

WHO Emergency Health Programme for the Food Crisis in Niger

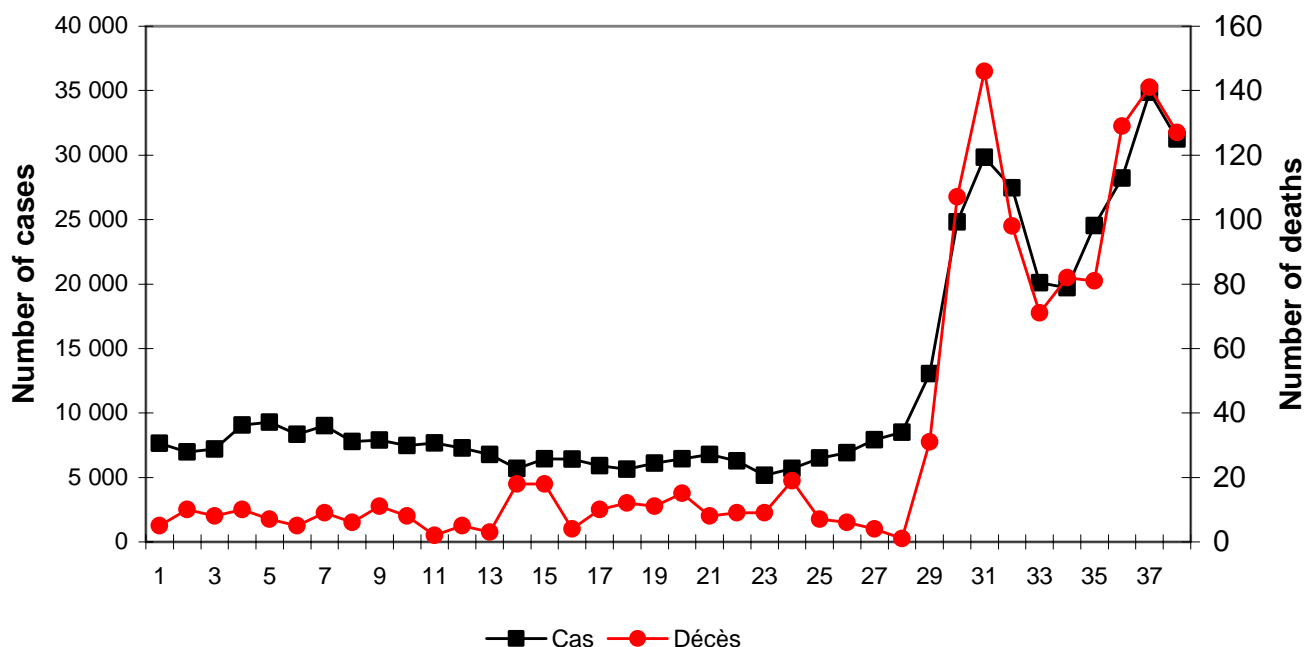
Situation Report # 8

27 September to 3 October 2005

I. Highlights

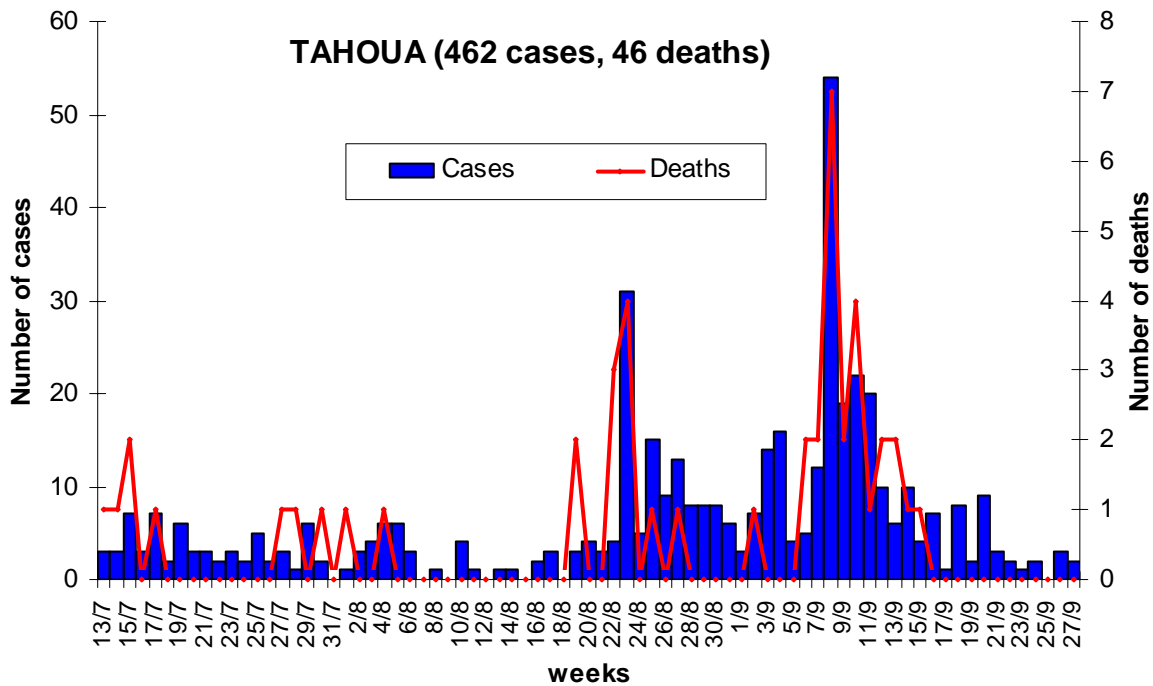
- The inter-ministerial Food Crisis Group (Cellule de Crise Alimentaire or CCA) meeting was held on the 29 September 2005. Although in general, the nutritional situation is improving, many people, especially in the rural areas such as Agadez are still suffering.
 - The food crisis even continues in areas where food distribution has increased. The food distribution amounts in the Diffa region were underestimated, but the target groups were not always appropriate. The continuation of food distribution and post-crisis plans after the 10 October is still being discussed.
 - The rumour concerning the presence of locust swarms was unfounded but the possibility the arrival of locust swarms from Tchad and Sudan is being closely monitored.
 - WHO presented an update on the measles vaccination campaign and the current cholera malaria situation.
 - A report on the aid received in Niger from the neighbouring states is forthcoming.
- 20 000 early diagnosis rapid tests for Malaria in severely malnourished children will be distributed in nutrition centres. Follow-up on the effectiveness of these test will be carried out in Agadez, Abalak, Tillabéri, Tanout and Dakoro.
