

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Niger, Africa | Floods



Niger Red Cross volunteers assessing the flooding in Gabagoura, Niamey. Photo: Red Cross Society of Niger ("CRN")

Appeal №: MDRNE030	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 4 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 8 million ¹		
Glide №:	People [affected/at risk]: 2 million	People to be assisted: 250,000	
DREF allocation: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 19/09/2024	Appeal ends: 30/09/2025	

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¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Red Cross Society of Niger in response to the emergency. It includes the Red Cross Society of Niger domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 4 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 4 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since the heavy rains started at the end of July 2024 that continued through September, the toll of flooding in Niger has continued to worsen. The country's precarious socioeconomic conditions exacerbate the vulnerability of its population too, particularly those living in refugee camps, peripheral neighbourhoods, flood-prone areas and densely populated urban zones.

These communities, where infrastructure is often fragile or non-existent, are at significant risk when rainfall exceeds 80mm in 24 hours due to the lack of adequate drainage systems. A meeting on flood management chaired by Niger's Prime Minister also found that as of 13 September 2024, 125,772 households representing 924,799 individuals - have been affected. A total of 95,028 homes have been destroyed, 309 people have lost their lives and approximately 21,145 tonnes of food have been lost in the affected regions, further worsening the plight of the population. Additionally, 13,289 hectares of crops have been wiped out and 17,979 head of livestock have perished.

This situation has forced the displacement of the population affected by flood, many of whom have sought refuge in schools, which have now been converted into shelters, as well as with nearby relatives. These displaced populations, living under difficult conditions after losing their homes and belongings, are vulnerable to protection risks and diseases such as malaria, cholera and other illnesses.

Notably, a cholera outbreak has been declared in the Tahoua region, primarily affecting the districts of Konni, Bouza and Madaoua, with 10 health centres impacted. As of 12 September, there have been 172 confirmed cases and 6 deaths. More than 400,000 people are also at risk of contracting waterborne diseases, with children and pregnant women being the most vulnerable.

Beyond the material destruction, the floods have also worsened the ongoing food crisis, already exacerbated by ECOWAS and WAEMU sanctions following the events of 26 July 2023. The loss of thousands of hectares of crops could severely compromise food security if urgent measures are not taken.

TARGETING

This response will focus on the most vulnerable populations in the regions of Tahoua, Dosso, Niamey, Zinder and Maradi, which have been affected by floods and have lost their homes and livelihoods. Of the eight regions affected by the floods, this response will focus on the five most affected.

Priority will be given to women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, due to their heightened vulnerability to the impacts of flooding. Communities living in flood-prone areas, especially in riverine regions, will also receive assistance based on their specific needs.

Selected households will include those that have lost their homes or livelihoods due to the floods, those in officially identified high-risk areas, large households with many children as well as families with pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, children under 5, or people with disabilities. Femaleheaded households will also be prioritized as beneficiaries.

Region	Persons affected as of 12/09/24	Total population in that region	Population targeted by the EA	Households
Dosso	146,592	3,172,644	51,552	19,459
Maradi	246,379	5,249,420	86,644	31,266
Niamey	23,850	1,492,414	8,387	3,214
Tahoua	128,464	5,138,552	45,177	19,013
Zinder	165,611	5,468,989	58,240	24,036
TOTAL	710,896	20,522,019	250,000	96,988

The selection process will be inclusive, involving affected communities, local authorities, volunteers and committees active in the affected areas. The final list of beneficiaries will be validated in community meetings, supported by feedback committees established for this purpose. Priority will be given to the most affected areas with fewer partners on the ground.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

As part of this emergency appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its members are seeking CHF 8 million to support the Red Cross Society of Niger (*Croix Rouge Nigerienne* - CRN) in its flood response. IFRC's scaling-up strategy will focus on addressing the urgent needs of 250,000 people in 5 regions and will be implemented in three phases:

- **Phase 1 (October to December 2024)**: Immediate emergency response ensuring that the most urgent humanitarian needs are met through direct aid in Shelter, Health, Nutrition, Water-Sanitation- Hygiene (WASH) and food security.
- Phase 2 (January to September 2025): Post relief and recovery this phase will provide cash and in-kind support to initiate the community recovery process. It will also focus on community-level epidemic preparedness and response. Key actions include promoting innovative climate change adaptation measures through awareness-raising and training, enhancing community resilience using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology, and updating contingency plans and conducting simulation exercises. This phase will also focus on preparedness and response by setting up generalist National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) and coordinating with early warning systems to conduct emergency assessments and preposition emergency kits.

