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NIGER: FLOODS

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 69,940 (USD 58,090 or EUR 42,389) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by end of September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background and current situation

Intense and unusually prolonged rains that have been pounding Niger since the end of July 2007 have resulted in serious flooding which has caused widespread damage in Niamey, Agadez, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillaberi, Zinder and Diffa regions. According to the National Early Warning System, approximately 14,000 people have been affected, among them 7,100 women and 2,600 children aged under five years. Three people have so far perished while severe damage has been caused to public infrastructure such as schools, health care facilities, roads, bridges, water supply systems, power and telephone lines and housing. Farm fields have not been spared, with motor pumps fully or partially destroyed, a situation which has deprived many families of their means of agricultural production. In the northern zone of Dabaga alone, 30 hectares of farmland have been destroyed.

Weather forecasts indicate that the rains will persist in the coming days; therefore the number of people affected by flooding is likely to increase. The flooding poses health risks, such as waterborne disease outbreaks and other related infections. Interventions aimed at minimizing such risks, thus, need to be prioritized.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In order to respond in a timely manner, the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) mobilized its volunteers to assist in evacuating people from flooded areas and conducting a rapid needs assessment. In accordance to its mandate, the RCSN mobilized 19 tonnes of cereals and 15 tents to assist the flood-affected people. In close collaboration with Federation Zone office in Dakar and the Federation water and sanitation (WatSan) delegate in Niger, the National Society has prepared a plan of action for a one-month intervention.

Government action

Following the flooding, an ad hoc committee was set up by the Government of Niger. The RCSN, through its national disaster management department, is part of that committee and is actively participating in meetings. Other members of the committee include the National Early Warning System, UN agencies, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international NGOs (INGOs).

So far, the government has already distributed 442 tonnes of cereals, 3,810 blankets and 3,810 mosquito nets to more than 9,000 people. It is also in the process of distributing XOF 50,000 (CHF 125) per household to assist in reconstruction of destroyed houses.

Action by other agencies

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has intervened in Tahoua (Madoua), Agadez (Iferouane) and Zinder (Tesker). The agency has already distributed 150 hygiene kits in Madoua, 91 kits in Iferouane and 36 kits in Tesker. Each kit contains 10 metres of tarpaulin, 4 blankets, 2 impregnated mosquito nets, 3 jerry cans and 10 bars of soap.

Needs

In spite of the assistance provided to the affected people to date, many displaced households are living in precarious conditions. Immediate needs are shelter, blankets, impregnated mosquito nets and chlorine for water treatment.

The government has indicated that it has adequate resources to cover the food needs of flood-affected people. The available food stocks were built up as part of its contingency planning after the 2006 floods. However, lack of means to transport those items to affected areas remains a major constraint.

Coordination

The Red Cross Society of Niger coordinating with the National Early Warning System to exchange information about the emergency situation and to ensure synergy in relief activities so as to avoid duplication of efforts. The RCSN, the National Early Warning System, UN agencies, local and international NGOs are participating in meetings of the ad hoc committee set up by the government. The ad hoc committee has recommended concrete disaster risk reduction actions. Coordination meetings are also taking place between the Red Cross and other actors such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), other UN agencies as well as local and international NGOs.

Plan of Action

Given the limited resources of the RCSN, and for efficiency purposes, the Red Cross intervention will focus on Tahoua, Tillaberi and Zinder regions. The National Society will assist flood-affected people by distributing blankets, impregnated mosquito nets and mats. Additionally, the Red Cross will organize sensitization campaigns on disaster risk reduction in the affected areas.

General objective: The Red Cross Society of Niger assists 358 flood-affected households in Madoua (Tahoua), Magaria (Zinder), Kollo and Tera (Tillaberi) for one month.

Specific objective 1: To reduce the risk of diseases through provision of essential non-food items and sensitization campaigns on hygiene and sanitation.

Specific objective 2: To assist communities in Tahoua, Tillaberi and Zinder regions on risk identification and setting up a risk reduction mechanism.

Expected results:

- 358 flood-affected households (2,500 people) are protected against diseases such as acute respiratory infections and malaria;
- The population affected by floods is practicing proper hygienic behaviours and has access to quality water;
- A national workshop on disaster risk reduction is held in Niamey;
- A contingency plan on floods is drafted by the National Society.

Activities:

- Conduct a detailed needs assessment;
- Purchase and distribute 2,500 blankets, 1,500 impregnated mosquito nets and 1,500 mats;
- Provide training and refresher training for 80 volunteers who will be involved in distribution and sensitization activities;
- Organize trainings on disaster management and community-based first aid in the Tahoua, Tillaberi and Zinder regions;
- Organize one national workshop on disaster risk reduction;
- Conduct sensitization campaigns on prevention of malaria, waterborne and hygiene related diseases;
- Sensitize affected communities and local authorities on the importance of setting up an early warning system at the community level;
- Set up a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

