

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA AND NIGER: FOOD INSECURITY APPEAL EXTENSION

9 February 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal no. 05EA015; Operations Update no. 4; Appeal coverage: 94%; [Click here to go directly to the contributions list on the website.](#)

This Operations update extends the appeal period to 23 July 2006 and revises the appeal budget from CHF 18,243,483 (USD 14,211,607 or EUR 11,642,754) to CHF 30,679,055 (USD 23,865,465 or EUR 19,736,277). [Click here to go to the revised appeal budget.](#)

Appeal history:

- Emergency appeal launched on 22 July 2005 for CHF 18,243,483 (USD 14,211,607 or EUR 11,642,754) in cash, kind or services to assist 44,400 families (some 220,000 beneficiaries) in four countries¹ for six months (until 22 January 2006)- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA015.pdf
- A revised Plan of Action was submitted on 8 August 2005, specifying assistance to 76,067 families or 532,000 beneficiaries over the next six month period. A six month appeal extension to 22 July 2006 is currently being finalized.
- Operation Update no.1 dated 27 Aug. 2005 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01501.pdf
- Operation Update no. 2 dated 25 Oct. 2005 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01502.pdf
- Operation Update no. 3 dated 8 Dec. 2005 http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01503.pdf
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 280,000. Funds have been reimbursed.
- This Operations Update provides a six-month supplementary Plan of Action and extends the appeal's timeframe to 23 July 2006. It seeks funds for on-going and new activities in the areas of community health, WatSan, relief, livelihoods, logistics, capacity building and monitoring of the food security situation in 2006.

Adjusted outstanding needs: CHF 13,536,358 (USD 10,530,033 or EUR 8,708,133).

Adjusted Appeal coverage: 55.9%

¹ For more about the national societies responding to this crisis, please click on links below:

Red Cross Society of Niger – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=127>

Mauritanian Red Crescent - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=114>

Mali Red Cross - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=112>

Burkinabe Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=181>

Operational Summary: By mid-January 2006, activities undertaken as part of the federation emergency appeal assisted 644,525 beneficiaries – beyond an original target of 536,000 beneficiaries. The success is largely attributed to a high response to supplementary feeding for malnourished children and their families. Needs remain, however, in certain sectors demanding a continued approach by the Federation.

Through its supplementary feeding programme, the Federation along with the French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross and Qatari Red Crescent Societies reached 48,525 malnourished children and globally 291,150 people in Niger. The Federation is now focusing more on developing longer-term and structural support by integrating supplementary feeding activities and basic care for remote communities into regional health structures.

Following the completion of general food distributions in Niger that assisted 143,558 beneficiaries by early October at Filingué-Abala and Agadez, a cash distribution was undertaken that supported 34,278 people around Tanout in the eastern part of the country. Assessing the impact of the cash distribution is continuing as part of a six-month monitoring regime.

In Burkina Faso, emergency food distributions reached 149,819 beneficiaries thanks to cooperation between the host national society, Federation, Danish, Luxembourg and, more recently, Irish Red Cross and the Irish Government. In Mali, its national society with support from the Federation and in partnership with the Spanish and Swiss Red Cross assisted 25,720 beneficiaries, among them 11,360 children and most notably 1,134 being moderately malnourished. In Mauritania, the Federation channelled funds to support the cholera response of the national society being implemented with the French Red Cross.

With most emergency phase activities in response to the Sahel crisis completed, the Federation is seeking to extend its period of operation for a further six months, in order to:

1. Maintain the Federation presence in the region during the first half of the year so as to closely monitor the complex health and food security situation and ensure a rapid scaling-up of emergency activities during the onset of the 2006 lean season, if required;
2. Promote its activities in the areas of health, water and sanitation (WatSan), and relief-livelihood support;
3. Build national society capacities particularly in the areas of technical human resource expertise, logistics and telecommunications.

Funds are urgently being sought in order to reach the new target set under this Appeal Extension to cover the various activities outlined in this document.

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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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The Federation Emergency Appeal launched on 22 July 2005 was oriented toward addressing both the immediate and longer-term needs in the Sahel Region. Key programme sectors included relief in the form of general food and a cash distribution as well as health through the provision of supplementary feeding for moderately malnourished children, with rations also made available to their families. Complementary activities included the development of an administrative, telecommunications and logistics structure incorporating the Federation/Norwegian Red Cross Transport Support Unit (TSU) in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) that provides trucking services to the wider humanitarian community in Niger. In order to achieve its programme goals, promote human resource capacity-building and share expertise, the Federation also trained and supported a vast number of Red Cross volunteers and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) Members from various African national societies.

The 2005 crisis in the Sahel region can be largely attributed to a combination of seasonal and structural factors heightened by the worst locust invasion in twenty years and further compounded by drought. Each year households endure the 'lean season' when food availability and household stocks become limited during the months leading up to the next harvest. Any additional environmental or economic factors that negatively disrupt access to food can therefore quickly overwhelm household coping strategies. The problem of households already facing great challenges to ensure their survival is complicated by limited access to clean water and a lack of adequate health care – often not available in rural or isolated communities and too costly for people to access. At the same time, a general lack of awareness regarding health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation increases vulnerability to malnutrition and food insecurity especially among infants and children.

Despite estimations that the harvest of 2005 was 'normal' there are indications that not all areas have benefited equally and pockets of increased food insecurity may re-emerge during the lean season, or *soudure*, of 2006. Grave concerns for the longer-term impact of the recent crisis remain given that the livelihoods of many have been eroded. People have liquidated assets, notably livestock, and incurred significant debts in spite of assistance received in recent months; it is anticipated that this will impede an ability to reconstitute their households on an even economic footing and may lead to an earlier than usual onset of the *soudure*.

While the Federation Emergency Appeal put forth its immediate response efforts, those longer term in nature were left for further definition pending programme support, general activity progress and evolution of the crisis at hand. It has become apparent that the initial six-month timeframe incorporating emergency, post-crisis and developmental activities constituted too tight a sequence.

