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## DREF operation update Niger Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRNE012**  
**GLIDE n° n° FL-2013-000098-NER**  
**Update n°1 04 December, 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

**Period covered by this update: 06 September to 25 October 2013**

**Summary:** CHF 200,379 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 06 September 2013 to support the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,600 families (11,200 beneficiaries).

This DREF operation was launched on the basis of a plan of action developed by the RCSN following the rapid needs assessment and coordination of actions with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations. Heavy rains caused severe flooding in the regions of Dosso, Niamey, Agadez, Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Diffa in August and September 2013. Over 162,846 people were reported affected. Through the DREF supported operation, the National Society responded immediately by providing non-food items from pre-positioned stock, carrying out sensitization activities and assisting in the evacuation and medical treatment of injured persons. Support has also been provided to the 1,600 targeted families through water and sanitation assistance.



**A flood-affected household being assisted by Red Cross volunteers (Photo IFRC/RCSN)**

This operation was expected to be implemented over three months, and completed by 6 December, 2013. However, due to delay in project implementation there is a need to extend the DREF by one (1) month to complete the health education and epidemic prevention awareness campaign, assessment, cleaning and disinfection activities. The DREF operation will thus be completed by January 2014, a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2014).

This DREF has been replenished (100%) by the Netherlands Red Cross/SEF (CHF 61,851), Belgian Red Cross/Government (CHF 60,000), and DG ECHO (CHF 78,528). The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of Niger would like to extend many thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

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## The situation

In the beginning of August 2013, cumulative rains were experienced in several parts of Niger. Heavy rainfall between 2 and 13 August 2013 caused flooding in Maradi and Tahoua regions. At the same time, Niamey, Dosso, Agadez, Zinder, Tillabéry and Diffa regions were also hit by heavy rains that resulted in collapsed houses and damaged infrastructures. The last updated figures from 30 September showed that the number of affected people reached 162,846 people from approximately 18,209 households with 31 deaths. A total of 12,005 hectares of crops were flooded and a number of livestock decimated. Furthermore, due to the risen level of water of Koumadougou River, around 500 households were affected and moved away.

## Coordination and partnerships

Regular meetings were organized by UNOCHA for information sharing and coordination. The National Society, ICRC, PNS and IFRC representation participated in these meetings in Niamey and in the ones held at regional level. Niger authorities in collaboration with WFP distributed food to the affected population. UN agencies, through the acting UN Coordinator in Niger, provided assistance as they did last year in terms of food, non-food items and emergency health. Some NGO (OXFAM, COOPI, and Solidarité Internationale), United Nations agencies (UNICEF and WFP) and the Red Cross Society of Niger participated in the relocations, distribution of food and non-food items. The following table gives more details regarding the assistance provided by various actors or stakeholders.

Institutions/NGO	Type of Assistance	Number of Households reached	Areas of Intervention
Chin Hung Han	NFI	100	Niamey
RCSN/IFRC/ICRC	Food and NFI	3,190	Tillabéry, Tahoua, Zinder, Niamey, Maradi
CRS	NFI	473	
FORSANI/MSF-France	NFI	1082	Maradi
HCR	NFI	100	Tillabéry
Plan Ireland/Plan Niger	NFI	400	Tillabéry
PLAN Niger	NFI	2,480	Tillabéry, Dosso
Save the children	NFI	1,032	Maradi
Shelter Box	Tents	129	Niamey
UNICEF	NFI	2,434	Tillabéry, Agadez, Niamey
UNICEF / PLAN Niger	NFI	2,832	Dosso
UNICEF / CRS	NFI	472	Tillabéry
UNICEF / OXFAM	NFI	3,076	Zinder, Tillabéry
UNICEF / Samaritan Purse	NFI	193	Tahoua

So far, the overall response to the floods affected population has been done but assistance is still needed. According to the WASH Cluster despite of all intervention, there are still a large number of gaps: only 85'248 (52.02%) of affected people has been assisted by the WASH response.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation through its country representation has supported the operation by providing non-food items to 1,600 households affected by the disaster and by deploying an RDRT to support the National Society. During the reporting period, all the 1,600 NFI kits have already been distributed in Zinder, Maradi and Tahoua. The RCSN and IFRC distributed 800 kits in the regions of Zinder, 600 in Tahoua, and 200 in Maradi. The National Society mobilized 160 volunteers in all affected areas and regions to support the authorities and other organisations assisting flood-affected people. RCSN, supported by IFRC has also coordinated its actions with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement partners including ICRC, French, Spanish, Luxembourg, Irish, and Monaco Red Cross societies and Qatari and Iranian Red Crescent societies. The Red Cross Society of Niger worked closely with Movement components to assist the identified beneficiaries:

- ICRC availed 1,000 non-food items kits in some regions and also provided 2,480 tons of food that were distributed in Niamey, Agadez, Tahoua, Diffa and Tillabéry.
- The Spanish Red Cross extended its watsan activities for those affected by flood in Ayoru (Tillabery region) and expected to reach 1,896 families through sensitization campaign and distribution of aquatabs and hand washing campaigns.
- Luxembourg Red Cross (LRC) has continued its activities in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua which include the construction of 250 latrines for refugees in Diffa, and dikes in Gaya. LRC also intends to relocate 300 households among the 2012 and 2013 flood-affected populations at the end of this year.

