



**Title of Project: Emergency Food Security Program in Niger  
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT APS-FFP-G-15-00064**

**Annex A: Annual Results Report  
June 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015**

**Submitted to: Office of Food for Peace, USAID  
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Awardee Name and Host Country	IRC Niger
Award Number	<b>APS-FFP-G-15-00064</b>
Project Name	<b>Emergency Food Security Program in Niger</b>
Submission Date	11/02/2015
Reporting Fiscal Year	FY 2015
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**i. Project Activities and Results**

Indicator	Disaggregates	Comment
Total number of project participants targeted	Male: 1,200	The project is intended to provide a mix of cash and vouchers to 4,000 of the most vulnerable households, or 28,000 individuals; <sup>1</sup> including 70% displaced persons – refugees, returnees, and IDPs – (2,800 households or 19,600 individuals), and 30% host community members (1,200 households or 8,400 individuals). It was initially planned to select 70% women and 30% men with the support of community leaders.
	Female: 2,800	
Total number of project participants reached	Male: 2,064	Initially, IRC Niger planned to target 30% male-headed households and 70%
	Female: 1,668	

<sup>1</sup> The average household size in Niger is seven people.

		female-headed households of the 4,000 total households targeted. However, during the identification process using HEA approach, there were many more households led by men than by women in the 7 targeted sites. The current proportion after the identification process is 55% male-headed and 45% female-headed households.
Actual average cost per project participant	Cash: \$95	
	Voucher: \$101	
	LRP	
	Title II	
Average cost per project participant per month	Cash: \$4.296	
	Voucher: \$51.527	
	LRP	
	Title II	

*Cash transfers and food vouchers*

**Food Voucher and Cash transfer Tracking Table**

<b>Food Voucher and Cash transfer Tracking Table</b>	<b>Food Voucher</b>	<b>Cash Transfer</b>
Planned # of Vouchers/Transfers for reporting period	12,000	3
Value of Individual Voucher/Transfer (\$USD)	\$65	\$65
Total Amount Approved (\$USD) for Cash/Vouchers for reporting period	\$ 576,901 Food Vouchers total divided by 4	\$61,200
Actual # of Vouchers/Transfers Redeemed for reporting period	8,759	3
Total Actual Cost (\$USD) for Cash/Vouchers for reporting period	\$569,335	\$61,426
Actual # of Beneficiaries Per Month	Direct : 3,432 Indirect : 24,024	Direct : 300 Indirect : 2,100
# of Months of Cash/Voucher support within reporting period	3	3
Frequency of Cash/Voucher Distribution within reporting period	Monthly	Monthly
Planned number of recipients for the reporting period	Direct : 3,700 Indirect : 25,900	Direct : 300 Indirect : 2,100
Actual number of recipients reached for the reporting period	Direct : 3,276 Indirect : 24,024	Direct : 289 Indirect : 2,023
Time from signed agreement to first distribution to beneficiaries (if applicable to this reporting period)	1 month	1 month

*Context:*

The security situation caused by Boko Haram insurgent activities in the Diffa region has remained precarious since the start of the project. In June 2015, Boko Haram insurgents attacked three Nigerien neighborhoods (Lamana, Boulamari and NGoumao) in the town of Gueskéro (about 50 km east of Diffa). Across the border in Nigeria, insurgents also attacked the villages of Yebi (located 3 km north of the town of Bosso) and Assaga. These attacks caused not only casualties but also a wave of displacement across the border to Nigerien villages including Siebo, Zeinam Kelou. Most of this population settled at a site along the road within these villages. Population movement throughout the region continues to be unpredictable. In July 2015, a new influx of refugees from Damassack arrived in Gagamari and Chetimari following the departure of the Nigerien and Chadian joint forces from this area. Additional internal displacements from Gadira and Gamgara occurred in Bosso, Maine Soroa and Yebi. In September 2015, a new influx of refugees and returnees to villages in Diffa from villages including Boudom and Kuble Harde occurred as a result of insurgent attacks in Nigeria.

