

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

NIGER: FLOODS

DREF Operation n° MDRNE006
Update N° 01
30 November, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update:
11 September to 11 December 2010.

Summary: CHF 242,119 (USD 232,115 or EUR 175,119) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,500 beneficiaries.

The torrential rains in Niger, since 22 July 2010 have caused heavy flooding in Tillaberi, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez and Zinder regions. This situation was worsened by the heavy rains during the nights of 5 and 6 August, 2010 in Niamey, the capital city. The number of families affected in Tillaberi, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, Zinder and Niamey regions has been estimated at 6,046 families (56,859 people). The floods led to three deaths, destruction of houses, infrastructure, field crops and livestock. The regions affected by the flooding are the same experiencing severe food insecurity this year over seven million people in Niger. There is also an on-going cholera epidemic in the same region, which makes the populations extremely vulnerable.



A Red Cross volunteer assisting flooded household
Photo: RCSN

This operation was expected to be implemented over three months, and completed by November 2010. However, delays were experienced in implementing the planned activities due to increased flooding that denied access to the affected communities. This DREF operation update extends the implementation timeframe of the planned activities from November 2010 to January 2011, i.e. from three to five months. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2011).

The Canadian government (CIDA) and ECHO have made a contribution to the DREF in replenishment of the allocations made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

In mid-July 2010, Niger experienced heavy rains causing flooding in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, Zinder regions and the capital city Niamey. The floods have so far claimed three lives. In addition, over 2,800 houses have been destroyed and some 19,600 people have been left homeless. People are generally living in school buildings, in their neighbours or relatives' houses or use other means for shelter. The floods that also destroyed crops and granaries have exacerbated the already dire food insecurity situation that struck the same regions this year.

In Zinder, 53 hectares of field crops have been washed away and granaries destroyed. In Zinder and Agadez, flood affected households have lost livestock and small ruminants (63,485 animals). In Niamey, due to the overflow of the Niger River during the nights of 5 and 6 August 2010, 2,000 families have been affected by floods. Access to potable water has not only been difficult; the use of stagnant and other polluted water sources in the flooded areas posed threats of epidemics and other water-borne diseases.

Table 1: Statistics on the effects of the floods

Region	Villages/ Cantons	Families affected	People affected	No. of Death	Houses damaged	Latrines damaged	Crop (ha)	Livestock
Tillabéri	4	361	2,166	-	279	-	-	-
Tahoua	1	50	880	-	97	-	-	-
Maradi	5	264	1,584	-	160	-	-	-
Agadez	2	1,379	9,817	-	334	-	-	26,245
Zinder	9	1,939	28,020	3	1,930	23	53	37,240
Niamey	9	2,056	14,392	-	294	13	500	-
Total	21	6,046	56,859	3	3,094	36	553	63,485

Source: The Early Warning System of Niger Government

Coordination and partnerships

In Niamey, a Crisis Management Committee has been established chaired by the governor of Niamey and the RCSN has been requested to participate. Six sectoral committees (health/sanitation/hygiene promotion, logistics, relief distribution, communication, advocacy and registration/re-housing) have been established to better manage the situation. Regular coordination meetings have been held to evaluate the on-going operations. Under the coordination of UN-OCHA, the UN System Agencies including WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, and FAO are also working closely with the government, RCSN and other agencies such as Medicines Sans Frontiers (Switzerland, France), CARE, Qatar Charity, Save the Children, Concern and HELP. In Tillabéri and Tahoua regions, local authorities and WFP have distributed 69.2 tonnes of cereal to the affected people. The Government has also distributed 327 tonnes of cereals to the 2,056 affected families. UNICEF will be providing 1,546 mosquito nets, 1,546 blankets and 1,163 mats for 773 displaced families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the floods, the RCSN activated its Floods National Contingency Plan. The IFRC's representative and the team have coordinated the floods response with ICRC, French, Irish and Spanish Red Cross, and Qatar Red Crescent to strengthen the operational capacity of the NS.

At regional level, local branches have joined the crisis committees chaired by the regional governors. Each local committee has deployed volunteers to rescue and register the affected people. A total number of 110 volunteers have organized information, education, and communication (IEC) sessions on hygiene promotion and the use of latrines for people who are accommodated in four schools.