As part of the Federation-wide response, this emergency appeal will leverage existing resources and capacities generated by ongoing programmes.

Integrated Assistance



(Shelter, Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash)



The floods have worsened food insecurity, already exacerbated by ECOWAS and WAEMU sanctions following 26 July 2023 as well as by the destruction of crops. Red Cross Society of Niger is ready to respond with cash and non-food items (NFIs), drawing on its proven experience in this area.



Activities will include:

- Distribution of shelter kits and non-food items, including tarpaulins, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, water storage containers and water
- **Food assistance**, with the distribution of food parcels to the most vulnerable households.
- Multi-purpose cash assistance, with at least three instalments delivered via mobile money, to address urgent needs for food, shelter and WASH.

Emergency shelter assistance is crucial, as the majority of the most vulnerable populations have lost their homes entirely and are living in extremely precarious conditions. The floods have also severely impacted access to food, and agricultural losses could lead to severe food shortages for affected households.

Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)

The persistent high-water levels, combined with inadequate sanitation and waste management, pose major health risks to the population, including the spread of water and vector-borne diseases, as well as respiratory infections.

A cholera outbreak has been declared in the Tahoua region, specifically affecting the districts of Konni, Bouza and Madaoua, where 11 Integrated Health Centres (IHCs) are impacted. As of 12 September 2024, there have been 172 confirmed cases and 6 deaths.



- In response, community-based health activities are being implemented, including community surveillance to identify active cases and risk communication efforts to raise awareness among the population. Community volunteers will do outreach in the most affected communities and once cases are identified provide oral rehydration and referrals to health centres.
- To interrupt the transmission, **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)** activities will be implemented. These include handwashing stations and disinfection of houses and health centres. Hygiene promotion activities will be carried out to encourage safe practices, and safe and dignified burials are being arranged to prevent further spread of the disease.

Red Cross Society of Niger has significant experience in community-based health and cholera prevention and response, as well as a good relationship with the Niger Ministry of Health, which it supported in the cholera outbreaks of 2018, 2021 and 2022.





Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion [PGI], Community Engagement and Accountability [CEA], Disaster Risk Reduction [DRR])

Niger is facing severe protection issues, including mass displacement and increased risks for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and children. The climate crisis has intensified both the frequency and severity of flood events in the country as well. While humanitarian responses address immediate needs, they must also be rooted in community-driven solutions to effectively mitigate future impacts and adapt to the ongoing climate crisis. Displacement and vulnerability heighten protection risks, particularly for women, girls, the elderly and people with specific needs.

The response will contribute to improvements in safety and the well-being of affected populations, through:

- disseminating PGI policies, with community sensitization by trained volunteers on PGI and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA); and
- ensuring equitable access to basic services and conducting awareness campaigns on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and violence against children.

To assure that community will be at the centre of the response, CEA activities will be included:

- **Feedback and Information Management**: Effectively collecting and managing community feedback and information.
- Dissemination of "sensibilization" messages through community radio.
- Inclusion of local community leaders, engaging communities through participatory tools,

To reduce the impact of future disasters and adapt to climate change:

- **Climate change awareness campaigns**: Educating communities about climate change and its associated risks.
- **Training for local disaster management committees**: Using the EVCA approach to enhance their crisis management skills.
- **Emergency planning and simulation exercises**: Developing and practicing emergency plans to ensure readiness.
- **Tree planting initiatives**: Implementing projects to strengthen resilience against climatic hazards.

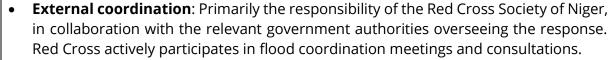




Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and partnerships





- Internal coordination: Managed by the Red Cross Society of Niger with support from
 the Secretariat, which will act as co-convener for coordination. The resources and
 expertise of each member will be utilized according to the principle of shared
 leadership. A Federation-wide approach will be established, including reporting,
 management and technical services.
- **Coordination and Partnerships**: Engagement with United Nations (UN) agencies and other humanitarian actors will be strengthened, showcasing the capabilities and contributions of Red Cross Society of Niger, even in the implementation of UN-funded programmes.

Secretariat services

IFRC will support the operation by providing coordinated operational and technical assistance to Red Cross Society of Niger. Specifically, the Niamey Country Cluster Delegation will assist the National Society in:

 Coordinating with Movement partners: Facilitating collaboration and communication between Red Cross Society of Niger and other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies involved in the response, ensuring a unified approach to addressing flood-related needs.