The Federation is, therefore, extending its Emergency Appeal due to close on 22 January 2006 for a further six months. The new end date is being set at 23 July, 2006. The current Appeal Extension sets out a Supplementary Plan of Action for activities in areas deemed essential for a proper continuation and consolidation of Federation and national society efforts. Its aim is to provide details for various post-emergency and preventive activities, serve as a bridge enabling the Federation to position itself to respond quickly should an overt crisis appear once again while also facilitating a coordination role among national societies. Should it become clear that there is no longer the need for a robust operational presence in the Sahel region after July, an eventual withdrawal of Federation services would channel residual resources to the regional delegation in Dakar.

For the next six months, core programme areas include health with a strong community-based focus, water and sanitation (WatSan) and longer term relief-livelihood actions. In the health sector, emergency supplementary feeding activities done previously by the Red Cross will continue to be integrated into the responsibilities of community-state service providers as part of a strategy addressing structural demands in Niger. Based on a successful pilot initiative in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Niger as well as local and regional authorities, the Federation will continue to utilise its mobile health teams to provide basic services to remote and isolated communities. Training related to both actions in addition to broader community education efforts will also be a key part of the appeal extension.

In the water and sanitation (WatSan) sector, well rehabilitation, latrine construction, education and training with national society volunteers and staff is intended to diversify the Federation response bearing in mind the complex scope of needs facing the Sahel region. By taking action now it is hoped that the likelihood of emergency conditions arising again can be lessened. Relief-livelihood efforts are oriented in a similar fashion through the monitoring of

food security conditions, the undertaking of projects in collaboration with WatSan counterparts and a small grants programme already being implemented by the Irish Red Cross at Agadez in Niger.

More broadly, the Supplementary Plan of Action - Appeal Extension for the Sahel operation complements the emerging 'food security framework' - a network of national societies aiming to promote and undertake longer term food security initiatives in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. With the Dutch, Swiss, Spanish and French Red Cross as the respective focal points in each country, there is an opportunity at hand to collaborate and capitalise on their strengths as well as those of the host national societies of the Sahel region. The current focus on food security may also serve as a platform for efforts in other sectors such as health, WatSan or more general infrastructure support for the national societies of the Sahel region.

Operational developments

The Federation is seeking to implement a longer-term and more structurally-oriented strategy that builds on existing initiatives regarding community-based health activities, WatSan, varied relief-livelihood actions and reinforcement of national society capacities. Given that food insecurity and health-malnutrition in the Sahel region is rooted in problems of a seasonal, structural and fragile but fluctuating nature, the Federation is positioning itself to monitor conditions and prepare for emergency responses, if needed, while ensuring that ongoing and new activities can be properly implemented, supervised and completed.

While the Sahel operation has tended to become more focused on pursuing activities in Niger, it is still oriented toward following humanitarian conditions in Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania, and providing assistance to their national societies in terms of technical expertise and human resources, infrastructure and programme support. The six-month appeal extension will provide the time needed to finalise current activities and develop appropriate new programme directions. With many other national societies from abroad increasingly active in the region, the Sahel operation with its core team based in Niger and the regional delegation in Dakar are committed to promoting and supporting their efforts in addressing immediate and longer term needs.

With the food security framework being developed that includes national societies from abroad, the Red Cross Movement now has the potential to more tangibly increase its presence and reach within the Sahel region. The Netherlands Red Cross in Burkina Faso, Swiss Red Cross in Mali, Spanish Red Cross in Mauritania and French Red Cross in Niger in cooperation with host and other interested national societies represents a unique opportunity for coordinated yet diverse humanitarian actions. The Federation regional delegation in Dakar, with involvement of staff from the Sahel operation, is poised to serve as a reference point for the emerging food Security framework.

The text below includes aspects of the initial Federation Emergency Appeal for the Sahel region as well as new details forming the Supplementary Plan of Action - appeal extension for 23 January to 23 July 2006. The latest beneficiary figures for ongoing activities have also been included. As proposed monitoring efforts continue or new programme prospects emerge, findings or proposals will be made available through future Sahel operation weekly operational reports and Federation operation updates.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action- Objectives, progress and Impact

The emergency appeal no. 05EA015 initially covered the period 22 July 2005 to 22 January 2006. This Operations Update extends the appeal timeframe from 23 January to 23 July 2006.

Goal: Provide support to the affected Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in order to decrease and further prevent vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition by immediately responding in the form of livelihood interventions for 76,571 households (536,000 beneficiaries) over a six-month period [as per the Revised Plan of Action of 7 August 2005].

As per the Emergency Appeal launched on 22 July, it was foreseen that Federation emergency activities would be completed during October 2005. Due to an underestimation of certain demands, a greater than expected beneficiary response and the time required to consolidate, finish or handover certain actions, the 'emergency phase' or 'Phase 1' of the response was informally characterised as lasting until the outset of January 2006. Principal results are listed below as part of Specific Objective one to four. Complementary or new details forming the core of the Supplementary Plan of Action- appeal extension are highlighted through the additional Specific Objective, indicated as SO in this document.

Among programme adjustments and ad hoc reviews carried out since September 2005 in all sectors of Federation action, a post-relief distribution monitoring assessment was also carried out during November and December 2005 for Niger. Results and conclusions can be found in a document complementing the Supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension and have been used as a baseline for the direction and design of interventions listed as part of Specific Objective 10. Similar documents relating to the WatSan and health sectors are also available.

Specific Objective 1 (Relief - General Food Distributions): Distribute a monthly general food ration to 76,571 households (536,000 people) in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

SO1a: Burkina Faso

To date, emergency food distributions have reached 23,993 households, or a registered 149,819 beneficiaries, at 312 villages in the six northern provinces of the country, Yatenga, Yagha, Lorum, Oudalan, Soum and Seno. Activities have been implemented by the Burkinabe Faso Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Red Cross and a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member from the Togolese Red Cross. WFP and Africare were also active supporters of the effort.

