

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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, CHAD, MALI, MAURITANIA AND NIGER: FOOD SECURITY (DROUGHT)

08 August 2001

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DREF Allocated: 40,000 CHF

This Information Bulletin is issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 40,000 has been released, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.

The Situation

The Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) reported that the Sahel region's deficit in cereal yield for 2000-2001 was 'heavier' than envisaged - 23 per cent instead of 16 percent. The cereal production of the member states of the CILSS was 8.8 million tonnes, compared to 11.5 million tonnes in 1999-2000. The Niger Red Cross, with the Federation, conducted an assessment of the food security situation in country (as part of a wider Federation assessment of the Sahelian countries Burkina-Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) to determine the feasibility of a possible relief operation.

They found that the following organisations were already responding to the needs: the Luxembourg Development Cooperation, Swiss Development Cooperation and the World Food Programme (WFP) through its local NGO partner, the *System d'Alerte Précoce et de Gestion de Catastrophe* (SAGC).



Responding to the Government's desire not to further dependency on outside assistance by free distributions of food, WFP set up in each affected village a food-for-work scheme to provide immediate food relief as well as a long-term solution amid the unpredictable rainfall in the region. SAGC engineers directed villagers to recover arable ground by planting trees with half-moon wells around their trunks to retain rainwater. Other organizations were invited to contribute food and distribution of the food per the food-for-work scheme..

In order to harmonize the distribution of the food-for-work operations, the government set up an emergency commission to provide overall coordination. After several working sessions, the area of

Filingué was divided into eight zones; Zone One - made up of nine villages - was allotted to the Niger Red Cross.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Based on the assessment conducted by the Niger Red Cross, with the Federation, a plan of action was formulated based on the following needs census of its allotted zone.

Census by Village and Distributable Quantity of Food

Village	Able-bodied adults		Children between 0-5 years		Others	Total Population	Quantity of millet (to be distributed in 2 instalments)	Distance from Filingué
	M	F	M	F				
Ibankan	217	132	82	111	171	713	15.22	32
Sabara I	191	194	97	71	25	578	16.75	62
Sabara II	183	192	59	68	26	528	16.32	62
Rouafi I	655	561	271	276	118	1881	56.78	78
Rouafi II	240	258	95	113	36	742	21.7	78
Chinagamane	692	645	138	125	48	1648	58.22	69
Ayawa	1000	996	294	353	55	2698	86.98	109
Kabéfo	326	278	130	159	45	938	28.99	84
Dinkihmi	228	163	100	109	138	738	17.04	38
Total	3732	3419	1266	1385	662	10464	318	

Sphere standards were followed in the process of providing the total quantity of millet above - four months supply of millet at 12 kg per month per person.

The Spanish Red Cross provided the Niger Red Cross with 108,182 EUR (approx. 164,000 CHF) to purchase 318 tonnes of millet. The Niger Red Cross is locally purchasing and distributing the food in two tranches out of Filingué. The first tranche of distribution was made at the beginning of July 2001 and the second tranche will be made at the end of August 2001.



To facilitate the logistical aspect of the distribution, the Federation provided the Niger Red Cross with 40,000 CHF as well as two computers which were formatted with appropriate software. Staff were given a basic training course on their use. The National Society should be able now to track funds received according to project and create a database to better target its assistance.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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