

6-Month update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Niger: Food Insecurity

Emergency appeal n° MDRNE005
GLIDE n° OT201000028-NER
6-month summary update
04 January, 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 18 March to 18 September 2010. This update represents a six-month summary of the operation.

Appeal target (current): CHF 3,670,607 (USD 3.2 m or EUR 2.2m); [<click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: 56%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 18 March, 2010 for CHF 986,862 for nine months to assist 300,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 229,046 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond.
- **Operations Update no. 1** covering the period 18 March to 29 April 2010 focused on the cash for work programme.
- **Appeal budget revision and extension:** The appeal has been revised to CHF 3.65 million and extended until March 2011 due to new reports of the government and partners (19 May, 2010) which raised the severe food insecurity affected population from 2.7 to 3.3 million.



Preparation for the food distribution in Mirriah/RCSN

Summary:

Since the beginning of 2010, the population of Niger has suffered from food shortage worsened by a nutritional crisis, especially among children up to 5 years old. The crisis is largely the result of failed rains. The rains arrived too late and ended too early. According to an assessment of the government released on 19 May 2010, nearly half of the population of Niger (7.1 million people) were affected. About 3.3 million have been classified as severely food insecure; this means that they are unable to meet their minimum daily dietary requirements. The Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) with support from the International Federation has implemented activities in accordance with the disaster response plan of action in three among the eight regions in Niger. These activities are related to the recuperation of eroded lands through the Cash for Work programme, the reinforcement of farming activities through the free distribution of improved seeds for the households, coordination of nutrition activities, and food distribution in partnership with WFP.

The initial strategy of RCSN was to focus on carrying out cash for work activities; to distribute food and seeds/plants in collaboration with partners to start the June/July farming seasons in the best possible conditions to ensure early recovery; and to contribute to supporting health centres to provide appropriate nutritional services to the affected communities. However, the revised appeal has taken into consideration the results of the latest

assessment that shows growing severe food insecurity, acute malnutrition of children and a precarious food situation in some urban centres (Niamey), and a rocketing food prices in the markets. The National Society (NS), the International Federation and other Participating National Societies (PNS) therefore increased their cash programmes activities in Zinder, Diffa, Tahoua, and extended them to Dosso and Niamey suburbs (the choice was made in consultation with partners because not many humanitarian organizations have been covering these regions).

The situation

The population in Niger has suffered from a serious food shortage since the beginning of 2010 because of the latest poor rainy season in Niger. Indeed rains were irregular: they arrived late and stopped earlier than normally. This thinned harvests and led to a 31 percent decrease in crop production compared to last year (410,000 tonnes less), according to the Niger government. The most affected regions in Niger were Diffa (328,781 people), Zinder (1,707,695) and Tahoua (1,983,452). The same regions suffered from the food security crisis in 2005. The situation was particularly critical for young children. According to a national survey published by the government of Niger on June, nearly 17 per cent of children under five have been suffering from acute malnutrition, an increase of 42 per cent over the same period last year. Food insecurity has drastic consequences on people's health especially on children's health and their education. Malnourished children are prone to infections and diarrhoeal diseases which in turn affect their school attendance. The effects of food security emergency can undermine years of progress on the Millennium Development Goals. Food shortages, if lasting, will also increase adults' vulnerability to various epidemics.

On 18 March 2010 the International Federation launched an emergency appeal for CHF 986,862 to support the Red Cross Society of Niger in its assistance to 300,000 people in 120 villages over 9 months. Due to other reports of the government and the United Nations agencies, which raised the severe food insecurity affected population from 2.7 to 3.3 million the appeal has been revised to CHF 3.65 million and extended until March 2011.

Coordination and partnerships

To coordinate the intervention of the Movement members, the Sahel Regional Office and the field delegate based in Niamey supported RCSN to hold meetings on the food insecurity situation, to analyse interventions made so far and plans to regularly update the declared intentions of all partners. Coordination has also been made at regional level. The National Society has been supported by the British, Chinese (Hong Kong), Danish, French, Irish, Japanese, Monaco, Norwegian, New Zealand, Spanish, Swedish Red Cross Societies, Qatar Red Crescent, ICRC, and OPEC. In addition an agreement on nutrition has been signed on 16 July 2010 between the Red Cross Society of Niger and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In order to facilitate the early community screening of under five years children, UNICEF has agreed to provide for RCSN 425 Mid Upper Arm Circumferences (MUAC), 30 stadiometers and 30 Salter Scale. This agreement allows UNICEF to follow up the National Society's nutrition activities and advise accordingly.