It was expected that specific objective 1a would be completed by the end of December 2005 but due to Federation human resource constraints, a lack of transport and the identification of villages not benefiting from the most recent harvest season due to bird attacks on crops, distributions will continue until March 2006. Interim distribution reports have been completed by national society staff and their partners in Burkina Faso. A Federation relief delegate will soon be in the country to review current needs and prospects for the future. **SO1a Activity Ongoing.**

SO1b: Mali

In the previous months, food distributions in the Tombouctou region of Mali ended up constituting three activity strands:

- **SO1b** - Targeting children and their families, totalling approximately 14,360 beneficiaries or 2,872 households, in 29 villages through project development and coordination by the Spanish Red Cross. Parallel activities in the areas of health and livestock support were also undertaken, most notably the vaccination of children, fodder distribution and cattle vaccination.
- **SO1bb** – With direct support from the Swiss Red Cross, food distributions were carried out to 434 severely malnourished children, 700 moderately malnourished children and a total of 836 families. As part of the activity, a mosquito net distribution was undertaken at the same time.
- **SO1bbb** - A partnership arranged between the Mali Red Cross and WFP whereby its food was supplied and reached 10,226 children under the age of five at Tombouctou Commune.

Logistical and communications support was provided by the Federation to all of the above activities and more may continue based on formal requests received. More recently, the Mali National society advised that there were still outstanding demands relating to its programme in partnership with WFP; villages still in need of assistance and, due to transport constraints, a rather slow pace toward full completion. As a result, distributions will continue until March 2006. **SO1b, bb and bbb – Activities Ongoing.**

SO1c: Mauritania

No relief activities in Mauritania ended up being undertaken as part of the Federation Emergency Appeal due to a lack of human resources, logistics support and required project oversight. Demands, however, for food assistance in the country have not disappeared. Meetings held in December 2005 at Nouakchott by the ‘Groupe Specialise Charge des Zones et Groupes a Risque Alimentaire’ and the ‘Comite Technique de Coordination (CTC) de la Securite Alimentaire’ each recommended support for food assistance-security in 2006. Among 16 communes, needs are rated as being severe reflecting a population of 67,262 people. In another 77 communes, food insecurity has been classified as heightened and affecting a total of 397,286 people. As a result, extremely difficult conditions could be considered as persisting and the Federation is again seeking support so that a focused response can be launched in Mauritania. **SO1c - Activity Ongoing.**

SO1d: Niger:

General food distributions were completed by mid-October, 2005 assisting 143,558 beneficiaries, or 26,023 households, at Filingue-Abala and Agadez. **SO1d - Activity Closed.**

Specific Objective 2 (Health – Supplementary Feeding): Provide basic health services through emergency supplementary feeding for targeted vulnerable children under five years of age to a total population of 24,500 in Niger.

By mid-January 2006, 48,525 moderately malnourished children had been treated through Red Cross – Red Crescent supplementary feeding centres at Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Agadez-Arlit and Tanout. With their families also receiving protection rations, the total number of beneficiaries now stands at 291,150 people. Activities conducted through the supplementary feeding centres were implemented by the Federation and national societies of France, Qatar and Spain.

While most supplementary feeding centres have been closed with the passing of acute crisis conditions, at Tahoua and Maradi the Federation and Spanish Red Cross are integrating services into community and regional governmental health structures as part of the post-emergency transition-handover plan that began most tangibly in late October 2005. As a result, some supplementary feeding persists but it is increasingly under the stewardship of governmental health structures and reinforced by Red Cross support through training, education and commodity provision. **SO2 - Activity Ongoing.**

Specific Objective 3 (Relief – Cash Distribution): As per the Revised Plan of Action of 7 August 2005, a cash distribution was foreseen targeting 20,000 beneficiaries, or 4,000 households, to communities in Niger and Mali.

SO3a: Mali

No actions undertaken. **SO3a - Activity Closed.**

SO3b: Niger

As of 18 November 2005, a cash distribution was completed in the Tanout area to 34,278 beneficiaries, or 5,713 households, at 88 villages and three pastoralist settlements. As part of the activity, a monitoring regime is in place designed to assess the impact of the distributions - data gathering and analysis is scheduled to last until at least April 2006. **SO3b – Activity Ongoing.**

Specific Objective 4 (Logistics, Administration and Telecoms: Immediately augment the existing Red Cross – Red Crescent National Societies with logistical, administrative and telecommunications infrastructure in the four different countries of the Sahel Operation.

In establishing its presence in the Sahel region, combined with a diverse range of activities, the Federation has needed to make substantial investments in basic logistics and administrative systems for the development of its operation and to support the involvement of national societies. An additional responsibility, with many positive results, has been the provision of transport services for the wider humanitarian community in Niger through the Transport Support Unit (TSU) launched through a partnership between the Norwegian Red Cross, Federation and WFP. In general, reinforcement of operational logistics and administrative systems will continue along with provision of TSU services during the Appeal Extension.

For the Sahel operation, telecommunications infrastructure and access to internet services, for example, has been put in place as well as training on equipment use for staff and volunteers. In Niger, a notable contribution included the funding of three radio stations in the remote areas of Agadez, Bilma and Tabelot thanks to support of the Irish Red Cross and Irish government aiming to improve communication means within the national society. There are still a number of demands among all national societies of the Sahel region regarding telecommunications since not all could be met during the six months of the Emergency Appeal. During January and February, the Sahel operation IT Team will be developing a process of implementation for increased telecommunications support in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Although details have still to be finalized, a partial list of actions foreseen can be found below as Specific Objectives 4i to 4l.

SO4a: Burkina Faso- Logistics

During the period of the Emergency Appeal, requests were made for Federation support but could not be matched due to competing operational priorities- future actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4a – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4b: Mali- Logistics

Basic operational actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4b – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4c: Mauritania- Logistics

Basic operational actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4c – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4d: Niger- Logistics

Basic operational actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4d – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4e: Burkina Faso- Administration

During the period of the Emergency Appeal, requests were made for Federation support but could not be matched due to competing operational priorities - future actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4e – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4f: Mali- Administration

Actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4f – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4g: Mauritania- Administration

Actions to be determined based on demands and means available. **SO4g – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4h: Niger- Administration

Federation staff members based at Niamey and various bases of operation will continue to support, reinforce or refine operation administrative systems. **SO4h – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4i: Burkina Faso- Telecoms

Establishment of an HF communications network in the main areas of emergency and post-emergency operations; provision of necessary HF equipment for ongoing national society use; secure and fund one-year of internet access for the national society; identification and training of one IT technician for the national society; training of Red Cross volunteers in radio communications at local branches. Efforts will be coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as it is also pursuing a regional IT-telecoms strategy. **SO4i – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4j: Mali- Telecoms

