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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Niger: Food Security

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation: MDRNE019	Glide n°: OT-2017-000117
Date of issue: 25 August 2017	Date of Disaster: July 2017
Operation Manager (responsible for this EPoA): Pierre Danladi, Operations Coordinator	Contact person: Issa Mamane, Niger Red Cross Executive Secretary
Operation start date: 25 August 2017	Expected Timeframe: Three (3) months
Overall operation budget: CHF 261,041	
Number of people affected: 1,131,300	Number of people to be assisted: 13,130 (2,020 HH)
Presence of host national society: Niger Red Cross is present in the area with about 400 volunteers, a Regional Committee and Communal Committee.	
Partners of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in the country: CICR, The Belgian, British, French, Spanish, Luxembourg, Netherland, Danish Red Cross as well as the Climate Centre	
Other organisations actively participating in the operation: CILSS/AGIR, FAO, PAM	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the crisis

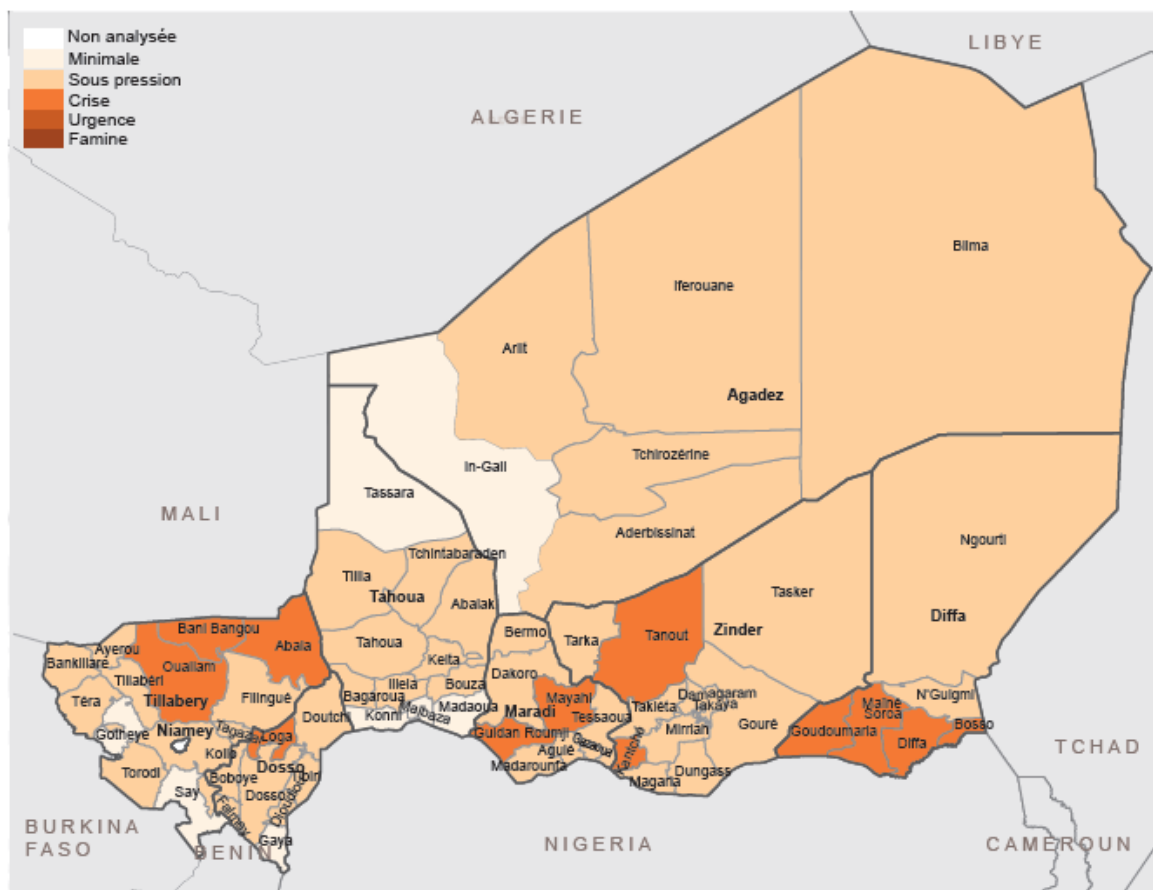
The Sahel region is facing another food insecurity crisis that is currently considered to be the fifth largest scale of food insecurity crisis since the year 2005. Within the last 15 years, the food crisis cycle has occurred in the year 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012 and now 2017. Local populations are currently at a very fragile state and remain vulnerable to issues attributed to food insecurity. While considering that the same population have previously been exposed to subsequent drought and lack of rainfall, this subjects them to further crisis on aspects of accessing food and water. In addition to this, the overall political and insecurity situation throughout those countries heavily impacts the access to local markets and minimizes the capacity of local populations to become resilient and adapt to reinforce their coping mechanism. In addition, Civil insecurity, banditry and inter-communal conflicts, coupled with the disruption of livelihoods and the depletion of food stocks during the lean season, are among the factors that drastically limit the availability and access to food in the most affected areas. This situation is exacerbated by alarming displacement of people, involving nearly 4.9 million of internally displaced people and refugees. In addition, an increase in food prices by 10 percent compared to the average and a drastic drop in the prices of the animals are noted, which is likely to worsen during the lean season. Coastal countries and Nigeria are expected to experience high food price increase that, coupled with local currency depreciation, will drastically reduce the purchasing power of households.