With the rainy season, some localities in Diffa such as Yebi, Maine Soroa, and Festival (Diffa) were flooded and many houses, including those of displaced people, were destroyed. The region has also seen many cases of arrests and abuses of individuals following accusation and/or suspicion of being Boko Haram members. The militarization of the region has heightened tensions throughout the population. Local authorities reinforce the administrative restrictions in Diffa region, which forbid wearing the Hijab, driving boats on the Komadougou River and riding motorbikes in the region. The curfew in the region remains 8 pm for vehicles and 10 pm for people.

*Summary of Activities:*

The IRC has nearly completed beneficiary selection of 4,000 households in 3 departments of the Diffa region: Diffa, Goudoumaria and Mainé Soroa. 3,090 households were selected through the HEA approach in June. An additional 633 were added from July to September including 50 referred by the IRC protection program in Diffa. By the end of September, the IRC had identified 3,732 households. Of the individuals representing these households, 55% are male and 45% are female. The table below describes the number of beneficiaries per department/ commune and site:

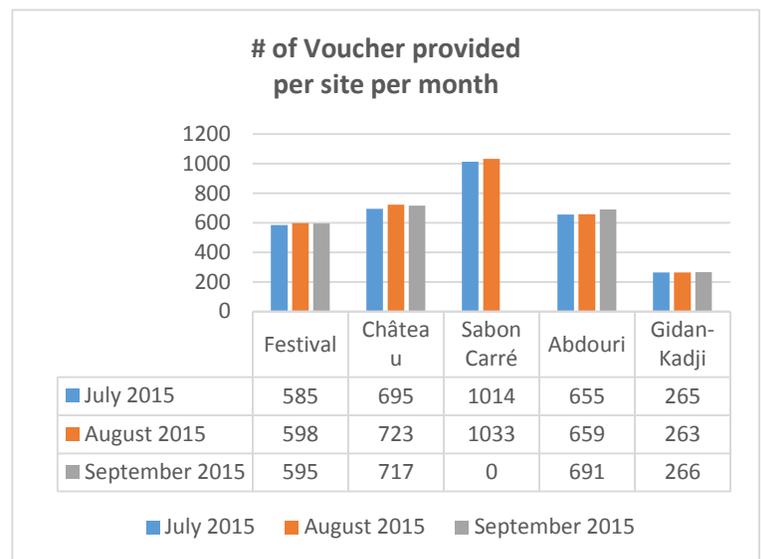
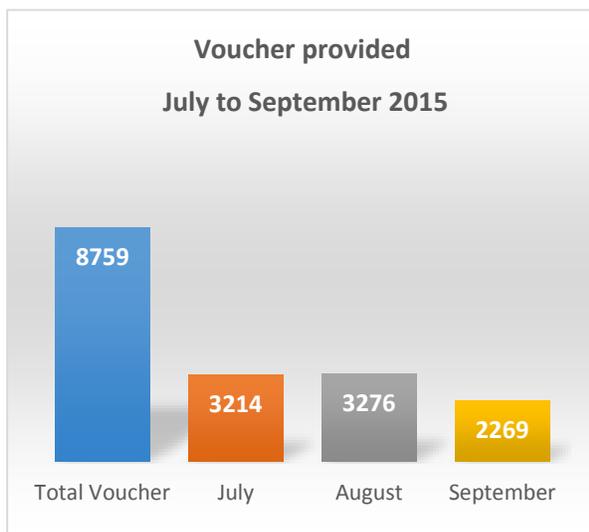
Department	Commune	Site / Village	Number of households
Diffa	Diffa	Château	728
		Sabon carré	1,143
		Festival	604
	Chétimari	Nguelkolo	200
Maine Soroa	Maine Soroa	Abdouri	691
		Gidan Kaji	266
Goudoumaria	Goudoumaria	Kilakam	100
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,732</b>

Another targeting operation to identify an additional 268 households will be conducted during the next quarter while taking into account the beneficiaries that will be referred by the protection team.

