



Humanitarian Association

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www.morija.org - CCP : 19-10365-8

Press Release – for distribution

Famine in Sahel

Morija sounds the alarm

Just as the media reports covered the famine crisis in Niger, Morija wants to be the voice of the neediest in Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso also suffers of famine particularly in the northern provinces near Niger.

Morija was contacted via its local partners. Catherine Sawadogo who works at the Morija nutrition centre of Ouagadougou relayed 13 year-old Emilienne's cry for help: "We have nothing left to eat. Yesterday we made soup with leaves from the trees. My little brother refused to eat. I can understand – it's disgusting but we don't have anything else to eat".

And here is what Lazare, father of 8, has to say: « I had to sell all my chickens so that I could buy millet to feed my family. Now I have nothing left and we are all hungry. I am desperate. »

These are two examples amongst thousands of testimonials of this silent drama. For the moment Morija wants to bring help to the first and most vulnerable victims: the children.

Morija is calling upon public solidarity - knowing that CHF 23 covers the milk required to feed an infant for two weeks and CHF 57 enables a family of 8-10 persons to survive for one month. To respond to this crisis all donations are welcome and can be paid to CCP 19-10365-8 mentioning "famine au Sahel" or through Morija's website www.morija.org under the heading « urgent needs ». Each Swiss Franc contributed can really save lives.

Morija reminds us that the Sahel region is one of the poorest in the world. 200 out of 1000 children die before the age of 5 and 117 before the age of one! Another awful number – in Burkina Faso, 129,000 children die each year (source: Unicef – the situation of children around the world, 2005).

Association Morija
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Since a quarter of a century, Morija's heart beats for famished children, orphans, widows and the needy. Today the fight against death and misery continues thanks to the 15 projects developed in Burkina Faso, Chad, Togo and Cameroon.