In Niger, the current Food security situation is in worrying trend. According to the UNOCHA humanitarian bulletin of May–June 2017, published on 30 June 2017, the second technical meeting of the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises has carried out an assessment of areas that are moderately to extremely vulnerable to food insecurity bringing them to 193 areas compared to 180 in December 2016 assessment report. This indicated an increase of 13 new zones. According to the report, the vulnerable population in need of food assistance during the lean season (June to September) has been re-assessed to 1,800,000 people including 370,000 people affected by the increase in the prices of cereals.

The Diffa region remain the most affected due to large population displacement following the security and humanitarian crisis. This region is hosting at least 408,000 food insecure people. But most of the humanitarian intervention in the country is targeting the region because of its vulnerability. At the pastoral

level, the livestock food situation remains difficult, and even worrying particularly in the pastoral bands of the regions of Agadez, Zinder, Maradi and Tahoua.

According to the Map below, almost 11 districts of Niger are in the crisis phase. This includes the districts of: Bosso, Diffa, Goudoumaria, Mainé-Soroa, N’Gourti, Loga, Ouallam, Bani-Bangou, Mayahi, Guidan-Roumji, and Tanout. Meanwhile most parts of the country are under pressure phase.



Niger map indicating the areas affected by food insecurity.

Source: [Niger Food Security Cluster in July 2017](#)

Regarding the Map above, the district of Loga targeted by the NRCS is classified among the most affected and in crisis phase. While the targeted area has the highest number of food insecure population that are not considered in the interventions of other partners (WFP, ICRC and the government). The humanitarian needs related to food and nutrition remain high in the region of Dosso and particularly in the district of Loga where coverage remains very low. According to the national President of the NRCS Society, the National Society intervention in the Loga district area will have more impact compared to most popular areas where most of the other humanitarian organization are concentrated.

Malnutrition is also a major public health problem and a challenge for development in Niger. Since the 2005 emergency, the prevalence of Acute Global Malnutrition in Niger has fluctuated but remains above the alert threshold of 10 percent and close to the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent. Due to recurrent food crises in Niger, the number of children and pregnant or nursing mothers in need of humanitarian assistance may increase, according to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The causes of malnutrition are complex, multi-sectoral and interconnected: inadequate quantity and quality of food, difficult access to basic health services and drinking water, environmental sanitation, and so on. All this is compounded by certain cultural practices (early weaning, lack of dietary diversity, etc.). Often present at the same time, these factors create a vicious circle leading to under-nutrition.

According to the Niger Nutrition Working Group projection, nearly 1.5 million people will require nutritional assistance during the year 2017. More than three-quarter of them (1,390,967 people) live outside of Diffa.

Among these people, nutritionists estimate that they can take care of 309,174 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) including 46,376 cases with medical complications, 475,000 children aged 6 to 23 months (boys and girls) suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 163,000 pregnant women.

Further, the UNOCHA [Humanitarian bulletin of May-June 2017](#) revealed that, as of 2 July 2017, a total of 134,043 children under five years of age were admitted to nutritional centres (CREN) for severe cases (SAM), including 15,938 cases with medical complication. This figure represents more than 54 percent (54.2 percent) of the target number set at the beginning of the year when the peak period of malnutrition has just begun. It should be noted that Dosso and Niamey regions have already reached their SAM targets.

At the same date, at least 141,874 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were admitted, representing 22.3 percent of the UNOCHA 2017 target. According to the national nutrition survey based on SMART methodology in 2016, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate was set at 10.3 percent and that of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate at 1.9 percent at the national level. Further information [here](#).

Taking into consideration the result of this survey, which should have resulted in a decrease in admissions at the end of 2016 and throughout 2017, the Nutrition Working Group estimated that the number of severe acute malnourished children in 2017 should be reduced by one third compared to 2016. However, in view of the current situation, this improvement remains relatively low. For nutrition specialists, the 2017 targets for certain regions were clearly under estimated. This is particularly the case of the regions of Dosso and Niamey. Following this observation, a revision of the targets for SAM and MAM in 2017 took place. Further, based on the trends of previous years (2015 and 2016), targets for all regions were revised upwards (21 percent) except for Dosso and Niamey regions where targets were increased by 100 percent.

In Niger, access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains relatively low. According to WHO and UNICEF [Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation](#), estimates on the use of water, sanitation and Hygiene in 2015, at the national level, 46 percent of the population of Niger have access to basic water service, 42 percent have access to unimproved water point and two percent consumes surface water. In rural areas (where more than 82 percent of the national population lives), the rate of access to basic water point is 36 percent, that is, less than one in two Nigeriens living in this environment has access to drinking water.

