

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Niger: Meningitis

DREF operation n° MDRNE004  
GLIDE n° EP-2009-000066-NER  
19 March 2009

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

**CHF 68,828 (USD 57,999 or EUR 44,780) is requested from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Niger in reaching more than 3,960,000 people through a health sensitization and education campaign. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

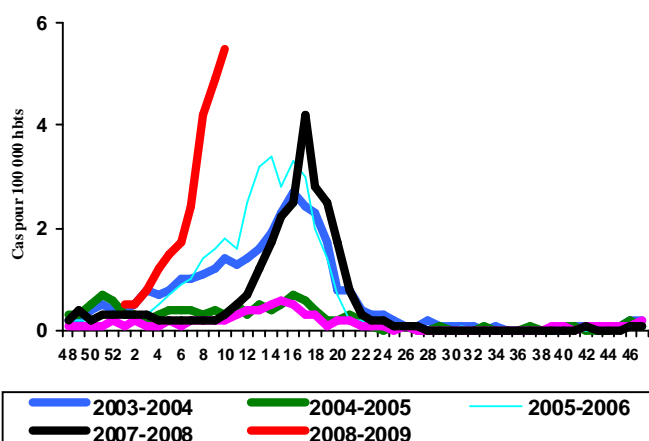
**Summary:** An outbreak of meningitis has occurred in Niger and claimed the lives of vulnerable populations. At week 10, 3,440 cases and 139 deaths have been notified with a fatality rate of 4%; while at the same period in 2008, only 336 cases and 36 deaths were registered (**Source:** DSS/RE, Ministry of Health, Niger). The most affected areas are border localities with Burkina Faso.

In response to this outbreak, a DREF has been launched. The Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) plans to mobilize its volunteers To carry out health education and sensitizing activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months and a half, and will therefore be completed by **31 May, 2009**, which usually correspond to the end of the meningitis season. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation by end of **August 2009**.

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

EVOLUTION DU TAUX D'ATTAQUE DE LA  
MENINGITE 2004 A 2009



Evolution of the meningitis epidemic rate from 2004 to 2009

## The situation

In Niger, a meningitis epidemic has caused 3,440 cases and 139 deaths by Week 10 with a fatality rate of 4% according to the department of epidemiological surveillance at the Ministry of Health (MoH). The most

affected districts are located in south west and borders with Burkina Faso where the outbreak has started with a fatality rate of 14,56%. The most affected districts are Zinder, Maradi, Agadez, Dosso and Diffa.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has worked out and presented a plan of action. The MoH also provided drugs, vaccines and supplies to the most affected health (Zinder, Maradi, Agadez, Dosso and Diffa). A media communication held by the MoH is also being conducted with key messages delivery on meningitis via television and radio spots. The Niger government also benefits from partners' support such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Swiss, Save the Children, and MSF Belgium for vaccines procurement.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) had set up a network of trained volunteers in meningitis prevention and response. Volunteers will continue working in the affected districts and particularly focus in the regions of Zinder, Tahoua, and Dosso after one day briefing on the meningitis outbreak.

## The needs

### Beneficiary selection

The direct and indirect beneficiaries of this operation are more than 3,960,000 persons of the most affected areas in Niger. Only Tahoua region will need training of 180 volunteers. Another 480 volunteers have already been trained in previous outbreaks and are on stand-by in the other concerned regions. The RCSN plans to mobilize 660 volunteers and 66 local supervisors with specific knowledge in the area of community mobilization, sensitization, health education and prevention of epidemic. These persons will be coached by two national supervisors from headquarters. The Red Cross Society of Niger will be concentrating its efforts on the three most affected regions i.e. Zinder, Dosso and Tahoua.

## The proposed operation

**General objective: To contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity due to meningitis in Niger.**

### Specific objectives:

- To organize sensitization and social mobilization campaign via local Red Cross committees;
- To organize early identification cases and referral to health centres;
- To disseminate key messages on meningitis prevention and care, and referral cases.

### Activities planned:

- Mobilization of 660 volunteers and 66 supervisors;
- Training of 180 new volunteers and short briefing of 480 volunteers already trained;
- One day debriefing for supervisors;
- Delivery of key messages on transmission and prevention through door-to-door strategy visits;
- Community mobilization and sensitization with focus group discussions in public places;
- Broadcasting campaign through rural radio stations;
- Active case finding and referral to health structures.

### Expected outcomes:

- Some 660 volunteers, 66 supervisors are well trained, briefed, and motivated to reach the most affected people. They are capable to provide life saving support to meningitis victims;
- Hygiene and health education, early case detection and referral, and sensitization have contributed in reducing the number of victims;
- Hygiene and health education, and sensitization have led to long-term behaviour change preventing and reducing the impact of future outbreaks;
- The public has come to know more about the role of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement
- NRCS visibility has increased.