Establishment of an HF communications network in the main areas of emergency and post-emergency operations; provision of necessary HF equipment for ongoing national society use; secure and fund two years of internet access for the national society; identification and training of one IT technician for the national society; training of Red Cross volunteers in radio communications at Local Branches. Efforts will be coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as it is also pursuing a regional IT-telecoms strategy. **SO4j – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4k: Mauritania- Telecoms

Establishment of an HF communications network in the main areas of emergency and post-emergency operations; provision of necessary HF equipment for ongoing national society use; secure and fund long term internet access for the national society; identification and training of one IT technician for the national society; training of Red Cross volunteers in radio communications at local branches. Efforts will be coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as it is also pursuing a regional IT-telecoms strategy. **SO4k – Activity Ongoing.**

SO4l: Niger- Telecoms

Continued support for the HF communications network in the main areas of emergency and post-emergency operations; provision of necessary HF equipment for ongoing national society use; identification and training of one IT technician for the national society; continued training of Red Cross volunteers in radio communications and computer use for programme implementation and reporting at branches or operational locations as needed.² Efforts

² Note: In Niger, one year internet access has already been secured, and a mixed wireless and wired LAN system installed.

will be coordinated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as it is also pursuing a regional IT-telecoms strategy. **SO4l – Activity Ongoing.**

Specific Objective 5 (Relief - Livestock Interventions for Mali and Niger): As per the Revised Plan of Action of 7 August 2005, it was anticipated that 5,000 pastoralists would be assisted in Mali and Niger.

With SO5 being designated a post-emergency, or Phase 2, action and with activity contents still to be determined, few details were included in the initial Revised Plan of Action. Some livestock interventions were made, however, as described through Specific Objective 5a.

SO5a: Mali

For details, please see activities carried out under the relief operations as per specific objective 1b. For the future, activities under consideration through the Mali and Spanish Red Cross are construction of quarantined pastureland for livestock and the distribution of seed stocks for the harvest of 2006. As a complementary action, the Swiss Red Cross may pursue the construction of water points. Since each of the actions will likely be bi-lateral in nature, and although programme support could be made available if requested, no direct activities are planned by the Federation for the current sector at the present time. **SO5a – Activity Closed.**

SO5b: Niger

Support to pastoralist communities was achieved through the cash distribution at Tanout –please see specific objective 3b. **SO5b - Activity Closed.**

Specific Objective 6 (Relief - Cereal Bank Support for Mali and Niger): As per the Revised Plan of Action of 7 August 2005, it was anticipated that food stocks could be placed at cereal banks in 250 of the worst food crisis affected communities in Mali and Niger.

Due to the complexities in developing, managing and sustaining cereal banks as well as providing adequate project oversight, it was determined by the Federation that such support would not be pursued through the Sahel operation. As part, however, of its commodity pre-positioning should there be a food assistance needs in 2006 and in order to build the logistics-relief management capacity of the Niger national society, an emergency stock has been put in place at their warehouse which also serves as part of the TSU main logistics base, as per Specific Objective **SO4d.**

SO6a: Mali

No actions undertaken. **SO6a – Activity Closed.**

SO6b: Niger

No actions undertaken. **SO6b – Activity Closed.**

Specific Objective 7 (Health – Post-Emergency Health for Niger): Sustainable health interventions to promote resilience and improve the longer term health of those most vulnerable were advocated as part of the Revised Plan of Action of 7 August 2005.

Malnutrition, chronic and acute, is a long-standing problem in Niger. The Ministry of Health has recognised that, until now, responses to malnutrition have been lacking at community or state health centres and hospitals. In August 2005, the government of Niger adopted a national protocol for the management of acute malnutrition that establishes its responsibility for the care of acutely malnourished children.

High infant mortality rates in Niger are linked to the interaction between malnutrition and the prevalence of common diseases such as malaria, various forms of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and measles. Low vaccination coverage contributes to high levels of child mortality. Maternal health is another area of great concern; Niger has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world with only 9% of rural women assisted at childbirth by qualified personnel. Although coverage and quality of health services have improved significantly in recent years, coverage remains largely inadequate, being estimated at 48% and masks significant disparities within and between regions.

Analysis of the current situation by the Federation suggests that recent emergency interventions by the international community and national actors have managed to put at bay the worst dimensions of the recent crisis but government health staff remain largely inexperienced in managing malnutrition while service provision, particularly in remote areas, shows little sign of improving. During the Extended Appeal, Federation efforts will therefore concentrate on introducing a longer-term community health component into activities in Niger in line with national society strategic priorities and in close cooperation with governmental health authorities.

As part of the emergency programme transition-handover process, Federation health staff worked in close consultation with government authorities, particularly at the regional level, to provide support in the establishment of more permanent supplementary feeding programmes within their structures. Cooperation is continuing on a regular basis with significant involvement from the health coordinator of the Red Cross Society of Niger. The Mobile Health Team (MHT) pilot project, conducted from November 2005 to January 2006 around Tahoua, has been highly successful in terms of results and cooperation between the Federation, national society and government. It represents another avenue for action for the coming months. In just the pilot phase, the MHT have assisted 7,345 people: 2,725 children under 11 months of age being vaccinated, 656 pre-natal consultations completed, and 673 cases of moderate malnutrition were identified and referred for service while treatment for de-worming was provided to 3,291 children.

SO7a (Malnutrition Strategy - Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Agadez, Tanout): Assist the Government of Niger in establishing a permanent programme to manage acute and moderate malnutrition in children under five years of age at health centres where the Red Cross – Red Crescent is already operational. [New Activity-Open].

As part of the objective stated above the Federation strategy to be implemented on its own and with national societies at select locations, and in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Niger and community-regional health structures, contains a combination of planned activities as follows:

- Assist health authorities to make their health centre personnel responsible for the management of acute and moderate malnutrition.
- Train 70 health staff at 15 centres in the management of children with acute moderate malnutrition over a period of three months.
- Identify and provide support to two district level nutrition trainers.
- Assure the availability of equipment necessary for the management of malnutrition at 15 health centres.
- Establish a management system for all foodstuffs by providing training to 30 people in stock management, assuring the availability and sustainability of store rooms at 15 health centres.
- Purchase food stocks, namely UNIMIX and oil and exact quantities and beneficiary numbers still to be determined, for three months.

