

# ANNUAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## NIGER

17 February 2004

### In Brief

**Appeal No.:** 01.39/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

**Appeal target:** CHF 318,177 (USD 218,318 or EUR 216,328)

**Appeal coverage:** 64.5% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

**Appeal 2004:** Niger no. 01.37/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

*This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.*

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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### Overall analysis of the programme

While it did not fully achieve its organizational development goals, the [Red Cross Society of Niger](#) had an active and productive year within its health and finance development operations as well as in disaster relief to flood victims. The national society played significant roles in three national polio vaccination day campaigns in March, October, and December respectively, and is expected to take on even greater responsibilities in the 2004 mop-up exercises in the fight against the wild polio virus. The Red Cross of Niger also played a major role in the country's emergency meningitis vaccination struggle – it channelled 200,000 vaccines and syringes for the Ministry of Health and also facilitated social mobilization of volunteers who helped to vaccinate over 74,000 persons. In addition to its World Red Cross Day (8 May) HIV/AIDS anti-stigmatisation parade, contests and public sessions involving people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the national society has also expanded its HIV/AIDS programming with training and awareness in schools and amongst commercial sex workers in Niamey and Tahoua reaching over 2,500 youths, teachers and sex workers. Finally, when there was heavy flooding in the country in August, the national society mobilized five metric tonnes of its own food resources and began distributed among the victims.

With the Federation support, the national society enlarged its efforts to assist some 2,000 beneficiaries and re-enforced its disaster response capacity in border branches by installing rehabilitated HF radios and computers and provided training on basic use and maintenance of materials to local committee members.

## **Niger; Appeal no. 01.39/2003; Annual Report**

The national society enjoys a good reputation, particularly for its social mobilization campaigns for meningitis and polio vaccinations. It is also conducting interesting and successful HIV/AIDS programmes – both of which can be built upon to seek external funding for programmes, which could contribute to programme and overall management costs, thereby increasing the professionalism of the national society. The national society made slow, but steady progress in 2003 towards strengthening its financial management systems and has laid a good foundation for internal resource development. With a proper development plan and restructuring to augment its full-time staff and full implementation of more professional financial management systems, Red Cross of Niger could achieve much more. It is expected that these organizational development goals will be addressed more vigorously in 2004 with the help of the regional office's new development officer.

The Red Cross of Niger president, who is currently serving as Chairman of the Sahel Regional Working Group, was active throughout the year in pushing the group's agenda forward and ensuring that its bi-annual meetings were well-planned and conducted as scheduled. His institutional memory and familiarity with the development of the regionalization process proved to be an asset to sister Societies at the annual meeting of the West and Central Africa Working Group, organized by the Dakar Regional Delegation in October.

### **Health and Care**

**Goal: To contribute to the reduction of infant and childhood vaccine preventable diseases, and the spread of HIV/AIDS in Niger.**

**Objectives: With the aim to reduce mortality and morbidity, with regard to HIV/AIDS and infant and childhood preventable diseases, in targeted zones, the National Society's social mobilisation and IEC activities are strengthened at the community level.**

#### **Achievements:**

- The Red Cross of Niger has participated actively in national immunization and mop-up days.
- Much effort was spent during the period on responding to the emergency meningitis outbreak in the region of Tahoua, in Illela district. Activities included the procurement of 200,000 vaccines for the Ministry of Health (MoH) through the International Coordinating Group (ICG) mechanism. Though this was the first time for the national society to undertake the process, they succeeded. The Red Cross of Niger also purchased syringes, trained 50 volunteers on meningitis detection and referral of cases and organized them to mobilize populations for vaccination of 76,473 persons in 43 hard to reach villages.
- The Red Cross of Niger conducted, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, polio vaccination social mobilization activities in three separate campaigns (June, October, and December).
- Operational capacity of the local committees in social mobilization and health promotion has been reinforced through 422 volunteers and 22 supervisors.
- The Red Cross of Niger strengthened its capacity in peer education to contribute to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and STDs among youth and commercial sex workers in three regions (Tahoua, Namé and Agadez):
  - Improving the knowledge level of its health trainers in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, training-of-trainers was conducted where fifteen trainers, including four people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were given additional training.
  - As part of its information, education and communication activities in schools and amongst professional sex workers, the Red Cross of Niger trained five school committees including 25 students and five teachers in five schools in Niamey and 10 professional sex workers plus eight PLWHA.
  - Similarly, five school committees and five professional sex workers were trained in Tahoua where activities included 32 discussions and debates in Niamey and five in Tahoua around various HIV/AIDS/STDs themes, six film projections in schools and for sex workers, four radio programmes, competitive games, and cloth sales for income generating projects with commercial sex workers.

