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# EAP Activation Notification

## Niger: Drought



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Operation n° MDRNE026

EAP number: EAP2021NE02

To be assisted: 28,000 people

FbA by the DREF allocated: 322,761 Swiss francs

Launch date 19/04/2022

End date: 30/11/2022

## The Early Action Protocol hazard and trigger

02 July 2021: EAP approved

November 2021: Forecast monitoring started

19 April 2022: Trigger reached

4 Months: Early Action lead time

30 November 2022: End of operation



Niger regularly faces extreme climate variability, with droughts in 2005 and 2010, and exceptional rainfall in 2012 and 2020. The 2010 drought stands out for its magnitude, affecting almost 7 million people. The areas most affected by this climatic hazard appear to be the region of Zinder, followed by Maradi and Agadez. Photo credit: RCSN/British Red Cross.

## Early Action Protocol activation

### General Overview:

The Red Cross Society of Niger (RCSN) has activated its Early Action Protocol for Drought.

The March meeting of the Regional System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (PREGEC) validated the final results of the Food, Nutrition and Pastoral Situation for Food Security and Livelihood Cadre Harmonisé<sup>1</sup> on the current and projected situation (June-August 2022, corresponding to the lean season) in the Sahel and West Africa.

For Niger, in comparison with October 2021 Cadre Harmonisé data, it was highlighted:

- a drastic drop in agricultural production following poor rainfall (-37% at national level);

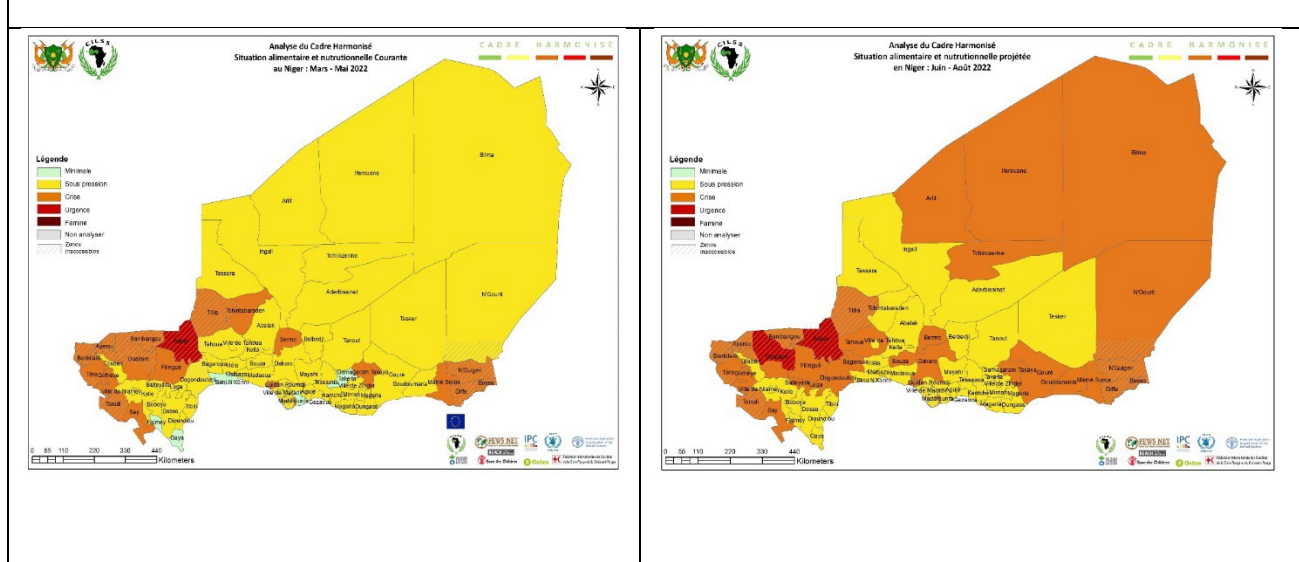
<sup>1</sup> Joint Analysis conducted by governments and stakeholders, including the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement

- an alarming nutritional situation, exceeding WHO emergency thresholds, with almost 43.5% of children under 5 years suffering from chronic malnutrition and 12.5% from acute malnutrition.
- a significant fodder deficit in all regions (15 million tons of Matière sèche (MS) Dry Matter (DM) with consequent difficulties in transhumance.
- a deterioration of the security situation in localities under a state of emergency, which is causing population displacements and further deteriorating their food security and their agricultural and pastoral livelihoods in the regions of Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua and Maradi, also affecting the provision of basic social services (schools, health centres and markets (that are closed) );
- an abnormal increase in food prices on the markets, 40% higher in comparison to the last five-year average;
- a seasonal agro-hydro-climatic forecasts for the 2022 rainy season characterized by an average to deficient rainfall totals, a late start of the rainy season, long dry spells and below average river flows.

As a result, as per March 2022 Joint Analysis data:

- between 2.5 and 3.3 million of people are currently food insecure (phase 3-5, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification – IPC)
- between 3,6 and 4.4 million of people will be in food insecure during the period June – August 2022 (phase 3-5 IPC)

March 2022 Joint Analysis data. Map 1: Current situation. Map 2: Projected situation



The EAP trigger anticipates a future food crisis based on the food insecurity assessment observed by the Cadre Harmonisé / IPC 3 or more for the following year's lean season and the assessment of production conditions.

