

NIGER

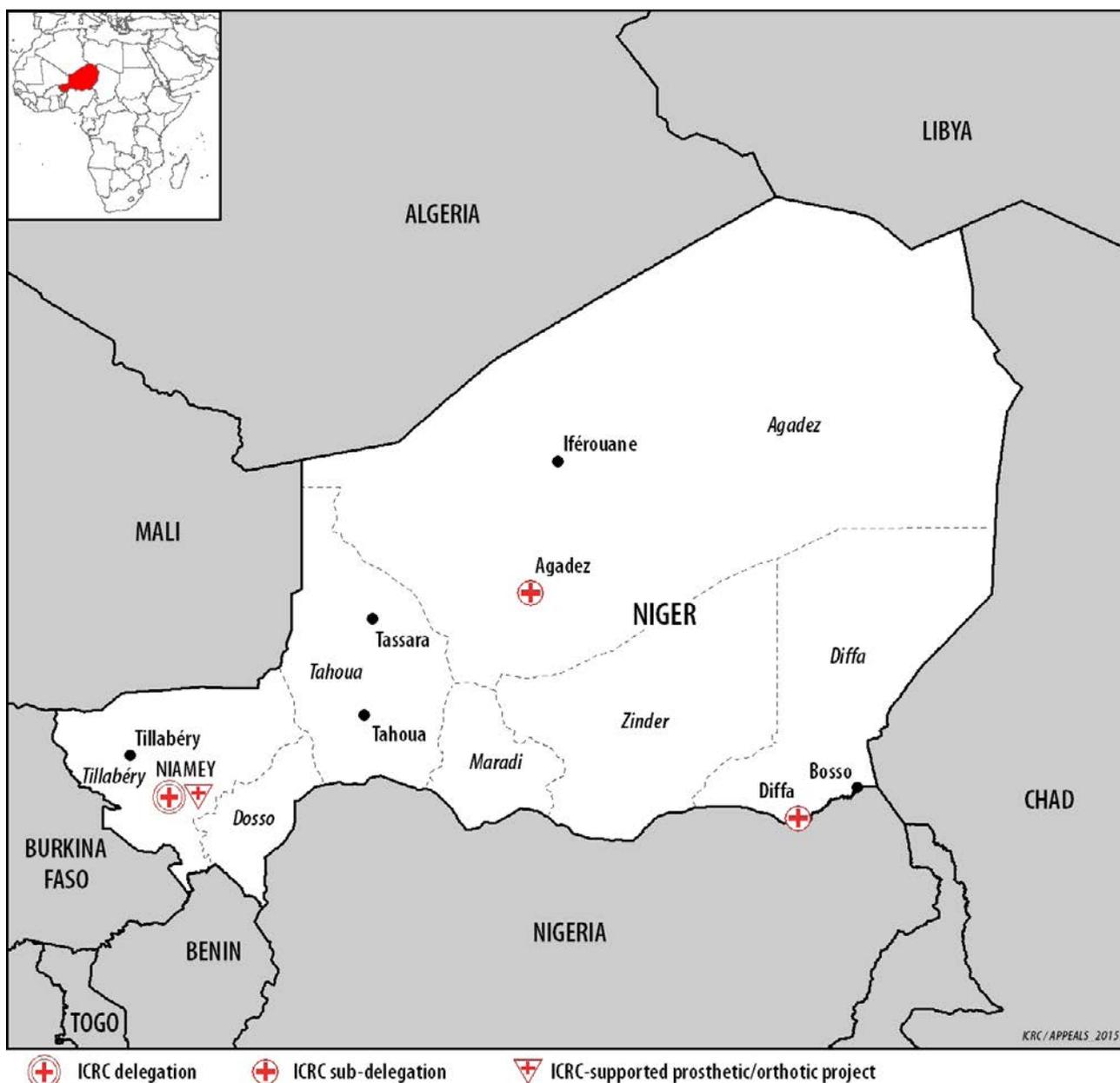
The ICRC has been present in Niger since 1982; beginning in 2013, the former Niamey regional delegation began covering only operations in the country. It seeks to protect and assist people affected by intercommunal violence and adverse climatic conditions, including migrants and others suffering the consequences of the fighting in neighbouring countries. It visits detainees, providing them with aid where necessary; promotes IHL among armed and security forces and other weapon bearers; and encourages its implementation by the national authorities. It works closely with and helps the Red Cross Society of Niger develop its operational capacities.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	2,380
Assistance	10,008
Prevention	1,485
Cooperation with National Societies	1,017
General	85
Total	14,975
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>914</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	18
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	134



