



Niger: Scouts and the fight against food crisis

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In 2005 , a severe drought and a rare invasion of locusts wiped out much of Niger's food crop and led to the start of a famine. This led to a serious shortage of cereals (a deficit of 450 200 tons). The crisis impacted adversely on the socio-economic life of Niger: A big part of agricultural areas ended up with no supplies of cereals: Niger's staple meal. There was also an outbreak of malnutrition among infants and children.

Faced with this situation, in May 2005, the government of Niger issued a call for national and international solidarity in a bid to offer help to nearly 3.6 million people in distress. In order to participate in the national solidarity efforts, the Association des Scouts du Niger appealed to the international Scout fraternity, that is to all the National Scout Organizations through a project dubbed « Scouts du Niger contre la faim » (Scouts of Niger Against

hunger). The latter was funded by Guides et Scouts du Luxembourg. In addition, UNFPA had recourse to the Scouts of Niger for the implementation of a project of food distribution to pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Agadez and Zinder areas. According to the Chief Commissioner, YAZI Oumarou, thanks to the support from Guides et Scouts du Luxembourg, food (sorghum and millet) was bought and stored so as to be resold at an affordable price, to the population of the catchment area. It is also worth to note that Scouts were involved in gardening in plots with access to water, that were given out by the local authorities. After harvesting, Scouts sold the produce to their communities.