During the first 24 hours of the emergency, the RCSN used its pre-positioned stock of relief items provided by the IFRC to respond to the immediate needs of the affected populations. In Agadez and Tillabéri, with the support of ICRC 1,000 mosquito nets, 500 blankets and four tonnes of millet were distributed to 250 affected families. In Zinder, the French Red Cross has provided financial support to transport and distribute 500 mosquito nets and 250 blankets. In Niamey, the RCSN provided 30 tents to the affected communities and assisted in the identification of suitable sites for relocation. A total of ten schools have been made available to accommodate 28,000 people (4,000 families) displaced by the floods.



Red Cross volunteers distributing relief items to beneficiaries (Photo RCSN)

As part of its contingency plan, the NS has made available 13 tanks of 1,000 litres each to respond to the urgent needs of the populations. With the support of the IFRC in Niamey 20 sanitation kits, each kit comprising broom, raincoats, pairs of boots, pairs of gloves, mufflers, buckets, sprayer and detergent have been made available to support 20 volunteers to clean-up toilets and showers in the four schools hosting displaced people.

Progress towards outcomes

The RCSN supported by its operational partners has targeted 1,500 families in Niamey and Zinder where it has already provided assistance through the food security operation. The actions aim to reduce the negative impact of floods on the already food insecure households. The operation has therefore been concentrate on the following areas:

Emergency health

Outcome: To reduce the suffering from the impact of the floods through the provision of mosquito nets, aqua tabs per family and conduct health sensitization sessions for 1,500 affected families.

Expected results	Activities planned
Mortality and morbidity are reduced through the provision of mosquito nets, aqua tabs and preventive health care sensitization sessions to the affected families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct sensitization activities focused on health education, good practice and hygiene promotion in flooded communities; Procure 3,000 mosquito nets for 1,500 affected families; Follow-up of the use of mosquito nets (hang up and how to use the nets); Procure 7,500 oral rehydration solutions (ORS) sachets for 1,500 most vulnerable families; Distribute all mosquito nets and ORS to the affected families.

Progress:

More than 1,500 targeted families have been sensitized on health and hygiene facilitated by the coordinated action of the RCSN, ICRC, the French and Irish Red Cross as well as the Qatari Red Crescent (in Zinder and Niamey). Besides, hygiene promotion sensitization activities have been conducted to prevent water-borne and vector-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria respectively. Consideration effort has been placed to avoid an outbreak of cholera.

Volunteers have contributed to organizing the affected populations to be responsible of hygiene in the 14 sites. In this regard, hygiene materials have been provided (detergents, bleach, soap, etc.). As a preventive measure, mosquito nets have been distributed whilst volunteers assisted beneficiaries to properly hang the nets. A total of 5,000 ORS sachets have been distributed to the affected populations. The mobilisation of resources has been well conducted that the contributions are remarkable.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risks of waterborne diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water, construction of public latrines, WatSan kits, hygiene kits, disinfection, and WatSan materials for 1,500 families in Niamey and Zinder.

Expected results	Activities planned
Potable water, sanitation and hygiene are provided to 1,500 affected families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with the local authorities, identify suitable sites and support affected communities to construct 20 public latrines; • Assist the beneficiaries with mechanisms for the management of the latrines; • Conduct disinfection of schools and latrines to ensure a healthy environment; • Procure and distribute 90,000 aqua tabs to 1,500 most vulnerable families; • Conduct refresher training and support 120 volunteers on household water treatment products and hygiene promotion; • Procure and distribute 1,500 Hygiene kits to families; • Procure and distribute 1,500 jerry cans to the affected families.

Progress:

A number of 14 school buildings have been identified as suitable transition sites for the affected families. Since October, with the beginning of school year, the NS has been supporting the authorities (in terms of site planning, WatSan and sensitization activities) with the relocation of the displaced people in families or new sites.

A total of 13 water tanks of a capacity of 1,000 litres each have been set-up for 1,500 families. Instead of the 20 small latrines planned (for affected families living in school buildings), two big latrines are under construction in the Neini Goungou Island. The installation of 40 households in the same area has started on 25 October, 2010. The RCSN has been supporting the installation of tents and water facilities. The 100 volunteers who were recycled or trained on distribution and environment hygiene have been leading hygiene sensitizing sessions and the use of water. They were provided with protection material (masks, gloves, boots, and rain coats) and disinfecting products (chlorine, insecticide, duster, soap, and jerry cans) to clean and disinfect schools and latrines. A total of 1,500 hygiene kits were provided to 800 young mothers and pregnant women.

