallam, Abala and Tillia receive NFI to improve their living conditions	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500 households are well equipped to face the rainy season. 1,500 mothers received mosquito nets in integrated health centres (IHC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and distribute 3,000 mosquito nets, 1,500 buckets, 3,000 jerry cans and 800 kitchen sets. Identify mothers with children released from CRENI and provide with mosquito nets. Register beneficiaries (host families and refugees). Bring the relief items to the distribution places. Distribute NFI during awareness-raising sessions. Monitor, evaluate and report on distribution activities.
Outcome 3 (recovery): 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"> 30 villages have benefited from strengthening their cereal banks (in partnership with WFP) leading them to having cereals to sell at village level and to fill their cereal banks (10 tonnes for the new ones and 5 tonnes for the existing banks). 15 villages have benefited from the building of cereal banks and donations of cereals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and select 30 villages with cereal banks that need to be reinforced in the zone of intervention. Identify and select 15 villages with chronic cereal deficit in order to assist in the creation of cereal banks. Elaborate and finalize the agreement with WFP to provide cereals for all 45 banks. Organize training/refresher sessions for the management committees of the cereal banks. Carry out monitoring and evaluation activities of the cereal management by the cereal banks. Document the process and use the “lessons learnt” to improve future interventions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,500 most vulnerable households in 12 villages have received improved seeds (15kg) for the forthcoming season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a suppliers list based on approved “improved” seed producers in coordination with the regional agricultural authorities and FAO/INRA (<i>INRA, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique/National Institute for Agricultural Research</i>). Identify the 2,500 most vulnerable households in 12 villages. Monitor and evaluate the distribution and storage activities with a view to ensuring sustainability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 households or farmers’ association set-up vegetable gardens including drip-irrigated for counter-season cultures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify households and areas with cropping/gardening potential. Support communities to set-up vegetable gardens, including drip-irrigation systems. Support communities to initiate counter season culture. Provide seeds, fertilizer and agricultural tools. Support repair or improve the water infrastructure. Assist the most vulnerable villages with the highest potential in agricultural production with long-term food security interventions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target communities have anti-erosion and other infrastructure. 	<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 agriculture production. Equip the above villages with soil working tools and the most appropriate species to plant (herbaceous plants, fruit trees, trees for firewood or fodder)

Progress: Local field agreements (LFA) between WFP and RCSN signed to facilitate monthly food distributions to 20,000 Malian refugees and host families in the regions of Tillabéry and Tahoua (Tillia department) and will continue until end of December 2012.

A total of 300 vulnerable households from 12 villages in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéry, unfit for work have received cash during the CFW activities. Additionally, 325 families were involved in soil rehabilitation measures through CFW activities (229 families digging “half moons” and 96 families working on sand barriers) in the same 12 villages providing the targeted families with sufficient money to cover the equivalent of three months of food needs. Through the CFW activities 144 acres of dry land were rehabilitated, 39,030 herbaceous plants and trees planted to ensure land rehabilitation and provide fodder for livestock. In Maine-Soroa and Goudoumaria departments in Diffa region, 387 households (2,709 direct beneficiaries) participated in CFW activities to fix moving sand dunes in order to protect their villages and gardens covering 8 sites of a total of 153, hectares. A total of 20 volunteers (10 in Diffa and 10 in Tillabéry) were trained to supervise the community based cash for work (CFW) activities. From the start, with the DREF operation, RCSN was able to extend its existing cash-for work (CFW) and cash transfer programme or cash distribution for those unfit for work to seven villages in the Illéla and Konni departments in the Tahoua region to benefit some 800 families.



Soil rehabilitation and dune fixing during the Cash-for-work activities in Diffa region: Photo/ RCSN/IFRC Chaibou Kwaini

In Tahoua region 500 bags of fodder were distributed to approximately 39 farmer associations while in Tillabéry region 500 farmers received one-bag of fodder each. During the distributions, information sessions were conducted on best practices on fodder conservation in times of abundant harvest in order to prepare for the next lean season.