The IRC conducted a baseline survey from June 25 - 29, 2015. This study aimed to establish baseline levels of project indicators and assess the food security situation of the project target population. Data was collected from a sample of 604 project beneficiary households from an estimated 4,000 households. Household data collection targeted a random sample size (n), which was calculated with a 5% of margin of error (E), and 99 % of confidence level for 4,000 beneficiaries to improve the consistency of the sample. The IRC team used a questionnaire to collect quantitative data on indicators. The following indicators were measured and the results described below were identified:

- The Prevalence of households with moderate or severe hunger (Household Hunger Scale-HHS): 34% of households presented a moderate hunger and 9% a severe hunger;
- The Food Consumption Score (FCS) : the graph below reflects the distribution of households' food consumption status classified into three categories: Poor: 47%, Borderline: 7% Acceptable: 46%;
- The Average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) for the household is 4;
- The Average household Coping Strategy Index (CSI) is 38.0 in general with 40 for Diffa and 38 in Maine Soroa.

Food vouchers and Cash transfer assistance began in July 2015. 8,759 vouchers were provided during this quarter as described in two charts below:



The number of vouchers distributed in Sabbon Carré decreased in September due to the unavailability of the community members who assist with the distribution. The actual distribution for all the 1,143 targeted households in Sabbon Carré (Diffa) happened the first week of October 2015. After a tender process the IRC established a network of 11 suppliers for voucher redemption which are accessible to beneficiaries, including those displaced in Diffa and Maine Soroa. The vendors' shops are marked with visible stickers to make them easily identifiable, and their locations were shared with beneficiaries during each distribution session.

For the cash transfers, 289 beneficiaries (189 in Nguelkolo and 100 in Kilakam) out of the 300 planned (200 in Nguelkolo and 100 in Kilakam) received 3 transfers for a total amount of \$195.

Each beneficiary received \$65 per transfer. 11 beneficiaries targeted in Nguelkolo were not present during the three cash transfers facilitated by a microfinance institution. In collaboration with the complaints management committee, investigations have been conducted to identify the reasons for their absence and these individuals will be replaced if necessary during the next distribution.

Distributions of food vouchers, cash transfers and nutritional supplements were held in schools or in the town chief's house to ensure the ease of identifying the distribution point and to provide necessities such as water point and access to toilets for those attending the distribution. All distributions were made in the heart of residential areas in a village to prevent recipients from traveling long distances. Distributions were usually held from 8 am to 6 pm with the support of the distribution monitoring committees set up for this purpose.

During the distribution process, the complaints management committees established in each site provided major support. Composed of 10 members with an average of 40% women, these committees included neighborhood leaders, religious leaders and other influential members and key informants in the community who mobilized the community and managed complaints during the distributions. Their presence was intended to limit fraud attempts and manage potential fraud risks associated with the identification of recipients on the distribution lists.

Nutrition awareness sessions were conducted with beneficiaries using the Family Good Practice module developed by UNICEF in each site before distribution. With the support of WFP, a complementary nutritional supplement was provided to 1,232 children and 615 pregnant women and nursing mothers from June to September 2015, to improve their food consumption during the lean season. IRC Niger organized the food distribution for 3,090 vulnerable households in June to cover their urgent needs before the start of the voucher and cash assistance. During this distribution, each household received a monthly ration of 100 kg of cereals, 20 kg of lentils and 4 kg of oil. 618 children and 155 pregnant women and nursing mothers in these targeted households received additional nutritional supplements.

IRC Niger regularly participated in the monthly coordination meetings led by the Food for Peace representative in Niger intended to share information and experience with FFP funding recipients (Samaritan's Purse and Save the Children).

#### *Staple Foods:*

<b>Staple Food Prices</b>						
Commodity (by type)		Quantity	Price in Nov. 2014	Retail Price in February 2015	Current Retail price October 2015	% of decrease or Increase to Nov 2014 at October 2015
1	Mil	Tia	\$1,00	\$1,40	\$1,00	0%
2	Maize	Tia	\$0,80	\$1,10	\$1,00	20%
3	Rice imported	Tia	\$3,00	\$3,00	\$3,00	0%
4	Sorghum	Tia	\$0,80	\$1,00	\$0,80	0%
5	Cowpea	Tia	\$4,00	\$5,00	\$2,00	-100%

