



**DOCTOS WITHOUT BORDERS/MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF)
RESPONSE TO THE NUTRITIONNAL CRISIS IN NIGER
Update September 11, 2005**

**MSF PROGRAM IN NIGER
(Update September 11, 2005)**

- **5** regions of intervention: Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder, Diffa, Tillabéri ;
- **10** Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFC / CRENI) : Maradi, Aguié, Tahoua, Tibiri, Dakoro, 2 in Zinder town, Tanout, Diffa, Ouallam ;
- **41** outpatient therapeutic feeding program;
- **2** pediatric units: Aguié et Dan Issa, Maradi province;
- More than **12,300** severely malnourished children currently under care;
- More than **32,900** severely malnourished children admitted since the beginning of the year;
- In 2005, more than **8,000** tones of food distribution to malnourished children and their family in Niger;
- More than **1,400** national staff;
- Around **140** MSF international staff

Overview of MSF programs

Between January 1 and September 11, 2005, MSF teams have admitted more than **32,900** severely malnourished children in their therapeutic feeding programs in Niger. A total of **3,250** children were admitted during the week of September 5. MSF expects to treat more than **40,000** severely malnourished children this year in Niger—four times the number of 2004.

MSF teams have been running a program for severely malnourished children in Maradi region since 2001. With the alarming increase in admissions since January 2005, new Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFCs) and outpatient therapeutic feeding programs have been set up in Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder, Diffa and Tillabéri regions. Medical teams are currently running **10** therapeutic feeding centers and **41** outpatient therapeutic feeding programs in nearby areas.

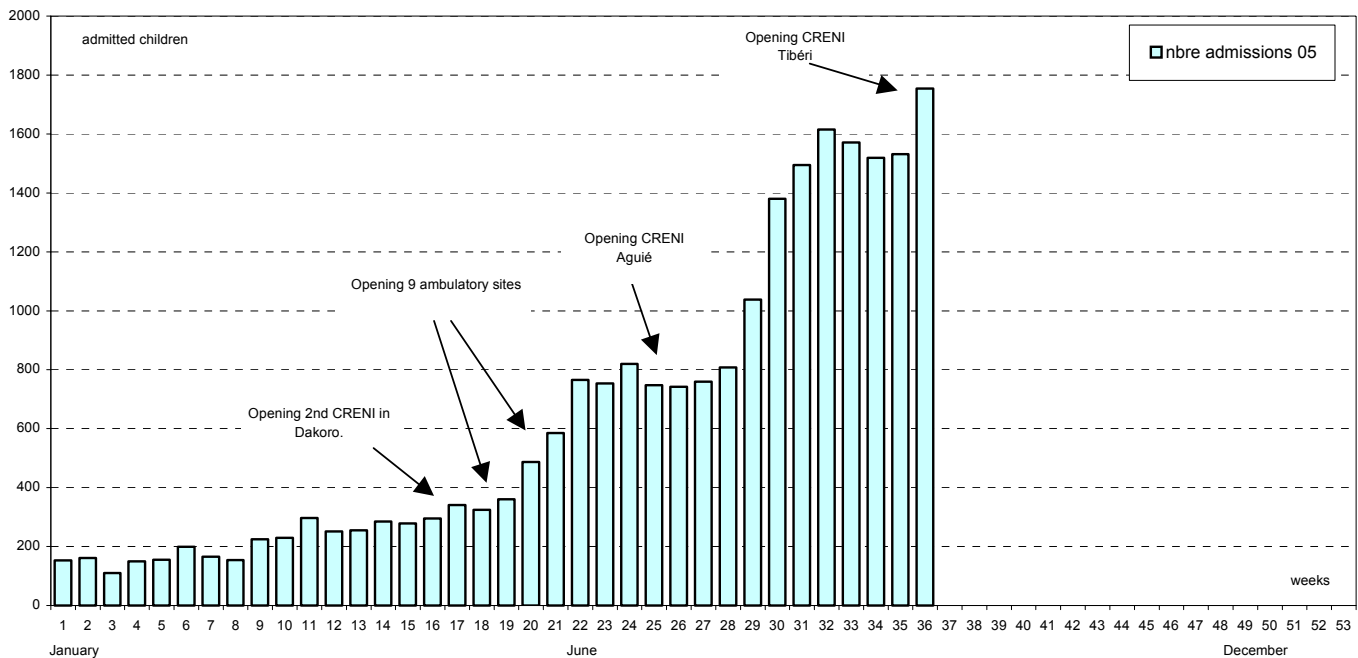
Today, **1,400** national staff and **140** international staff provide emergency nutritional assistance to severely malnourished children, actively screen children and provide food rations to moderately malnourished children and their families. Two pediatric care hospitalization units have also been set up to provide free medical care to children under five.

FOCUS: MSF PROGRAM IN MARADI AND TAHOUA

(Update September 11, 2005)

- Program in Maradi opened since 2001;
- **5** Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFC / CRENI): Maradi, Aguié, Tahoua, Tibiri, Dakoro ;
- **17** outpatient therapeutic feeding program;
- **2** pediatric units (Aguié and Dan Issa);
- More than **26,620** severely malnourished children admitted since the beginning of the year;
- Currently **7,350** severely malnourished children currently under care, including **6,620** in ambulatory and **720** in CRENI;
- **1,860** severely malnourished children admitted the week of September 5;
- **660** national staff;
- **45** international staff.

NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS (New and readmissions) BY WEEK
NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM, MARADI REGION 2005, Médecins Sans Frontières, Niger



FOCUS: MSF PROGRAM IN ZINDER

(Update September 11, 2005)

- Program in Zinder town opened since July 21, 2005;
- **2** Therapeutic Feeding Center in Zinder;
- **14** outpatient therapeutic feeding program in and around Zinder;
- **4,120** severely malnourished children currently under care in Zinder region, including **580** in Therapeutic Feeding Centers;
- **5,170** severely malnourished children admitted since the beginning of the program;
- **970** severely malnourished children admitted the week of September 5;
- **450** national staff;
- **62** international staff.

MSF response to severe malnutrition

Therapeutic Feeding Centers / CRENI

Severely malnourished children who are gravely ill or who lost their appetite are hospitalized in CRENI. As soon as their state of health improves, the children go back home and are taken into care in our outpatient therapeutic (ambulatory) feeding program.

Outpatient therapeutic feeding program

Our ambulatory teams see the severely malnourished children once a week. They give them 14 packets (2 per day) of Plumpy'Nut and hold consultations to check that the children don't develop medical complications. Besides therapeutic care, they provide a supplementary family food ration on a weekly basis while a child is under treatment (Five kg Unimix – enriched flour – and one liter of cooking oil).

Severely malnourished children recover in four to five weeks. A food ration is given when the child finishes the treatment (50kg cereal, 25kg legume and 10 liters of cooking oil). This ration is made to cover the food needs of an eight-person family for one month.

90% of the severely malnourished children are cured at the end of the program. Less than 5% die.

MSF response to moderate malnutrition

In Maradi, Dakoro, Tessaoua, Keita, Tahoua and Ouallam areas, MSF teams provide monthly supplementary food rations to more than **30,000** families of moderately malnourished children and children under 6 months. The beneficiaries of this food distribution receive in all 3 supplementary food rations at the rate of one per month.

In August, MSF provided zinc supplements to more than **63,000** children in Maradi region in order to prevent diarrhea or reduce its severity.