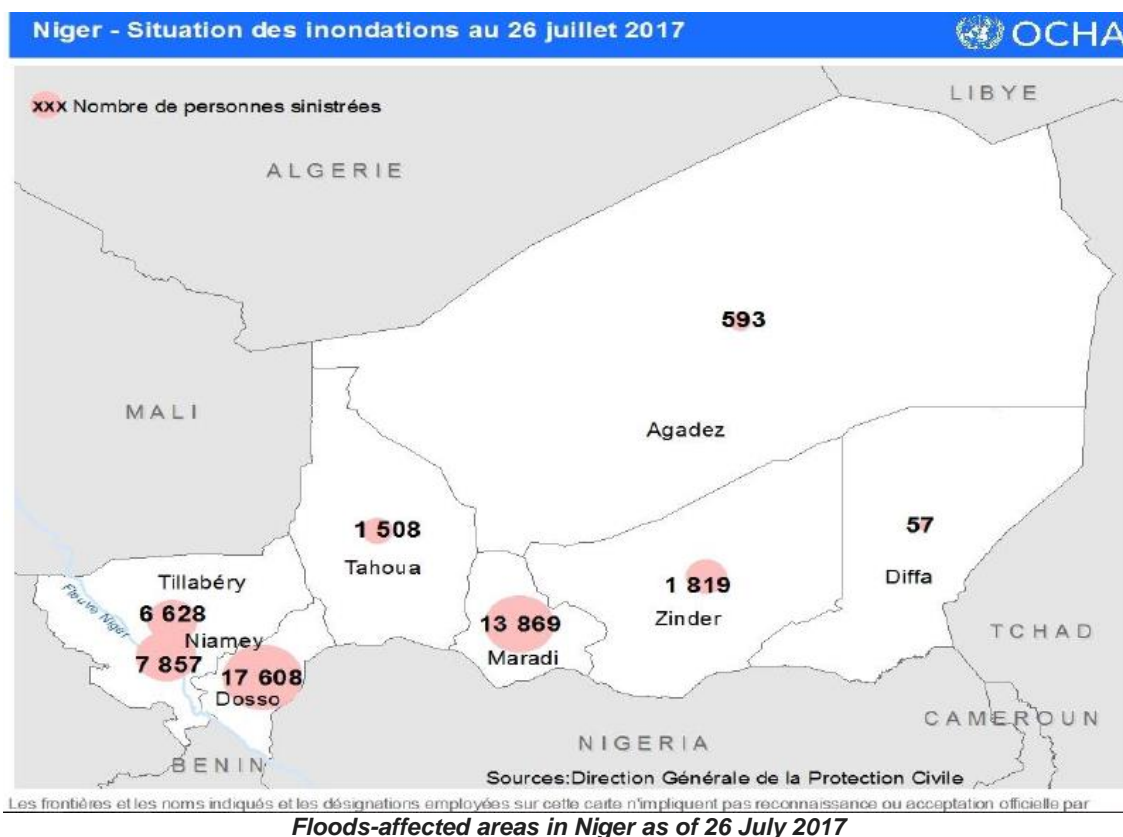
Niger	Drinking water			Sanitation			Hygiene		
	National*	Rural*	Urban*	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2010	2010	2010
Safely managed	-	-	-	9	5	24	-	-	-
Basic service	46	36	89	4	0	20	9	5	30
Limited service	10	10	8	8	3	28	75	78	57
Unimproved	42	51	4	8	6	16	-	-	-
No service	2	3	0	71	85	13	16	17	13

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP (2017)

As for access to sanitation in Niger, in the rural areas only five percent benefit from safely managed latrines, against nine percent in urban areas. Seventy-one percent of the Niger population uses open defecation. It should however be noted that sanitation in Niger is much more an individual issue. Collective systems for the disposal of wastewater, rainwater and solid waste are non-existent in rural areas. The State and its partners have invested more in the implementation of waste management systems (gutters, latrines, rubbish dumps, landfill) in the urban areas, but they are insufficient and very poorly exploited. Efforts have been made in urban areas in the domain of sanitation but much remains to be done. The problem is much bigger in rural areas where only a few actions have been undertaken.

In addition to the food and nutritional crisis that is affecting the country, the negative effects of recurrent floods on communities and livelihoods are to be expected during this season. The precipitation of June and July 2017 caused severe flooding in several localities in the country, causing tens of thousands of disaster victims and significant losses of human and animal life. According to the Niger Civil Protection Services, the estimated number of people affected by flood as of 26 July 2017 is 49,939 people including 26 deaths.

A great mobilization of inputs and resources is needed, including in sectors such as Health, WASH and Nutrition, Food Security and Education. The period is also favourable to malaria peak period, malnutrition and the outbreak of epidemics, mainly cholera. Damage properties are estimated at 4,028 houses collapsed, 4,076 head of cattle washed away by water. All together these incidents affected 5,704 households in eight regions of the country.



With regard to the above map, the Dosso region is the most affected floods area in the country with at least 17,608 people affected. This has also contributed in the food security crises in the region.

According to the seasonal forecast, rainfall this year will be higher than normal in several localities of Niger and the country will register significant rainfall. The most exposed localities are located in the following regions: Niamey, Tillabery and Tahoua. Thus, to avoid any eventuality, the government and its partners had to re-assess the multi-hazard contingency plan which initially provided for 106,000 people at risk of flooding in 2017 in Niger to bring it to 157,000 people.

Summary of current response

Overview of the Host National Society

The Niger Red Cross Society (NRCS) has extensive experience in food and nutrition crisis management. Since the food crisis of 2005, the NRCS has worked alongside the other National Societies in the sub-region, strengthened its operational capacity and has gained experience in operations management. In addition to this operational experience, the National Society has diversified its response strategy and response tools. This is the case for instance, with the use of Cash transfer tool to respond to crisis whenever possible. There is also the systematic involvement of communities in operations.

The Niger National Society has successfully managed food security and nutritional operations in recent years (2005, 2008, 2011-2012, 2015). In addition to these operations, food security and nutrition programmes are developed with the support of PNSs and external partners. It should also be noted that Niger was the first country in West Africa and the Sahel to implement a Cash transfer program. The Niger Red Cross Society carried out cash transfer programs from 2007 to 2017 with the support of the IFRC and other partners. Hence, several National Societies' staff and volunteers have extensive experience in managing cash transfers programmes. The Niger Red Cross Society (NRCS) also has National Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and volunteers trained in cash transfer programming. Further, the Niger Red Cross Society's Food security and Nutrition Officers have strongly participated in the Food security, Nutrition and Livelihood RDRT training that took place from 14 to 23 august 2017 in Bamako (Mali). The training programme focussed on the implementation of Food security programmes with the use of updated tools such as Cash Transfer programme, Mega V, ODK, kobo. In addition, the participants have benefitted from a training on the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the implementation of all the programme on the field. Practical exercises were also carried out the field to ensure that the training programs were understood.