- Children under five years in the districts of CRENI and CRENA, will receive 100,000 “3+3” blisters of artesunate/amodaquine for first line treatment of uncomplicated malaria.
- As shown in the graph below, malaria continues to be the leading cause of mortality and morbidity.

WEEKLY EVOLUTION OF MALARIA IN NIGER
FROM WEEK 1 TO WEEK 38 IN 2005 (CASES AND DEATHS)



- The training of health care workers continues in all 7 districts. Training on the rational use of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs) as first line treatment of uncomplicated malaria, has concluded in the Tillabéri district and the three districts of Tahoua. Training courses are currently being organized for the Agadez, Dakoro and Guidan Rounджи (maradi region) districts.
- From the 21 to 27 of September, 13 new cases of cholera with no deaths were reported in the Tahoua district. Between 13 July and the 27 September 2005, a total of 462 cases including 46 deaths have been reported. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 10%.

CHOLERA IN NIGER
FROM 13 JULY TO 27 SEPTEMBER



- The fourth issue of the *Epidemiological Weekly Morbidity, Mortality and Nutritional Surveillance in Niger Bulletin* is prepared to be published, by the MoH with the support of WHO and UNICEF, featuring data analysis for week 37 and 38.
- The funding situation has not changed: the UK's Department for international Development (DFID) has contributed USD 250,000 to WHO emergency operations. No new funds have been received; a shortfall of USD 1 million remains.

II. The WHO Emergency Programme

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

- Training of 9 health care trainers in the management of malnutrition commenced on the 29 September in Niamey and in Maradi on the 30 September, for 12 health care trainers.
- On 3 October, training in Niamey began for health care workers from the districts of Tillabéri , Fillingué and Téra. UNICEF provided the financial support for the training in the Zinder district. In total, 48 health care workers will be trained over the six day period.
- On 30 September, the interagency nutrition group coordination meeting reported on the overall situation in Niger. 12 651 (64% of the 200 000 targeted) children have been treated in CRENI and CRENA. These numbers take account of data from NGOs including MSF-France.
- The Zinder Coordination meeting was held at the Regional Department of Public Health on the 27 September 2005.
 - Data received for week 38 show 8 946 cases of severe malnutrition, and 21 853 cases of moderate malnutrition. The need for a CRENAM in Zermou was raised and the opening of three new CRENAMs by the NGO Human Appeal was announced
 - In association with Regional Department of Public Health, World Vision will distribute pharmaceutical products in the region.
 - There are fewer instances of activity duplication between organizations.
 - A convention on medical treatment was signed between Helen Keller International and Save the Children

Number of children receiving care in the Zinder Region for week 37.

	ADMISSIONS	DEATHS	ABANDONS	TRANSFERRED AND REFERRED
Severely malnourished children	1469	36	108	Not transmitted
ambulatory cases	995	13	80	n t
intensive cases	474	23	28	n t
Moderately malnourished children	10 234	35	30	157
Total	11 703	71	138	157

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

- The seventh interagency coordination meeting was held on the 28 September at the WHO office, Niamey. Partners reported on their activities:
 - The Nutrition group presented the joint UNICEF, WFP, MSF programme for the treatment of children suffering from severe and moderate malnutrition in the Zinder district which targets 40 000 children.
 - UNICEF and WHO donated to the MoH, the equivalent of 7 million CFA in cholera treatment medication and 2 100 000 CFA in fuel to enable trucks to access the Madaoua and Konni areas.
 - The MoH allocated 1 million CFA and the equivalent of 500 000 CFA in fuel following a report from the director of the National Health Information System (SNIS), on the fuel shortage problems in the Tahoua region. These allocations have enabled another 1 million CFA in arrears to be released.
 - The Recovery of Costs concept paper for the solidarity fund "Santé de proximité" will be presented to the council of ministers.
 - The surveillance group reported on the cholera outbreak.
 - The Director of Health highlighted problems of information sharing between districts, NGOs the Regional Department of Public Health and the Minister of Health.

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 repositioning of medical kits

- WHO has begun the training of health care workers on the use of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy. Training in the districts of Téra, Fillingué, Mayayi, Ouallam, Tanout, Aguié, Gouré, Keita and Loga will take first priority. The Global Fund is financing this initiative.
- This is, in accordance with the national accelerated measles vaccination strategy 2001-2005 a measles vaccination campaign was carried out from the 19 September to 2 October 2005. A total of 335 281 children aged between 9 months and 14 years are targeted. After 10 days of the campaign the vaccination rate was between 70 -77%. US\$ 340 000 has been allocated for this campaign.

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

- The Recovery of Costs concept paper for the solidarity fund "Santé de proximité" will be presented by the MoH to the council of ministers.

III. Operations

Personnel

- A second communication officer joined the WHO Niamey team.
- An administrative assistant was recruited for the WHO Niamey operations office.

Logistics

- Broken radios are being repaired and 13 HF radios were delivered to the Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique and in Gouré district, (Zinder); Augié district (Maradi), Bouza district (Tahoua) and Filingue district (Tillabéri), in order to facilitate the transmission of disease and nutritional surveillance data. The radios will be distributed to isolated health centres.