

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

## NIGER

15 December 2004

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### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.37/2004; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: May to November 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 50.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 151,794 (USD 134,100 or EUR 98,400).**

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

**Appeal target: CHF 308,153 (USD 231,433 or EUR 198,360).**

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Niger 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA031 – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA031.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA031.pdf)

#### Programme summary:

The Red Cross Society of Niger<sup>1</sup> experienced a fruitful 2004 with increased capacity building, implementation of its 2005-2008 Strategic Plan and improved programmes delivery. These, coupled with the comprehensive management and financial audit for its 2003/2004 accounts, provided better management and financial transparency, which are essential steps for a national society eager to increase partnerships and reinforce its activities' momentum.

The national society has also developed national workshops addressing contingency plans accompanied by simulation exercises, with Federation support. Within its health care framework, anti-polio and cholera vaccination campaigns were successfully carried out. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) approved funding for an integrated campaign against the spread of malaria and measles. However, due to the unavailability of impregnated mosquito nets this year, distribution is now planned for 2005 and will be integrated into an anti-polio vaccination campaign.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed log frame documents).

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

<sup>1</sup> Red Cross Society of Niger – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=127>

## **Context and Operational Developments**

The cholera epidemics have been a recurrent problem in villages along the Niger River, flaring up every rainy season for the past 30 years. This has been aggravated by the inaccessibility to potable water in many rural communities. Consequently, the National System of Health Information (SNIS)'s head revealed that 1,426 cases of cholera had been recorded between 3 May and 15 August—the last date for which figures were available—and that the disease threatened to spread to Niamey,<sup>2</sup> the capital. In addition, 84 per cent of the reported cholera cases so far, originated in villages situated east of the Niger River, near Tillabery, 110 km northwest of Niamey. Most of the remaining cases were in the Tera district, opposite Tillabery on the Niger's the west bank, and in Kollo district, close to Niamey.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) in round 4 approved funding on the Federation's proposal for an integrated malaria and measles campaign. However, unavailability of ITNs for this year has hindered this operation. Thus, the mosquito nets distribution is scheduled to take place in 2005 and will be integrated with a polio vaccination campaign.

The locust swarms which swept into Niger in August and September have decreased in recent weeks in the Sahel region, moving north towards the Mediterranean coast. Arable land in the far southwest of the mainly desert country have not been seriously affected.<sup>3</sup> The FAO having the requisite expertise and organizational structures in place took the lead role in fighting the locust invasion by spraying pesticides from aircrafts. Ground teams sent to track locust swarms were deployed to spray insecticide along a line from Tillabery to Diffa province on the eastern border with Chad, covering over 100km.

In October, the FAO and the Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) carried out a nine-nation assessment mission to evaluate the impact of the locust invasion while the WFP collaborated in the five most affected countries. The synthesis report is expected to be published. Preliminary findings of the joint Mission revealed that with the exception of Mauritania, regional cereal production in the Sahel will not be affected in a major way this year. Even so, many rural communities suffer from severe localized damage to crops, pasture and vegetables.

The Regional Office has initiated a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) process with the Red Cross of Niger and activities conducted the last four years have been assessed. In addition, the 2005-2008 Strategic Plan was developed and projects designed for the various PNS. As part of the professionalization process, the national society has recruited an Executive Secretary with the Capacity Building Fund. Continuous efforts have also been made to strengthen the finance department through staff training in new management systems, auditing of the 2003/2004's accounts and organizing missions to benefit from financial competencies of the Regional Office's financial manager.

In addition, the Red Cross of Niger led its second contingency plan workshop during municipal elections taking place on 24 July 2004 within the National Committee. This workshop regrouped the regions of Agadez, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Dosso and Tillabery.

The Spanish RC- supported Dalle SanPlat programme organized in Niamey's three communes, was completed and this strengthened the national society's institutional development. Today, the same type of Dalle SanPlat project has been set up in Maradi and seems to show better success midway through its implementation. The Spanish Red Cross continues to provide its institutional support through buildings rehabilitation, equipment, and salary coverage, amongst others. It also develops its activities around three constituents: human rights, reconciliation/peace culture promotion; the promotion of children and women's rights as well as care for street children.