Below are some projects and programmes implemented by the NRCS:

N°	PROJET / PROGRAMMES / YEAR	PARTNERS
01	2014 – 2016 Building Community Resilience project in the rural area of Kiétché (Dogondoutchi district)	Government of Belgium via the Belgian Red Cross
02	2008 – 2017 Food security and nutrition project in the Maradi region	Spanish Red Cross
03	2012 – 2015 Prevention and food collection project in 85 villages and 19 health centers in the Dogondoutchi district	Government of Japan/ IFRC
04	Cash transfer program set up by the NRCS from 2007 to 2017	IFRC

Concerning the response to this food crisis, the actions already undertaken by the Niger Red Cross Society include:

- Participation in the analysis of the harmonized framework at the country level;
- Rapid assessments in areas classified as hazardous;
- Attendance to the country coordination meetings;
- Alerting local branches and mobilizing volunteers;
- Development of country plans.

As for the previous DREF operations, the NRCS has in the last two years (2016-2017), benefited from several DREFs, either to respond to the food crisis or epidemics crisis or to respond to population movements and migration. The DREF tools and the IFRC emergency Appeals are well known and used by the NRCS and this reassures them of its rational management. For example, for the year 2017, the NRCS implemented the following: The [Rift Valley fever epidemic outbreak](#) DREF operation in the Tahoua region from October 2016 to January 2017, the [Meningitis epidemic outbreak](#) in four regions including Niamey, Tillabery, Dosso and Tahoua from April to July 2017 (CHF237,000) and currently the NRCS is implementing the [Hepatitis E epidemic outbreak](#) DREF operation in the Diffa region (CHF 249,183). In addition, the NRCS has just completed the implementation of an Emergency Appeal from 2014 to 2017 on the [population movement](#) in the Diffa region

The NRCS has a team of trained volunteers in disaster management, food security and nutrition. With the assistance of the IFRC, the British Red Cross and the IFRC's Livelihood Center and PNSs, the NRCS has received specific training on food security and livelihoods. Finally, the National Society have an up-to-date strategic plan with a Plan of Action and a contingency plan.

Overview of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is supporting the Niger Red Cross through the IFRC country office in Niamey, Niger, from the Sahel cluster office in Dakar, Senegal and the Regional Directorate for Africa based in Nairobi. Since the beginning of this food and nutrition insecurity situation, a DMIS alert has been shared in the IFRC disaster management information system network (DMIS). The IFRC's Niger and NRCS teams participated in the IFRC's regional food security workshop on

"How to Work Alternatively on Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan for Food Security Program", and the launch of Plan of Action for a three-year program including an emergency response during the lean period. Subsequently, discussions were held with several partners such as Partner National Societies and ECHO, for the mobilization of resources and potential partners

Finally, for this operation, the IFRC will provide technical support to assist the National Society operational team to better organize itself and to undertake in-depth evaluation which will help to fine-tune strategies to enhance effective implementation. The Partner National Societies are well established in the country and supports the NRCS in the implementation of projects and programs in several sectors of activity. Among them are the French Red Cross working in the field of health; the Spanish Red Cross, which supports the NRCS in the implementation of food security and nutrition activities in the Maradi region since 2008 to date; the Luxembourg Red Cross, which supports the NRCS in the Shelter and Cash Transfer programs, especially in the Diffa region; the Belgian Red Cross and the Irish Red Cross which are working in a consortium in the domain of community resilience as well as in the WASH aspects.

The information received from the National Society indicates that there is no specific action taken by the ICRC dealing with this crisis outside the areas mentioned above. It should be noted, however, that the ICRC in its economic security programmes, implemented cereal banks in several parts of the country. But gaps still exist and the IFRC's support will serve to complement the good actions already undertaken by the ICRC and the other partners of the Movement. For more information on ICRC activities in Niger, please visit this [link](#).

Movement Coordination

The NRCS in line with the dynamics of the Movement's partners (IFRC, ICRC) and other partners in the food security cluster provides an emergency response to households suffering from food and nutrition insecurity on the one hand, and strengthens the resilience of vulnerable households and the capacity of national actors to cope with shocks on the other hand. These two objectives aimed at addressing an integrated response including immediate food assistance during the lean season and, where conditions are favourable, strengthens or restores livelihoods. Resilience is an integral part of this approach because it provides an opportunity for affected populations to better resist future shocks.

For the implementation of this DREF operation, the IFRC through its country representation of Niger, will coordinate the action in the country with the support of the Sahel cluster in Dakar by providing technical support through the development of strategies and follow-up of country action plans. Discussions on this DREF food security will be included in the agendas of the Movement's coordination meetings for information sharing and to see where applicable, the necessary synergies that can bring about improvement in achieving the objectives of this DREF.

At the regional level, a monitoring and coordination plan is established to support the NRCS. According to the specific needs of the National Society, the Sahel Cluster could consider setting up a specific coordination mechanism in collaboration with the Niger delegation. In the implementation of this coordination, it will also be necessary to harmonize management and reporting tools with other NSs of the Sahel region who are beneficiaries of a DREF food security nutrition.