The Early Action Protocol (EAP) proposed triggers in 2 successive phases:

- the first trigger is April, with an online season forecast (Fifth generation seasonal forecast system - SEAS5) provided by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), with a response time of 3 months. If this forecast shows a 40% (or higher) probability that precipitation will be in the lowest tercile ("below normal"), the conditions for the first trigger will be met and will launch the first round of early action activities.
- the second trigger in November, anticipates a future food crisis based on the food insecurity assessment observed by the Cadre Harmonisé/IPC of IPC 3 or more for the following year's lean season and the assessment of production conditions in addition to the assessment of the previous rainy season (GEOGLAM) early warning crop monitor (of below 50), with a lead time of five months.

Although as per EAP the two triggers should be activated in a consecutive manner, the alarming situation in terms of food security in Niger led to the activation of the second one, only for activities linked to it.

An evaluation of early actions measures, and of the EAP will be conducted at the end of the operation, taking into consideration its adjustment, including in terms of timing for its activation and dissociations of the two triggers.

Moreover, the situation will be continuously monitored in case conditions set for the activation of the first trigger are met.

Trigger two early actions will be implemented in Damagaram Takaya and Goure districts, Zinder Region, where according to March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé data, respectively 103,946 people (14,849 households) and 102,316 people (14,616 households) will be food insecure (IPC 3 and 4) during the upcoming lean season.

Beneficiaries of the intervention will be targeted as per criteria defined in the EAP. Moreover, the action will be conducted in coordination with governmental authorities, specifically the National System for Prevention and Management of Food Crisis<sup>2</sup>, and other humanitarian agencies.

The RCSN is an active member of the Food Security Cluster, and its actions are aligned with the DNP-GCA response plan for the 2022 lean season.

As per EAP, the second trigger early action activities include:

- **Replenishment of Cereal Banks' reserves**

The aim is to support functional cereal banks in the localities identified for intervention to increase the volume of their cereal reserves. These reserves will then be sold at a 50% subsidized price. This action will enable 4,000 households to have access to cereals at a reduced price and in sufficient quantity to meet their needs.

A Cereal Bank is a community-based scheme that primarily serves a social purpose that is to solve the food problems faced by an organized community during a given period. The period considered is the lean season in the crop calendar. Depending on the results of the previous season, it can extend over one to three months. The purpose of the cereal bank is therefore to provide the community with a stock of cereals to cover its food needs for at least one month. To ensure this function, the cereal bank is the seat of a certain number of operations: collection, storage, conservation and transfer of cereals. The community manages itself the Cereal Bank through a management committee formed around each Cereal Bank. The purchase of cereals for the banks' stock is done when prices are low and there is an opportunity. The stocks are then sold during the lean season.

This EAP will subsidize half of the Cereal Bank reserves. Subsidies will be made at half the market price. A total of 4,000 households will be targeted with 252 tons of cereals; this corresponds to 200g per person per day (according to the SPHERE standards) calculated at 7 people per household (average size of a household in Niger) for 3 months. The following equation is used:  $50\% \times (200\text{g} \times 7 \text{ people} \times 90 \text{ days}) = 63,000 \text{ g}$ .

In conclusion, 4,000 households will receive 63kg of cereals from the Cereal Banks for a duration of 3 months.

As per the functional diagnosis of Cereal Banks in the agropastoral zone of Zinder Region, conducted by the RCSN and the French Red Cross, (final report was issued in June 2021), only a few cereal banks are operational. In particular, in Damagaram Takaya district, only 2 out of 53 and in Goure district only 8 out of 63 cereal banks are active in the targeted districts. Beyond ensuring regular supply to cereal banks, the National Society (NS) will also consider the possibility of contracting either with the town halls or decentralised state services of agriculture to sell cereals at moderate prices. This, to overcome the deficit of cereal banks in the two departments selected.

- **Cash Transfer (in vouchers)**

The target is 1,000 of the most vulnerable households, enabling them to access subsidized cereals. This action will enable the most vulnerable to obtain cereals (from Cereal Banks) and to preserve their own reserves and/or to build up reserves before prices rise too much or the availability of cereals becomes impossible.

The 50% represents the unsubsidized part of the Cereal Banks, which amounts to 100% coverage for these 1,000 most vulnerable households, as they are already among the 4,000 beneficiaries of the 50% Cereal Bank subsidy. The vouchers will enable them to pay the unsubsidized 50% of the Cereal Banks.

## **Early Action targeting**

The main criterion considered for targeting assistance is vulnerability. Thus, women, people with disabilities, the elderly and other marginalized groups will be particularly prioritized, as these groups are the most vulnerable to drought and food insecurity.