Contacts with FAO and INRA were established and lists of registered improved seeds providers shared enabling the procurement of 37.5 tonnes of improved seeds and distribution to 2,500 households in Tera and Tillabéry departments (in all 14 villages in Tillabéry region), millet (15kg/household) and niebe (local bean, 5kg/household). The RCSN intends to monitor the benefits these improved seeds have compared to other less performing ones. To continue building up livelihoods to increase their resilience vegetable gardens for the target beneficiaries will be established.

An evaluation has been conducted in Diffa and Tillabéry to identify communities able to build cereal banks and establish community gardens. There would be more impact for the RCSN to concentrate on villages where the population has already benefited from cash-for-work activities and therefore 10 potential villages have been identified to benefit from the creation of cereal banks (5 in Diffa and 5 in Tillabéry). Village management committees will be constituted to support and ensure proper functioning of the cereal banks.

Challenges: Insufficient funding has led to non implementation of some planned activities in Tahoua region and non distribution of NFI to 1,500 families in Ayorou, Ouallam, Abala and Tilia.

Emergency health

Outcome 4: Contribute to reducing malnutrition rates among children from six months to five years, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in 230 villages in Dosso, Diffa and Niamey regions.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children from 6 to 59 months in the targeted villages are screened by trained community volunteers in their own communities and the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on its successful experience of this ach in Dosso in 2011, recruit/train or retrain 460 community-based volunteers at a rate of 2 per target village (training in screening of children and mothers) and 50 supervisors on anthropometric measurements, bilateral oedema detection and interpretation of nutritional index.

<p>malnourished children and mothers are referred to some 82 integrated health clinics (IHC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of child bearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women know the importance of breastfeeding. • The IHCs in the targeted as receive and care for all referred malnourished cases. • The rate of acutely malnourished children is held below the national average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • RCSN health coordinators to visit the IHC, CRENAM, CRENI, CRENAS in the targeted areas with the local/regional health authorities and assess the capacities of the centres to receive and manage acute malnourished cases. • Conduct monthly screening of children from six month to five years. • Refer moderate acute malnourished children to CRENAM. • 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 complications to CRENAS/CRENIS. • 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 in accessing these centres. • Distribute cash grants to families of 400 discharged children from CRENAS/CRENI to provide follow up nutrition. • Support the rehabilitation of some 20 IHC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feeding practices for infants and young children are improved through nutrition and health education. 	<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 (peer-to-peer education). • Train the targeted groups on ORS use and hygiene promotion. • Raise awareness activities on health promotion. • Organize cleaning up campaigns at community level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and breastfeeding women have access to quality health services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of “maternity units” and equip 20 units with 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 material on family planning. • Meet with district chiefs, traditional and religious leaders to educate them about the benefits of family planning and the difficulties related to early marriage.
<p>Outcome 5: To prevent further spread of cholera amongst 17,000 refugees and host populations over three months.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of the population living in cholera affected areas are using water purification tablets (aqua tabs). • Refugees are aware of cholera, the prevention and of the contamination process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct refresher training for 60 volunteers on the use of water purification tablets/aqua tabs. • Provide 6,000 tablets of aqua tabs for water purification, train and promote their use among the population. • Provide 9,000 ORS tablets and 1,500 bars of soap. • Provide Doxycyclin tablets (antibiotic treatment) as needed. • IEC on cholera prevention and aqua tabs distribution. • Conduct door-to-door visits and refer suspect cases to health centres. • Organize sensitizing/educational campaigns for the population living in areas at risk on prevention.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor, evaluate and report on activities.
Outcome 6: Improve the psycho-social status of the refugees including their integration and social cohesion.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees and the host population in Abala, Mangaizé and Tchintabaraden feel secure and are living in harmony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up representative committees for refugees and mobilization mechanisms. • Prevent gender based violence and set-up community awareness-raising committees. • Organize awareness-raising sessions for refugees (in agreement with the health sector) in HIV/AIDs prevention, on feeding and malnutrition prevention. • Set-up orientation, counselling, and listening centres. • Establish and lead four educational chatting spaces for the refugees. • Identify and regularly monitor people presenting specific needs (pregnant and nursing women, unaccompanied children, the sick, the elderly people and sexual and gender-based violence - SGBV - victims, etc.) • Monitor and support the refugee representation committees in planning, in the organisation of meetings and decision making. • Organize refugees and host communities around various community activities. • Train refugees and representatives of host communities in community-based first aid. • Support games through activities for official event celebrations (African Refugee Day, Woman's Day, etc.) and local cultural days (dances, sports, cuisines, etc.). • Organize refugee and local cultural days (dances, sports, cuisines)