Relief and Logistics

Outcome: Procurement and distribution of relief items to meet the immediate needs of 1,500 displaced beneficiaries in flooded communities and to replenish the stock used to provide initial response.

Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items procured and distributed to assist affected households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print, distribute and use the logistics guidelines, distribution forms/lists; • Refresh 80 volunteers on assessment, distribution, water and sanitation, health and care, and logistics; • Procure and distribute 3,000 blankets, 3,000 mats and 5,250 pieces of soap to 1,500 vulnerable families; • Provision of protective gears for the volunteers (100 rain coats, 100 pairs of boots, 2,000 masks and 250 pairs of gloves); • Deployment of one RDRT member for three months; • Prepare distribution report on the number of families that have received relief support; • Strengthen the surge capacity of Red Cross with regionally deployed resource persons both in Niamey and Dakar Sahel office.
The RCSN is better prepared to respond to the coming floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and prepositioning of 1,500 mosquito nets, 750 blankets and 30 tents already distributed. • Support management of relief stocks in warehouses.

Progress:

The emergency stock of relief items has been replenished with the DREF allocation. Four local committees of the NS received protection gears to help cleaning and disinfecting the displaced camp. As for the procurement of relief items, tender committees have been established to facilitate the tender process. ICRC has been supporting the ensured that logistic for the distribution activities. Eighty (40 in Niamey and 40 in Zinder) volunteers have received refresh training on assessment, distribution, water and sanitation, health and care, and logistics. The training was facilitated by the staff of Red Cross Society of Niger: the Disaster Management Coordinator, as well as the Water and Sanitation coordinator and the person in charge of regional First Aid.

A total of 2,856 pieces of soap, 1,500 mats, and 1,500 buckers were distributed to 1,500 most vulnerable families in Niamey, Zinder, Diffa, and Agadez. Due to the prepositioning of the relief stock, the RCSN is prepared to respond to future disasters through the contingency plan.

Challenges:

The renting of a ten tonne trucks at local level would be an important asset to reinforce the logistics in case of future disasters.

Communications/Reporting and monitoring

Outcome: The National Society to engage in social mobilization to reach populations that are affected by the floods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Populations at risk are sensitized on floods detection, evacuation and risks associated with flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the existing communications tools used in the 2009 flood response, update and make available to the volunteers;• Refresh and support the skills of 120 volunteers on social mobilization in the affected regions;• Conduct media campaigns with the national and local radio networks to promote the work the Red Cross Society of Niger and the International Federation;• Capture the lessons learned from the floods operations.
Regular monitoring, evaluation, reporting of the operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare situational reports for information sharing based on the evolving situation of the floods and when needed prepare an emergency appeal;• Prepare DREF implementation progress reports;• Carry out regular field visits and other monitoring activities and prepare monitoring reports;• Carry out a final evaluation of the activities and prepare the final DREF operations narrative and financial reports by 28 February, 2011.

Challenges:

The monitoring and evaluation mission planned for the end of October in Zinder, Diffa, and Agadez has not yet taken place because of the security situation and lack of flight as travelling by road is not recommended.

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:

- **In Niger;** Red Cross Society of Niger; Aly Bandiaré, President; Niamey; Phone: +227.73.30.31; Fax: +227.73.24.61; Email: crniger@intnet.ne;
- **In IFRC Sahel Regional Representation :** Momodou Lamin Fye, Regional Representative, Dakar, Phone: +221.33.869.3641; Fax: +221.33.820.25.34; Email: momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org;
- **In Africa Zone:** Dr Asha Mohammed, Head of Operations, Johannesburg, Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; Phone: +27.11.303.9700, Fax: + 27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.45.29, Email: christine.south@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges enquiries

- **In Africa Zone:** Ed Cooper; Resource Mobilization and Performance and Accountability Coordinator; Johannesburg; Email ed.cooper@ifrc.org Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting) enquiries

- **In Africa Zone:** Terrie Takavarasha; Performance and Accountability Manager, Johannesburg; Email: terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.413.3061; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)