SO7b (Mobile Health Teams – Tahoua): Assist regional health authorities in providing basic health care to remote communities within their sphere of operation in areas of Federation activity as a priority. [New Activity- Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Establish 3 mobile health teams for health centres in the Tahoua region, exact number still to be finalised, to visit 36 sites per month.
- Support health centres in providing preventative health care to distant populations by increasing vaccination levels by 50% and doubling pre-natal consultations as well as identifying 90% of malnourished children.
- Provide basic health education and hygiene promotion at targeted villages, exact number of beneficiary-villages still to be determined.
- Design appropriate training materials for mobile health team and related activities.
- Train 20 volunteers and 20 community health workers in the provision of services.
- Organise and carry-out 20 health education training sessions per month.
- Train 20 Red Cross Society of Niger MHT volunteers in vaccination and malnutrition case-finding.

Specific Objective 8: Water and Sanitation– Niger.

Following a Federation assessment mission undertaken in September 2005, a number of potential WatSan activities were outlined that could be implemented immediately or over the mid and longer term. Of priority for the Federation has been to pursue actions complementing health sector interventions and priorities of the Niger national society. For the Supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension, only immediate and modest mid-term actions are being mentioned although those requiring more sustained Federation or national society involvement remain available for review or implementation. At the present time, a WatSan Delegate from the German Red Cross is present in Niger where certain projects or the general programme direction may be subject to further refinement.

As in the health sector, there are undoubtedly water & sanitation needs beyond Niger in Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania. At the present time, however, it is not foreseen that the Sahel operation can concretely and successfully extend itself to meet all demands throughout the region. Accordingly, the Supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension is remaining somewhat consolidated in terms of its programme direction. Additional health or WatSan activities may be prioritised in the future based on the humanitarian situation and resources available. In the meantime, national societies participating in the emerging food security framework are being called upon to consider needs outside of the relief-livelihood sector.

Overall, the scope of activity implementation within the WatSan sector in Niger as outlined below remains conditional on funding and human resource support. It should also be noted that as part of support for the health sector, on an ad hoc basis water point construction may end up being another activity in the months ahead. Provisional budgetary details as per the proposed activities below can be found in the September WatSan assessment of the Federation.

SO8a

Training of Red Cross volunteers on WatSan issues as well as hygiene awareness to be done at operational base locations within Niger. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8b: Niamey

Training, as needed, for a national society WatSan Coordinator within the Red Cross Society of Niger as well as two hydrogeologists. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8c: Niamey

Extension and support for the national society school latrine construction project. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8d: Tahoua

Extension and support for the national society- Red Cross branch public latrine construction project. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8e: Tahoua/Keita District

Well and drainage rehabilitation in cooperation with local authorities. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8f: Tahoua/Bouza District

Well rehabilitation and latrine construction in cooperation with local authorities. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8g: Tahoua/Madaoua District

Garbage collection and disposal system establishment. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8h: Zinder – Gargada and Adjiri Villages

Well and water supply system rehabilitation. **New Activity – Open.**

SO8i: Filingue-Abala

Extension of water supply systems in cooperation with local authorities. **New Activity – Open.**

Specific Objective 9: Logistics – Capacity Building.

Although general operational-logistics support for the Sahel region will continue as needed as per the initial Emergency Appeal, there remain some specific efforts that will be undertaken as part of the Supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension for 2006.

SO9a (Focused Technical Management- Niger): Develop the logistics capacities of the Red Cross Society of Niger at the Niamey-level and with counterparts in preparation for future emergencies and disasters with particular emphasis on stock, warehouse and transport management. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop and organise a five-day training session on Federation logistics procedures, including modules on logistics preparedness and response, procurement, warehousing and transport management, for national society volunteers and staff members.
- Provide participants with Federation standards and catalogue CDs.
- Work with Red Cross Society of Niger counterparts to develop an Emergency Stock and Emergency Response System within the national society.

SO9b (Emergency Stock- Niger): Assist the Red Cross Society of Niger in the pre-positioning of an emergency stock and reliable stock management system. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Provide the Red Cross Society of Niger with approximately 1,000MT of cereals and 15 tents from existing Sahel operation stocks at Niamey.
- Transfer remaining commodities from field offices to Red Cross Society of Niger warehouse at Niamey.
- Separate food commodities into appropriate stack-bin sizes for efficient stock and fumigation management.
- Establish a stock management system to full Federation audit standards.
- Establish a pest control and quality management system.
- Provide training to Red Cross Society of Niger volunteers and staff members in the selection and use of commodities for emergency stocks.
- Provide training Red Cross Society of Niger volunteers and staff members in transport management of emergency stocks as well as coordination with transport support ERUs.

SO9c (Extended Warehousing Training- Niger): Develop Red Cross Society of Niger warehousing capacities at the Branch level. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Undertake logistics mapping and assessment of warehouse needs at 6 field locations in order to enhance National society capacities to respond to crises.
- Identify and prepare long-term warehousing at a minimum of 2 Red Cross Society of Niger Branches.
- Create and implement training in warehouse, transport and stock management at a minimum of 2 Red Cross Society of Niger branches.
- Provide training to Red Cross Society of Niger volunteers and staff members in logistics mapping and assessment.

SO9d (Focused Technical Management- Burkina Faso): Develop the logistics capacities of the Burkinabe Red Cross Society with counterparts in preparation for future emergencies and disasters with particular emphasis on stock, warehouse and transport management. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop and organise a five-day training session on Federation logistics procedures, including modules on logistics preparedness and response, procurement, warehousing and transport management, for national society volunteers and staff members.
- Provide participants with Federation standards and catalogue CDs.

- Work with Burkina Faso counterparts to develop an emergency stock and emergency response system within the national society.

