

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

1 June 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA031; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January to May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 56.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 133,536 (USD 107,197 or EUR 86,487).

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

Appeal target: CHF 305, 229 (USD 245,027 or EUR 197,687)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme summary: The Federation supported the Red Cross Society of Niger¹ in developing its organizational and finance development, social mobilization campaigns, HIV/AIDS programmes and emergency relief for combating epidemics and floods. The support also involves expanding the Red Cross Society of Niger's health programmes, enhancing risk assessment and analysis skills as well as disaster response capacity. The Red Cross Society of Niger and the Federation are thus seeking support from identified partners to develop the national society's strategic plan and associated projects aimed at scaling up the health/HIV programming and disaster preparedness/response plans.

Similarly, to promote IHL dissemination, conduct programmes with political detainees and liaise with the justice ministry, the ICRC engaged a full time legal advisor based within the national society's compound since 2004. It has also assisted in the training of emergency relief team members.

The Spanish Red Cross bilateral office based in Niger most recently provided funding for drought relief and food security. The French Red Cross shifted its emphasis from income generating projects (IGP) for women, school water/sanitation projects (in collaboration with UNICEF) and branch level financial management capacity-building, to HIV/AIDS programming linked to the new walk-in clinic it launched in 2004 with the ministry of health.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 logframe 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.

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

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>

Operational developments

Niger's frequent food shortages, drought and flooding, has made it one of the most vulnerable countries in the sub-region. It is also part of the meningitis belt and one of the last countries with the wild polio virus- a threat which continued to menace Niger even in 2004, despite three years of vaccination campaigns. According to the UNAIDS, Niger's adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is low - 1.2%. Many of the reported cases are migrant workers from neighboring countries with a higher prevalence rate. Côte d'Ivoire's conflict further increased the risk of the disease spread with the inflated number of returnee migrant workers.

In spite of close ties with the government particularly with the ministry of health which has seconded staff for Red Cross activities, the Red Cross Society of Niger remains autonomous. Similarly, in collaboration with the UNHCR, the Red Cross Society of Niger maintains projects for refugees from Chad and Mali, and with UNICEF, projects on street children. The national society has also been active in flood relief, drought operations and emergency vaccination campaigns against meningitis, in spite of an absence of a formal disaster unit and personnel for this purpose.

Beyond the vaccination campaigns, the Red Cross Society of Niger's health activities include HIV/AIDS training targeted at youth in schools and commercial sex workers; first aid and community health projects. It has actively paired with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) for public advocacy and as part of its health programme training methodology. In addition, it runs many successful social welfare activities including kindergartens, primary schools and IGPs for women. It possesses several branches running relevant and successful programmes to improve community health and well-being, although many branches are weak and suffer from inadequate guidance and stimulation due to distance from the headquarters.

To assist the national society in developing its capacity building skills and attract partners, the Federation identified support which enhanced the Red Cross Society of Niger's engagement of its first executive secretary. This is part of the process of helping to "professionalize" the national society's staffing and programming into a more coherent and sustainable whole. The regional office also provided needed assistance in the Red Cross Society of Niger's previous development plan review. In addition, the regional finance and resource development program will continue to support the Red Cross Society of Niger in its active engagement for finance development to meet the challenges of a sustainable use and exploitation of the new tools and procedures now in place.

Health and Care

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

Objective 1: Community mobilization is sufficiently reinforced to bring about a change of behaviour favourable to the vaccination of children aged 0-11 months, as well as pregnant women.

Objective 2: The propagation of the HIV/AIDS/STI in the regions of Maradi, Tahoua, Agadez and Dosso is reduced.

Achievements

- Supported national immunization days (NID) against polio through social mobilization.
- Applied for and received 200,000 meningitis vaccines (Federation-funded) to complement its social mobilization participation in the health ministry's vaccination campaign.
- Continued community sensitization programme (PEV) to improve basic vaccination coverage for infants and children in hard to reach areas.

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- Maintained collaboration with partners in immunization campaigns as a member of the interagency co-ordination committee (ICC).
- Strengthened social mobilization at the local committee level.
- Participated in the last polio social mobilization campaigns with other ICC members like WHO and UNICEF.
- Organized an innovative and successful HIV/AIDS programme with sex workers and youths.
- Promoted public advocacy against stigmatization of PLWHA and sex workers
- Reinforced human resources in health to meet programming expectations and active participation in national forums.
- Strengthened volunteer management capacity at the community level to increase vaccination coverage.
- Improved communication at all levels.
- Reinforced transport and travel means to meet the challenges of country's vastness.

Impact

- Enhanced public image through the vaccination and HIV/AIDS projects which form part of a comprehensive health programme enhances the national society's image.
- Expanded community health programme improves the population's health.

Constraints

- Inaccessibility to health centres and services result in second highest infant mortality rate in the world.
- Low vaccination coverage in some areas owed to vastness and nomadic movement.
- Presence of endemic and epidemic illnesses as well as wild polio virus strain.
- Rapid spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the reproductive age group.
- Social-cultural factors favouring HIV/AIDS/STI propagation (multiple partners, prostitution, religious taboos).

Disaster Management

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Niger reinforces its prevention and preparedness capacities at national and regional levels.

Objective: The impact of floods is mitigated in Niamey and the Dosso region.

Achievements

- Improved capacity to analyze, plan for disasters and coordinate with other intervening parties including those affected.
- Organized contingency planning simulation training at national level which proved to be useful in responding to events linked to presidential, municipal and legislative elections.
- Improved disaster response capacity by participating in the Federation's regional disaster response team (RDRT) training.
- Improved strategic planning through its risk reduction program enhances the Red Cross Society of Niger's food security plan as well as preparedness for floods, drought and fires.

Impact

- Reduced effects of natural disasters on the vulnerable owed to improvement in the national society's disaster preparedness training.

Constraints

- Inadequate personnel and structured unit for maximum impact on mitigating the effects of the various natural and man-made emergencies such as famine, floods and civil unrest.
- Lack of communications means within two branches (which has since been rectified).
- Weakness in branch level planning and lack of hands-on simulation training opportunities.

Organizational Development

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Niger through improved health and disaster management service delivery by the Red Cross Society of Niger.

Objective 1: The programme management capacities of the Red Cross Society of Niger are re-enforced.

Objective 2: The financial management and resource development capacities of the Red Cross Society of Niger at both headquarters and regional branch levels are strengthened

Achievements

- Initiated a process which involved the separation of governance and management.
- Recruited the first ever professional manager with Federation support.
- Developed a three-year strategic plan (2005-2008) with the Federation's technical and financial support. The plan is based on the Federation Strategy 2010, ARCHI 2010, and the priorities outlined in the Ouagadougou Declaration, namely community based health, HIV/AIDS and disaster response and prevention.

Impact

- Improved governance and management capacity.

Constraint

- Absence of funding hindered implementation of all activities from January to April 2005 and postponed the achievement of most of the Red Cross Society of Niger's main programs.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA031

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				305,229		56.3%
OPENING BALANCE				60,534		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				62,852	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
IRISH - GOVT		5,199	EUR	8,051	04.02.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
IRISH - GOVT		25,997	EUR	40,256	04.02.05	HEALTH
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				171,693	CHF	56.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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	