From 11 to 13 July 2010, the Secretary General of the International Federation, the Director of Africa Zone as well as the Regional Representative for Sahel office paid an official visit to Niger. They met many officials and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and witnessed the impact of the food and nutrition crisis that has affected nearly half of the Niger's population. The Secretary General took the opportunity of his visit to sign a status agreement between the International Federation and the Government of Niger. This provides the Federation with a legal status in Niger and leads to an increase in programme activities and coordination with all Movement partners in Niger. He also took advantage of his stay to advocate in favour of more support from the international community to the Niger population.

National Society Capacity Building: The continual support of Participating National Societies (PNS) and the Federation since 2005 has mainly improved technical competences. As a result and compared to 2005, the RCSN has better equipped branches, more trained volunteers and more technical staff at headquarters.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

To cope with the growing severe food insecurity and provide more comprehensive assistance to an increased number of beneficiaries, the International Federation trebled its emergency appeal to 3.65 million Swiss francs. This support has enabled the RCSN to rapidly scale-up its immediate activities focusing on four major areas to

increase the resilience of the most vulnerable populations. Within the framework of the revised appeal of the Red Cross Society of Niger, a strategy for the implementation of the cash distribution has been elaborated in order to undertake all the related activities with equity and transparency for the benefit of targeted beneficiaries. Additionally the RCSN has recruited qualified local staff to increase response capacity and has received three vehicles from the Dakar stock to support operations. Sahel Regional Representation staff and a country-based delegate within the NRCS are currently working closely with the National Society to manage the emergency operation.

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency phase (1-9 months)

Outcome: Support cash programming, food and seed distribution in Diffa, Zinder, Tahoua Niamey suburbs/Regions increase community resilience and improved agriculture production

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Livelihoods of 1,500 persons per region in 61 villages (Zinder, Tahoua and Diffa) improved through the cash programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale-up the current operation in 61 villages on cash programming; • Work with the communities in 61 villages on anti-erosion and water harvesting measures according to the communal development plan to improve agricultural production; • Equip the above villages with soil working tools and the most appropriate species to plant (herbaceous, gum tree...) • Improve the skills of 75 volunteers, foremen and supervisors; • Purchase office and other equipment (see budget) for Diffa branch to offer timely and good quality response to food insecurity; • Increase the capacity of the RCSN and the Sahel Regional Office in narrative and financial reporting; • Conduct ongoing, mid-term and end of project impact review of impact on the beneficiaries.
The cash programme is extended to Dosso and Niamey suburbs (1,500 households in 90 days in each).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop baselines in villages for cash programme (cash for work, cash transfer, cash training, and vouchers) in Dosso and Niamey suburbs; • Strengthen logistic, financial and managerial capacities of branches and the RCSN headquarters to implement cash programming and other activities; • Identify and deploy four international and regional staff to support the cash programming; • Conduct ongoing, mid-term and end of project impact review on impact of impact on the beneficiaries.
In addition to the initial 61 villages, the most vulnerable families in 917 target villages have received general food distribution during the cropping season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop baselines on the most vulnerable households in 978 target villages; • Increase the capacity of 60 volunteers on distribution techniques; • Distribute food to 1,758 households in 61 target villages in May; • Distribute food to 14,306 households (second round); • Monitor, evaluate and provide regular reports on the number of beneficiaries receiving food support.

Progress:

Within the framework of the revised appeal a strategy for the implementation of the Cash Programme has been elaborated to undertake all the related activities in equity and transparency for the benefit of targeted beneficiaries. The first component of this strategy has been the identification of the beneficiaries. In this regard some committees have been set up for the selection of the vulnerable households. On the basis of a set of criteria (households headed by women, families with more than 10 people, families with a pregnant woman and those that are not supported by any other programme), the committees have selected a total of 965 households beneficiaries in three main communities (Afala, Bambéye, Kalfou). Regarding food distribution, the team of the RCSN distributed food provided by the World Food Programme in 61 villages in Zinder. The first round of distribution, conducted in May, benefitted 1,786 households (12,309 persons). The programme has been planned to continue to reach a further population of 14,306 households. The second round of distribution carried out in July in Zinder and supported by the Irish Red Cross was extended to 82 villages for 2,657 households (18,598 persons); 293 tonnes of food received from WFP were distributed. At the same time in Mirriah department, 835 targeted villages, with 14,306 households (100,142 persons) received 1,574 tonnes of food. In September, 293 tonnes of food were distributed to 380 households (2,663 persons) in Tanout department.