**Constraints**

- The Red Cross of Niger has only one health professional with no assistant or staff. This makes it difficult to cover all programmes (emergency and on-going) at one time, including attending national coordination meetings at which the national society must be represented.
- There were delays in preparing the ICG application for meningitis vaccines due to the newness of the process to the national society and availability of the application only in English language. These constraints were, however, overcome. Delays were also encountered in receiving a reply from the ICG in Geneva, which led to delays in receiving the vaccines from the supplier in France. It will be important to develop a better preparedness capacity to address future epidemics.
- Continued refusal by some populations to accept polio and meningitis vaccines.
- Limited transportation to reach dispersed populations across vast territories.
- Health education sessions and activities were frequently delayed due to students and teachers strikes or unavailability of students during pre-exam periods. The execution of this project in schools and amongst commercial sex workers has incited a strong interest amongst these groups. However, the lack of means for testing and treatment and availability of condoms within schools is a major drawback. Lack of school infirmaries or health services means no access to regular health care for many students.
- In some areas like Tahoua, no PLWHA were included in activities as none could be identified.

**Impact**

- In the June mop-up campaign, 95,581 children under-fives were vaccinated against polio, 102,772 were vaccinated in November and 115,334 in the November/December polio campaign.<sup>1</sup>
- The Red Cross of Niger efforts helped to contain the spread of meningitis in Illela District.
- The Red Cross of Niger helped contain the spread of the wild polio virus.
- The national society is gaining increasing visibility and recognition for its ability to mobilize populations for vaccinations, especially in hard to reach areas.
- Fifteen (15) health education facilitators/trainers are available, 48 peer educators trained (38 in Niamey and 10 in Tahoua), two national society committees possess peer educators, 10 schools reached involving 2,300 students (1,280 in Niamey and 1,020 in Tahoua), 286 professors reached (147 in Niamey and 112 in Tahoua),
- Within the income generating scheme, the sex workers - most of whom are in their forties - signed legally binding partnership contracts with the national society for repayable loans (approximately EUR 90.00 per worker) which enable them to purchase African prints which they sell on credit but with profit. Most of the women had repaid their loans relatively quickly and many others were anxious to participate in the scheme as well. This project is a major boost to the income of women whose daily income amounts to less than EUR 1.00. It is hoped this may enable them withdraw from the sex trade.
- Improved knowledge about HIV/AIDS and STDs among the target population, especially in schools where students have little access to adequate care and health information.
- Capacity strengthened at the local committee level to conduct HIV/AIDS and STDs sensitization and awareness activities in the target regions.

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<sup>1</sup> For details of the October and December campaigns not previously reported on in programme updates, refer to the annexed tables below.

## **Organizational development**

**Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Niger through improved service delivery by the Red Cross of Niger.**

**Objective 1: The Red Cross of Niger has completed a comprehensive Strategic Development Plan, based on a national society capacity assessment, which is coordinated and agreed upon with key stakeholders both within and outside the Movement, leading to a systematic development approach.**

### **Achievements**

- The national society's organizational development needs were agreed with its leadership in May. The national society requested the support of a technical advisor to assist them with the evaluation of their previous development plan which has now expired. Based on the results, they will prepare another development plan for discussion with partners.
- Solid cooperation with ICRC and French Red Cross (present with an office in Niamey) for support to the national society was established.