6	Onion	Tia	\$2,00	\$2,40	\$3,40	41%
7	Ground peppers	Tia	\$6,00	\$7,00	\$7,00	14%
8	Beef	Kg	\$7,00	\$7,00	\$5,00	-40%
9	Dry fish	Tia	\$4,00	\$4,00	\$2,00	-100%
10	Palm Oil	Liter	\$1,80	\$2,00	\$2,00	10%
11	Powdered Milk	500 grams	\$4,50	\$4,50	\$4,00	-13%
12	Sugar	Tia	\$3,60	\$4,00	\$3,60	0%
13	Salt	Tia	\$2,60	\$3,00	\$1,60	-63%
14	Tomato concentrate	25 grams	\$0,30	\$0,40	\$0,30	0%
15	Semovita	Kg	\$1,40	\$1,60	\$1,60	13%

In general, the price of food items have returned to their normal levels, as they were before the Boko Haram attacks in Diffa in February 2015. According to data from the System of Agricultural Market Information (SIMA), food prices were relatively stable or declined compared to their 2014 levels and the average of the last five years. The trend of decreasing prices for major cereals in the region of Diffa region was also observed in the data published in the monthly newsletters produced by FEWSNET<sup>2</sup> and Afrique Verte Niger<sup>3</sup>. This downward trend may be explained by factors, such as, regular market supplies in the region of Diffa, weak local demand due to the households' low purchasing power, destocking of cereals in northern Nigeria, destocking of old stock by traders in the Diffa region in anticipation of the new 2015 crops; population movements; and regularity of food assistance.

The decrease in the price of dried fish may be linked to the challenges faced by producers to export their products to Nigeria, their primary export recipient country even before the crisis, and also related to fishing bans imposed by regional authorities in Diffa for security reasons. All available stocks are now sold in the markets in the Diffa region.

The decrease in prices of the cowpea, as observed in November, can be explained by the beginning of harvesting this crop in the Diffa region, as well as the fact that this cereal is most likely sold by households that have been receiving food distributions during the lean season, from June to September 2015.

Before that period, the market prices remained relatively stable and should stabilize return to normal levels in the coming months.

## **ii. Challenges, Success, and Lessons Learned**

Initially, IRC Niger planned to target 30% male-headed households and 70% female-headed households of the 4,000 total households targeted. However, during the identification process using Household Economy Approach (HEA), there were many more households led by men than

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fews.net/fr>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.afriqueverte.org>

by women in the 7 targeted sites. The current proportion after the identification process is 55% male-headed and 45% female-headed households. It was challenging to use HEA in urban areas with a large population size, as it was difficult to define the area size, the neighborhood borders and to locate beneficiaries' houses. Additionally, this methodology required more people and time to conduct home visits to confirm and check the status and income/asset level of the beneficiaries.

Following the recent suicide attacks, which occurred in the Diffa region, the regional authorities have recommended avoiding large public gatherings. To ensure that the beneficiaries receive their food vouchers, the IRC has opted for a home delivery of the vouchers to all target beneficiaries. This distribution method requires more human resources and time than was initially planned for this activity. To solve this issue, the IRC is planning to introduce the use of ATM cards for beneficiaries and to provide adequate equipment (such as card readers) to each partner provider.

The baseline data was collected during the Muslim fasting period, which may have had an impact on the food security data established. Households tend to change their diet for the better during this period and the information gathered may therefore be biased. These limitations are not significant enough to invalidate the findings of this study but should be taken into consideration.

In Nguelkolo and Chétimari, where 300 beneficiaries were targeted to receive cash transfers instead of food vouchers, the IRC will conduct a post distribution monitoring study to assess the purchases made with the cash transfer. Because there are no selected suppliers in those 2 villages, the IRC is also planning to encourage some of the selected suppliers in other villages to open the shops in these 2 villages so that voucher redeeming be also an option in these locations.

Due to the risk level for cash distribution, the Microfinance Institution (ASUSU SA) increased the commission rate from 5% to 9% to support the additional security costs. ASUSU MFI is almost the only well-established MFI in the area that has the financial capacity to deliver this service. The majority of NGOs working in Diffa and engaged in cash transfer assistance use the same MFI, which also led to some delays in pre-established distribution schedules.