Progress: Through partnership with UNICEF, RCSN has conducted screening, referring and distribution activities as planned in 230 villages reaching 51,500 beneficiaries. Through training and hands-on activities, the capacity of the RCSN health staff and volunteers has been built with the support of the authorities, WFP and UNICEF. Moderate acute malnourished cases are being referred for nutritional recovery to moderate malnutrition centres (CRENAM) while severe acute malnourished cases are being referred to nutritional recovery centres for severe acute malnutrition (CRENAS). Those with severe acute malnutrition and health complications are being referred to intensive nutritional recovery centres (CRENI) and the ready-to-use therapeutic food, vaccinations and essential drugs received from UNICEF given to severe acute malnourished children living in villages located further than 10 km from integrated reference health centres (IHC). In the Niamey region, another partnership was signed to support 44 integrated reference health centres.

By end of October RCSN volunteers had screened over 20,000 children (6 to 59 months), their mothers and pregnant women and about 2,000 children referred to health centres. Malnourished children are identified by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method and the diagnosis is confirmed by their weight-for-height (WFH) at the local health facility. After discharge, children are provided with supplemental food rations (corn soy blend and vegetable oil for 3 to 3 months). In addition over 60 tonnes of food and ready-to-use therapeutic food, 600 food parcels, protection rations, including ready to use therapeutically food (plumpy nut), improved cereal, and oil were distributed and close to 600 families discharged from CRENI received cash support totalling to 36,000 CHF to allow mothers and caregivers the flexibility to purchase local foods. This support is targeting 1,000 children and their families. With feeding practices in Niger identified as being a chronic problem, all activities are being



A volunteer conducts nutritional screening through the mid-upper arm circumference method / Photo: Tidjani/RCSN

complemented by health and nutritional education sessions to improve the feeding practices of infants and young children in the targeted communities.

In order to prevent further risks of cholera outbreak especially after the flooding that occurred in August, the National Society with the support of IFRC has been disseminating cholera treatment and prevention messages to the families affected by the floods in Tillabéry Niamey urban area and Zinder regions. Additionally, 140 community based volunteers were trained hygiene promotion and cholera prevention awareness creation in Ayorou, Tillabéry and Tera departments. During the awareness campaign in the community, 5,000 leaflets were distributed and a total of 360 people suffering from diarrhoea referred to health centres for cholera diagnosis. In total some 27,090 people living in 48 villages in districts of Tillabéry region (including Tillabéry, Ayorou refugee camps with 4,653 people, and Tera department) have been reached through sensitizing campaigns and distribution of aqua tabs. Furthermore 6,000 pieces of soap and 400,000 water purification tablets were procured and distributed to 2,000 and 5,000 households respectively. During the distributions, the households were also sensitized and encouraged to continue using aqua tabs for water treatment. To support the health centres taking care of cholera patients, 500 litres of bleach 10,000, tablet of doxycycline, 7,000 ORS were procured as well as 10 tents availed to those health centres in order to isolate cholera patients from other patients.