### **Constraints**

- Red Cross of Niger was not able to prepare a Strategic Development Plan or complete the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process as per the objective outlined above. Insufficient capacity within the national society to clearly define terms of reference for the technical support it desires and within the regional office to progress on this objective has contributed to slow progress. The arrival of the new regional development officer should facilitate a solution to this obstacle.

### **Impact**

- Despite inability to meet the above objective, there is a clear understanding between the Red Cross of Niger and the Sub-Regional Office on the direction to pursue. Strong coordination with existing partners will contribute to a successful CAS process in 2004.

**Objective 2: Red Cross of Niger progressively increases with strengthened financial management and resource development capacities to better meet the needs of the vulnerable.**

### **Achievements**

- A cooperation agreement was signed with the national society; the agreement was designed to address the obsolete character of the current financial management systems; the absence of back up and maintenance systems, and split accounting practices.
- After thorough analysis of options, SAGE SAARI Compta 100 accounting software was chosen.
- A floppy drive and a UPS back up system were purchased as well as an annual maintenance contract to receive technical assistance, regular software updates and other assistance.
- Cooperation Agreement was signed to allow the resource mobilization seminar scheduled for February 2004 to take place.

### **Constraints**

- Due to planning constraints of both regional finance and resource development officer and Red Cross of Niger staff, resource development activities were rescheduled to be launched in February 2004. This postponement highlighted the need to hire an executive secretary or national director to strengthen Red Cross of Niger management capacities.
- Activities related to resource development were a bit delayed due to the statutory meetings in Geneva and the absence of some personnel.

### **Impact**

- The signed agreement with the Red Cross of Niger allowed the installation of a new professional management software, training sessions of the finance personnel during the budget planning of the fiscal year 2004 and the introduction of management procedures revised with the help of a newly elaborated finance and administrative procedures manual.

## **Niger; Appeal no. 01.39/2003; Annual Report**

- As many of the national societies in the region have selected Sage SAARI software, negotiations for special rates took place which could lead to up to a 20% discount on the purchasing of the accounting Compta 100 pack software package and an additional 20% discount in technical assistance contracts. The Sage SAARI software will likely be used by four other national societies (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) which will lead to harmonization of the tools and systems in place, as well as capacity building at the regional level through fostering knowledge sharing possibilities between the national societies' finance staff.
- The use of Compta 100 Pack software will be effective as from March 2004 for the management of Red Cross of Niger and Participating National Society programs which will allow the integration of different accounts and expand a new chart of accounts.
- The overall tools introduced in the finance department allow the fiscal year 2004 to have better technical mastery of these basic steps of financial and budgetary management.
- The impact of setting up the new financial and accounting management tools should be measurable as from March 2004. The development process of the management systems will get a new boost through a planned comprehensive audit management of the national society's accounts funded by the regional finance and resource development program.

### **Constraint**

The Red Cross of Niger' major constraint is its lack of full time management and programme staff. It desperately needs to "professionalize" itself by hiring such staff and revising its statutes to support this move away from an almost entirely volunteer run national society.

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**CHILDREN VACCINATED BY AGE GROUP AND HEALTH CENTERS - WITH NIGER RCS SUPPORT -  
NATIONAL VACCINATION DAYS OCTOBER 2003**