 ICRC delegation
  ICRC sub-delegation
  ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ in Diffa, Tahua and Tillabery, regions bordering countries experiencing armed conflict, newly displaced people and communities hosting them meet their urgent needs through assistance from the Red Cross Society of Niger/ICRC
- ▶ vulnerable communities build their resilience to violence and bridge the hunger gap period with ICRC livelihood support, notably seed, water infrastructure upgrades and free vaccination/deworming of over 3 million animals
- ▶ weapon-wounded people in Diffa region – particularly those who fled violence in Nigeria – hasten their recovery through good-quality treatment at 3 ICRC-supported health facilities there or at referral hospitals
- ▶ State/international troops and armed groups in border areas take steps to prevent IHL abuses and facilitate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, following information sessions and dialogue on documented abuses
- ▶ detainees at 7 prisons benefit from improved living conditions and maintain good hygiene, owing to infrastructural upgrades, the fumigation of their cells and hygiene promotion campaigns by the authorities and the ICRC
- ▶ families dispersed by armed conflict, detention or migration stay in touch through Movement family-links services, with vulnerable migrants finding relief from their difficult journey at a National Society-run transit centre in Agadez

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	82,800
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	15,000
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	18,900
Cash	Beneficiaries	7,500
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	487,500
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	66,300
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	6
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Structures	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	300

CONTEXT

Nigeriens in border areas feel the effects of armed conflict in neighbouring countries. For example, Nigerians and returnee Nigeriens seek refuge from violence (see *Nigeria*) in Diffa region; widespread insecurity in Mali discourages the tens of thousands of refugees living in UNHCR camps or among host communities in Tahua and Tillabery regions from returning, and sometimes causes fresh influxes of refugees. The regional security situation, forthcoming presidential elections in 2016 and, particularly in host communities, competition for scarce resources exacerbate intercommunal tensions.

State forces, in cooperation with neighbouring countries and international troops, secure Niger's borders; particularly in Diffa, military/security operations reportedly result in arrests and the confiscation of weapons. Niger also contributes troops to regional military operations – in Côte d'Ivoire, the Lake Chad region, Mali and elsewhere.

People strive, with aid from the State and humanitarian organizations, to recover from past droughts and the 2009 conflict. Displaced people and host communities meet their urgent needs with help from humanitarian actors. However, these actors are less of a presence in remote areas.

Isolated frontier regions serve as corridors for migrants crossing borders to go further north or for those deported by neighbouring countries.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC delegation in Niger, with help from the Red Cross Society of Niger, will focus on delivering emergency assistance to vulnerable people in Diffa and, to a lesser extent, in Tahua and Tillabery. People who fled violence

in their home countries and communities hosting them will therefore be able to meet their urgent needs through food, water and household essentials distributed by the National Society and the ICRC. Where other actors are present, activities will be closely coordinated with them; in Diffa, for example, as per an agreement with the WFP, the ICRC/National Society will deliver food assistance primarily to new arrivals.

The ICRC/National Society will increase support for food production in Diffa, in light of the influx of people displaced from Nigeria. Vulnerable households will be able to supplement their food and income through ICRC/National Society-distributed seed, kits for setting up market gardens and food rations to prevent consumption of planting stock during the hunger gap period. To ensure that these people have an adequate supply of clean water for personal consumption and for irrigating crops, water infrastructure will be constructed/upgraded with the help of the water authorities and, where appropriate, by people participating in cash-for-work projects. In Agadez, Tahua and Tillabery, farming households will continue to benefit from similar upgrades, while refugee/resident herders will be able to maintain their herds with coordinated support from the livestock authorities, the ICRC and the National Society, notably the direct provision of fodder and free veterinary services for over three million animals. Nine health centres in various parts of the country, including the physiotherapy department of Niamey National Hospital, will enhance their services with ICRC support. People will thus have easier access to good-quality care, enabling them to protect their health and, particularly in Diffa, hasten their recovery from weapon wounds.