How we work

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

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

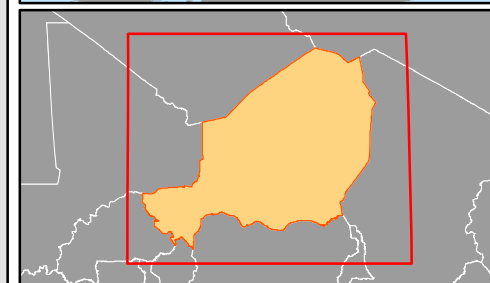
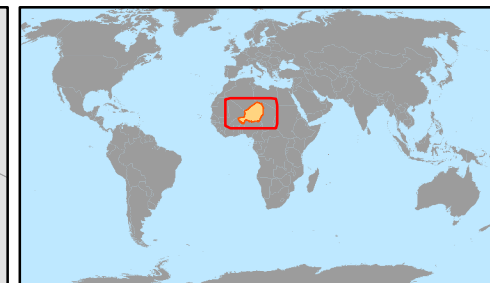
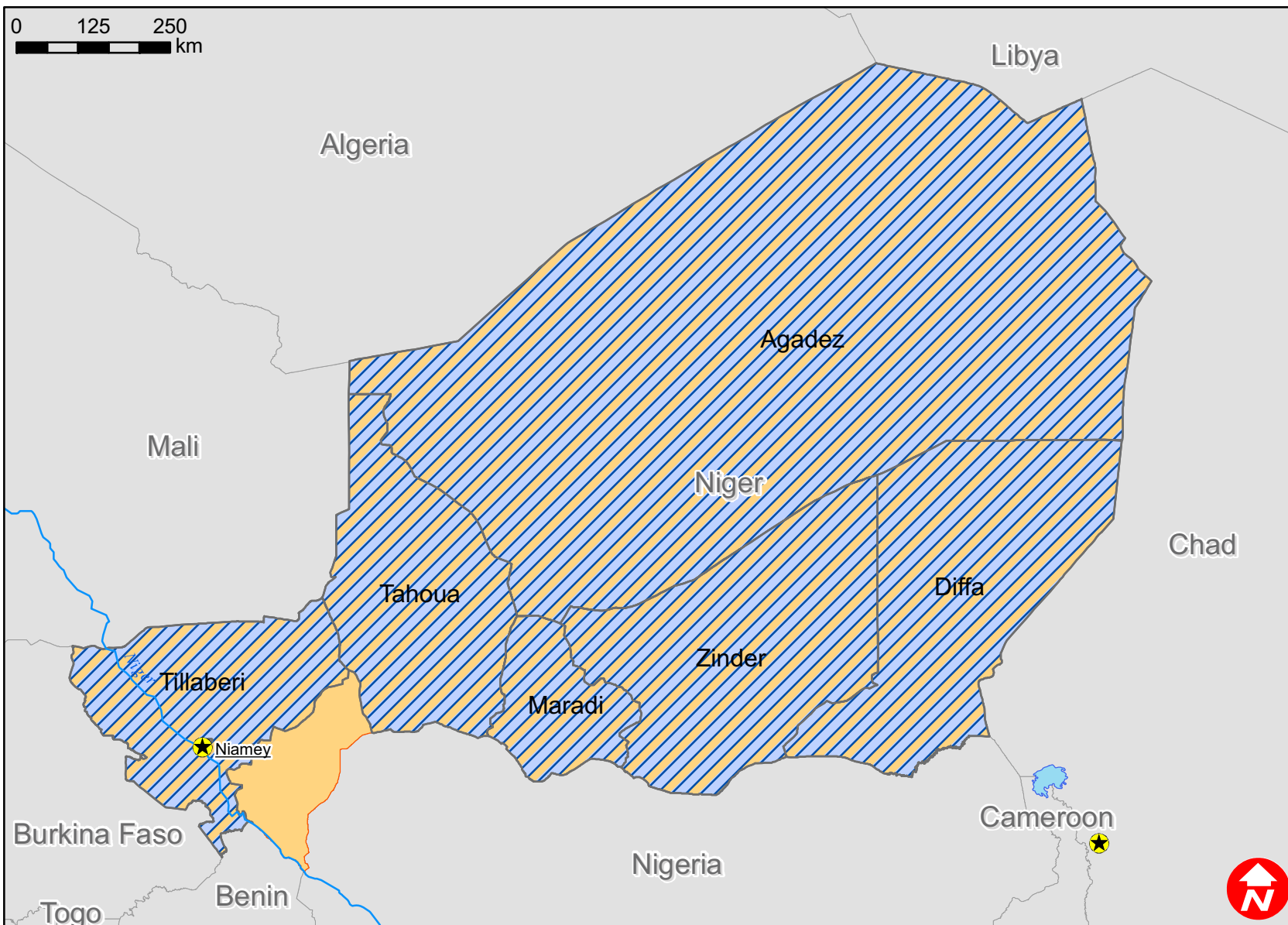
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Niger:** Djibril Hamidou, Acting Executive Secretary, Red Cross Society of Niger, Niamey; email: crniger@intnet.ne; telephone +227.20.73.30.37
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone, Dakar; email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; telephone +221.869.36.41; fax +221.860.20.02
- **In Geneva:** Terry Carney, a.i. Officer for West and Central Africa Zone; email: terry.carney@ifrc.org; telephone +41.79.308.9817; fax +41.22.733.0395

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Niger: Floods



Intense and unusually prolonged rains, since the end of July have caused serious flooding and widespread damage in the Regions of Niamey, Agadez, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, Zinder, Diffa. According to official figures around 14,000 people have been affected and 3 died.

- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Regions affected by heavy rains