

# DREF operation

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Niger: Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRNE007  
GLIDE n° OT-2011-000064-NER  
9 June, 2011

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 250,318 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 4,270 families (29,890 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Dirkou, located 550 km south of the border with Libya in northern Niger, has long served as a gateway for young people seeking opportunities in Libya and elsewhere. Their remittances sustain their families in Niger.

Since the beginning of the Libya uprising in February, the number of people (mainly Nigerien returnees) transiting through Dirkou increased from 150 per month to 850 persons *per day* as of 9 May. According to IOM, the number could reach 2,000 persons per day, if the security situation allows civilians who are trapped in the homes to leave the capital, Tripoli.



Nigerien refugees from Libya in Dirkou/Photo RCSN

Movements of Nigerien returnees are also reported elsewhere, and in recent days the situation has deteriorated. Prices of staples including bread have soared. Transportation fares around border communities in Niger have more than tripled, making it difficult for returnees to get back to their home villages.

According to government authorities, NGOs and the Niger Red Cross, the humanitarian situation in the host communities is likely to deteriorate because most families had only the support of their members living in Libya, who are now returning penniless and without their belongings. The Government of Niger has requested for international humanitarian support and assistance to reduce the suffering of these vulnerable population in Niger.

Niger Red Cross volunteers have assessed vulnerability of migrants and their host families, to design a relief operation targeting 4,270 of the most vulnerable families (29,890 beneficiaries). Planned activities include:

**Relief distribution and attendant logistics:** Improve the conditions of returnees/refugees and host

families through distribution of food and non-food items, as well as seeds, livestock and communication support meant to ease the reintegration of returnees into their communities:

**Emergency health, hygiene promotion, water and sanitation:** Prevent outbreak of epidemics and improve access to safe water and better living conditions in the transit camps in Dirkou and Agadez.

- Distribute mosquito bed nets to women with children under 5
- Sensitize communities on preventive measures to avoid water borne diseases, and promote hygiene.
- Distribute condoms.
- Provide clean water and improve sanitation in the transit camps by rehabilitating and cleaning water points, constructing latrines in the camps and providing hygiene kits to target beneficiaries.

**Capacity Building:** Provide refresher training to volunteers.

**Communication and Reporting:** Produce and distribute communication materials to reach target beneficiaries and promote the work of the Red Cross.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by August 2011. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by end November 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected areas>](#)

## The situation

Northern Niger is the gateway for young sub-sahelian people leaving their country to seek better living conditions in the Maghreb and European countries. Crossing the desert, which covers both borders between Libya and Niger, is a big challenge and many migrants die before reaching Libya. Some of those who manage to reach Libya are pushed back to the borders with Niger without their belongings. The northern village of Dirkou is a focal point for such movements. According to IOM and the local branch of the RCSN in Dirkou, since 2009 a monthly average of 150 persons expelled from Libya have been transiting through Dirkou to return home.

Since the uprising in Libya on 16 February, the number of refugees/returnees increased first from 150 per month to more than 400 *per day*. Following the increased fighting in March, the number doubled dramatically to 850 persons per day. According to IOM, the number could reach 2,000 persons per day, if the security situation allows civilians who are trapped in the homes to leave the capital, Tripoli.

Since the outbreak of the crisis in February, 2011 the number of returnees in Dirkou reached 29,844 by April (including 2,365 other nationals) and 66,178 by 9 May, according to IOM and the Niger authorities. A number of 4,150 persons have decided to permanently settle in Dirkou thereby doubling the population of the community.

Movements of Nigerien returnees are reported elsewhere. Some 1,203 migrants (all men) were reported to have arrived in Assamaka north-western Niger on the Algeria side. At the Egypt-Libya border, 100 unregistered Nigerien returnees were identified by the IOM while 3 births including one death among newborns and an injured migrant have also been reported. The Niger Embassy in Tripoli has requested for support to evacuate 4,000 Nigerien migrants trapped in Al Qatrun and 3,000 in Sabha who are waiting to be repatriated to Niger.

In recent days the situation has deteriorated and it is impossible for the affected population to move to various border points from Libya. Prices of staples including bread have soared. In addition, transportation fares around border communities in Niger have also increased. The fare from Madama to Agadez increased from 30,000 CFA (USD 60) to 100,000 CFA (USD 200). Insecurity has increased in areas along the border with Libya as there were reported cases of armed attacks and fatal road accidents.

According to the Niger authorities, NGOs in the field and the Niger Red Cross, the humanitarian situation in the host communities is likely to deteriorate significantly because most families had only the support of their members living in Libya, now returning penniless and without their belongings. The Government of Niger has requested for international humanitarian support and assistance to reduce the suffering of these vulnerable population in Niger.

