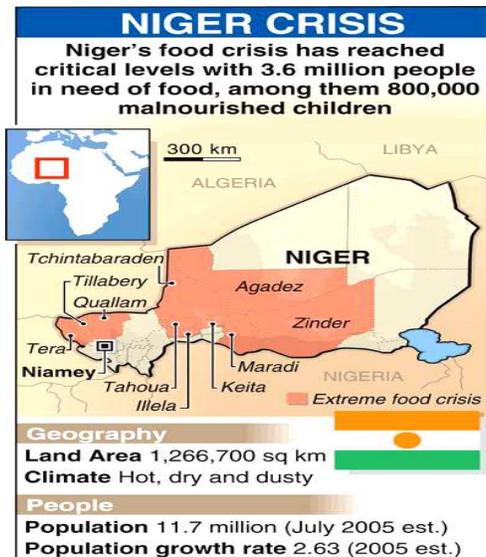


NIGER DIRECT

Emergency aid for communities in need



A devastating combination of drought and locust invasions has created a food crisis in the West African nation of Niger that is currently threatening the lives of millions. The time between now and late October is critical as farmers replant their fields. Your help is urgently needed to support families struggling to find food and medical care while they await the next harvest.

Who we are:

Niger Direct is a community-led initiative based at the University of Arizona (UA) in Tucson that provides emergency aid directly to communities in Niger hit hard by the food crisis. The team is composed of individuals with experience in poverty alleviation in West Africa, including experts in food and livelihood security, public health and community development. *Niger Direct* has no political or religious affiliations.

- ❖ Niger is the world's second poorest nation, according to the United Nations.
- ❖ 3.6 million people in Niger are facing critical food shortages, including over 800,000 children.
- ❖ \$150 can sponsor a Nigerien family for the next two months when aid is most needed.

Niger Direct is working in collaboration with the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA), an internationally-recognized research institute at the University of Arizona with expertise in international development, project design and policy analysis. Since 1990, BARA has conducted several food security studies in Niger and built contacts with non-governmental organizations and the University of Niamey in Niger.

What we can do:

Based on the results of a rapid needs assessment led by anthropologist Dr. Mamadou Baro in August 2005,¹ *Niger Direct* will provide emergency relief for villages in the critically affected regions of Dakoro and Tanout. Three types of aid will be offered to families in greatest need:

- ❖ cash assistance to purchase food and medical supplies in local markets,
- ❖ creation of community cereal banks to stock grains for times of need, and
- ❖ purchase of livestock (sheep, goats & poultry) to replace animals lost in the drought.



How to help:

Your tax-deductible donation to *Niger Direct* will deliver immediate aid to families in Niger and help save the lives of people struggling to get through this difficult period. Aid will be distributed in September 2005 by volunteers and donors will receive reports on expenditures and progress. Please make donations payable to *UA Foundation/Anthropology* (please note *Niger Direct* in memo line) and send to:
Niger Direct, c/o Dr. Thomas Park, P.O. Box 210030,
 Dept. of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.
 For more information, please contact Tara Deubel:
deubel@email.arizona.edu. Thank you for your support!

¹ For more information, please see <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/education/88827.php>