On the security front, both the IFRC and the ICRC will support the NRCS to enhance the safety of people and property throughout the implementation period of the operation.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

The governments of the countries concerned

Activities of this operation will complement those already undertaken by the Government of Niger which has produced a National Response Plan (NRP) for the current food crisis. On 28 April 2017, the Prime Minister and Head of the Niger Government summoned all the government officials, heads of diplomatic representations and humanitarian organizations working within the framework of food security, to draw their attention to the food crisis. The Prime Minister explained that after the 2016 rainy season campaign, Niger faced a huge forage deficit which was the main cause of the ongoing pastoral crisis in the north of the country, adding that "the food situation in Niger is extremely worrisome. That is why it is important to intervene during this lean period from August to September to alleviate the difficulties of the populations".

The Prime Minister further noted that concerning cereals needs, there was a gap of about 43,000 tons; also 68,700 tons for livestock feed and 13,051 tons for seeds are needed. The total need is over 142 billion CFA Francs, of which the Government has mobilized 56 percent and so 44 percent still needs to be mobilized.

Other NGOs, and United Nations agencies

About 51 percent of the humanitarian needs in Niger as of 9 May 2017 are covered. Concerning food security, 74 percent has been taken care off, while only 4 percent of the nutrition needs and 15 percent of the health needs have been addressed. It should be noted that this coverage is mainly in the Region of Diffa. The humanitarian needs related to food and nutrition remain high in the region of Dosso and particularly in the district of Loga where coverage remains very low.

In brief, the mobilization of NGOs and UN agencies falls short of expectations despite the unanimous belief that the food crisis was real. Humanitarian meetings are organized at national and regional levels. At the national level, the Niger Red Cross and the IFRC regularly participate in the various meetings especially those organized by governments and cluster coordination (Food Security, Nutrition and Wash).

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Over the last decade, food crisis in Niger have become increasingly intense and widespread. This can mainly be explained by the impact of climate change on rainfall: the late start of the rainy season, more frequent dry days, greater flood frequencies. The consequences on cereal production and pastoral activity are direct, and thus on the food security of populations: Sixty percent of Niger families can only cover three to five months of their annual food needs. Today, people struggle to recover from a crisis as another occurs. Millions of people are becoming prisoners of an endless cycle: during each crisis, they lose their crops and livestock or brave them to survive. They are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

Despite the mitigation measures put in place by the Nigerien government and humanitarian partners with the implementation of various development projects, food security remains one of the biggest challenges in the country. Low production capacity and inadequate income in most households, limit access to food. That is why humanitarian efforts must be continued and durable solutions must be developed to enhance the resilience of the population. Vulnerability in terms of food security is mainly due to the structural poverty of certain social groups (women, unemployed, etc.), indebtedness, inappropriate feeding habits, limited adaptations strategies, deficits in the domain of agriculture, market structure, population dynamics and recurrent crisis. Even in years with a good harvest, three to four million people depend on humanitarian assistance. According to the FAO, 4.2 million people face food insecurity in Niger and 7.5 million are considered to be at risk.

As a reminder, the projections of the regional harmonized framework indicate that between August and September, the population of Loga was classified in phase 3 to 5, an increase of 42 percent compared to March-June. Thus, the above quoted period which is the lean period when households face food difficulties, will be very critical this year with negative nutritional implications especially on pregnant and lactating women and children in areas where this food shortage is at its peak (phase 4).

Capacity Building Country and Region

To accomplish this operation, the capacities of stakeholders at the country (local and national) and regional levels must be strengthened. At the local level, the operation will set up community management structures from the start of the operation, which will participate in targeting beneficiaries, monitoring activities and facilitate the sustainability of actions in the communities. At the national level, a refresher-training for volunteers and National Society staff on Food Security/Nutrition and Livelihoods (NDRT) will be conducted. As for the regional level, it will also be important to organize a refresher training for the Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs) that are experienced in response operations. To this end, three RDRTs have successfully participated in Bamako, from August 14 to 23, to a RDRT refresher training focused on Food Security and nutrition and new approaches and tools such as Cash Transfer, Mega V, ODK.

With the support of the RDRT deployed and with the cluster of in-depth assessments will be conducted in all the sectors involved. The evaluation will prioritize actions to be carried out in the communities. It will also help to define the program better and consider the short-term and long-term aspects. The analysis of this assessments will focus on food security, nutrition, livelihoods and health. The recommendations will allow to better orient actions for more efficiency and effectiveness

Beneficiary Selection

Targeting of beneficiaries will be carried out in the field in collaboration with local administrative authorities, community members, the Regional Directorate for Rural Development (RDRD), regional medical officers, food security and livelihoods monitoring agents (ASSAME) at the local level and other sector partners for the identification of areas that are highly vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity in the concerned regions, districts and communes. The identification and selection of beneficiaries will then be carried out based on the selection criteria unanimously agreed upon with the stakeholders. Targeting will be done with the community through a participatory approach.

Cash support will save the 2,020 identified and most vulnerable households (13,130 people) from experiencing severe famine. This will allow them to survive pending the planned harvest period in late September and early October. Community-based malnutrition screening activities will be conducted by NRCS volunteers in collaboration with the Nutrition Centers to prevent malnutrition in children less than five years-old as well as pregnant and lactating mothers.

Food Assistance Beneficiaries

The household will be the targeting unit. Targeting will consider the categories of affected populations. In each village, a targeting committee, a complaint committee and a monitoring committee is set up. The targeting process begins with a briefing on the process and goal of the intervention. It is followed by a comprehensive census of households before completing the process with socio-economic categorization. The beneficiaries are members of very poor households per the socio-economic categorization based on the household economy (HEA) and having a child from 0 to 59 months and/or a pregnant/lactating woman. An exceptional consensus could be made on households deemed vulnerable. This exception applies only to persons in particularly difficult situation such as disabled and old people.