The French Red Cross is refocusing itself in the health sector with the Niamey's Ambulatory Treatment Centre, operating since January 2004, and with the psycho-social treatment of PLWHA, in operation since the second trimester in 2004. A project providing access to generic medicines is under consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> UN OCHA Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) August 2004

<sup>3</sup> IRIN September 2004

## Health and care

**Goal: To contribute to the reduction of infant and childhood preventable diseases and the HIV/AIDS spread in Niger.**

**Objective: The reduction of HIV/AIDS spread as well as mortality linked to infant/childhood preventable diseases in targeted zones strengthen the national society's social mobilization, IEC<sup>4</sup> and advocacy activities at the community level.**

In August, the Red Cross of Niger with OD and Health representatives' assistance carried out the 2005-2008 Strategic Plan development followed by project-planning matrices development, particularly in Health. This planning session revealed several priorities in Health: vaccination preventable diseases, diarrhea, malnutrition, epidemics, acute respiratory disease, malaria and HIV/AIDS have been targeted. These different projects have been presented to the partners during the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan African Conference in Algiers, 8-13 September 2004. A workshop to validate the Strategic Plan and draft new programmes is scheduled 15-16 December 2004.

### Progress/Achievements:

**1. Increased vaccination coverage of children in urban communities of Niamey and the border zones of Tillabery and Dosso, through door-to-door social mobilization.**

- ÿ Mothers and caretakers are sensitized on the need to vaccinate their children.
- ÿ The vaccination coverage in inaccessible areas is increased.
- ÿ The Red Cross of Niger actively participates in National Immunization and Mop-Up days.

The first and second phase of the anti-polio vaccination campaign was organized 8-12 October 2004 and 18-22 November 2004 respectively. With Federation's support, the Red Cross of Niger was actively involved in Maradi, Zinder, Dosso, and Tahoua. During this program, the national society vaccinated all children between 0-5 years. A total of 572 volunteers under the supervision of 30 supervisors carried out "door-to-door" child vaccination sensitization to parents. These volunteers returned to 18 Integrated Health Centers in 10 health districts. The results of this vaccination campaign will be reported in the next program update.

**2. Reinforced operational capacity of the local committees in social mobilization and health promotion.**

The Federation-funded cholera sensitization campaign (8-22 June 2004) was successfully organized with the Niamey urban community support. In addition to the planned activities, Red Cross volunteers installed two supplementary tents and built two sheds for the campaign. The coverage included the following: sensitization programs (6 village chiefs and 5 608 people); home visitations (1,148 families in 9 villages); volunteer training (20 volunteers); wells (9) and ponds (11) treatment. In all, the volunteers registered 14 cases of cholera and one death.

**Table 1: Number of families visited and the number of people sensitized.**

Locality	Number of Families visited	Number of people sensitized		
		Men	Women	Total
Banigoungou	193	311	684	995
Tonko Bangou	234	388	851	1239
Kindifarou	100	235	339	574
Koulouk	20	18	79	97
Houheinsa	66	86	197	283
Gueriguindé	56	90	174	264
Sikiré	32	30	133	163
Saga	375	537	1180	1717
Tarwo	72	84	192	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>5,608</b>

In August 2004, a new wave of the cholera epidemic devastated the Tillabery region and its environs affecting all the villages along the river in Tillabery, Terra and Kollo the districts.

