

Project Report

the Plan:

help to keep displaced children and their families safe and healthy by providing household kits

Where

NIGER

What

SHELTER

Impact

We provided assistance to 2,584 people, including 1,806 children, by distributing kits, including mosquito nets, jerry cans, soap and water purification tablets

Your contribution has made a huge difference to the lives of children in Niger.



Registered charity no: 276035

Emergency support for displaced families

Bosso, Niger

Final report

Project summary

Since 2009, Nigeria has been affected by widespread violence and disruption at the hands of the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, **affecting an estimated three million people in total**. To date, over 100,000 Nigerians have fled to neighbouring countries, including Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The vast majority have fled to Niger, with an estimated 50,000 refugees currently living in makeshift settlements or with families in host communities. The UN estimates that around 500 people are entering Niger from Nigeria every week, with peaks in July of over 2,000 people per week arriving in Diffa region, Niger (The UN Refugee Agency – UNHCR). These people have been greatly affected by the violence and unrest in Nigeria, and children have unfortunately been exposed to extremely distressing situations with many witnessing the killing of relatives and the collapse of their communities.

Due to a significant lack in resources in Niger (the country is still hosting many refugees from the 2012 Malian crisis), the situation remains perilous for children and their families once in Niger, who have been living without access to shelter, water, sanitation, food and education. Children are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, dehydration and illness. Additionally, the government of Niger has prohibited the setting up of temporary or official refugee camps and so families are living in makeshift settlements in the open or living with families in host communities. However host communities are unable to cope with the dramatic influx of families, and humanitarian assistance from organisations such as Plan has become crucial in order to ensure the survival and dignity of thousands of children and families.

Plan Niger's response, funded by JOAC, prioritised the provision of household kits which included shelter, hygiene support and essential non-food items in order to improve the health and living conditions of the affected children and families.

Impact

This project focussed specifically on providing household kits of essential 'non-food items' to 360 households to meet some of the basic needs of families; most of whom fled Nigeria with few or no belongings. The kits, which included jerry cans, water purifying tablets, mosquito nets and blankets, were distributed to displaced people in three villages in the department of Bosso. In total, **2,584 people benefitted from the kits, including 1,806 girls and boys**. The kits helped people not only to have shelter from the elements (Niger is one of the hottest countries on the planet), but also to stay safer and healthier by sleeping under mosquito nets, purifying their drinking water and through good hygiene practices such as hand washing with soap.

Niger: The Facts



- Population: 16.1 million
- Under Five Mortality: 143/1000
- Below the poverty line: 43.1%
- Human Development Index: 186/187
- Water supply coverage: 46%
- Sanitation coverage: 13%
- Literacy rate (male): 43%
- Literacy rate (female): 15%
- Population under 15: 49%
- Fertility rate: 6.93*

*Sources: WHO 2006, 2010 and HDI 2011.

Activities

• Procurement of kits

The items for the household kits were sourced in Niger in line with Plan's fair and transparent procurement policy. The household kits were distributed to 360 affected families and included:

- Three blankets (1,080 distributed in total)
- Three mosquito nets (1,080 in total)
- Three mats (1080 in total)
- Two 25 litre jerry cans for water collection and storage (720 in total)
- 10 pieces of soap (3,600 in total)
- 150 water purification tablets (54,000 in total)



A beneficiary is asked for a fingerprint (or signature) to show he received his household's kit

Please note that the kits were originally planned to include tents to provide shelter for beneficiaries. However, the amount budgeted for tents proved to be inadequate, as the prices of tents and other non-food items increased sharply during implementation due to demand in the Diffa region. The original amount budgeted for tents was \$40 a unit, whereas the actual cost during project implementation was around \$100 and so the decision was taken to not include tents.

• Identification of target households

The three targeted villages were chosen because of the large influx of refugees who have settled in this area, which is near Lac Tchad, because fishermen can work and fertile soil allows farmers to settle. Plan worked with key institutions to carry out a careful identification of target households to ensure that the kits were reaching the most vulnerable families. The criteria stated that the households receiving the kits should prioritise newly arrived refugees who had not previously received any humanitarian assistance. The list of refugees meeting the criteria was provided by the Regional Directorate of Civil Status and Refugees (DREC/R). Plan staff then conducted visits to the target villages to verify the status and location of the targeted households from this list, and then to inform the beneficiaries in advance of when the kits would be distributed.

• Distribution of kits

Having thoroughly checked the list of target beneficiaries against their actual presence in villages, Plan staff worked with security forces to prepare points of distribution in order to avoid overcrowding and to ensure kits were distributed to the correct households (soldiers are deployed throughout the region due to the proximity of armed Boko Haram groups). The distribution was carried out very successfully from 20th – 22nd September 2014 in three villages. The distributor would call the recipient's name and the recipient signed, or fingerprinted (due to low levels of literacy) that they had received the kits. In total 360 households totalling 2,583 people, including 1,806 children, received kits to help them achieve a basic level of comfort, hygiene and safety.