Emergency phase (1-9 months)

Outcome: To improve nutritional and health status of children under 5 in Zinder, Dosso and Niamey Suburbs

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under five years old is decreased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessments on targeted villages and referral centres (related needs); • Train 700 volunteers and 50 supervisors on anthropometric measurement, bilateral oedema detection and interpretation of nutritional index; • Monthly screening of children under five years old; • Refer moderate malnourished children to CRENAM; • Provide support to CRENAM according to needs; • Refer severe acute malnourished children without /with complication to CRENAS/CRENI; • Organize weekly distribution of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food for Severe Acute Malnourished without complication, if CRENAS is not accessible; • Provide transport for referral of severe acute malnourished children to CRENI if there are difficulties with the access; • Distribution of cash grant for 600 discharged children from CRENAS/CRENI; • Support the rehabilitation of ten IHC; • Install internet and telephone in the office and installation of data connectivity facilities and provision of IT support; • Training of radio operator and drivers to facilitate the management of the project.
<p>Infant and young child feeding practices are improved through nutrition and health education sessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of peer educators; • Organization of workshop for peer educators; • Train 80 volunteers on communication toolkit including beneficiary communication, news releases, information bulletin, fact-sheets, video footage and photos with extended captions; • Conduct weekly cooking demonstrations; • Train 80 volunteers on infant and young child feeding practices; • Provide weekly nutrition education focused on hygiene promotion and balanced diet (peer to peer education); • Rehabilitation of Dosso branch office for the management of the operation; • Conduct on-going project impact review on the impact on the nutritional and health status of infants and children and households; • Train the targeted groups on oral rehydration salt (ORS) use and hygiene promotion; • Raise awareness activities on health promotion; • Organise cleaning up campaign at community level.

Progress:

The rate of total acute malnutrition in Niger exceeded the emergency threshold and reached a level of 16.7%. The severe acute malnutrition rate rose from 2.1% in 2009 to 3.2% in 2010. The National Society as well as the International Federation played a major role in the reinforcement of the capacity of volunteers in the regions of Dosso and Niamey. The volunteers were trained in early screening, referral and support to health centres and sensitizing households. The Community-based activities have been conducted in Zinder, Dosso and Niamey suburbs to support the identification of malnourished children, referral and support to health centres in 234 villages. In June, a total of 114,222 malnourished children were referred to health centres while health and nutrition education sessions were conducted in 200 villages. The early screening activity started in the Integrated Health Centre (CSI) of Goudel which is 12 km away from Niamey.

Recovery phase (Long-term food security)/Risk reduction phase (1 -12 months)

Outcome: To ensure medium and long term access, availability and utilisation of food by the target populations.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
120 villages have received cereal donations to Grameen banks (in Partnership with WFP) to have cereals to sell at village level and to fill their account (10 tons for the new ones and 5 tons for existing banks).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and select the villages with Grameen banks that need to be reinforced in the zone of intervention; • Elaborate and finalize the agreement with WFP to provide cereals; • Organize training/refreshing sessions for the management committee of the Grameen Banks; • Assist in the creation of Grameen banks in the zones of intervention; • Carry out monitoring and evaluation activities of the cereal management by the Grameen bank; • Document the process and use for learning to improve future interventions.
The most vulnerable 40 households in the 120 villages (4,800 households) have received improved seeds (20 kg) for the forthcoming seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a suppliers list on approved "improved" seed producers; • Identification of the 40 most vulnerable households in the 120 villages; • Provision of improved seeds to 4,800 households in collaboration with the World Food Programme; • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities.
Replanted maize (in coordination with FAO) is promoted in urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of short cycle maize; • Identification of households with cropping potential in towns; • Training volunteers on replanted maize; • Extension of replanted maize; • Test plots of replanted maize; • Monitoring and evaluation of replanted maize activities.
Out of the 120 villages, 10 are identified for long term interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the RCSN complete the food security vulnerability analysis and to use the analysis to develop plan of action for future food insecurity situations and emergencies; • Assist the most vulnerable villages with the highest potential in agricultural production increase through long term food security intervention; • Reinforce the National Society's capacity (at community, branch and national levels) in food security assessment, planning and project implementation.

