

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Niger: Meningitis

**DREF operation n° MDRNE003
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000067-NER
20 May, 2008**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 33,336 (USD 32,053 or EUR 20,641) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 500,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The southern part of Niger has been hit by meningitis. Epidemiological statistics over 17 weeks report a total of 1,991 cases and 111 deaths to date - with a mortality rate of 5.5%. The most affected districts are those of Konni and Madaoua (Tahoua Region; and Boboye (Dosso Region). Additional districts on alert at week 17 are: Illéla (Tahoua Region), Say (Tillabéri Region), Magaria (Zinder Region) and Doutchi (Dosso Region).

Funds are sought to assist the authorities in preventing the spread of meningitis in areas at risk, particularly along the border with Nigeria, through sensitization campaigns to run alongside health authority immunization activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 20 July, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 21 October, 2008).

[<click here for the DREF budget>](#)

The situation

Niger is a West African country located in the heart of the African meningitis belt, which stretches from Senegal to Djibouti. The hot and dry climate is favorable to the outbreak of meningitis epidemics generally between October and May. The regions of Tahoua, Dosso, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri have been particularly affected this year, generally along the southern part.

Epidemiological statistics over 17 weeks report a total of 1,991 cases and 111 deaths to date - with a mortality rate of 5.5%. The most affected districts are as follows: Konni (Tahoua Region) - 613 cases, including 21 deaths; Madaoua (Tahoua Region) - 194 cases with nine deaths; Boboye (Dosso Region) - 85 cases, with eight deaths. Additional districts on alert at week 17 are: Illéla (Tahoua Region) - 127 cases, six deaths, Say (Tillabéri Region) - 105 cases and 6 deaths; Magaria (Zinder Region) - 118 cases and five deaths; Doutchi (Dosso Region) - 119 cases, including 14 deaths.

Coordination and partnerships

The Government has deployed field teams from the 'Direction des statistiques, de la surveillance et de la riposte aux endémies' (DSS/RE), along with WHO and the Centre for medical tests (CERMES) to support the efforts of medical districts and regions. The Ministry of Health is implementing the following activities: initiating immunization campaigns and warning activities in endemic areas; conducting vaccination campaigns in the southern band of the country, bordering on Nigeria; adding to the existing stock of medicines.

The situation is currently under control but monitoring remains essential according to the Director of the DSS/RE, who has requested assistance - especially in the areas bordering with Nigeria.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

National society members and volunteers have been alerted and remain in regular contact with health authorities. The Red Cross Society of Niger has liaised with its regional committees in the affected areas, to obtain additional information and assess needs. The national society is part of the committee that meets on a weekly basis at the DSS/RE to monitor the epidemiological situation.

The national society wishes to urgently undertake a public awareness campaign in support of the government's vaccination campaign in the most affected areas. The situation is especially worrying in the southern strip bordering on Nigeria, where health authorities (through the DSS/RE) have requested help from partners in the face of the alarming increase in the number of cases.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: The number of beneficiaries for this operation is estimated at 500,000 people. The needs of the affected people are basically sensitization activities and mass immunization campaigns. About 700 Red Cross volunteers have already been trained in Tillabery and Maradi (both amongst the affected areas). The national society wishes to train an additional 300 volunteers to fill gaps in the other affected regions. Volunteers will also make referrals to health centres and undertake health education in the community.

The community at large, as well as Red Cross volunteers and staff, shall indirectly benefit from the operation through health education, and training in the prevention of epidemics related to such disasters.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Objective: To contribute to the reduction of the spread of meningitis among 500,000 most vulnerable people in the regions of Dosso, Zinder, Maradi and Tillaberi over two months.

The Niger Red Cross with its network of volunteers in Tahoua, Tillaberi, Maradi, Zinder and Dosso will train and retrain a brigade of 300 health volunteers. This brigade will be divided into several teams who will be in charge of awareness, prevention and referral of suspected cases to the CSI (Centres de santé intégrés) and health posts.

The teams will be supervised and monitored by 55 supervisors with responsibility for data collection, as well effective coordination and burden-sharing among the different teams. The national society's health and communication coordinators will oversee volunteer activities in all selected regions.

Main affected areas are those bordering with Nigeria and Burkina Faso, located along the southern strip of the country, namely: Konni, Illéla, Madaoua, Boboye, Doutchi, Magaria, Matameye, Maradi, Bouza commune, Gaya and Fillingué.

Activities planned

- Provide 300 NRCS volunteers with basic knowledge about the causes, signs and symptoms, prevention and effects of meningitis.
- Organize NRCS volunteers to reach about 500,000 people throughout awareness-raising activities and social mobilization during immunization campaigns.

Expected outcomes:

- The NRCS volunteers have acquired basic knowledge about causes, signs, prevention and effects of meningitis and have received the necessary skills to raise awareness on meningitis among the target population.
- 300 NRCS volunteers have reached 500,000 people with correct information on preventive measures against meningitis.

Strategies

- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance system in collaboration with the DSS/R
- Carry out social mobilization through IEC
- Contribute to raising awareness of populations in border areas.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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<i>TYPE</i>	<i>VALUE IN CHF</i>	<i>%</i>
LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT		
Transport & Vehicles	2,438	7
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Regional Staff	4,088	12
National Society Staff	1,450	4
Sensitisation campaign	19,231	58
<u>WORKSHOPS and TRAINING</u>		0
Training of supervisors	650	2
Training of volunteers	3,313	10
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	2,167	7
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u>	33,336	100
TOTAL DREF	33,336	100