• Awareness raising

At each distribution point, an awareness raising session was held on good hygiene practices, the use of the water purification tablets and the importance of sleeping under a mosquito net, which reached all 360 households. This ensured that parents and other family members were provided with adequate information relating to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in order to keep themselves and their children healthy.

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• Evaluation

Following the provision of household kits and awareness raising activities, an evaluation survey was conducted with beneficiaries to record the changes brought about by the project in their lives, and their level of satisfaction with the project. At each distribution point, focus groups with community members, as well as individual interviews were held. All 18 households surveyed reported being satisfied with the assistance, and expressed their gratitude to Plan International and its funders. They noted, in particular, the quality of the items, and noted that the kits helped them begin to resume some normality, despite the crisis. The distribution process was described as very satisfactory; 87% of beneficiaries reported that there was shade and water at the distribution points, 96% said that there was no confusion on 'who should receive and what [they received]', 94.3% said that they were treated fairly during the distribution and 90% said there was no scramble for items during distribution.

“Since we arrived here on this site we have nothing. No mats, no blankets and no mosquito nets. We sleep on the ground under the tree. Since the distribution of these items, we began to regain our normal life with mats, blankets and mosquito nets to protect against mosquitoes. Since we came here it was the first time we received assistance.” Mr Babari, father of fourteen children

Challenges faced

- Poor roads and infrastructure – particularly the road from Diffa to Bosso, along which the kits had to be transported – meant that it took longer than anticipated to deliver the materials to distribution points, which consequently had an impact on fuel usage
- At Bosso, due to the large number of newly arrived refugees who have never received humanitarian assistance, the distribution was disrupted by other refugees attending who were not on the government list of target households. The team was therefore forced to postpone the distribution of kits until the next day
- At Garin Amadou and Mamouri, some newly arrived refugees were not taken into account by the Census of the Regional Directorate of Civil Status and Refugees (DREC/R)

In order to address these challenges, Plan raised awareness amongst refugees and the host population on the criteria for selecting beneficiary households. This explanation helped both host communities and refugees to understand each other's needs and rights and abide by the beneficiary selection process.

Community participation and sustainability

The distribution of the household kits was carried out in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Civil Status/Refugees and the regional/sub-regional committee for the Prevention and Management of Crises and Disasters, local elected officials, traditional leaders and other humanitarian partners operating in the region (ACTED, IRC, CARE etc.) and UN agencies (OCHA, UNHCR). Census and distribution documents were endorsed by every beneficiary household, in order to certify that the donation was received. A copy of the documents was given to local authorities so that other humanitarian actors could refer to them, in order to avoid duplication which remains a major problem for all partners.



A family receiving their household kit

With regards to sustainability, Plan's sustained presence in the local area will contribute to sustained benefits of the project. The quality of the items provided to targeted households, as well as the

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increased awareness of hygiene, sanitation, water purification and the importance of mosquito nets also contributed to the sustainability of this project. However, in order for refugees to become less dependent on humanitarian assistance there remains a need for cooking, fishing and farming equipment so that they can provide for themselves and earn an income.

Project expenditure

The project had an overall budget of £30,000, with the funding generously provided by the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission. Please see the expenditure report below for details of how the Commission's grant was used.

Please note that in the below breakdown, no costs have been reported against the monitoring and evaluation and awareness raising budget lines. This is because the only costs incurred associated with these activities related to staff time and transport costs and so have been included in these relevant lines.

Overall, project expenditure was £3,208 higher than anticipated. This is largely due to a significant increase in Plan Niger's support costs relating to transport. These increased costs have been funded by a UK charitable trust.

Activities	Budget (\$)	Budget (£)*	Expenditure (\$)	Expenditure (£)
Provision of emergency household kits	36,288	21,600	36,340	21,631
Transport and storage of kits	504	300	1,840	1,095
Monitoring and evaluation**	3,024	1,800	-	-
Safety and hygiene awareness raising activities**	1,226	730	-	-
Security escorts	1,260	750	470	280
Project staff (20% of time of three project officers)	7,560	4,500	13,670	8,137
Plan Niger support costs (including transport, communication and other overheads)	538	320	3,470	2,065
TOTAL	\$50,400	£30,000	\$55,790	£33,208

*Plan projects are budgeted in US\$, although funds are raised in other currencies and expenditure is made in local currency. The exchange rate used here is £1=US\$1.68, which was the rate used by Plan International in July 2014 when the income was received.

on behalf of the children and their families affected by conflict in Nigeria and Niger, we thank you for your life-saving support.

Your contribution is vital to ensure the wellbeing of children in Niger.
If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Registered charity number 276035