SO9e (Emergency Stock- Burkina Faso): Assist the Burkinabe Red Cross Society in the pre-positioning of an emergency stock and reliable stock management system. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Provide the Burkinabe Red Cross Society with the capacity to manage approximately 1,000MT of cereals.
- Separate food commodities into appropriate stack-bin sizes for efficient stock and fumigation management.
- Establish a stock management system to full Federation audit standards.
- Establish a pest control and quality management system.
- Provide training to Burkinabe Red Cross Society volunteers and staff members in the selection and use of commodities for emergency stocks.
- Provide training Burkinabe Red Cross Society volunteers and staff members in transport management of emergency stocks as well as coordination with transport support ERUs.

SO9f (Extended Warehousing Training- Burkina Faso): Develop Burkinabe Red Cross Society warehousing capacities at the Branch level. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Undertake logistics mapping and assessment of warehouse needs at 6 field locations in order to enhance national society capacities to respond to crises.
- Identify and prepare long-term warehousing at a minimum of 2 Burkinabe Red Cross Society branches.
- Create and implement training in warehouse, transport and stock management at a minimum of 2 Burkinabe Red Cross Society Branches.
- Provide training to Burkinabe Red Cross Society volunteers and staff members in logistics mapping and assessment.

SO9g (Focused Technical Management- Mali): Develop the logistics capacities of the Mali Red Cross at the Bamako-level and with counterparts in preparation for futures emergencies and disasters with particular emphasis on stock, warehouse and transport management. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop and organise a five-day training session on Federation logistics procedures, including modules on logistics preparedness and response, procurement, warehousing and transport management, for national society volunteers and staff members.
- Provide participants with Federation standards and catalogue CDs.
- Work with Mali Red Cross counterparts to develop an emergency stock and emergency response system within the national society.

SO9h (Emergency Stock- Mali): Assist the Mali Red Cross in the pre-positioning of an emergency stock and reliable stock management system. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Provide the Mali Red Cross with the capacity to manage approximately 1,000MT of cereals.
- Separate food commodities into appropriate stack-bin sizes for efficient stock and fumigation management.
- Establish a stock management system to full Federation audit standards.
- Establish a pest control and quality management system.
- Provide training to Mali Red Cross volunteers and staff members in the selection and use of commodities for emergency stocks.
- Provide training Mali Red Cross volunteers and staff members in transport management of emergency stocks as well as coordination with transport support ERUs.

SO9i (Extended Warehousing Training- Mali): Develop Mali Red Cross warehousing capacities at the Branch level. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Undertake logistics mapping and assessment of warehouse needs at 6 field locations in order to enhance national society capacities to respond to crises.
- Identify and prepare long-term warehousing at a minimum of 2 Mali Red Cross branches.
- Create and implement training in warehouse, transport and stock management at a minimum of 2 Mali Red Cross branches.
- Provide training to Mali Red Cross volunteers and staff members in logistics mapping and assessment.

SO9j (Focused Technical Management- Mauritania): Develop the logistics capacities of the Mauritania Red Crescent and with counterparts in preparation for futures emergencies and disasters with particular emphasis on stock, warehouse and transport management. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop and organise a five-day training session on Federation logistics procedures, including modules on logistics preparedness and response, procurement, warehousing and transport management, for national society volunteers and staff members.
- Provide participants with Federation standards and catalogue CDs.
- Work with Mauritania Red Crescent counterparts to develop an Emergency Stock and Emergency Response System within the national society.

SO9k (Emergency Stock- Mauritania): Assist the Mauritania Red Crescent in the pre-positioning of an emergency stock and reliable stock management system. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Provide the Mauritania Red Crescent with the capacity to manage approximately 1,000MT of cereals.
- Separate food commodities into appropriate stack-bin sizes for efficient stock and fumigation management.
- Establish a stock management system to full Federation audit standards.
- Establish a pest control and quality management system.
- Provide training to Mauritania Red Crescent volunteers and staff members in the selection and use of commodities for emergency stocks.
- Provide training Mauritania Red Crescent volunteers and staff members in transport management of emergency stocks as well as coordination with transport support ERUs.

SO9l (Extended Warehousing Training- Mauritania): Develop Mauritania Red Crescent warehousing capacities at the Branch level. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Undertake logistics mapping and assessment of warehouse needs at 6 field locations in order to enhance national society capacities to respond to crises.
- Identify and prepare long-term warehousing at a minimum of 2 Mauritania Red Crescent branches.
- Create and implement training in warehouse, transport and stock management at a minimum of 2 Mauritania Red Crescent branches.
- Provide training to Mauritania Red Crescent volunteers and staff members in logistics mapping and assessment.

Specific Objective 10: Relief-Livelihoods Capacity Building in Niger.

Looking ahead, pockets of food insecurity are expected to persist in parts of Niger. Even where the harvest has been plentiful, the ability of many households to cope has been seriously eroded their sales of livestock and premature sale of most current food-stocks reflecting debts incurred as a result of the crisis of 2005. Predictions of an early onset of the lean season – possibly as early as February 2006 in certain areas – are a cause for concern.

Even if no shocks occur in the coming months in the form of drought, locusts or price hikes, food insecure households will still have to revert to their usual coping strategies when cereal stocks become exhausted through searches for daily labour, the selling of already depleted livestock, loans and requests for kinship support. Since such responses, however, have already been stretched to the limit their reliability and sustainability is diminished particularly among pastoralist communities and notably in the areas of Filingué-Abala and Agadez where the Federation even provided emergency food distributions.

As a result of monitoring completed after Federation general food distributions, it became clear that additional relief-livelihood interventions were needed to help households and communities for the months to come. Monitoring efforts are continuing and, in turn, project proposals were put forward by the Sahel operation relief team as potential future courses of action. Their aim is to provide diverse support so that households and communities might avert a need for general food assistance during 2006.

In terms of organisational support required, undertaking preventive or longer term relief-livelihood efforts can be labour intensive. In the fashion of an informal pilot project, monitoring and the development of Food-for-Work projects in cooperation with local associations, authorities and the Red Cross Society of Niger already began as part of the Sahel Operation. Although useful, but perhaps rather ambitious activities, it is not foreseen that they can be readily replicated elsewhere in the Sahel region. At the present time, the continuation of efforts relies on the consistent involvement and provision of human resources.

