

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund response report – supporting Niger Poste following the 2024 floods

In 2024, Niger was hit by its worst flooding in over four years, following weeks of relentless rains beginning in June and intensifying through September. The floods affected nearly 1 million people across 18 communes, causing widespread devastation. Over 95,000 homes and 13,000 hectares of crops were destroyed, with more than 21,000 tonnes of food lost and 309 lives claimed. The country's fragile socio-economic landscape further deepened the impact, particularly in refugee camps and vulnerable urban zones. The disaster also severely disrupted essential public services, including Niger's postal operations, with 10 post offices inundated, leading to extensive damage to computers, servers, printers, scanners and postal equipment, as well as prolonged service disruptions in mail delivery, financial transfers and salary disbursements.

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund responds

In response to Niger Poste's urgent call for support, the UPU activated its Emergency and Solidarity Fund (ESF) to coordinate assistance and recovery efforts. Through its disaster risk management (DRM) team, the UPU conducted a rapid assessment of the damage and prioritized the procurement of essential IT and operational equipment. The team facilitated coordination with postal partners and initiated an emergency appeal to gather resources. A damage report submitted by Niger Poste highlighted losses that included 20 computers, 10 printers, 15 scanners, 20 uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units, 22 postal scales and 100 mailbags. The ESF team worked closely with Niger Poste to establish a recovery plan that emphasized restoring connectivity, ensuring service continuity and promoting infrastructure resilience.

Global solidarity in action

In a strong gesture of international solidarity, the UPU provided support through its regular budget, enabling the provision of vital equipment to support Niger Poste's recovery. This included desktop computers, multifunction printers, barcode scanners, tablets, UPS units, postal scales and label printers. The supply of essential technology items was needed to resume operations and improve resilience for future emergencies. This targeted support played a critical role in rapidly re-establishing services in affected areas.

Conclusion

The devastating 2024 floods in Niger highlighted the urgent need for swift and coordinated disaster response. Thanks to the activation of the ESF, Niger Poste has begun re-establishing critical postal operations and restoring service delivery to its communities. This case stands as a powerful example of how global solidarity, guided by the UPU's DRM framework, can drive tangible recovery outcomes and reinforce postal resilience in the face of climate-related disasters.