Inclusion and exclusion errors are limited, thanks to the strategy of exhaustive and comprehensive census in the villages. This will also be followed by the systematic sharing (with shareholders) of the minutes of meetings held with target persons. These errors can also be limited using the weighting criteria, the Common Targeting Guide with CORIANS and by improving the management of complaints.

Beneficiaries of community nutrition activities are:

- Households with children aged 0 to 59 months suffering from acute malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition.
- Households with pregnant and lactating mothers are the targets of the prevention activities at the community level.
- Prevention activities on the risks related to food and care habits concerning infants, the mother and child approach based on the first 1,000 days (window of opportunity) focus on exclusive breastfeeding, supplementary breastfeeding and the use of health services.

Scenario Development

- Current situation: Low coverage of humanitarian food assistance in the District of Loga. As food stocks are being depleted, coping strategies are beginning to fail. With the rainy season, the country is beginning to experience floods with the pockets of food vulnerability widening and the number of people growing.

Risk Assessment

- Security: Niger is experiencing attacks by armed groups especially in the region of Diffa. The operation areas are not at risk, but action will be taken to prevent any insecurity.
- Accessibility of target areas linked to the road. During the rainy season, the unpaved roads of the countryside deteriorate and some structures such as the bridges are destroyed, making it very difficult the travel and have access to certain areas. Some places are completely cut off from large cities throughout the rainy season while others are not accessible by trucks.

Measures are being taken in line with these risks:

- In terms of security, the National Society will set up security rules and take steps to facilitate the implementation of the operation activities.
- Concerning accessibility to intervention areas, the local branches will be made more responsible. In addition, the cash transfer modality will be used to minimize transportation of large quantities of goods (foodstuff, equipment etc.) and their deliveries and movements between the national headquarters and the branches.

B. Strategy and Operational plan

Main objective

To provide food, nutrition and carry out prevention activities for 2,020 households (13,130 people) to enable the affected population to survive and meet its immediate needs.

Proposed strategy

This operation, which will start with the DREF as an immediate response to the emergency, will not be a one-off and isolated aid project. It is part of a more regional and long-term approach. The use of the DREF make it possible to urgently support the affected households while building on with resilience actions at the community level. A four-year program (2017-2020) has been initiated, which is a multi-sectoral community resilience program that considers preparedness as well as emergency response with continuity on recovery, within a resilience approach. Considering that the food crises in the Sahel is cyclical and that it is especially difficult during the lean period, response actions during these four years would specifically target food vulnerable pockets. The Sahel and Niger Cluster have formulated a request for this DREF to support the six National Societies in the Sahel region to provide immediate food and nutritional assistance for the most vulnerable people living in the food vulnerable pockets.

This DREF aims to provide food assistance for 13,130 people in the Dosso region, particularly in the district of Loga. Besides food assistance, nutritional and community health actions will be carried out to enhance better care for people in need. Each beneficiary will receive food assistance to cover the estimated caloric requirements of 2100 kcal per person. The DREF aims to provide a complete and balanced food assistance for 30 days per person. Sphere standards and indicators will serve as a reference. The standard basket that will be provided comprises: 12.5 kg cereals, 1.35 kg vegetables, 0.75 litre of oil, 0.5 kg of sugar and 0.15 kg of salt for an approximate amount of CHF 9.7 per person.

The Loga district of Niger remain one of the most affected food insecurity area in the country couple with the floods effect that has washed out population properties. Therefore, it is urgent that the NRCS provides support for 1 month, so that the population can ensure the food intake until the harvests arrive. At the same time, as the harvest is foreseen for early October, the cash distribution needs to happen in September. The NS has chosen the Cash transfer programme to inject funds to stop HHs from resorting to negative coping mechanisms and prevent malnourished children from death while the 4-year programme is under way

Prevention and community care for people suffering from acute malnutrition will be ensured by supporting the organization of screening and awareness campaigns, referencing of malnourished children, training of mothers on the 'BP Mother approach'. The approach enables mothers to measure themselves and regularly their children to know their nutritional status to anticipate the kind of care a child would need in the event of a nutritional problem. These actions will help remove people from a famine situation that can result in death, deformation or poor growth in children.

The water component

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) will be a priority, recognizing the close relationship between nutrition and WASH. Thus, WASH activities will be implemented to ensure access to drinking water through the distribution of household water treatment products to vulnerable households; training the population of

targeted communities on safe water storage and safe use of water treatment products, monitoring treatment and storage of water through household survey and household water quality test

This package will be backed by activities that promote good hygiene and health as well as social mobilization and effective education at the community level. It will be important to strengthen community surveillance to facilitate early detection, investigation as well as early and rapid care taking so as to mitigate the negative impact of diseases and epidemics at the community level. A community-based surveillance system (CBS) will be set up and volunteers trained in CBS and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) to prevent and respond to epidemics. This will be a good platform for the sharing of real-time information to enhance prompt action and response. A good referral system will be set up to facilitate communication with the appropriate health facility.

For the food assistance service, cash transfer is the main option. Such transfer may be done by transferring cash and/or by distributing vouchers. This choice is an effective way for us to respond immediately to various needs while respecting the dignity of everyone and to give the affected populations the opportunity to make choices, to support local markets and to restart the recovery of the local economy. In the current context, cash transfer is more appropriate and more efficient.