In early March, a joint mission was conducted by ICRC, IFRC and RCSN to assess the refugee situation and meet with UNHCR. Following discussions with UNHCR it was agreed not to pursue the planned activities around psycho-social support to refugees due to lack of funding.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 7: To increase access to clean water, improve sanitation facilities and promote hygiene among the 20 most vulnerable villages in the targeted areas of Zinder, Diffa, Tahoua and 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"> • Construct 5 new wells and rehabilitate 15 existing water points. • Train communities in operation and maintenance of water points to ensure they are used in a sustainable way. • Train communities on the use of household water treatment and safe storage. • Construct improved sanitation facilities (20 latrines in IHCs, schools and public buildings for public use). • Conduct hygiene promotion activities in targeted areas. • Train volunteers on PHAST and hygiene promotion. • Print and distribute 10,000 hygiene promotion leaflets.

Progress: Following the water and sanitation assessment completed in March, little progress has been made due to prioritizing of the limited resources in the food security activities. The assessment has allowed RCSN to identify preliminary water and sanitation needs in Zinder and Tahoua regions.

Challenges: The basic level of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is low in most parts of the country and it is therefore difficult to determine the most acute needs in water and sanitation. Priority as mentioned earlier is focused on food security and nutrition activities. Monitoring will allow ensuring that any acute needs will be addressed either directly by RCSN or referred to the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster for action.

Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster preparedness

Outcome 8: To improve the community, branch and national capacity of RCSN to prepare for disaster risk reduction and respond to future food crisis and build resilience.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All recovery activities incorporate disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach. • Branch and national staff have knowledge in food security and develop skills to strengthen livelihoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and recycle 60 volunteers / supervisors with training on communication, distribution and screening techniques. • Train the RCSN staff and volunteers at community, branch and national level, in food security assessment, planning and project implementation. • Support RCSN logistics capacity in food security and other operations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced preparedness for food insecurity through increased awareness and analysis of hazard risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set-up community awareness campaigns in disaster preparedness and DRR including contingency plans at the branch and community levels. Provide technical training for volunteers to help affected families to reconstruct livelihoods including drip irrigation systems, and vegetable gardens. Set-up national disaster response teams (NDRT) in four targeted regions and improve their skills in DRR. Rehabilitate radio stations in five targeted regions and procure IT equipment.
---	---

Progress: Through the food security activities, the capacities of over 500 volunteers and community based volunteers have been enhanced through relevant trainings including, conducting sensitization campaigns, screening, case referrals, distribution, activity reporting, identification or registration of beneficiaries, information and data collection. Additionally, 3 regional branches (Diffa, Tillabéry and Dosso) of the RCSN have received IT equipment (Desktop computers, printers, internet facilities and telephones) and given the relevant training.

Although not funded through this appeal, a workshop for new members of the national disaster response team (NDRT) was conducted in Niamey during week 48 with support from DFID and fits well into supporting the objective of improving the National Society's capacities to prepare for disaster risk reduction and respond to future crises. This complements the DRR activities funded through this appeal.

Security

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, in central Tahoua and Maradi regions, and in Zinder in the southeast. International personnel are at risk of kidnapping by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and affiliated militant groups. While this risk is greater in the north, in January 2011 two French Nationals were abducted from Niamey – the first reported militant incursion into the capital. The government has previously expressed concern regarding the passage of weapons through its territory from Libya to Mali, and the worsening situation in Mali continues to impact negatively on security in Niger. Demonstrations over socio-economic grievances are common in the main cities and they occasionally descend into violence. As insecurity is present in some parts of the country, UN organisations and some NGOs use military escort for their field trips to some regions such as Tillabery.

Due to the relatively insecure operating environment, the IFRC has planned an operation that focuses on building on the National Society capacity and regional support, and will mobilize expatriate deployments only as required. The Africa Zone Security Team will continue to monitor the situation and provide advice as necessary. The IFRC operation is adapting to changing circumstances, and key information is obtained through ongoing participation of the Red Cross in task force meetings, led by the Prime Minister's Office and OCHA.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Red Cross Society of Niger:** Ali Bandiaré, President; Tel:+227 96 97 35 29; Email:crniger@intnet.net.
- **IFRC Country Representation:** Pierre Kana, Country Representative; Niamey; phone: +227 20 383 34; fax: +227 20 73 83 34; email: pierre.kana@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Country Representation:**Momodou Lamin Fye, Regional Representative for Sahel; Dakar; phone:+221 338 693 641 or +221 773 325 672; email: momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org;
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyvaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: ari.mantyvaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251-93-003 4013; fax: +251-11-557 0799; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

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

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

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 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.

