

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

NIGER

Appeal no. 01.39/2003

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	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Health and Care	280,000	271,000
2. Organizational Development	37,565	0
Total	318,177¹	271,000

Introduction

Niger is one of the poorest West African countries in terms of human development. Adequate health care for its population is an immense challenge. Due to the vastness of the country, the National Society needs to find a way to strengthen its volunteer management at the community level in order to sustain activities to improve vaccination coverage and preventative health awareness.

Therefore, the Secretariat will assist the National Society to develop management of HIV/AIDS and emergency health programming at national level. It also plans to assist the Niger Red Cross to increase and diversify its resource development base through improving its financial management systems. Finally, the Secretariat will provide support to the Niger Red Cross through the facilitation of a national society capacity assessment, leading to a three- to five-year Strategic Plan and resulting in well-coordinated CAS process.

National Context

A predominantly rural population in a landlocked country, most of Niger's inhabitants are engaged in farming, with agriculture representing 45% of the country's economy. Cattle breeding and natural resources (uranium, coal and iron ore) also form major parts of the economy. A UNICEF survey in 2000 found that 70% of children in Niger work, although only 3% are paid. The country continued to experience political instability throughout the 1990s, culminating in a coup in 1999 which led to the assassination of the president and the establishment of a military junta. Peace accords have been reached with Tuareg forces, ending a long running internal conflict, but implementation of the accords has been slow.

Niger has extremely low social indicators. In 2000, the under-five mortality rate was 270 per 1,000 live births. Only 20% of the population had access to adequate sanitation facilities and under 60% had access to potable water. Public expenditure on health was only 1.2% of the GDP in 1998. (UNDP) The country suffers from frequent food shortages, drought and flooding. Niger is part of the meningitis belt and is one of the last countries to still have the wild polio virus.

¹ **USD 218,318 or EUR 216,328.**

² **These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.**

Human Development Indicators at a Glance

	Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Life expectancy at birth (years)	45.2	48.7	66.9
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above), 2000	15.9	61.5	~
Adult literacy rate (female as % of male), 2000	42	77	~
Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%), 1999	16	42	65
GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000	746	1,690	7,446
People living with HIV/AIDS, adults (% age 15-49), 2001	~	9	1.2
Refugees (thousands), in/out, 2000	~	~	~

Source: UNDP HDR 2002

National Society Priorities

The Niger Red Cross (NRC) is autonomous but maintains close relations with the government and particularly with the Ministry of Health. It is involved in the national policy on disaster relief and the government has seconded staff for Red Cross activities.

The NRC has worked with UNHCR on projects for refugees from Chad and Mali and with UNICEF on projects for street children. The National Society has been involved in various drought operations, and launched a VCA in 1999. The NRC has many health activities, including vaccination campaigns, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and first aid and community health projects. The National Society also runs many social welfare activities, including kindergartens, primary schools and income generation projects for women.

A reorganisation of the National Society's structure has resulted in the creation of an administrative secretariat with an elected secretary general. While the society has a total membership of 10,000 (which includes 4,800 volunteers) it has problems in recruiting new members.

At a Glance

	YEAR	COMMENT
Statutes	1993	Rewritten
National Disaster Plan	yes	
National Development Plan	1999-2001	
CAS		Planned for 2003
Self Assessment	2002	
Elections	2001	General Assembly
Yearly audit	no	

Main Strengths

- Strong branches.
- Ability to mobilise volunteers.
- Good public image.
- Stable governance.
- Good partnerships with Participating National Societies and in country agencies.

- Officially integrated into the National Disaster Plan.

Main Challenges

- Need to address the abuse of emblem in the country.
- Reporting.
- Internal communications.

The NRC assessed its programming in 2002 and prioritised the following to be looked at when developing its Cooperation Agreement Strategy in 2003.

- Malaria, meningitis prevention awareness and polio eradication via ARCHI 2010.
- Resource development (human and financial).
- Food security.
- communications.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

International Federation: The Secretariat has provided *ad hoc* emergency assistance (i.e., drought logistics as well as polio vaccination). With the support of the regional delegation, the NRC has initiated a training programme for managers and volunteers and a VCA.

ICRC: The ICRC has been helping the NRC draft a law on the emblem and work on relations with the Ministry of Justice. In 1997, over 130 emergency relief team members were trained in collaboration with ICRC.

Bilateral: Spanish Red Cross has been a consistent bilateral partner with the NRC, most recently providing funding for its drought relief operation. The French Red Cross in 1999 signed a cooperation agreement on institutional development and has been supporting a community-health project in the north of the country. The Netherlands Red Cross provides community development support. The Saudi Arabian Red Cross provided funding to the NRC for its relief operation in 2001.

Primary support from the Movement in 2002

Partner	Health	Relief	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Org. Dev.	Other
ICRC						xx
French RC	xx				xx	
Spanish RC						xx
Netherlands RC						xx

Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

As adequate health care is still a very big challenge in a poor country like Niger, the Secretariat will help the National Society to develop management of HIV/AIDS and emergency health programming at national level. Special focus will also be given to strengthening financial management and resource development systems in Niger. And, in order to assist the National Society build capacity and to attract the necessary donor support required, the Secretariat has prioritised the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process (including a national society capacity assessment and Strategic Development Plan).