<sup>4</sup> IEC – Information, Education and Communication

**Table 2: Epidemiological situation from May to 22 August 2004**

Health District	Cases	Deaths
Tillabery	130	25
Tera	186	7
Kollo	76	0
Total	392	32

**Epidemiological situation in the Niamey Urban Community**

The Niamey urban community registered its first cholera case 18 May 2004. So far, 14 cases, including one death, have been registered. After almost two months (17 June-19 August 2004) during which no cases were registered, another case was reported in Niamey on 20 August 2004. A total of three new cases have been registered. Niamey's location near the river in the heart of the Tillabery region has not boosted commercial trade, but made it susceptible to the cholera epidemic. This requires a reinforced epidemiological surveillance. Consequently, a Federation-supported action plan has been put in place to support the following activities:

- Promotion of a Health Day sanctioned by the Lazaret rural hospital, addressing the sanitary needs of those living amid precarious health and hygienic conditions outside Niamey. Here, limited tent capacity, poor waste management and inadequate latrines, increase the population's vulnerability. Sixty volunteers are devoted to courtyard, latrine and shower cleanup, to improve hospitalization conditions and upgrade the quality of health care.
- Mobilization of the first-aid workers' network to sensitize and enlighten populations about the epidemic's symptoms, preventive measures and risks as well as about hygiene and good health practices in isolated areas.
- Organization of patient reception to increase the health center's capacity to receive sick individuals through supplementary sheds construction in Niamey.

**3. The Red Cross of Niger contributes to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and STI among youth in schools and commercial sex workers in three regions (Tahoua, Niamey, and Agadez).**

- Improved knowledge about HIV/AIDS/STI and behavior change among the target population.
- Strengthened capacity at the local committee level to conduct HIV/AIDS/STI sensitization and awareness activities in the target regions.

No HIV/AIDS activities undertaken during the period due to limited funding.

**Impact:**

- Red Cross of Niger's contribution to the fight against cholera has increased its visibility and credibility among partners. This activity has further highlighted the need for potable water, water treatment resources and improved latrine conditions in visited communities.
- The volunteers effectively transmitted the health message.
- The populations understood the message very well.

**Constraints:**

- The nomadic tendency of the population increases inaccessibility and distances for volunteers to cover on foot.
- Unavailability of funds for the HIV/AIDS programme.

## **Disaster Management**

**Goal:** The Federation's "Characteristics of a Well-Prepared National Society" has become a reference-working document for Disaster Preparedness and Response of different national societies.

**Objective:** The national society's branches and headquarters are able to evaluate needs and respond effectively to emergency situations.

### **Progress/Achievements:**

- **Technical support is provided to the Red Cross of Niger to update and improve its disaster response capacities.**

Following the 1999 national elections, the Red Cross of Niger organized its first contingency plan workshop with the Ministries of Interior, Public Health, Defense, and Social Development. This workshop identified, among other things, the weak coordination between the various participants. Consequently, the national society with Federation support organized two series of workshops, in the capital and the regions, to strengthen existing capacity and partner coordination.

- **A contingency plan is developed and tested.**

The national society organized a national DR workshop from 14-17 July in Niamey to enhance response to eventual problems during the municipal elections. This workshop aimed at improving partner coordination attracted members of the National Committee on disaster preparedness, Civil Protection and Defense Ministries' representatives, the police/fire department, health services. Through the workshop, the national society set up a disaster response/intervention plan within the Niamey region. In addition, it developed a crisis plan during a second workshop.

- **National-level training is conducted.**

The national society organized an international humanitarian law (IHL) workshop for various corps (gendarmerie, army, police, and republican guard). The workshop's objectives include: reorganization and retraining of the brigades at Niamey's Urban Community level; sensitization of the participating partners in risk management; to collaboration reinforcement, diffusion of IHL with the ICRC and cooperative relationships with the government, UN and other institutions. The training session highlighted the issue of inadequate emergency intervention resources as well as insufficient communication and logistics resources.

- **Eight disaster response teams (one in Niamey and seven in the regions) are trained using simulation exercises.**

A simulation exercise, organized during the July workshop in the capital, included 344 actors, comprising members of the firefighters unit, the police force, the National Gendarmerie, the National Intervention and Security Forces (FNIS), staff from the national hospital and Red Cross volunteers. After the exercise, participants met again to discuss the strengths and weaknesses revealed during the workshop such as: the lack of communication between the different sectors, essential to effective delivery of emergency services; outdated logistics; and the imperfections related to the organization.