MDRNE010 - Niger - Food Insecurity

Appeal Launch Date: 30 jan 12

Appeal Timeframe: 20 dec 11 to 28 feb 13

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/12-2012/10
Budget Timeframe	2011/12-2013/2
Appeal	MDRNE010
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	3,375,048					3,375,048	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Cash contributions</u>							
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	67,579					67,579	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	124,000					124,000	
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	725,984					725,984	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>	36,179					36,179	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	521,474					521,474	
C1. Cash contributions	1,475,217					1,475,217	
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>							
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	57,553					57,553	
C3. Inkind Personnel	57,553					57,553	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	1,532,770					1,532,770	
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,532,770					1,532,770	
Coverage = D/A	45%					45%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	1,532,770					1,532,770	
E. Expenditure	-983,184					-983,184	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	549,586					549,586	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/12-2012/10
Budget Timeframe	2011/12-2013/2
Appeal	MDRNE010
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,375,048					3,375,048	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	2,667	1,997				1,997	670	
Construction - Facilities	140,196						140,196	
Clothing & Textiles	21,078	187				187	20,891	
Food	293,137	1,884				1,884	291,253	
Seeds & Plants	242,157	81,458				81,458	160,699	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	100,490	19,933				19,933	80,557	
Medical & First Aid	83,216	1,516				1,516	81,700	
Teaching Materials	30,809	972				972	29,837	
Utensils & Tools	82,765	14,162				14,162	68,603	
Other Supplies & Services	288,868	101,739				101,739	187,129	
Cash Disbursement	468,627	20,749				20,749	447,878	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	1,754,010	244,596				244,596	1,509,414	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	176,471						176,471	
Computers & Telecom	20,000	7,468				7,468	12,532	
Office & Household Equipment		2,583				2,583	-2,583	
Others Machinery & Equipment	4,412						4,412	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	200,883	10,051				10,051	190,832	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,922	1,138				1,138	2,784	
Distribution & Monitoring	12,745	2,693				2,693	10,052	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	163,373	49,873				49,873	113,500	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	180,040	53,704				53,704	126,336	
Personnel								
International Staff	333,529	199,190				199,190	134,339	
National Staff	84,392	6,677				6,677	77,715	
National Society Staff	169,520	85,255				85,255	84,265	
Volunteers	164,578	13,577				13,577	151,001	
Total Personnel	752,019	304,699				304,699	447,320	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	7,843	449				449	7,394	
Professional Fees	23,137	7,019				7,019	16,118	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	30,980	7,468				7,468	23,512	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	18,157	4,818				4,818	13,340	
Total Workshops & Training	18,157	4,818				4,818	13,340	
General Expenditure								
Travel	35,098	29,783				29,783	5,315	
Information & Public Relations	43,431	2,756				2,756	40,675	
Office Costs	79,588	23,102				23,102	56,486	
Communications	65,147	19,700				19,700	45,447	
Financial Charges	9,706	-9,152				-9,152	18,858	
Other General Expenses		3,642				3,642	-3,642	
Shared Office and Services Costs		9,931				9,931	-9,931	
Total General Expenditure	232,970	79,763				79,763	153,207	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		216,390				216,390	-216,390	
Total Operational Provisions		216,390				216,390	-216,390	



Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/12-2012/10
Budget Timeframe	2011/12-2013/2
Appeal	MDRNE010
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,375,048					3,375,048	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	205,989	56,156				56,156	149,833	
Total Indirect Costs	205,989	56,156				56,156	149,833	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee		4,640				4,640	-4,640	
Pledge Reporting Fees		900				900	-900	
Total Pledge Specific Costs		5,540				5,540	-5,540	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,375,048	983,184				983,184	2,391,864	
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,391,864				2,391,864		