

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

23 December 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. 2; Period covered: June to October 2005; Appeal coverage: 56.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 133,536 (USD 101,780 or EUR 86,291).

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

Appeal target: CHF 305,229 (USD 232,644 or EUR 197,438)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals :N/A

Programme summary: The Federation supports the Red Cross Society of Niger in organizational and financial 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 skills analysis, as well as disaster response capacity. The national society 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 International Humanitarian Law (IHL), conduct programmes with political detainees and liaise with the Ministry of Justice, the ICRC recruited a full time legal advisor based within the national society's compound since 2004. The ICRC 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 (MoH).

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.

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

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

Beyond the vaccination campaigns, the Red Cross Society of Niger¹ health activities include HIV/AIDS training targeted at in school youth and commercial sex workers; first aid and community health projects. The national society has actively paired with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) for public advocacy and as part of its health programme training methodology. It also runs many successful social welfare activities including kindergartens, primary schools and IGPs for women. The national society 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 the distance from the headquarters.

During the reporting period the Federation also assisted the national society to recruit its executive Secretary. The regional office also provided support to the national society in the review of its previous development plan. The regional finance and resource development programme will continue to support the national society 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 behavior favorable to the vaccination of children aged 0-11 months, as well as pregnant women.

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

Progress/Achievements:

- Support to the National Immunization Days (NIDs) against polio through social mobilization, and participation in these NIDs (February/March and October 2005) with different partners.
- Ongoing community sensitization activities to support a national routine vaccination programme (known as PEV-Programme élargi de vaccination) to improve basic vaccination coverage for infants and children in remote areas.
- The national society took part in the door-to-door vaccination campaign through social mobilization/mass-sensitization. The Red Cross volunteers were part of the vaccination teams with MoH's staff. 600 volunteers and 30 supervisors were deployed by the national society.
- Eighteen (18) integrated health centers benefited from the Red Cross support. Approximately, 250,000 children under five received the oral polio vaccine (VPO) twice. The activities have been monitored with the support of the regional delegation's health officer and the national society's health coordinator.

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

- An integrated Malaria/Polio programme campaign is being implemented. The objective of this programme is to prevent child death and illness from malaria and poliomyelitis in Niger through distribution of ITNs (Insecticides Treated Bed Nets) to all children under five, participating in forthcoming campaign that will be carried out in Niger in December 2005.
- The expected result is to cover more than 90% of children under 5 for ITNs coverage, polio immunization, Vitamin A distribution and preventing 69,743 child deaths malaria over three years.

Activities:

- Procurement, shipment and timely delivery of polio vaccine, ITNs, Mebendazole, joint district micro-planning with EPI (Expanded Programme Immunization), community mobilization before, during and after the integrated health intervention, monitoring and evaluation, accounting, reporting have been undertaken.
- The target group includes 2,075,690 children under five in Niger, indirectly benefiting high-risk group (more than 1,000,000 pregnant women over the following three years of joint ITN use with children under five). The Federation as a primary recipient supported the national society in its role of sub-recipient to implement all the social mobilization activities by using more than 2,000 volunteers. The Dakar regional delegation through its regional health officer and its financial department assisted the national society to set up the programme. The project has been co-funded by GFATM (USD 11,257,988) and the measles partnership (USD 4,201,381). With this project, the biggest one in the Africa region, an effective cooperation between the national society and the MoH is being developed.

Achievements:

- Collaboration with different partners in immunization campaigns as a member of the Interagency Coordination Committee (ICC).
- Strengthening social mobilization at local committee level.
- Participation in the last polio social mobilization campaigns with other ICC members such as WHO and UNICEF.
- Organization of an innovative and successful HIV/AIDS programme with sex workers and youths.
- Promoted public advocacy against stigmatization of PLWHA and sex workers.
- Reinforcement of human resources in the health department to meet programming expectations and active participation in national forums.
- Strengthening volunteer management capacity at community level to increase vaccination coverage.
- Communication improvement at all levels.
- Reinforcement of transportation and travel means to meet the challenges of country's vastness.

Impact:

- Enhanced public image through vaccination and HIV/AIDS projects which are part of a comprehensive health programme intended to boost the national society's image.
- Expanded community health programme to improve population's health.

Constraints:

- Inaccessibility to health centres and services ranks Niger the second country with highest infant mortality rate in the world.
- Low vaccination coverage in some areas because of vastness and nomadic life-style.
- Presence of endemic and epidemic illnesses as well as wild polio virus strain.
- Rapid spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the reproductive age group.
- Socio-cultural factors favoring 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 partners including affected population.
- Organized contingency planning and simulation training at national level which proved to be useful to respond to events related to presidential, municipal and legislative elections.
- Improved disaster response capacity by participating in the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training. Strategic planning, through the risk reduction programme, has improved and has enhanced the national society's food security plan as well as preparedness for floods, drought and fires.

Impact:

- Reduced effects of natural disasters on vulnerable populations because of the improvement in National Society's disaster preparedness training.

Constraints:

- Inadequate personnel and lack of 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 the 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 reinforced.

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:

- The process aiming at the separation of governance and management initiated in 2003 continues while the first ever professional manager has been recruited with the support of the Federation in 2004.
- A four-year strategic plan (2005-2008) has been developed with the Federation's technical and financial support. The strategic 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.
- A governance and management workshop was organized during the reporting period. Governing board, programme coordinators and presidents of local branches participated in this workshop. The following issues were discussed: understanding of the Movement's policies, better planning monitoring and evaluation, roles of the different bodies (governance and management), image building, reporting (narrative and financial), program and branch development, volunteers' management.
- A policy on volunteering is being developed. Terms of reference were elaborated at regional level with input from concerned national societies. The recruitment of a focal point for volunteer management is the process with Federation support.
- Staff recruitment and equipment purchasing at branch level are also on going. Staff will be seconded by the government, while Federation will provide basic equipment. A finance manager has also been recruited this year thanks to the funding of the mosquito nets distribution campaign which will be organized at the end of the year.

Impact:

- The national society is well on its way to meet the basic characteristics of a well-functioning national Society.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA031

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/12/2005

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

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 | |