



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

NIGER - Fire

Data

Date: March 30, 1982 (FY 82)

Location: Niamey

No. Dead: 1

No. Affected: 3,000 merchants lost all inventories

Damage: Capital's principal trading center razed; inventories, equipment, and cash holdings destroyed; loss estimated to total more than \$16 million

The Disaster

On the evening of March 30, a fire broke out in the Grand Marche, the main shopping center of Niger's capital city, Niamey. The fire raged for four hours, destroying hundreds of wooden booths and stalls that filled the twenty-acre site and consuming the inventories and cash holdings of thousands of merchants, artisans, and craftsmen headquartered there. The entire Marche was leveled and only the corrugated tin roofs remained.

The immediate impact of the fire was the complete devastation of the capital's principal trading center for food and locally manufactured goods. However, the disaster had widespread long-term effects on the economy of Niamey.

Action Taken by the Government of Niger (GON)

The GON convened a meeting of the heads of diplomatic missions on April 1 and issued an appeal for international assistance to deal with the effects of the fire.

NIGER - Fire

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

The U.S. Ambassador to Niger and the Deputy Chief of Mission toured the Marche area the morning after the fire. After observing the devastation, the DCM telephoned the Nigerian Directeur de Cabinet to express the concern of the USG and offer U.S. assistance. In a meeting later that day the President of Niger officially requested any assistance the USG could provide.

On April 5, the U.S. Ambassador declared that a disaster warranting US assistance existed in Niamey. Exercising his disaster assistance authority, the Ambassador made a donation of \$25,000 to the GON officials responsible for providing immediate relief to the victims of the fire. These funds were used to provide food, clothing, and immediate rehabilitation to the affected merchants.

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported.