

WHO Emergency Health Programme for the Food Crisis in Niger

Situation Report # 18

06 December to 12 December 2005

I. Highlights

- **Nutritional data.** Following the 28 November 2005 press briefing by the Minister of Public Health and Endemic Diseases, concerning the 2005 food crisis, the Minister requested the National Health Information System (SNIS) to compile all malnutrition data from each of the eight regions of Niger. The WHO Crisis Operations Team is providing technical and financial support for the organization of three joint missions with the Ministry of Public Health and Endemic Diseases (MPH/ED) department of Nutrition, the SNIS and WHO for the collection of all available nutritional data. The main objective of the missions is to collect thorough and uniform epidemiological data from all partners working on the treatment of malnutrition in all the 8 regions of Niger, for the period of July to December 2005.
- **The fifth Francophone Games, Niamey 7-17 December 2005.** On 7 December, 2005, the President of the Republic of Niger, His Excellency Mamadou Tandja opened the fifth Francophone Games. During the opening speech, the President reiterated the gratitude and thanks to the organizations and individuals that helped Niger throughout the year and recalled that "the food crisis is now over and should not be used as a pretext to obstruct the smooth running of the Games that should be moments of fraternity, solidarity and collective joy."
- **Treatment of malnutrition.** On 1 December 2005, UNICEF released the following information:
 - There were 822 Intensive Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (CRENI) and Outpatient Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (CRENA) in operation in Niger.
 - A total of 240 208 admissions have been registered in CRENI and CRENA facilities operated by 20 health partners around the country. Of the 240 208 admissions, 173 160 were admitted for moderate malnutrition and 67 048 were admitted for severe malnutrition.
- **The joint UNICEF, World Food Programme, WHO strategy planning mission** to elaborate an Integrated Programme for Nutrition Reinforcement is continuing. A draft report of the joint mission which began on the 19 November is being developed.

II. The WHO emergency programme

Axis 1: Enhance capacities to treat severe malnutrition at health centre levels by ensuring that staff receives focused training and that therapeutic food supplies are available.

- **Accumulated evolution of admissions for the treatment of moderate and severe malnutrition in Niger. 22 August to 1 December, 2005.**

Week	Number of expected admissions from 01 July to 31 December 2005			Total number of accumulated admissions recorded		
	Severe malnutrition	Moderate malnutrition	Total	Severe malnutrition	Moderate malnutrition	Total
W34	29 115	171 573	200 688	916	27 103	28 019
W35	58 583	251 749	310 332	15 851	38 514	54 365
W36	59 845	256 149	315 994	20 034	54 124	74 158
W37	49 715	275 378	325 093	26 384	62 284	88 668
W38	ND	N/A	N/A	29 447	74 865	104 312
W39	58 555	273 849	332 404	35 993	86 658	122 651
W40	57 555	206 599	264 154	37 515	92 678	130 193
W41	69 569	204 499	274 068	44 555	108 373	152 928
W42	69 569	204 499	274 068	48 211	116 070	164 281
W43	69 569	204 499	274 068	54 421	118 823	173 244
W44	70 147	208 422	278 569	60 192	138 696	198 888
W45	70 147	208 422	278 569	61 629	142 603	204 232
W46	70 147	211 999	282 146	62 867	149 613	212 480
W47	75 397	217 099	292 496	64 924	162 005	226 929
W48	75 797	219 199	294 996	67 048	173 160	240 208

N/A : Data not available

Source : UNICEF

It is important to note the number of admissions does not correspond to the actual number of children receiving treatment as children transferred from an intensive rehabilitation centre to an outpatient centre, or vice versa, are entered as separate admissions. These numbers are not complete as not all of the NGOs have communicated their weekly reports.

Axis 2: Strengthen health sector coordination and information management to ensure better targeting and to address needs in under-serviced areas

- The monthly Tillaberi Regional Health Partners Coordination meeting was held at the Regional Department of Public Health (DSRP) on 6 December 2005. The meeting was chaired by the Associate Regional Director of the DRSP and included representatives of the Regional Department of Public Health, WHO staff from Niamey, UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), Help, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Samaritan, VALPRO and World Vision.
 - The Associate Director of the DSRP thanked the partners for their technical and financial assistance and reminded the partners of the importance of a regular and sustainable surveillance system for malnutrition.

- WHO announced the upcoming joint Ministry of Public Health and Endemic Diseases (MPH/ED) department of Nutrition, the National Health Information System (SNIS) and WHO missions to all eight regions and requested the partners to provide their data from the moment they began providing treatment, by district, age group and number of deaths.
- Each partner presented and overview of their activities and recommitted to communicate their data each week to the national authorities.
- The Zinder Region Health Partners Coordination meeting was held at the Regional Department of Public Health (DSRP) on 6 December, 2005. The meeting was chaired a representative of the DSRP and included representatives of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, GOAL, Human Appeal International, the Red Crescent/Qatar, the French Red Cross, MSF-Belgium, Sentinel and World Vision.
 - Goal will continue activities until February 2006.
 - The Red Crescent/Qatar will stop nutritional activities by the end of December 2005. A study on the needs for maintenance of existing water and the needs for new wells is being carried out.
 - WFP presented new form and for the monthly reporting of partners nutritional activities.
 - WHO reported on various missions and activities undertaken during the past 2 weeks. In particular:
 - The workshop of the fifth round of the Global Fund project for the distribution of antimalarial medication in Niger on the development of the schedule of activities and distribution of the antimalarial medication (COARTEM®).
 - Preparation of the Annual Action plans (PAA) 2006-2011 for the regions of Maradi, Zinder and Diffa.
 - The survey on the extent of access to healthcare services.
 - The joint UNICEF-WFP-WHO mission to elaborate an Integrated Programme for Nutrition Reinforcement.

Axis 3: Early identification and control of suspected outbreaks: supporting health partners in surveillance systems and strengthening preparedness for epidemic prone diseases through provision of technical expertise and pre-positioning of medical kits

- The Core Group in charge of distribution logistics for the fifth round of national vaccination campaign days 19 to 24 December held micro-planning meeting in Niamey on 7 December 2005. Logistic requirements for all partners for the distribution of resources (medical, technical and personnel) were discussed.

The national vaccination campaign days target over 3.5 million children under 5 years in Niger. During the fifth round vaccinations over 2 million Long Lasting Insecticidal Mosquito Nets 10-15 will be distributed along with the administration of the polio vaccination.

Axis 4: Support the development of an emergency policy and strategy to improve reliability of access to and affordability of essential health care

- Within the framework of the Health Plan of Development (PDS) 2005-2010, the Ministry of Public Health and Endemic Disease Health held a series of workshops organized at the district, regional and national levels of for the technical and financial partners on planned activities and implementation for 2006.

The main objectives of these workshops were to develop a coherent framework of work for the implementation of the PDS, including programmed activities costs and sources of financing.

III. Operations

Travel

- The WHO Crisis Operations communications officer travelled to Tillaberi to participate in the Regional Health Partners Coordination meeting 6 December 2005.
- The WHO Niger Crisis Operations epidemiologist and medical-nutritionist based in Niamey and the WHO epidemiologist and medical-nutritionist based in Maradi are part of the joint missions with the Ministry of Public Health and Endemic Diseases (MPH/ED) department of Nutrition, the SNIS and WHO for the collection of all available nutritional data. The first team will cover the regions of Tahoua and Agadez, the second team will cover the regions of Diffa, Maradi and Zinder. The third team will cover the regions of Dosso, Niamey and Tillaberi.

Nutritional Centres in Operation, region of Tillabéri.