- Managing finances: Overseeing financial management and accountability for the operation, including budgeting, expenditure tracking and financial reporting to ensure transparency and effective use of resources.
- Overseeing operational coordination: Supporting the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities, ensuring that response efforts are well-coordinated and align with overall strategic objectives.
- **Supervising and reporting**: Providing oversight and guidance on the progress of the response, including the collection and analysis of data, preparation of reports and ensuring compliance with organizational standards and requirements.

The cluster team comprises specialists in programmes, in finance, in Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) and in National Society Development (NSD). Additionally, IFRC has a legal status agreement in the country, ensuring formal recognition and the ability to operate effectively.

National Society Strengthening



- **Financial management and reporting**: Ensuring effective management of financial resources and accurate reporting on funding.
- **Capacity building for staff and volunteers**: Enhancing the skills and capabilities of staff and volunteers at all levels to improve overall response effectiveness.

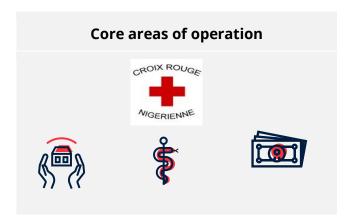
- Capacity building for logistics and supply chain: Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the Niger Red Cross's capabilities in logistics and supply chain management, including procurement processes and transportation.
- **Strengthening fundraising:** Improving national capacity for fundraising to support and sustain the response.
- Reinforcement of data collection: Strengthen the capacity of the National Society
 to collect data in the field and to assure that data is shared in a timely manner and
 with quality. Improve monitoring and reporting.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 30 September 2025, response activities will continue under the <u>IFRC Network Country Plan</u>. This takes an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned period.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Red Cross Society of Niger



Number of staff:	404
Number of volunteers:	10,000
Number of provincial branches:	8
Number of local units:	63

The Red Cross Society of Niger (*Croix Rouge Nigerienne* - CRN) operates through eight regional offices and 63 sub-offices across the country, supported by a network of 10,000 volunteers. At the Headquarters level, the executive leadership is provided by an Executive Secretary who coordinates 11 technical departments. Each department is led by a coordinator and an assistant.

"CRN" has an extensive network of trained volunteers covering various topics such as cash transfers, disaster response, CEA, PGI, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPIC) and Social and Behaviour Change (SBC). The organization implements multiple policies and strategies for effective management and coordination.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC operates a delegation office in Niamey, staffed with financial officers, PMER personnel and operations managers. IFRC has a legal status agreement in Niger, which enables better response to the most vulnerable people. In accordance with the Seville Agreement 2.0, IFRC will assist "CRN" in coordinating with Movement partners for flood response and in developing and implementing the emergency appeal. This collaboration aims to ensure a well-coordinated and effective response, minimizing duplication of effort and maximizing the impact of interventions.

The following partner national societies (PNSs) are present in Niger, and bring expertise in various areas:

- Danish Red Cross: Advanced Assessment (AA), Health, National Society Development (NSD)
- French Red Cross: Health, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/AA
- Belgian Red Cross: Health, DRR
- Spanish Red Cross: Livelihoods
- Luxembourg Red Cross: Shelter, DRR

These PNSs are actively supporting the flood response in Niger and are committed to continuing their efforts and securing additional funding.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Coordination within the Movement in Niger is managed through leadership meetings involving the Niger Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the participating National Societies. A Movement Coordination Agreement is in place to guide these interactions. IFRC plays a crucial supportive role in this coordination, facilitating effective collaboration among the different Movement actors in the context of complex crises and diverse needs.

Regular (monthly) and ad-hoc coordination meetings are held to review all ongoing interventions. For the flood response, Movement partners have met frequently to discuss their respective interventions in relation to CRN's National Flood Response Plan. Additionally, a dedicated technical working group has been established to specifically focus on the emergency response.

External coordination

Starting 10 August 2024, the Niger authorities activated an organizing body dedicated to coordinating and managing the flood response. Regional, departmental and municipal committees have also been activated to streamline aid access for affected households. Additionally, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action has organized several coordination meetings to announce and update needs based on the evolving situation of those affected.

At the government's request, the Niger country office of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) facilitates coordination meetings to improve information sharing and collection about the ongoing humanitarian response. In August, OCHA released an update and coordinated the deployment of key actors, who have played a central role in managing the crisis. CRN is actively participating in these regular coordination meetings to ensure effective collaboration and integration of efforts.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At the National Society:

- Secretary General: Nourou Kimba <u>nourou.kimba@croixrouge.ne</u> +22796971351
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At IFRC:

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For in-kind donations and mobilization table support:

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Reference

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