## Progress towards outcomes

Assessment
<p><b>Outcome: Emergency needs of flood-affected families are identified and gaps documented, leading to the revision of the operation's plan of action if required.</b></p>
<p><b>Outputs (expected results): Detailed assessment is carried out across all sectors and the operation plan of action is revised appropriately to address outstanding needs if required.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy an RDRT to support National Society in planning and managing a detailed assessment including household visits and key informant interviews.</li> <li>• Identify outstanding needs and gaps in consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Maintain monitoring of the prevalent rains and evolving situation with regular reports to IFRC.</li> <li>• Revise plan of action and budget as needed.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** An RDRT member was identified and deployed since 10 October 2013 to support the National Society. He has been working together with his counterpart in Niger in planning, managing the assessment process. The assessment was conducted by the local committees and Red Cross volunteers. The collected data were sent at the National Society's headquarters to be analysed and compiled by the RDRT member. The assessment report reached its final phase of elaboration.

**Challenges:** The analysis of the assessment data demonstrated that some complementary information is needed to finalize the report and for that the team should be given more time.

Emergency shelter and non-food items
<p><b>Outcome: The immediate needs of 1,600 families affected are met through the distribution of essential household items.</b></p>
<p><b>Outputs (expected results): 1,600 families are provided with appropriate non-food items.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the 1,600 beneficiary families.</li> <li>• Develop a plan of action with community participation in planning and distribution of relief items.</li> <li>• Coordinate with local authorities, based on their accurate beneficiary registration for relief distribution.</li> <li>• Procure (regionally) and distribute 3,200 sleeping mats; 3,200 mosquito nets; 3,200 blankets; 3,200 pieces of soaps; 1,600 jerry cans; 1,600 buckets; and 700 kitchen sets using 60 volunteers.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distribution.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** RCSN used its emergency stock in Niamey to start distribution activities. After receiving NFIs from IFRC Dakar Regional Office, the emergency stock was replenished, and 800 remaining kits were distributed. Each kit includes 2 blankets, 1 kitchen set, 2 sleeping mats, 2 mosquito nets, 94 aqua tabs, 28 ORS, 1 Jerry can, 8 bars of soap, and 1 bucket. Some NFIs were purchased locally, including 3,200 sleeping mats; 3,200 pieces of soap; and 1,600 buckets. A total of 2,600 households benefited from NFI provided by the Red Cross Movement (1,000 Kits from ICRC and 1,600 from IFRC). ICRC also provided 2,480 parcels of food. The following table gives more details about the distribution of NFI.

Distribution Of Non Food Items						
Denomination	Tahoua	Zinder	Maradi	Niamey	Total	Units
Beneficiaries	600	800	200	-	1,600	Households

Mosquito Nets	1,200	1,600	400	-	3,200	Pieces
Blanket	1,200	1,600	400	-	3,200	
Sleeping Mat	1,200	1,600	400	-	3,200	
Aqua tabs	48,750	65,625	16,875	18,750	150,000	
Soap	3,600	4,800	1,200	-	9,600	
SRO	14,625	19,687	5,063	5,625	45,000	
Sprayers	4	4	2	-	10	
Jerry can	600	800	200	-	1,600	
Bucket	600	800	200	-	1,600	
Kitchen Set	262	350	88	-	700	
Community workers	20	20	10	10	60	Community workers

The region of Niamey has not been considered in the distribution of NFIs as UNICEF committed itself to cover all NFI needs identified in Niamey. However the RCSN supported by IFRC contributed in community sensitization sessions and distribution of ORS and aqua tabs to the identified households in Niamey. In October Red Cross volunteers helped authorities in registration, transport and installation of 500 families in 04 schools and 300 were settled in a camp (Saga). The National Society supported some flood affected households in installing shelter (tent).

**Challenges:** The distribution of NFIs has addressed a lot of problems in terms of house materials. However the beneficiaries are still in a strong need of shelter assistance. In Tahoua and Tillabéry, more than 200 households have had their homes completely destroyed but continue to live on their land. Some flood-affected populations from previous 2011 and 2012 flooding who were still living in the camp do need support. Bladders are expected to be delivered from Dakar regional logistics department and will be installed according to the needs.