## **DREF BUDGET SUMMARY**

### **RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	0
Construction Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>0</b>

### **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0

### **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,301

### **PERSONNEL**

International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0
National Staff	
National Society Staff	48,524
Consultants	0

### **WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	2,041
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	0

### **GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	6,607
Office running costs	476
Communication Costs	1,405
Professional Fees	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0

### **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR

4,474

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**Total Operational Needs**

**68,828**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)**

**68,828**

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**Available Ressources**

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**Net Request**

**68,828**

#### 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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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

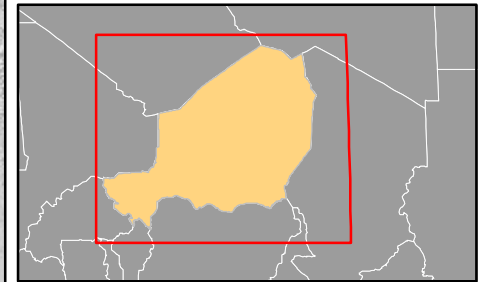
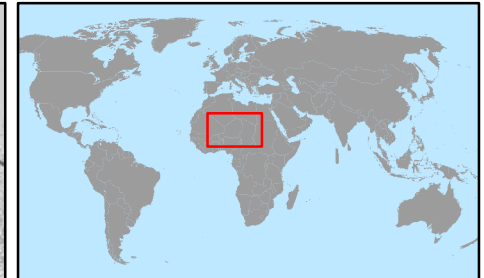
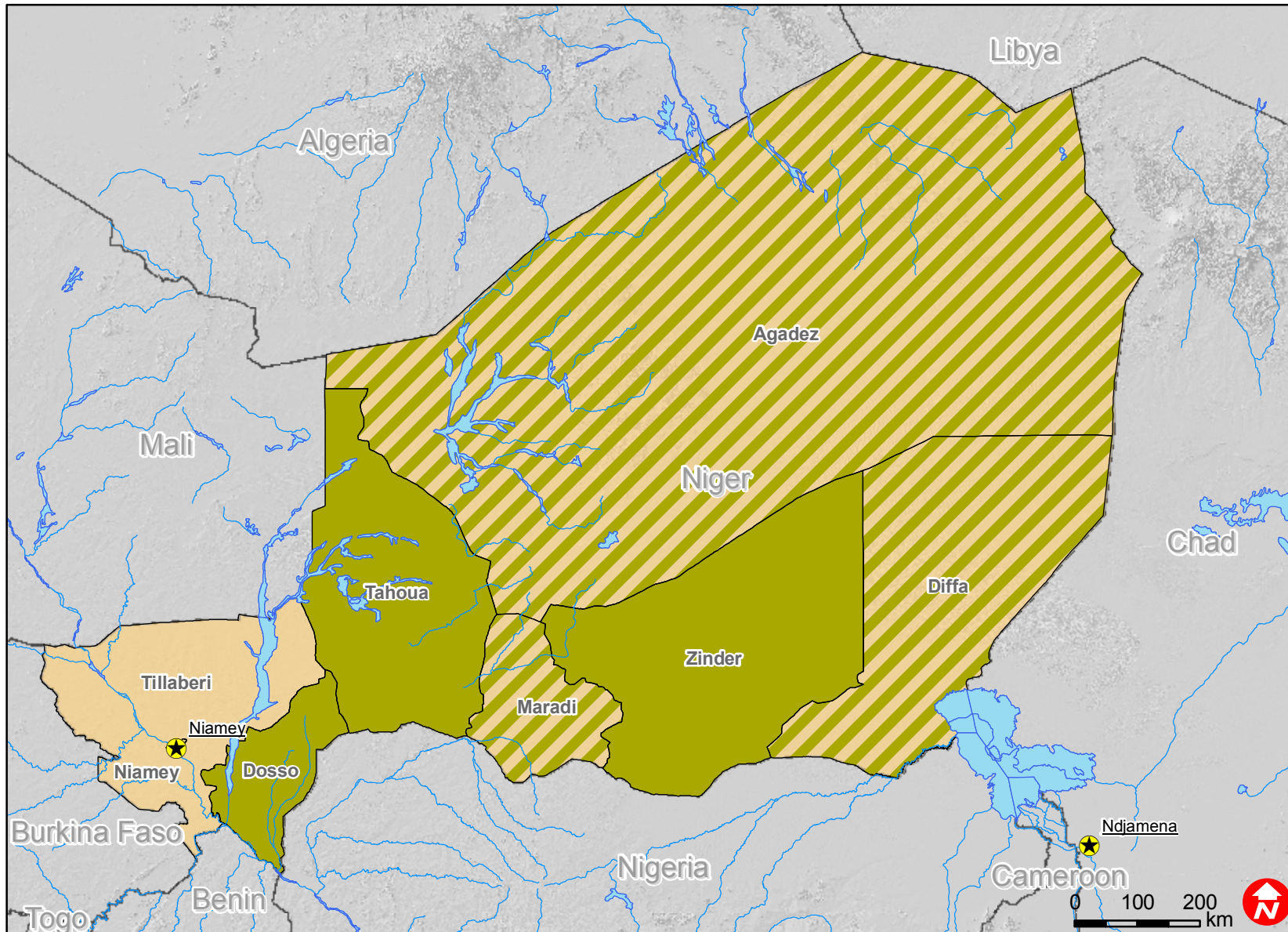
##### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In **Niamey**: Aly Bandiaré, President, Red Cross Society of Niger, Niamey; email: [cniger@intnet.ne](mailto:cniger@intnet.ne); phone: (227).73.30.37, Fax : (227) 73.24.61
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[<DREF budget \(if available\) and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Niger: Meningitis



- ★ Capitals
- Rivers
- Most affected areas
- ▨ Affected areas
- Lakes