SO10a (Monitoring Capacity- Filingue-Abala and Agadez): Enhance Red Cross Society of Niger capacities in the monitoring of the local food security situation fostering an independent and reliable source of early warning with particular emphasis on conditions facing pastoralist communities. [New Activity – Open]

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Provide food security-monitoring training national society branches at Filingue-Abala and Agadez.
- Undertake continued assessments and longitudinal monitoring on factors impacting on pastoralist communities' recovery from the current food crisis.
- Develop Red Cross Society of Niger-specific monitoring practices and procedures.
- Broker a relationship with existing early warning monitoring organisations benefiting the national society and Federation.
- Develop a plan for sharing of knowledge and expertise across relevant national society branches.

**SO10b (Livelihoods Small Grants Programme – Agadez): Implement a Small Grants Programme focusing on the promotion of improved livelihood opportunities for food insecure communities in the region of Agadez. ³
[New Activity – Open]**

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop a framework for interventions.
- Cultivate relationships with local groups, NGOs and cooperatives potentially interested in small grant activities.
- Establish the target areas or groups reflecting the most vulnerable beneficiaries and communities as potential small grant recipients.
- Develop and agree with stakeholders on the appropriate interventions such as the purchase of livestock, vaccinations or replenishment of animal feed.
- Develop systems and procedures to facilitate a competitive proposal bidding process for services.
- Conduct sessions and trainings in proposal writing and project development for the Local Red Cross branch.
- Conduct a transparent award of grants of between EUR 50 for individuals and EUR 1,000 for small communities.
- Collaborate with small grant recipients in the project supervision process to achieve objectives and ensure grant conditions are met.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of project objectives.

³ Specific Objective 10b is fully funded and being implemented as part of direct Irish Red Cross involvement in Niger.

SO10c (Food-for-Work Projects- Filingue-Abala): Develop a small portfolio of up to 7 mid-term rural and agricultural extension activities that focus on rebuilding livelihood capacity, sustainability and promotion of gender sensitive activities from a food security perspective. [New Activity – Open].

As part of post-distribution monitoring activities, Sahel operations relief staff identified various potential Foods for work projects – a report of findings is available. Pending staff support, the projects listed below would be pursued in the area of Filingue-Abala through the relief department in cooperation with the WatSan department. Accordingly, projects to be implemented may eventually be designated by separate sub-objective codes. As with activities forming specific objective 8, the implementation of actions listed below hinge on financial and human resource support.

- In Fadama – Well repair and construction of a water reservoir.
- In Magaria – Well repair and construction of a water reservoir.
- In Sanam – Construction of a water reservoir.
- In Tamalaoulaout – Construction of a water reservoir.
- In Dogaga – Construction of a water reservoir.
- In Tillimoune – Construction of a water reservoir.
- In Abala – Construction of a water reservoir.

As part of the objective stated above, in developing a Food-for-Work system, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Reinforce and cultivate relationships with the Red Cross branch, local groups, NGOs and cooperatives potentially interested in Food-for-Work activities and their stewardship.
- Develop systems and procedures to facilitate a competitive proposal bidding process.
- Conduct sessions and training in proposal writing and project development for the local Red Cross branch and other parties.
- Conduct a transparent award of Food-for-Work Projects
- Collaborate with Food-for-Work recipients in the supervision process to achieve project objectives.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of project objectives.

Specific Objective11 (Reporting, Media, Communications, Advocacy and Public Information⁴): Promote and disseminate the activities highlighted in the Supplementary Plan of Action within the target audience – Appeal Extension and overall Sahel Operation.

As part of the Sahel operation, there is not only a need to communicate its specific actions but the more regular or annual activities and interests of national societies in the region. While the current communications focus tends to rest on activities being conducted in Niger, work elsewhere deserves attention. With the return of an Information delegate to bolster the reports-Media Team at Niamey, and in cooperation with staff of the regional delegation in Dakar, it is hoped that the planned communications goals can be reached and, if possible, informally expanded.

SO11a: Promote and disseminate activities implemented by the Federation, Participating national societies and Red Cross Society of Niger through national and international media, other organisations and donors. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Assist the Red Cross Society of Niger with the organisation of a press conference inviting local and international media, ambassadors and donors present in the country. Prepare together with the national society an information kit, including a press release, to be distributed during the event.
- Identify key activities and dates and issue press releases in coordination with the media service at Geneva.
- Write at least two articles per month for the Federation website - at least two should be done jointly with the Red Cross Society of Niger.
- Produce a brochure on the Sahel operation to be distributed to donors and humanitarian organisations.

⁴ As mentioned in the narrative, the Reporting-Media-Communications Plan focuses on Niger since it comprises most activities contained in the supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension. If significant activities are being developed or underway in other countries of the Sahel region, as much as possible reporting-media-communications actions will be replicated for those locations taking into account resources available as part of the Sahel operation.

SO11b: Strengthening Red Cross Communication Capacities – Niger. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Identify media training opportunities and hold one media training workshop for Red Cross Society of Niger leadership and staff.
- Assist the Red Cross Society of Niger in drafting a communications work-plan for 2006 based on its national Development Plan and in coordination with the Information officer of the Federation regional delegation in Dakar.
- Train Red Cross Society of Niger volunteers and staff in various sectors on reporting techniques as well as internet-e-mail, word processing and spreadsheet programme use.

SO11c: Documentation of achievements, lessons learned and activities implemented during the Sahel Operation. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Produce a leaflet on the impact of the cash programme as a case study in standard Federation format.
- Produce a leaflet on the general distribution assessments and Food-for-Work Projects as a case study in standard Federation format.

SO11d: Communications support to health and water and sanitation activities as highlighted in the Supplementary Plan of Action – Appeal Extension. [New Activity – Open].

As part of the objective stated above, the combination of activities planned are as follows:

- Develop information-educational materials with key messages regarding basic health care, water & sanitation, and hygiene for target villages in coordination with the Health and WatSan coordinators and Niger national society.
- Identify community-based radio stations and build partnerships for the development of radio programmes to disseminate key messages on basic health care and water & sanitation in communities where the Red Cross Movement is implementing activities. The effort will be developed in coordination with the health and WatSan coordinators and Niger national society.