The ICRC will also seek to ensure that health/humanitarian workers have access to the most vulnerable people in Diffa, Tahua and Tillabery, and can perform their duties unhin-

dered. It will organize meetings and other events for State forces, religious/community leaders and the media, with a view to: clarifying its mandate and working methods and the use of the Movement's emblems; learning more about prevailing humanitarian and security conditions; and establishing contact with weapon bearers. To foster greater respect for IHL, the authorities will be assisted in ratifying and implementing IHL and weapon-related treaties; weapon bearers to whom the ICRC has access will be encouraged to prevent abuses – including sexual violence – through dialogue on documented allegations and information sessions on IHL and internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement.

While pursuing dialogue with the authorities on expanding its access to people held in places of temporary detention, the ICRC will visit prisons, paying special attention to security detainees and vulnerable inmates, such as foreigners, women and minors. Afterwards, it will provide confidential feedback to the authorities, helping them improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees. Particularly with regard to prison overcrowding, the authorities will be able to draw on the ICRC for technical expertise to implement system-wide reforms and direct assistance to upgrade water/sanitation infrastructure in prisons.

Family members separated by conflict, detention or migration will restore/maintain contact through family-links services provided by the National Society/ICRC. In addition, vulnerable migrants in Agadez will find rest and relief at a National Society-run transit centre.

Coordination between Movement components and with other humanitarian actors active in the country will help prevent duplication and maximize impact.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Nigerien communities, helped by State/humanitarian actors, are striving to recover from the effects of drought and the 2009 conflict. People seeking refuge in Niger meet their needs through coordinated humanitarian aid. For example, in parts of Diffa where both organizations have a presence, the WFP and the ICRC have agreed that the latter will be in charge of providing food for new arrivals.

Newly displaced people and deported migrants usually lack the means to contact their families or obtain essential services.

Objective

People, notably vulnerable foreigners, are respected by authorities and weapon bearers in conformity with applicable law. Those affected by violence or armed conflict in neighbouring countries are able to cover their basic needs and access essential services. Dispersed family members, including vulnerable migrants and children, restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, reunite.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ particularly in connection with armed clashes in Diffa and intercommunal violence in Tahua and Tillabery, document IHL or human rights abuses, with a focus on those committed against women, children and sick people;

in coordination with other ICRC delegations, share these allegations with parties concerned, so that:

- weapon bearers take steps to prevent abuses, including sexual violence
- health/humanitarian workers can reach the most vulnerable people and perform their duties unhindered

Restoring family links

- ▶ through financial/material support and training, help the National Society develop its capacities to provide family-links services and, in relation to vulnerable foreigners, coordinate with other National Societies concerned

With the National Society:

- ▶ reconnect family members separated by conflict, migration or detention through RCMs and phone calls, particularly in areas where communication networks do not operate
- ▶ where appropriate, help people rejoin their families; monitor minors resettled in Niger
- ▶ help families obtain news of missing relatives through ICRC tracing services – for example, by coordinating with penitentiary services (see *People deprived of their freedom*) and, where appropriate, publishing the names of deceased migrants
- ▶ encourage State services, particularly health facilities, to adopt good practices in managing human remains
- ▶ inform migrants, through print material and other means, of the family-links services available

Assistance

Agadez, Diffa, Tahua and Tillabery

- ▶ help the National Society boost its humanitarian response in Diffa by constructing National Society offices/facilities and by providing training in the provision of assistance and the monitoring of projects

With the National Society:

- ▶ help people adapt, during emergencies or large-scale displacement, to difficult conditions by providing:
 - three-month food rations to 28,800 people (4,200 households) and essential household items to 15,000 people (2,500 households) in Diffa and, to a lesser extent, Tahua
 - health services with medical supplies, staffing support and assistance in transporting people needing specialized care to appropriate facilities (see also *Wounded and sick*)

Economic security and Water and habitat

- ▶ so that up to 54,000 vulnerable people (9,000 households) maintain their food security, especially during the hunger gap period:
 - distribute food rations to vulnerable residents in Diffa and Tillabery, with a particular view to preventing farmers there from having to consume seed for planting
 - through management training, help up to 3,000 households establish 30 cereal banks
- ▶ with the Livestock Ministry, help some 81,250 herding households (487,500 people) in Agadez, Diffa and Tillabery boost their livestock's health and productivity by:
 - vaccinating/deworming over 3 million animals for free