To better coordinate the cash transfer activity, the Niger Red Cross Society carried out a market assessment which revealed that the markets functioned efficiently in the country and more particularly in the project area. The requested items are available with affordable prices. This determined the option of the cash transfer approach that will reduce the cost of transporting food and provide more opportunity to the beneficiaries to quickly acquire the food items they need. A call for tender is launched to select capable suppliers to meet the food needs of the identified beneficiaries. A card with barcode will be given to each family head to enable them to introduce themselves to the suppliers to receive their food

Communities

During this operation, beneficiaries will be considered as full stakeholders. Community management committees (community targeting, implementation, monitoring, coordination, etc.) will be set up and their responsibilities formally established to carry out activities. This will give the communities a full ownership of the program. While implementing the operation plan, communities will be involved, and implementing agents will execute a competence transfer plan to enable community empowerment and prepare them for the recovery phase. The in-depth assessments will consider the short and long-term aspects. The analysis will focus on food security, nutrition, livelihoods and health. The recommendations of the assessment will allow us to better guide our actions for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Host National Society

- Decentralization of coordination and the full strengthening of the capacities of branches,
- Strengthening local committees or branches (human resources, equipment, etc.),
- More leadership for National Societies,
- Increased integration into the food security and nutrition platforms.

IFRC

- Capacity building for the Disaster Response Team (DRTS),
- Linking (continuity of short-term response to long-term community resilience),
- Implementation of an effective system for better operational coordination (internal to the Movement/external partnership including local government actors, regional platforms and OCHA/UN coordination mechanisms) and better monitoring in the country,
- Resource mobilization/tools and available mechanisms / potential partners / financing plan to ensure the continuity of the operation.

Operation support services

Human resources

The Niger Red Cross Society (NRCS) has competent and experienced staff and volunteers in responding to food insecurity/nutrition as well as in responding to floods. As for the long-term programs, the National

Society has experienced and capitalized on the lessons learned from the operations implemented in the past. In short, the National Society has qualified staff and ready to react when needed.

NRCS Human Resources capacity:

Active volunteers	RDRT	NDRT	Shelter	Food security	WASH	Health	Finance	Logistics
4,000	5	30	150	30	150	30	3	15

In addition to this capacity in human resources, the IFRC and its teams (operation and support) will work closely with the National Staff.

The IFRC Country Delegation in Niger mobilizes the human resources needed to support the National Society in project implementation, both in response and in the long term. The IFRC has expertise in all sectors (health, nutrition, food security, disaster management, shelter, water and sanitation) and support services (financial pool and logistics). At the regional level, the IFRC has experienced response teams with appropriate profiles to these types of operations.

To ensure adequate technical support is provided to the NS, an RDRT will be deployed to Niger for the duration of this DREF operation. In addition to this, provision has been made in the budget to support an RDRT Team Leader to support the Sahel Food crisis operation (6 operations in total) who will be based in Dakar, in the Sahel CCST. In case of long term intervention, an Operations Manager will be deployed to insure overall responsibility for timely implementation, reporting and grant compliance.

30 trained volunteers will be involved in the implementation of the operation, who will participate on a refresher training related to the main sectors (Food security, Livelihoods and WASH) of the operation.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Most of the operation will consist of cash transfers, which will reduce the mobilization of transportation, storage and large purchases of food items. But this would also entail better logistic planning. Hence in Niger,

- Evaluation of potential suppliers at the local level with delivery protocols and payment terms established. Plans concerning purchasing could possibly be established if the monetary transfer cannot be realized.
- For warehousing and storage, this will be the responsibility of suppliers identified for food delivery
- Transportation and vehicle requirements. For this operation, the DREF will mobilise one vehicle to support the National Society in the monitoring of the activities.

Information Technologies (ITs)

Currently the target areas of the operation are covered by telephone networks and there is a good internet connection. At the local level, the Red Cross of Niger's branches often do not have the computer equipment to support the operations. With the support of the Niger cluster, the National Society will receive telephones as needed to undertake post distribution monitoring with the ODK program.

Communication

Communication materials, advocacy and community outreach will be developed to make the National Society and IFRC humanitarian activities visible. This will include the production and realization of articles, press releases, testimonials, brochures, photos and videos. The media will be involved to ensure coverage of the key activities carried out as part of the operation. Social media will be used to maximize the visibility of Red Cross activities and its partners. Emphasis will also be placed on advocacy for protection, dignity, rights and respect for communities.

Security

There are security concerns in Niger particularly in the regions of Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua but not in the surrounding regions, districts and the communes which are rather, suffering from food insecurity. Response actions will take the latter into account per their degree of vulnerability. A priori, our intervention will not

include the areas facing insecurity but rather, they will be implemented specifically in the districts/communes or in secured areas. In collaboration with the ICRC and the IFRC, the NRCS will shortly issue security rules to help the former carry out their activities and ensure a more secured access for them. Internal meetings between the ICRC, IFRC, National Society and Partner National Societies will be held with the view to reinforce the security aspects.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

The NRCS will implement a regular monitoring/evaluation plan to ensure effectiveness and the implementation of programs. Regular quarterly reports will be produced by the NS on its activities and with the IFRC, PNS and the ICRC depending on the interest. Besides regional planning workshops, evaluations will be carried out, including: country monitoring plans to be established by the cluster to better support the NS in monitoring its activities. A workshop on lessons learned will be held in the third month to analyse successes, challenges, best practices and recommendations to capture and apply in future programs and emergency calls. Finally, at the community level, the management committees set up to support the implementation of the program, will produce monthly reports. Capacity-building activities in reporting will be carried out for the communities.