The National Committee sensitized the branches about the regional workshops reaching section members and some authorities. In addition, the Red Cross intervention brigades provided review sessions before the workshops on the contingency plan organized in the following regions: Agadez, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Dosso and Tillabery during the periods of 1-18 August 2004 and 7-8 October 2004.

During each regional workshop, participants were trained in the Red Cross movement; the types of disasters; the project's sphere; the Red Cross of Niger plan for disasters preparedness; the set up of the early alert system.

### **Impact:**

- More than 500 sensitized people from the different bodies are ready to collaborate while the regional committees created agreed to meet monthly.
- The simulation exercises had press coverage, allowing mass public participation.
- The Civil Protection department of the Interior Ministry is aware of the need to equip three regions with fire-fighters where they had been non-existent. In the four regions with functional fire departments, they would give first aid courses to the Civil Society.

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- The Red Cross first aid brigades have been sensitized and ready to act.
- A positive partnership exists with the sensitized authorities, who have encouraged the continuation of this initiative with a national disaster preparation plan.

### **Constraints:**

- Inadequate emergency interventions such as the lack of firefighters in certain zones
- Difficulty in connecting with emergency lines 17 and 18, corresponding to the fire and police departments and the lack of free connections when using these numbers.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: To decrease the Niger population's vulnerability through improved Red Cross service delivery.**

**Objective: The national society has completed a comprehensive Strategic Development Plan, which will allow it to progressively increase its programme and financial capacity to better meet the needs of the vulnerable.**

### **Progress/achievements:**

**Led by a paid executive director, the Red Cross of Niger has completed the Co-operation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process.**

- **Development of a three to five-year Strategic Development Plan (based on national society capacity assessment) in co-ordination with other stakeholders.**

The national society agreed to commence working with the strategic planning process framework it received together with the terms of reference for an evaluation of the last four years' activities, on the resumption of its first Executive Director. The sub-regional office provided support in developing the job description and identifying one year's financial support for the position to enhance the national society's "professionalization" process. The Red Cross of Niger; recruited Executive Secretary participated in the planning workshops held in August with the Regional Office support. The national society has its 2005-2008 Strategic Plan with project-planning matrices in Health, Disaster Preparedness/Food Security, Conflict Preparedness and Organizational Development. These project-planning matrices paved the way for 2005 Federation Appeal and will also be used, with Federation technical support if requested, for the purpose of future projects developed with other donors.

- **The Red Cross of Niger convenes a partners meeting to formally present and confirm the Co-operation Agreement Strategy (CAS).**

In the spirit of the CAS process, liaisons are maintained with the ICRC, French Red Cross representatives and the Abidjan-based Spanish Red Cross regional representative. Efforts will be made to identify other potential partners interested in the national society. A workshop to validate the Strategic Plan has been organized for December with the national society's partner institutions and organizations; a partnership meeting is planned in February 2005.

- **The Red Cross of Niger continues to benefit from professional accounting and budgeting systems at headquarters level.**

While the national society demonstrates sustained interest and active engagement in fulfilling this objective, it has also expressed concerns about getting maximum benefit from the best use of provided tools. This creates constraints and additional costs such as expenses incurred from local technical assistance and raises questions of the national society's capacity to strengthen its new management systems through the use of its new equipment. However, there exists a positive working relationship between the accountant and the local supplier of SAGE software package. A first assessment of the initial six months' use of the tool was drawn up. The decision to renew the support contract for SAGE software gave the Red Cross of Niger free access to the new versions of Compta 100. The national society's management needs will thus be improved with further access to newer versions of the accounting software. The new contract will be signed and run from November 2004 to November 2005.

- **The Red Cross of Niger undergoes external audits of its accounts, which will improve its resource management, identify its weaknesses and address them.**

Since most of Niamey's reliable accounting firms have been hired out by other institutions, there is a need to strengthen the NRC accountant's skills to prepare the accounts for auditing.