1. Health and Care W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Background:

- Low access to health centres and health care.

- Low vaccination coverage.
- Presence of endemic and epidemic illnesses.
- Presence wild polio virus strain.
- High infant mortality rates.
- Vast country with nomadic populations.
- Rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the most productive age group.
- Social-cultural factors favouring the propagation of HIV/AIDS and STDs (multiple partners, prostitution, religion).

Achievements:

- Participation in several National Immunisation Days/Polio campaigns, through social mobilisation.
- Member of the Interagency Coordination Committee.
- Strong partnerships.
- Good collaboration with partners in immunisation campaigns.
- Strengths in social mobilisation at the local committee level.

Lessons learned:

- Need to strengthen capacity to manage volunteers at the community level in order to sustain activities to improve vaccination coverage.
- Improve communication at all levels.
- Need to reinforce means of transport/travel due to vastness of country.

Overall Goal

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

Programme Objective

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

Expected Results

1. Increased vaccination coverage of children in urban communities of Niamey and the border zones of Tillabery and Dosso, through door-to-door social mobilisation.
 - Mothers and caretakers have been sensitised about the need to and mobilised to vaccinate their children.
 - The rate of vaccination coverage in hard-to-reach areas has been increased.
 - The NRC has participate actively in National Immunisation and Mop-Up days.
 - Operational capacity of the local committees in social mobilisation and health promotion have been reinforced.
2. NRC capacity in peer education to contribute in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and STDs among youth and commercial sex workers in three regions (Tahoua, Namé and Agadez) has been strengthened.
 - Improved knowledge about HIV/AIDS and STDs and behaviour change among the target population.
 - Capacity strengthened at the local committee level to conduct HIV/AIDS and STDs sensitisation and awareness activities in the target regions.

2. Organisational Development W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Niger Red Cross three-year development plan for 1997-1999 was re-evaluated, and used as a base for the current plan for 2000-2002. Some of the National Society's more important partners include the Government of Niger, UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, the Federation, and the French Red Cross. In order for the NRC to more successfully manage the varied support they receive from partners, and to ensure that their work is well coordinated and advancing their cause, they must update their development plan and put more emphasis on creating a well-coordinated Strategic Direction in consultation with their key stakeholders. This would also require updating and expanding the National Society's financial management systems for better management across all branches.

Overall Goal

To decrease vulnerability of people living in Niger through improved service delivery by the NRC.

Programme Objective

The Niger Red Cross has completed a comprehensive Strategic Development Plan, based on a national society capacity assessment, which is coordinated and agreed upon with key stakeholders both within and outside the Movement, leading to a systematic development approach which will allow the National Society to progressively increase with strengthened financial management and resource development capacities its capacity to better meet the needs of the vulnerable.

Expected Results

The Niger Red Cross has completed the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process, including:

- Completion of a national society capacity assessment exercise.
- A three to five year Strategic Development Plan (based on national society capacity assessment) has been developed in coordination with other stakeholders.
- NRC has convened a partners meeting and formally presented and confirmed the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

(see Regional Programmes - Federation Coordination for details on CAS; and Sahel Region - OD for details on assessment and strategic plan.)

Sound financial management systems and procedures have been developed and resource development capacities are coordinated and planned, including.

- Accounting and budgeting software has been installed.
- Budgets have been consolidated and chart of accounts revised and completed.
- Finance management staff have been involved in preparation and budget control, as well as finance reporting.
- Rules and procedures have been introduced with finance procedural manual fully respected by national society staff.
- Professional skills of finance staff have been improved through training.
- By end 2003 one national resource development committee has been organised in each National Society (composition and Terms of Reference approved).
- By end 2003 one resource development plan has been developed (operational plan with measurable objectives and defined responsibilities) within overall goals development plan of each national society.

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BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.39/2003

Name: Niger

PROGRAMME:	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	8,350	0	0	0	0	8,350
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	8,350	0	0	0	0	8,350
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	46,710	0	0	0	0	46,710
Computers & telecom	0	900	0	0	0	0	900
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	300	6,844	0	0	0	0	7,144
CAPITAL EXPENSES	300	54,454	0	0	0	0	54,754
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	6,453	18,428	0	0	0	0	24,880
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	6,453	18,428	0	0	0	0	24,880
Programme Support	2,442	18,240	0	0	0	0	20,681
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	2,442	18,240	0	0	0	0	20,681
Personnel-delegates	13,732	34,468	0	0	0	0	48,199
Personnel-national staff	8,481	62,969	0	0	0	0	71,449
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	22,213	97,437	0	0	0	0	119,649
W/shops & Training	375	13,719	0	0	0	0	14,094
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	375	13,719	0	0	0	0	14,094
Travel & related expenses	2,890	13,340	0	0	0	0	16,230
Information	25	10,078	0	0	0	0	10,102
Other General costs	2,867	46,568	0	0	0	0	49,434
GENERAL EXPENSES	5,782	69,986	0	0	0	0	75,767
TOTAL BUDGET:	37,565	280,614	0	0	0	0	318,177