## Emergency health

**Outcome:** The immediate threat to health status for 1,600 families is reduced for targeted communities of Zinder, Maradi Tahoua and Niamey.

**Outputs (expected results):** Increased awareness and prevention of waterborne diseases is ensured through support and information campaign in targeted communities.

### Activities planned:

- Conduct first aid, and evacuation and carry out psychological support to the affected beneficiaries.
- Conduct epidemic control (ECV) and PHAST refresher for 60 communities' agents and 60 volunteers.
- Conduct door-to-door sensitization campaigns to promote individual and collective hygiene as means of avoiding the spread of water borne diseases.
- Regular control and monitoring on community health status and possible referral of cases of ill health identified.
- Print and distribute IEC materials on epidemic control.
- Procure/provide to the communities with 45,000 ORS and educate them on preparation and use.

**Progress:** In early September 2013, in Niamey precisely in Zamagande, District 5, 30 Red Cross volunteers evacuated in 4 schools 17 families whose houses were destroyed. Those affected households benefited at the same time from 17 NFI kits. From 27 October up to 4 November 2013, 60 volunteers and 60 communities' agents were identified and trained in Epidemic Control, PHAST, and the use of ORS. Knowledge has also been conveyed to the community through information, education and communication campaigns on waterborne and communicable diseases. Some 45,000 ORS purchased locally and 3,200 mosquito nets were distributed to communities.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of waterborne and water related diseases are reduced for 1,600 families through the provision of water, water purification items and adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion in the affected areas of Zinder, Maradi Tahoua and Niamey.

**Outputs (expected results): Waterborne diseases are prevented through awareness campaigns and provision of hygiene kits in targeted communities.**

**Activities planned:**

- Plan and organize sanitation activities (cleaning and disinfection of 80 latrines, 50 wells and 100 schools).
- Continue monitoring and assessing the situation in the affected areas and in other parts of the country.
- Provide the selected areas (schools, communities) with 12 water in bladders in collaboration with local authorities, fire-fighters and civil protection who will provide the tankers.
- Organize refresher training for 60 volunteers on household water treatment and hygiene promotion.
- Procure and distribute 150,000 aquatabs to the targeted 1,600 households.
- Produce and disseminate hygiene leaflets on the risks associated with flooding and precautions to take.
- Establish hygiene promotion committees in the communities to reinforce the work of volunteers and community agents.

**Progress:**

Twenty Red Cross volunteers have been trained on IEC in Tahoua, 20 in Zinder, 10 in Niamey, and 10 in Maradi. The trained Red Cross volunteers could reach, through door-to-door awareness campaigns, 1,200 persons in Niamey; 1,050 in Maradi; 9,166 in Tahoua; 1,500 in Zinder; and 5,000 in Dosso. Five latrines have been built in Maradi. In Diffa, flood-affected people have been taken into account in the recovery programme as they are living in the intervention areas. They could therefore benefit from five modern latrines built in Diffa district health centre. Some 150,000 aquatabs were purchased locally and distributed alongside with the door-to-door awareness. In parallel, hygiene promotion and sanitation awareness activities were conducted for the communities' benefit.

**Challenges:** The access to safe water is still a big issue. According to the WASH Cluster, many regions need assistance regarding the rehabilitation of wells. In general, 70 wells were identified as flooded in all the regions and population are facing difficulties in finding potable water. Despite the determination of RCSN volunteers, the sanitation campaign with communities, takes time to be carried out in some regions like Maradi and Niamey.

The NFIs available in-country have been procured locally following IFRC/RCSN procurement standards and policies. Procurement process has been followed for all items to make sure that adequate standards and prices are met. The IFRC Country Representation Office in Niger ensured that the procurement processes were efficient, transparent and best valued. Unavailable items were received from the regional IFRC stocks in Dakar and carried out to distribution sites by the local authorities in collaboration with the National Society branches. In collaboration with IFRC Regional Logistics unit, 12 water bladders have been procured and will be brought in Niger from Dakar by early December 2013.

**Logistics**

Logistics support to the operation includes delivering a range of relief items in line with operational priorities. The primary tasks may include:

- Local procurement of non-food items in line with IFRC and NS guidelines
  - If items are unavailable they may be requested from the Regional IFRC warehouse in Dakar, Senegal.
  - Reception and storage of items before delivery to distribution sites.
  - Coordination of transport of all relief items.
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## Contact information

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

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## DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 06 September 2013 for CHF 200'379 for 03 months to assist 1,600 beneficiaries.
- One (current) DREF operation update issued.

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## 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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

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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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