



BURKINA FASO, MALI MAURITANIA AND NIGER: FOOD INSECURITY

14 September 2005

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 181 countries.

In Brief

Emergency Appeal No. 05EA015; Operations Fact Sheet no. 1; Period covered: 27 August to 9 September 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 18,243,483; Appeal coverage: 32%; Outstanding Needs: CHF 12,409,533; Note: a number of donors have indicated that further support is forthcoming. This will be reflected in the updated list of contributions when recorded.

For the updated list of contributions, please go to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/1-2-3%20-%2005EA015.pdf.

Appeal History:

- Emergency Appeal was 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).
- A revised Plan of Action was submitted on 8 August 2005 advocating assistance to 76,067 families or 532,000 beneficiaries over the next six-month period. A supplementary Plan of Action is being prepared, focusing on contingency planning as well as on the transition from emergency to recovery and beyond.

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Operational Summary:

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal on 22 July, the Federation and Participating National Societies in Niger have assisted 19,318 moderately malnourished children aged 5 years and below and their families, totaling 133,000 beneficiaries through its CRENA² nutrition programmes in four provinces (Agadez, Zinder, Tahoua and Maradi). The provision of UNIMIX to pregnant and lactating women has become a formal part of the supplementary feeding programmes in the Maradi and Tahoua Provinces. In addition, the Federation's general distribution programmes in

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² CRENA: Centre de Récupération Nutritionnel Ambulatoire



Abala (Tillabéri Province) and in Agadez Province have begun food distributions to an additional 139,527 beneficiaries. Preparations are underway for a possible cash distribution programme in the very badly affected Tanout District of Zinder Province.

Background:

Since launching this Emergency Appeal the Federation has strived to build up the infrastructure of a large regional emergency operation, and develop and expand relief programmes aimed those most affected. Since Niger's food crisis proved to be most serious, the majority of attention and effort has been directed to alleviate its pressing problems. The Federation is faced with a major challenge in balancing its operation throughout the Sahel region in accordance with widely varying needs and to calibrate staffing, transport, telecoms, financial/administrative and relief requirements optimally.

The general situation in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania is broadly similar to that in Niger but on a smaller, more localized scale: cereal prices in Mali are 70% higher than last year and 26% higher than the previous five-year average. Approximately 1.2 million Malians have been declared at risk and another 1 million are on the verge of falling into that category. Whereas pastoralists in Mali used to sell one or two goats to purchase 100 kg of cereals, now they have to sell up to seven, endangering their livelihoods. In Burkina Faso, while cereal prices had increased dramatically, creating problems for the poorest citizens, the latest reports indicate a decrease in cereal prices. Livestock everywhere is generally in poor shape and commands low prices. As in Niger, people in Mali and Burkina Faso have little or no reserves remaining and resort to traditional coping mechanisms which include gathering wild grain and fruits, adapting their seasonal migrations to drier circumstances, the selling of assets and labour migration.

In Burkina Faso, no cases of severe malnutrition among children aged 5 years and below have been reported and cases of moderate malnutrition are chronic and normal for the time of year, not due to any sudden food crisis. In Mali, on the other hand, the WFP has identified 8,688 children aged 5 and below in the northern and central districts of Timbuktu, Goundam and Gourma Rharous (total population 105,815) as malnourished, with 1,689 classified as severe cases.

The Red Cross Movement's response to the ongoing food crisis in the Sahel region aims to provide appropriate assistance to the most vulnerable people as quickly as possible. Assistance currently takes the form of supplementary feeding to vulnerable categories, such as moderately malnourished children and their families, pregnant and lactating women, general food distributions, and possible cash distributions. In Mali, in addition to food aid, fodder distributions have been identified as a potentially appropriate type of assistance for vulnerable pastoralists. Efforts are now underway to develop intermediate and longer-term programming options reflecting the evolution of the current crisis, ongoing regional needs and operational resources available.

The Red Cross Movement is working closely with the UN-family, notably WFP and UNICEF for food assistance supply and programme coordination, and other international NGOs such as MSF which runs a number of therapeutic feeding centres for severely malnourished children needing medical care. Red Cross and MSF activities are complementary. Children identified as severely malnourished (MS) are immediately referred to an MSF therapeutic feeding centre. The Red Cross today runs 56 centres where moderately malnourished children (MM) and their families receive rations for a period of one month during which they are monitored to determine health stability.

Operational Details

Niger

Health:

- The CRENA programme for moderately malnourished children and their families is active in 4 provinces and still expanding in terms of numbers of people being served. The programme is already close to reaching its target figure of 24,500 children and their families. It is being implemented by the Qatar Red Crescent, which



began operations in Zinder and Tanout during the first week of July; the Spanish Red Cross (Maradi province), the French Red Cross (Zinder and Agadez province), and the Federation (Tahoua province).

The following table lists the number of malnourished children receiving supplementary food rations from operational national societies. In addition, their families receive 'protection rations' which are provided to prevent the division of the child's treatment ration among the entire family.

RC/RC Society	Province/District	No of Feeding Centres	MM Treated	MS Referred
Qatar Red Crescent	Zinder	1	1,523	502
	Tanout	1	428	183
Spanish Red Cross	Maradi	6	4,269	186
French Red Cross	Zinder	16	6,041	373
	Agadez	12	789	83
	Arlit	1	237	36
Federation (IFRC)	Tahoua	19	6,031	347
TOTAL		56	19,318	1,683

- The supplementary feeding programme has also expanded to include pregnant and lactating women.
- Cholera kits (2) have been made available by the Federation which can serve a total of 200 people.
- The French Red Cross will become involved in a nation-wide nutrition survey to be conducted in cooperation with UNICEF and CDC/Atlanta. One of its staff members will be supervising survey implementation at Agadez.