Federation coordination

Since the onset of the Sahel operation the Federation has collaborated closely with UN Agencies, particularly through the organisation of transport services and provision of food assistance, and the broader humanitarian community most notably in the health sector. An effective working relationship has been established with the main governmental bodies involved in crisis response such as the CCA and SAP⁵ as well as key government of Niger Ministries, in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Niger, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community Development.

The ICRC is another important actor within the Sahel region and the Federation works closely with it to promote complementary activities and a coherent approach by the Red Cross Movement. The regional delegation in Dakar is also coordinating efforts with OCHA, CILSS and other organisations to monitor the humanitarian situation in the region and develop longer term programming. The ongoing work serves as a link between its establishment of the Sahel operation in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Niger, continued technical and organisational support, and collaboration with other national societies to promote more sustainable programmes throughout West Africa.

At the local and regional-country level, relief and supplementary feeding activities were undertaken in collaboration with local and provincial authorities to facilitate coordination while underlining and ensuring respect for Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement. Heads of villages have, in particular, been closely linked to the Federation response process due to their pivotal role within communities.

Coordination and cooperation as part of logistics, human resources and programme support was established early on between the Federation and participating national societies, in particular the French Red Cross, the Spanish Red

⁵ CCA: Cellule de Crise Alimentaire / SAP: Système d'Alerte Précoce.

Cross and the Qatari Red Crescent as well as more recently with the Irish Red Cross and Saudi Arabian Red Crescent. As the Sahel operation developed, contact was quickly established with the Iranian Red Crescent as it has a long-standing and noteworthy presence in Niger. Collegial support for various Federation activities from organisations such as concern, GOAL, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Oxfam and Save the Children-UK has been greatly appreciated.

The regional delegation in Dakar continues to facilitate and coordinate the deployment of Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) Members in West Africa. Staff provided by the national societies of Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo have played a crucial role since the earliest stages of the Sahel operation. Their ongoing involvement has been pivotal for the development, implementation and success of various activities. It also signals the reliable expertise at work and available throughout different countries in the region.

The deployment of RDRT members has been financially supported by the Sahel operation thanks to contributions from the British and Irish Red Cross Societies. Given their importance and the need for staff continuity, several steps were taken to make the RDRT System more defined and comprehensive in nature as a means of encouraging staff development and promotion. In turn, a number of RDRT members were enlisted as Consultants-Regional Deployed Staff (RDS) beyond their original one to two-month commitment period to the Sahel operation Emergency Appeal and, again, as a result of financial support from the British and the Irish Red Cross Societies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives

Training packages on the promotion of humanitarian values and principles, including information on the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster relief, were given to Federation staff and Partner national societies working as part of the Sahel operation. Provision of materials was also aimed at reinforcing Red Cross Movement principles, values and knowledge among volunteers, especially newcomers, involved in the Sahel Operation.

National society capacity building

In general, all sectors of Federation intervention contain elements for the training and support of volunteers and staff of hosting national societies. Among the various aspects of the Sahel operation, a network of more than 360 volunteers have been trained as part of the initial emergency response in the areas of relief, health care, logistics, administration, telecommunications, reporting and media relations. In a relatively short time, their knowledge of the Red Cross – Red Crescent Movement has been greatly enhanced. As key players in an operational partnership, volunteers and staff have consistently showed their dedication and skills. Their many contributions cannot be underestimated and remain essential.

There is undoubtedly a broader spectrum of efforts that could be added to the Sahel operation but as much as possible, a more prudent and achievable approach has been kept. In previous months, the priority was to efficiently and effectively implement a diverse emergency response in an environment where there was no operational and permanent Federation presence before. Future programme directions also required investigation in spite of significant time constraints. While a number of transitional and new initiatives are being pursued, their importance will be matched by the continued reinforcement of capacities and means of the hosting regional national societies.

In closing, there are a number of strengths that can be capitalised upon at the present time. The national societies of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger have responsibilities and roles for which they are eager to fulfil. Other national societies are interested in supporting that outcome and applying their own expertise. The Federation Sahel Operation and regional delegation in Dakar offer a coordinated presence consisting of technical involvement, support and strategic direction. With that in mind, the current supplementary Plan of Action - Appeal Extension represents an opportunity to build a genuine foundation for engagement within the Sahel region.

[Revised budget below; Click here to return to the title page.](#)

BUDGET 2005

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: M05EA015

Name: BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER:

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	93,190	93,190
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	74,175	74,174
Clothing & Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	7,359	7,358
Food	0	0	0	0	0	6,839,862	6,839,861
Seeds & Plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	1,050,000	1,050,000
Medical & First Aid	0	0	0	0	0	45,131	45,131
Teaching Materials	0	0	0	0	0	2,835	2,835
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	26,996	26,995
Other Supplies & Services	0	0	0	0	0	1,799,155	1,799,154
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	9,938,703	9,938,701
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	3,785,173	3,785,173
Computers & Telecom	0	0	0	0	0	608,048	608,047
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	31,619	31,618
Other Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND, VEHICLES & EQUIPMEN	0	0	0	0	0	4,424,840	4,424,839
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	78,570	78,570
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	5,548,208	5,548,207
Transport & Vehicles cost	0	0	0	0	0	1,884,288	1,884,287
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	7,511,066	7,511,065
International Staff	0	0	0	0	0	3,653,098	3,653,097
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0	0	0	0	215,253	215,253
National staff	0	0	0	0	0	839,752	839,752
National Society Staff	0	0	0	0	0	415,224	415,223
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	200,443	200,443
PERSONNEL	0	0	0	0	0	5,323,770	5,323,770
Workshops & Training	0	0	0	0	0	180,512	180,511
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	0	0	0	180,512	180,511
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	0	639,653	639,653
Information & Public Rela	0	0	0	0	0	32,263	32,262
Office Running Costs	0	0	0	0	0	535,220	535,220
Communication Costs	0	0	0	0	0	417,866	417,866
Professional Fees	0	0	0	0	0	102,732	102,732
Other General Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	132,515	132,515
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0	1,860,249	1,860,249
Asset Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	40,944	40,944
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	40,944	40,944
Contributions & Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRIBUTIONS & TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	0	0	0	0	1,398,973	1,398,972
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	1,398,973	1,398,972
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	0	0	0	30,679,057	30,679,055