

**A local hospital transformed into a symbol of hope
when everything else in life gets tougher.**

The Boko Haram crisis in northeastern Nigeria, described as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises currently affects over 3 million people. The Global Terrorism Index has indeed ranked Boko Haram as the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2015. The deadly Boko Haram incursions across the border into Niger have drastically changed the lives of refugees as well as local Nigerien residents along the borders. Besides strict curfews that resulted in the closing of markets, the suspension of trade have led to an economic downturn for the people of southeastern Niger. As the crisis continues to throw refugees and local populations in uncertainty, mothers like Fadi Souleymane try to make it amidst unprecedented hardship and despair.

It has almost been one year since the IRT-sponsored MAP shipment made it to the Diffa region in Eastern Niger.



Fadi Souleymane is a 20-year-old mother living in Naï, a village located 25 miles outside Maine Soroa. Fadi is married and mother of 5 children. The closure of markets in the area has tremendously affected the business of her husband who used to travel from market to market in the region, selling food commodities. For the past 8 months he had not been able to sell a grain. The entire family relies on food distributed by aid organization, which is barely enough.

Fadi Souleymane, at Kirker Hospital after receiving her diagnosis

Asked about living conditions in her village, Fadi pauses for a while, and carries on with some tears running down her cheeks, *“life is no longer what it used to be, we used to be a happy family. We used to live a peaceful life and were able to provide for our children various needs within our means. But now, it is chaos all around us. Our kids can no longer attend school peacefully.”* Insecurity and population movements in the Lake Chad basin have led to the closure of 151 schools in the Diffa region. 74 of these schools have been relocated to allow some of the students to pursue their education.

Seemingly tormented by their current living conditions, but relieved that they have a place to turn to receive medical care, Fadi continues, *“a couple of weeks ago, I brought my two children to Kirker Hospital, and they received excellent care. We are very appreciative of the care we received here – the medicines we are treated with are obviously of better quality than what we used to buy on the black market to self-medicate ourselves. The free medicines we receive really encourage us to seek medical care rather than self-medicating ourselves. My children nicely recovered from their infections just a couple of days after starting treatment. Today, I am here at Kirker Hospital because I have been experiencing sore throat, muscle aches, constant sneezing, and permanent malaise.”* The nurse in service diagnosed her with acute nasopharyngitis and treated with astepro nasal spray from the precious IRT-Sponsored MAP shipment.