Relief:

- General distributions of 260 tons of food began at Abala and (Tillabéri province) on 2 September 2005. From 7 to 10 September distributions will also take place in Tabelot (located to the NE of Agadez) and from 10 September in the Agadez region itself. The distributions will provide 139,527 beneficiaries (19,932 families) with 2,292 tons of cereals and pulses and 74,000 liters of oil in the days to come. They are part of an agreement between the Federation and WFP covering the management of distribution of 3,663 MT of cereals and lentils and 159,266 liters of oil to 222,972 beneficiaries (31,854 families) in the Tillabéri and Agadez provinces over the next three to four weeks.
- A cash distribution programme is under development and intended for implementation in the Tanout District of Zinder Province. The activity is intended to provide 6,000 households with two donations of cash. The first installment is meant as emergency cash relief; the second aims at providing small start-up capital for livelihood support.

Logistics:

- On 3 September a convoy of 62 vehicles (8 Land Cruisers, 51 M6 trucks and 3 Mercedes trucks with trailers from Norway) arrived after an arduous 5-day journey from Cotonou, Benin. The M6 vehicle transport included 15 water trailers, 18 cargo trailers and 3 mobile warehouses. Weather problems in the form of a washed-out bridge had caused the delay. The trucks are a welcome addition to the 16 M6 vehicles plus support vehicles already operational in Tahoua and Tillabéri provinces. The 8 Land Cruisers will remain within the Norwegian Transport Support Unit (TSU). The TSU is generally providing support to the entire humanitarian operation in delivering food to the intended beneficiaries.
- The Sahel Operation still has an immediate need for 32 4WD vehicles. To date, fourteen used Red Cross vehicles have arrived (3 from Guinea, 3 from the Dakar Regional Delegation, and 8 from Dubai). Three new cars were donated by the Norwegian (1) and British Red Cross (2). Ten new Federation vehicles will arrive from Dubai shortly which reduces the net shortfall to five vehicles. The lack of general supplies is temporarily resolved by renting vehicles locally.
- A shipment of 6,160 MT of mixed food commodities (oil, beans, rice, and sorghum) procured regionally in Nigeria and funded by the British Red Cross is currently being delivered to Niger by road.



The food will be used for ongoing emergency supplementary feeding programmes (CRENA) and to develop possible social safety net programming for longer term operations.

- A warehouse has been contracted in Birnin-Konni near the Niger-Nigeria border to accommodate the incoming CRENA commodities.
- Two German Red Cross cargo flights carrying 102 MT of CRENA food arrived at the Niamey airport during the past ten days.

Personnel:

- The Federation and National Societies active in the Sahel region today have an international staff of over 50 people, drawn from West Africa and three other continents. The regional disaster response team (RDRT) capacity has been particularly helpful in support of the operation. In Niger and elsewhere hundreds of Red Cross volunteers have been trained and mobilized to support emergency response activities. Important gaps in the evolving Federation programme in Niger have been filled with the recent arrival of health and temporary wat/san staff members. High staff turnover due to short contracts and uncertainty about vital positions being filled continues to be a major operational challenge and constraint.

Telecommunications: a significant amount of materials has been made available by the Federation Regional Delegation in Dakar, and there is a growing need to replace items, particularly if there are emergency demands elsewhere in West Africa.

Media/Information:

- The Federation Information Delegate has held radio interviews, accompanied camera teams and briefed journalists, diplomats and visiting RC missions. A number of articles and a diary have appeared on the IFRC website.
- With the Niger Red Cross, preparations are underway for two video productions and an accompanying press conference scheduled for the third week of September as the President of the Society is due to visit various field activities.

Mali

Health:

- The Federation's current priority is to distribute with the Spanish and Mali Red Cross approximately 200 tons of CSB, rice, oil and sugar to 2.600 vulnerable children and their families in the Timbuktu and Gourma Rharous regions in an operation which resembling the CRENA programmes in Niger. The Federation supports this operation financially, logistically and in human resources subject to availability.

Relief:

- The Mali Red Cross is expected to conduct distributions on behalf of WFP, but exact locations have not yet been decided. Apart from logistical support, the Federation is expected to cover any shortage in rations in these areas.
- A Federation Emergency Response Unit (ERU) logistician has set up a warehousing, transport, and operations base. A relief delegate from the Federation's Regional Delegation in Dakar is assisting in Timbuktu in setting up a distribution system.

Telecommunications: a Federation Telecommunications Delegate has set up/improved communications between Bamako and Timbuktu and other northern locations.

Burkina Faso

Health: There are no new developments in this sector.

Relief:



- The Burkina Faso Red Cross (BFRC) has distributed seeds and food items to 44,710 beneficiaries in the Soum and Oudalan Provinces. The value of the items is estimated at CHF 1,344,000. Food and seeds were donated by WFP (463 MT plus operating expenses), FAO (over 1.5 MT of seeds plus operating expenses), Horizon Mondial (almost 14 MT of seeds), and the Federation (18 MT of seeds plus operating expenses). The Federation assistance was distributed in the districts of Doguel (900 beneficiaries), Djibo (4,200 beneficiaries) and to 3,242 families in the districts of Oursi, Tinakoff and Markoye (Oudalan province).
- BFRC is drafting a plan of action to assist stricken populations in the Soum and Seno regions. The BFRC has also requested 104 MT of vegetable oil from WFP.
- Future activities of the BFRC depend on the findings of an ongoing WFP evaluation. Its findings will determine the quantities of commodities BFRC and other organizations will be allocated for final distribution.
- The BFRC will conduct another field mission shortly to ascertain trends regarding market prices and food availability.

Telecommunications: There are no new developments in this sector.

Mauritania

Health: the Federation is currently investigating the situation in the country with special reference to a Movement response to recent outbreaks of cholera.