- reinforcing the skills of veterinary workers, including through advanced training for 12 of them
- providing agricultural inputs and technical advice to 6 pastoralist/village associations, to increase production of animal fodder
- ▶ supplement food supply/income for up to 4,250 households (25,500 people) by providing:
 - seed and technical advice for some 1,500 farming households in Tillabery and 200 in Diffa
 - kits for some 1,300 households to set up market gardens
 - cash-for-work projects or assistance in setting up small businesses for 1,250 people to earn income for their families
- ▶ provide material/technical support for water authorities at local and national levels; with them and, where appropriate, with participants in cash-for-work projects:
 - upgrade the water supply system in Diffa town and construct/repair water points in surrounding villages, to ensure that up to 47,000 residents and displaced people have sufficient water for personal consumption and irrigation of crops
 - construct/upgrade water points in Agadez, Tahua and Tillabery to help 16,000 refugees/residents maintain their crops/livestock
- ▶ in Agadez, ease the difficult journey of vulnerable migrants by:
 - helping the National Society-run transit centre host up to 5,000 migrants; to that end, replenish its supply of food, clothing and hygiene items, and upgrade the living quarters, clinic and other infrastructure
 - constructing 2 water points along the migration route
 - transporting them, where appropriate, to urban centres or their home communities

Health

- ▶ through infrastructural upgrades, and the provision of medical supplies and technical support, help 2 facilities in Diffa, 4 others in Agadez/Tillabery and community-based health workers deliver and maintain government-approved standards of preventive and curative care for up to 60,000 vulnerable people, so that:
 - women, pregnant or of child-bearing age, benefit from ante/post-natal care and family planning services, and victims of sexual violence obtain specialized treatment – including basic psychological care
 - women and minors are vaccinated against contagious diseases
 - people seeking refuge in Diffa can obtain emergency treatment

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Armed/security forces allegedly arrest or detain people in connection with intercommunal violence and armed conflict in neighbouring countries.

Overcrowding in prisons puts pressure on limited resources and poorly maintained infrastructure, and contributes to increased tensions among detainees. Women and minors are not systematically separated from the rest of the prison population. The authorities are preparing to construct/up-

grade detention facilities, with the aid of the international community.

Objective

Detainees are afforded treatment and living conditions, including respect for their judicial guarantees, in accordance with internationally recognized standards and applicable law.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ visit people held by the authorities in 7 prisons under Justice Ministry jurisdiction, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures; pay particular attention to security detainees, foreigners, women, minors and sick people
- ▶ discuss, with the national authorities and ministries concerned, expanding the ICRC's access to people held in places of temporary detention
- ▶ so that they can maintain contact with their families, provide RCM or phone services to detainees and cover the travel expenses of visiting relatives; upon detainees' request, inform their families or consular representatives of their detention
- ▶ provide the authorities with confidential feedback on the treatment and living conditions of detainees, and technical advice to help them:
 - ensure that minors and women are separated from other inmates
 - provide health care for vulnerable detainees, including those affected by alleged ill-treatment
 - improve prison infrastructure and food supply management

Assistance

- ▶ during emergencies, help detainees recover from illness/injury by covering their hospitalization costs and donating medical supplies to health staff
- ▶ enable some 1,950 detainees in 7 selected prisons to have better living conditions by working with the penitentiary authorities to:
 - clean and fumigate cells, and, in 2 prisons, upgrade waste management systems; provide inmates with hygiene items and promote good hygiene practices among them
 - upgrade electrical wiring, a kitchen facility, living areas and clinics in 5 prisons
 - upgrade water systems in 3 prisons to ensure an adequate supply for up to 360 detainees; prepare to supply water to detainees in 2 prisons during water shortages
 - develop plans for maintaining infrastructure and managing waste, training prison officials accordingly; encourage the creation of hygiene committees in prisons and gather support from humanitarian actors

WOUNDED AND SICK

Hospitals in or near Diffa may be overwhelmed by mass influxes of wounded patients. Traveling to health facilities is difficult for people living in remote areas of the region.

In the absence of a reliable and independent physiotherapy centre, the Niamey National Hospital provides physiotherapy services for disabled people. Selected members of

its staff undergo advanced training with financial support from humanitarian actors.

Objective

Wounded patients receive adequate care. Disabled people have access to good-quality limb-fitting and physiotherapy services.