## Coordination and partnerships

In response to developments, humanitarian actors operating in Niger met together in Niamey to consider the likely scenarios and prepare a contingency plan to respond to a possible mass return of about 100,000 Nigeriens from Libya. The IOM estimated that in the worst case, more than 100,000 persons could cross into Niger from Libya during the month. The most probable scenario estimated 60,000 persons at a rate of 2,000 persons per day crossing the border into Niger. The Nigerien government has decided to establish a "national reception and transit" management committee of the crisis in Niamey. The committee will bring together government and humanitarian stakeholders to coordinate the response activities at the national and local levels. The Federation and the Niger Red Cross have been actively participating in all the coordination meetings in Niamey. The region of Agadez has also established a regional committee composed of 5 sub-committees: (1) Statistics Information Coordination, (2) Housing and Accommodation, (3) Transportation and Return, (4) Security, and (5) Socio-medical Committee. The regional branch of the National Society is a member of the regional committee.

The Partner National Societies (PNSs) operating in Niger are working in close collaboration with the Niger Red Cross to contribute to the disaster response. The ICRC delegation, the French Red Cross and the IFRC country representation in Niger contribute to strengthening the operational capacity of the Agadez branch of the National Society as well as other PNSs (Qatar Red Crescent Society, Irish Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross in Niamey). UNOCHA coordinates UN agencies in Niger (IOM, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FAO) as well as NGOs such as MSF (Switzerland, France), CARE, Qatar Charity, Save the Children, Concern, and HELP. The Niger Red Cross works closely with these institutions and with government. The National Society is a member of the humanitarian platform.

IOM in Dirkou has been taking care of returnees and their return to the country—even to their home regions in Niger—and follows up their situation. The ICRC and the RCSN are assisting the most vulnerable with transportation to their homes. Red Cross volunteers are supporting in the registration, screening and organization of visits to the transit camps in Dirkou and Agadez. WFP has delivered 40 tons of food to Dirkou. UNHCR is supporting the setting up of a 5,000 capacity camp site in Niamey. Plan International has reiterated its intention to intervene in the protection sector or in the field of health. In addition, CRS and the Qatari Red Crescent have promised provision of drinking water, provided they have a clear idea of needs and gaps, in consultation with their headquarters. The ICRC has also promised to rehabilitate seven traditional wells along the Dirkou-Agadez axis while WHO has made a request for condoms from UNFPA.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since beginning of the humanitarian crisis, the Niger Red Cross joined the crisis management committee in Niamey and asked its branches in Agadez and Dirkou to do the same at local level. The Dirkou local branch of the National Society mobilised 80 volunteers to support in rescue and registration of the affected population sheltered in the IOM site. Supported by the ICRC, the RCSN is rehabilitating water facilities in communities along the Libyan borders. Sanitation activities are also ongoing. The National Society is managing as well the transit centre set up by the ICRC in Agadez. Red Cross volunteers are supporting IOM to distribute food to refugees in the transit centre in Dirkou and to more than 4,000 refugees who settled in Dirkou town. IHC in Agadez and Dirkou received some therapeutic food for malnourished children. Protection and visibility materials provided by the International Federation were sent to Zinder and Dirkou for use.

Supported by the IFRC country representation and the Sahel Regional Office, the Niger Red Cross supervises activities at the national level. It participates as well in various coordination meetings, undertakes field missions to monitor the implementation of the programme at regional and local level while the concerned local branches are participating in all coordination meetings and are responsible for the implementation of planned activities. Some 150 volunteers have been mobilised in Dirkou, Agadez town, Bilma, Arlit, Tahoua, Niamey and Dosso for 3 months. A national coordinator and 4 regional supervisors will be supporting the implementation of planned activities.

## The needs

The Niger Red Cross volunteers have carried out data collection (assessment) on the vulnerability of migrants, as well as the risks to their host families, who are now more vulnerable without the remittances from migrant workers, who provided more than 80% of the families' incomes. In response the National Society has designed a relief operation that includes the following activities:

- **Relief distributions and attendant logistics:** Improve the living conditions of the returnees/refugees and their families through the distribution of food and non-food items, including support meant to ease the reintegration of returnees into their communities:
  - Communication for behavioural change
  - Seeds or livestock
  - IEC materials on migration, peace, tolerance and non-violence as well as gender equity as part of humanitarian diplomacy.
- **Emergency health, hygiene promotion, water and sanitation:** Prevent outbreak of epidemics and improve access to safe water and better living conditions in the transit camps.
  - Distribute mosquito bed nets to women with children under 5
  - Sensitize communities on preventive measures to avoid water borne diseases, and promote hygiene.
  - Distribution of condoms.
  - Provide clean water and improve sanitation in the transit camps by rehabilitating and cleaning water points, constructing latrines in the camps (Dirkou & Agadez) and providing hygiene kits to target beneficiaries.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide refresher training to volunteers, including on assessment, distribution, water and sanitation, health and care, and logistics.
- **Communication and Reporting:** Print and distribute IEC materials to reach target beneficiaries and promote the work of the Red Cross. The National Society will ensure quality and timely monitoring and reporting.