Progress:

The recuperation of the eroded lands through the Cash for Work project was carried out and about 132.8 ha of lands have been recovered in Tahoua and Zinder regions by 4,667 households. The recuperation of the eroded lands has two main objectives; providing financial means to the households so that they can have access to foodstuffs, and recovery of the eroded lands. As for the distribution of improved seeds, a total of 2,692 households in 98 villages have received 40,380 tons of improved seeds in Tahoua and Zinder regions.

Additionally the second round of the targeted general distribution was launched in Miriah by the Administrative head. Following the rains recorded in early July, the farming situation improved. This situation has led to an improvement of the seedling coverage in some farming areas. On July, the seedling coverage was 94% against 85% in the year 2009 at the same period and the lifting of millet crops was visible.

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 Disaster 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.

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.

Contact information

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

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[<Financial statement attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

MDRNE005 - Niger - Food Insecurity

Appeal Launch Date: 18 mar 10

Appeal Timeframe: 22 feb 10 to 31 mar 11

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/3-2010/8
Budget Timeframe	2010/2-2011/3
Appeal	MDRNE005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	3,364,795					3,364,795
B. Opening Balance	229,000					229,000
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	162,048					162,048
<i>China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch</i>	43,871					43,871
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)</i>	136,927					136,927
<i>Ireland - Private Donors</i>	1,084					1,084
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	32,600					32,600
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	16,353					16,353
<i>New Zealand Red Cross</i>	10,000					10,000
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	83,279					83,279
<i>On Line donations</i>	469					469
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	149,236					149,236
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>	10,511					10,511
C1. Cash contributions	646,378					646,378
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	79,859					79,859
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	88,500					88,500
<i>OPEC Fund For International Development</i>	205,677					205,677
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	117,712					117,712
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	491,748					491,748
Other Income						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	-229,000					-229,000
C6. Other Income	-229,000					-229,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	909,127					909,127
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,138,127					1,138,127
Appeal Coverage	34%					34%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	229,000					229,000
C. Income	909,127					909,127
E. Expenditure	-715,133					-715,133
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	422,993					422,993

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,364,795					3,364,795	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	20,460						20,460	
Construction Materials		6,689				6,689	-6,689	
Clothing & textiles	9,167						9,167	
Food	9,167						9,167	
Seeds,Plants	134,544	110,788				110,788	23,756	
Water & Sanitation	9,167	9,467				9,467	-300	
Medical & First Aid	2,862	42				42	2,820	
Teaching Materials	5,115	126				126	4,989	
Utensils & Tools	17,534	2,330				2,330	15,204	
Other Supplies & Services	1,532,492	22,778				22,778	1,509,714	
Total Supplies	1,740,507	152,219				152,219	1,588,288	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	40,923						40,923	
Vehicles	185,789						185,789	
Computers & Telecom	39,489						39,489	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	19,234						19,234	
Medical Equipment	12,318						12,318	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	297,752						297,752	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		216				216	-216	
Distribution & Monitoring	116,475	21,783				21,783	94,692	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	219,450	32,633				32,633	186,817	
Total Transport & Storage	335,925	54,631				54,631	281,294	
Personnel								
International Staff	66,000	34,484				34,484	31,516	
Regionally Deployed Staff	45,833						45,833	
National Staff	51,894	13,729				13,729	38,165	
National Society Staff	282,763	55,577				55,577	227,187	
Consultants		2,124				2,124	-2,124	
Total Personnel	446,491	105,914				105,914	340,577	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	167,045	6,287				6,287	160,757	
Total Workshops & Training	167,045	6,287				6,287	160,757	
General Expenditure								
Travel	13,292	32,767				32,767	-19,475	
Information & Public Relation	55,883	2,436				2,436	53,446	
Office Costs	21,337	8,552				8,552	12,784	
Communications	15,510	3,609				3,609	11,901	
Professional Fees		1,021				1,021	-1,021	
Financial Charges	3,471	49,273				49,273	-45,802	
Other General Expenses	62,222	10,238				10,238	51,984	
Total General Expenditure	171,713	107,896				107,896	63,817	
Programme Support								
Program Support	205,363	47,661				47,661	157,703	
Total Programme Support	205,363	47,661				47,661	157,703	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		1,404				1,404	-1,404	
Shared Services		10,000				10,000	-10,000	

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,364,795					3,364,795	
Total Services		11,404					11,404	-11,404
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		229,121					229,121	-229,121
Total Operational Provisions		229,121					229,121	-229,121
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,364,795	715,133					715,133	2,649,662
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,649,662					2,649,662	