Plan of action and indicators

Assistance

- ▶ during emergencies, help 3 hospitals in or near Diffa cope with the influx of patients by providing weapon-wound and dressing kits; facilitate wounded people's evacuation/transfer to appropriate facilities

Physical rehabilitation

- ▶ so that people disabled by weapon wounds or other reasons benefit from quality physiotherapy services at Niamey National Hospital:
 - help prosthetic/orthotic technicians work in accordance with international standards, by continuing to provide polypropylene materials and supervision/training in the use of these materials
 - cover travel and treatment costs for some 100 weapon-wounded patients
 - encourage and help hospital staff and health authorities work towards the physiotherapy department's independent operation through training in medical stock and financial management, and by gradually reducing financial support
 - advise associations of disabled people and State/humanitarian actors, particularly in developing a national strategy for easing disabled people's reintegration with their communities and for subsidizing treatment costs for those with limited means

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Armed/security forces, with some backing from international troops, secure Niger's borders and allegedly detain suspected members of armed groups. Niger contributes to regional military operations, notably peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, and the mixed military commission in the Lake Chad region. Armed groups allegedly operate in border areas.

Niger has ratified major IHL instruments and is incorporating them in domestic legislation and in military doctrine and training. Islamic universities and other academic institutions, besides educating future leaders, sometimes play a part in the ratification/implementation process.

The influence of religious/community leaders and the media extends to remote communities and to armed groups.

Objective

The authorities and weapon bearers, particularly those deployed along Niger's borders, understand and respect IHL and other rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate them in their decision-making processes. The media, humanitarian actors and religious/community leaders help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among all those concerned, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ to facilitate the ICRC's work in Niger, particularly for vulnerable people in Diffa, Tahua and Tillabery and for detainees:
 - engage local authorities and State troops in discussions about the ICRC's mandate and working methods, with a view to obtaining security guarantees; seek to do the same with other weapon bearers there, particularly through contacts with religious/community leaders, families of detainees and representatives of countries that have troops in Niger
 - meet with religious/traditional leaders, journalists and beneficiary communities to learn about the security situation and to find out how the ICRC is viewed; particularly in Diffa, clarify the use of Movement emblems and changes in the assistance strategy (see *Civilians*)
 - organize information sessions for officials of the Interior and Justice Ministries and police/*gendarmerie* commanders, and sponsor an official's attendance at an expert meeting on judicial guarantees in detention
 - participate regularly in coordination meetings between UN agencies and other humanitarian actors
- ▶ so that actors inaccessible for logistical and security reasons – for example armed groups – know about neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action:
 - stimulate interest on the common ground between IHL and Islam through information sessions for actors in religious circles, and by helping a local university organize a conference for religious/community leaders and produce a manual on IHL and Islamic law
 - facilitate accurate reporting on humanitarian issues through workshops and other events, particularly for representatives of community radio stations; sponsor a journalist's attendance at a regional workshop (see *Dakar*)
 - help National Society volunteers promote the Movement through printed material and themed events
- ▶ encourage respect for IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement among weapon bearers through:
 - information sessions for some 5,000 troops, including those deploying abroad or stationed in border areas; brief border guards on the vulnerabilities of migrants
 - help develop IHL instruction in the military/security forces, by conducting train-the-trainer sessions for 15 instructors, sponsoring officers' participation in courses abroad and providing financial/technical support for updating and reprinting an IHL manual
- ▶ through technical advice, workshops and sponsorship for participation in IHL events abroad:
 - help State officials implement IHL treaties, particularly those involved in: incorporating IHL provisions in the penal code and procedures, and the military justice code; and overseeing activities carried out in observance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
 - encourage/facilitate the ratification of treaties on arms control, particularly through workshops on a regional convention on small arms, on explosive

remnants of war, and on the Arms Trade Treaty (for example, see *Nigeria*)

- cultivate interest in IHL among academics through moot court competitions and by providing scholarly support for those researching IHL topics

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Red Cross Society of Niger provides relief to vulnerable people, including those in remote and violence-affected areas. Together with the ICRC, it delivers assistance to people seeking refuge in Niger, host communities and vulnerable migrants.

The National Society is strengthening its financial, managerial and operational capacities, aided by Movement partners active in Niger.

Objective

The National Society has a strong legal base for independent action and carries out its core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ together with the International Federation, provide technical expertise/training, funds and material support to help the National Society:
 - conduct assistance and family-links activities (see *Civilians*) and respond to emergencies in violence-affected communities, in line with the Safer Access Framework
 - promote IHL and the Movement (see *Actors of influence*)
 - strengthen its statutes, financial management and organizational structure
- ▶ through regular meetings, help coordinate the Movement's humanitarian approach, particularly in maintaining neutrality, independence and impartiality