**Beneficiaries:** All refugees transiting through Zinder and Dirkou camps and considering the situation at hand and the commitment of the others institutions, the National Society will target the most vulnerable 4,270 families (some 29,890 persons) in Tahoua, Dirkou, Agadez and Dosso. The selection criteria include families whose members returned from Libya with virtually no means to support them, refugees with children under 5 and pregnant refugees/returnee women. Some 90% of persons transiting in Dirkou or Agadez transit camp are included among beneficiaries. Some families will benefit from food, NFI and seed or livestock and should not be counted twice.

## The proposed operation

The Red Cross Society of Niger, with support from operational partners, targets 29,890 beneficiaries in Dirkou, Agadez and their home villages, where it is already providing response to the existing food insecurity crisis.

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Outcome1: Contribute to improving the living conditions of 4,270 most vulnerable families in Dirkou, Agadez, Tahoua, Dosso, Niamey and Zinder.</b>	
<b>Expected results:</b>	<b>Activities planned:</b>
<p>A total of 5,000 persons in the transit camps in Agadez and Dirkou have received a food parcel.</p> <p>The most vulnerable returnee families have improved their livelihood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support IOM to distribute food to some 5,000 persons transiting in Dirkou and Agadez camps.</li> <li>• Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with WFP to get food for 2,000 families in their homes, towns and villages.</li> <li>• Distribute 1,000 mats and 1,000 mosquito nets to the 2,000 most vulnerable identified families.</li> <li>• Procure and distribute seeds or livestock and agricultural tools to 2,000 farmer households.</li> <li>• Distribute cash to 300 most vulnerable returnees households without farmed plots</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the distribution activities.</li> <li>• Provide timely and accurate reports on distribution.</li> </ul>

<b>Emergency Health</b>	
<b>Outcome: Contribute to preventing the outbreak of epidemics and spread of STD/AIDS in the transit camps.</b>	
<b>Expected results:</b>	<b>Activities planned:</b>
5,000 persons in transit camps are sensitized on proper use of latrines, personal hygiene and STD/HIV/AIDS preventive measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide first-aid services and psychological support in close collaboration with the health authorities.</li> <li>• Distribute and promote the use of condoms in Dirkou and Agadez transit camps.</li> <li>• Sensitize the affected population on STD/HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Distribute hygiene kits to 200 pregnant women and young mothers in transit camps.</li> <li>• Conduct refresher training for 150 Red Cross volunteers, including on water borne diseases and STD/HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Conduct sensitization on health preventive measures to avoid outbreak of water borne diseases and ensure hygiene promotion.</li> </ul>

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Outcome: Contribute to improving access to potable water and better and safe living conditions in the transit camps.</b>	
<b>Expected results:</b>	<b>Activities planned:</b>
People transiting in Dirkou and Agadez have access to clean water and live in a clean environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct 6 additional latrines in the transit camps.</li> <li>Manage and ensure safety in the transit camp in Agadez.</li> <li>Clean and disinfect water points and wells along the road in Agadez and in 20 villages in Tahoua region.</li> <li>Produce and distribute IEC materials for the promotion of practices.</li> </ul>

<b>Monitoring, coordination and communication</b>	
<b>Outcome: Support the National Society to strengthen its capacity in reporting.</b>	
<b>Expected results:</b>	<b>Activities planned:</b>
Regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the operation are ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Society will receive HR support (PMER, finance and logistics) from the Sahel Regional Office</li> <li>• The IFRC country representation, with the support of an RDRT will assist the RCSN in the implementation of the activities.</li> <li>• Provide one 4x4 vehicle and a truck for the operation in the field.</li> <li>• Conduct media campaigns with the national and local radio networks to promote the work of the RCSN and the International Federation.</li> <li>• Monitor activities in the field and support the National Society in finalising the financial and narrative reports.</li> <li>• Conduct refresher training for the National Society, local branches in monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</li> <li>• Participate in coordination meetings at national, regional and local levels.</li> <li>• Evaluate impacts and share lessons learned.</li> </ul>

## 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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**[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials	2,000	2,000
Clothing & Textiles	8,500	8,500
Food	10,000	10,000
Seeds & Plants	30,000	30,000
Water & Sanitation	20,882	20,882
Medical & First Aid	4,500	4,500
Teaching Materials	6,143	6,143
Utensils & Tools	17,064	17,064
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	70,000	70,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>169,088</b>	<b>169,088</b>
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,400	7,400
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>7,400</b>
International Staff	0	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,200	12,200
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	26,450	26,450
Other Staff benefits	0	0
Consultants	0	0
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>38,650</b>	<b>38,650</b>
Workshops & Training	1,752	1,752
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,752</b>
Travel	7,600	7,600
Information & Public Relation	3,250	3,250
Office Costs	4,500	4,500
Communications	1,200	1,200
Professional Fees	0	0
Financial Charges	1,600	1,600
Other General Expenses	0	0
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>18,150</b>	<b>18,150</b>
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	15,278	15,278
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>15,278</b>	<b>15,278</b>
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>250,318</b>	<b>250,318</b>



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