Administration and finance

The NRCS has a finance and accounting department. It must be noted that in view of the magnitude of the National Society activities and the demands of some donors, capacity building sessions for the National Society finance teams would need to be organized rapidly. In addition, IFRC's financial staff will work closely with the Finance Department of the National Society to ensure the proper use of financial resources in accordance with the conditions to be discussed in the MoU between the National Society and the Sahel Cluster of the International Federation. The management of financial resources will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC guidelines.

D. Budget

29.08.2017

Niger Food Crisis		DREF grant budget
500	Shelter - Relief	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0
502	Construction - Housing	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0
505	Construction - Materials	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0
520	Food	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0
550	Teaching Materials	0
560	Utensils & Tools	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0
578	Cash Disbursements	138,112
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES		138,112
580	Land & Buildings	0
581	Vehicles Purchase	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
587	Medical Equipment	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT		0
590	Storage, Warehousing	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,752
594	Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE		6,752
640	International Staff	24,500
661	National Staff	0
662	National Society Staff	39,402
667	Volunteers	475
Total PERSONNEL		64,377
670	Consultants	0
750	Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES		0
680	Workshops & Training	18,810
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING		18,810
700	Travel	10,700
710	Information & Public Relations	210
730	Office Costs	2,940
740	Communications	2,820
760	Financial Charges	389
790	Other General Expenses	0
799	Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES		17,059
599	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	15,932
Total INDIRECT COSTS		15,932
TOTAL BUDGET		261,041

Contact Information

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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 Humanitarian 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:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



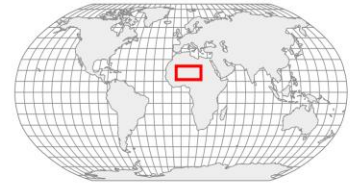
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**

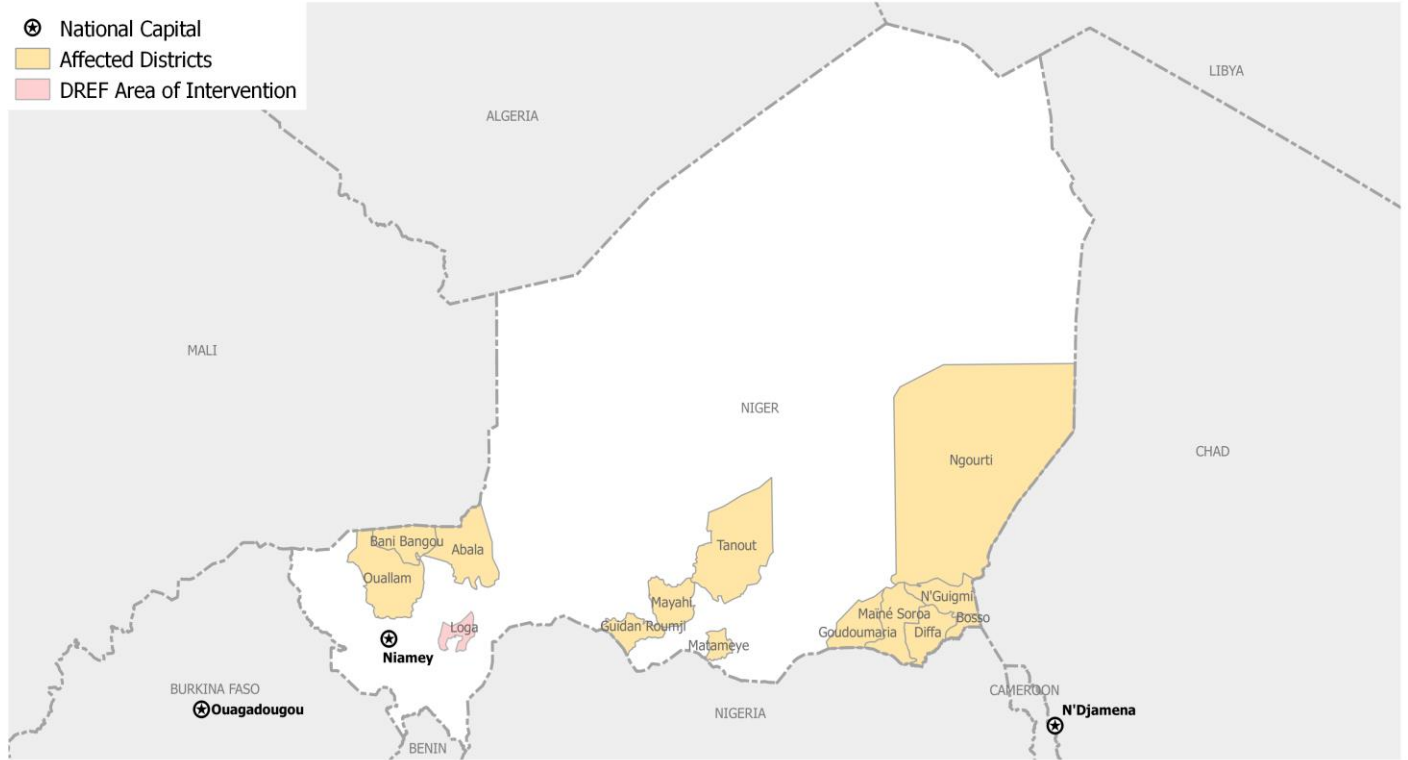


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
 الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



Niger, Food Insecurity: DREF

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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, ICRC, IFRC