Specifically, selection of people targeted with the early action activities will focus on:

1- The departments in phase 3 and more of the IPC in the agropastoral zone of Zinder

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<sup>2</sup> Dispositif National De Prévention et Gestion des Crises Alimentaires (DNP-GCA)

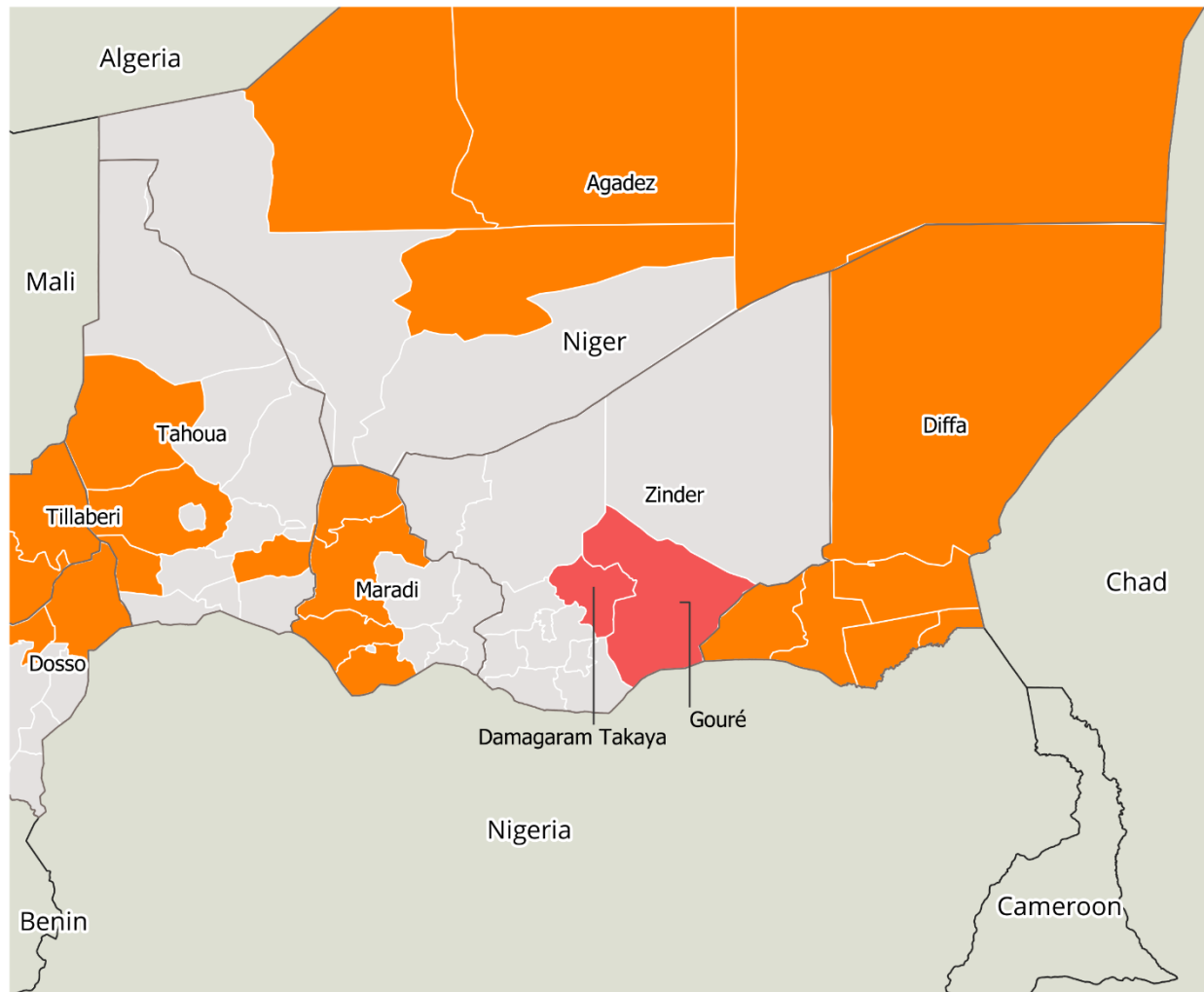
2- Then among these, the municipalities with operational Cereal Banks.



21 April 2022



## EAP Activation: Niger Drought



### Legend

- Affected
- Targetted

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

0 80 160 240 320 km



## Overview of the Early Actions

### Areas of Focus

Early action activities will address the food security issues in advance of the impacts of drought for up to 4,000 vulnerable agro-pastoralists households (28,000 people) in Zinder region of Niger.



#### Livelihoods and basic needs

**People targeted:** 28,000

**Male:** 14,000

**Female:** 14,000

#### Early Actions

- Meeting with state actors / local authorities of Zinder and identification / confirmation of the area of intervention
- Broadcasting of radio messages
- Confirmation of the Cereal/Grain Banks receiving support
- Signing contracts with the selected Cereal Banks
- Briefing of volunteers on their role, targeting and distribution techniques
- Targeting of 1,000 families benefiting from conditional cash transfers
- Support for Cereal Banks
- Sensitization of beneficiaries of conditional cash (voucher)
- Conditional cash distribution (voucher)
- Post distribution evaluation
- Assessment of food and nutritional security needs for a DREF request
- Lessons Learned Workshop
- Assessment of the impacts of actions

#### Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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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.

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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**.

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