- **Finance personnel continue to re-enforce their capacities through training.**

Training sessions for the proper use of SAGE were also organized to assure a complete appropriation of SAGE within Red Cross of Niger' financial services office. They addressed the questions of registering information in the correct account rubrics, account reconciliation, journal audits and the financial analysis of the situation. Additionally, the Dakar Regional Office finance manager initiated missions in Niamey to improve the quality of the national society financial reports in line with the Federation's standards and procedures. These missions also served to foster the transition from a system of working advances to one of cash transfers.

- **The Red Cross of Niger co-ordinates resource generation activities in line with the National Resource Development Committee plan.**

Implementation of a strategic plan will allow the national society to release the following assessment.<sup>5</sup> The mobilization of financial resources is a high priority for the Red Cross of Niger, which is conscious of the necessity to cover functioning costs with proper funds. The national society however faces certain problems such as: the low level of contributions; insufficient subsidies from the region and private sector; insufficient promotion of first-aid training within businesses and weak management of income-generating activities (IGA).

Consequently, directions to be translated into an operational action plan by a finance and resource development office have been outlined. The national society's current pressing challenge is to strengthen its human resources, targeting appropriate expertise devoted to resource mobilization. It was decided to fund a position for one year, which is renewable according to standard criteria: compliance with accepted results and research, in terms of self-financing this position through accumulated revenues. The recruitment process is in its final stages to be effective at the end of the year.

The recruitment of an Executive Secretary has allowed sections to be sensitized progressively on the transfer of management responsibilities to executive staff members. The sections are currently administered by the elected committee members in the absence of permanent Secretaries. The majority of IGA are managed either by the general treasury or project coordinators with an elected mandate within the section. The programme officer for resource development accompanied Board members during the annual July tour which enhanced the evaluation of the situation of the IGAs in terms of management and was preliminary to the distribution of a manual of administrative and accounting procedures. This document is expected to support the separation between governance and management and serve as a precise, uniform and formalized frame of reference for IGA.

- **The Red Cross of Niger develops and strengthens its image and has an effective public relations and marketing strategy.**

This activity is pending to the recruitment of a resource mobilization officer.

- **The Red Cross of Niger diversifies its revenue sources as part of achieving greater financial independence.**

This activity is pending to the recruitment of a resource mobilization officer.

**Impact:**

- The strategic planning process needed a close co-operation with the newly recruited management staff and the participation of different partners. This enabled the national society to better understand its mission with regard to the Movement's recent policies and a possible way to accomplish it with a little more effectiveness. The role of the Federation in the national societies' development seems to be better understood.
- The national society now has a better-coordinated development plan and is on its way to having a better long-term project-planning tradition based on the Project Planning Process (PPP) now being disseminated within the Federation. However, the process will truly have an impact only after a few years and with Federation assistance.

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<sup>5</sup> Strategic Plan 2005-2008 for the Red Cross of Niger

## **Niger; Appeal no. 01.37/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

- The Red Cross of Niger is progressively decentralizing its systems of separation between governance and management.
- Financial services are becoming more professional, and the quality of the financial reports is improving sharply and the upcoming account audit allows structuring the accounts in line with standards, which also raises the national society's financial management profile.
- The recruitment of a resource mobilization officer will enhance visibility and make it possible for the national society to engage in new partnerships.

### **Constraints:**

- Weak partnership coordination.
- The lack of a Disaster Management Officer imposed a rather heavy workload on the Regional Office. Now that most of the National Societies of the Sahel sub-region have their Disaster Preparedness programmes, there is need to recruit a Disaster Preparedness Officer to support their implementation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 01.37/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/01/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				308,153		50.7%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				36,234		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				30,000	29.01.04	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				40,000	29.01.04	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				32,203	29.01.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				17,922	13.09.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				156,359	CHF	50.7%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	