REG.	DISTRICT	CSI	POPULATION						0-11 MONTHS					12 - 59 MONTHS					0 - 59 MONTHS				
			Target Pop.	VACC	0 dose	Total	%	Target Pop.	Vacc.	0 dose	Total	%	Target Pop.	Vacc.	0 dose	TOTAL	%						
<b>BARA -</b>	GUIDAN ROUMDJI	SOULOLOU	1292	1259	1011	248	1259	100	4745	4823	0	6037	6082	6037	5834	248	6082	100					
		GUINDAN SORI	2659	3005	2222	783	3005	100	9758	7723	0	7723	99,9	12417	9945	783	10728	99					
	MADARO UNFA	GABBI	1281	1109	886	223	1109	100	6105	5274	5	5279	99	7386	6160	228	6388	99					
		MARAKA	1273	1321	959	362	1321	100	5753	5729	10	5739	99,3	7026	6688	372	7060	99,5					
		DAN ISSA	3266	3158	2468	690	3158	99	14734	12806	1	12807	99	18000	15274	691	15965	99					
<b>BOSSO</b>	Gaya	Bengou			-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4602						
		Bana			-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3273						
		Tounouga			-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4199						
<b>COLO</b>	Madaoua	Sabon Guida			1300	109	1409			3359	0	3359			4659	109	4768	-					
		Bangui	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10864	-					
<b>MAZ -</b>	MATAME YE	DAN BARTO	2293	1913	1645	257	1902	99	7584	7582	2	7584	100	9497	9227	259	9468	100					
		YAOURI	1942	1573	1047	514	1561	99	6369	6369	0	6369	100	7942	7416	514	9468	100					
	GOURE	2384	2120	1850	567	2476	99	9136	7401	0	7481	91	19934	9340	567	9907	99						
	MAGARI A	YEKOUA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
		S BROUM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>16390</b>	<b>15458</b>	<b>13388</b>	<b>3753</b>	<b>17200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64184</b>	<b>61066</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>62378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88239</b>	<b>74543</b>	<b>3771</b>	<b>102772</b>	<b>0</b>					

**CHILDREN VACCINATED BY AGE GROUP AND HEALTH CENTERS - WITH NIGER RCS SUPPORT –  
NATIONAL VACCINATION DAYS DECEMBER 2003**

REG.	DISTRICT	CSI	POPULATION						0-11 MONTHS					12 – 59 MONTHS					0 – 59 MONTHS				
				Target Pop.	VACC	0 dose	Total	%	Target Pop.	Vacc.	0 dose	Total	%	Target Pop.	Vacc.	0 dose	TOTAL	%					
<b>BARA</b>	GUIDAN ROUMDJI	SOULOLOU	1587	1422	1149	273	1422	-	4743	4743	0	4743	-	6317	5892	273	6165	-					
		GUINDAN SORI	2517	2199	1901	298	2199	-	8860	7706	0	7706	-	11377	9607	289	9905	-					
	MADAROUNFA	GABBI	-	1034	905	129	1034	-	4981	4979	0	4979	-	6015	5894	129	6013	-					
		MARAKA	-	767	696	71	767	-	3302	3276	0	3276	-	4069	3972	71	4043	-					
		DAN ISSA	-	2570	2218	352	2570	-	11992	11979	0	11979	-	14562	14197	352	14549	-					
<b>BOSSO</b>	GAYA	Bengou		4478	927	84	1011	-	-	3467	0	3467	-	-	4394	84	4478	100					
		Bana		3931	757	141	898	-	-	3033	0	3033	-	-	3931	141	3931	100					
		Tounouga		5321	1195	145	1340	-	-	4010	11	4021	-	-	5205	156	5321	100					
<b>HIKA</b>	MADAOUA	Sabon Guida															15163						
		Bangui																11310					
<b>NDZUR</b>	MATAMEYE	DAN BARTO	2293	1768	1634	134	1768	77	-														
		YAOURI	1942	1489	1137	341	1478	76															
	GOURE	2304	2376	2196	100	2376	100	8136	8837	0	8837	-	10440	11033	180	11213	99						
	MAGARIA	YEKOUA	2243	2097	1787	297	2084	99	7921	7843	0	7843	-	10164	9630	297	9927	-					
		S BROUM	2529	3520	3075	460	3536	-	6931	9701	0	9781	-	11460	12866	450	13316	-					
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>15415</b>	<b>32972</b>	<b>19577</b>	<b>2825</b>	<b>22483</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56866</b>	<b>68574</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>69665</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74404</b>	<b>86621</b>	<b>2422</b>	<b>115334</b>	<b>0</b>					