

# FACTS ABOUT NIGER

- ❑ Niger, a former French colony, is located in West Africa's Sahel region . It covers an area of 1,267,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is bordered to the north by Libya and Algeria, to the south by Nigeria and Benin, to the east by Chad and Lake Chad, and to the west by Mali and Burkina Faso.
- ❑ Niger remains one of the world's least-developed countries. A largely desert landscape, shortage of arable land and recurring drought mean alleviating poverty will prove difficult. From 2005 to 2006, a serious food crisis affected up to 2.5 million people, requiring a major international relief operation.
- ❑ Niger has a population of 10,790,000 people according to the 2002 census. The population is composed of Hausa, Djerma Songhai, Kanouri, Peuls, Touaregs, Gourmantche, Arabs and Toubou..
- ❑ The capital is Niamey and the other principal cities are: Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua, Dosso, Agadez, Tillabery and Diffa. The official language of Niger is French. The currency in Niger is CFA. This currency is used in eight West African countries with a combined population of 70 million people.
- ❑ Niger's economy is based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The Gross National Product (GNP) is of \$180 US per inhabitant (2002). Exports include uranium which represents about 30% Niger's economy.
- ❑ There are also important coal, phosphate, salt and other mineral deposits in the Liptako Gourma region as well as significant oil reserves in the east of Niger.
- ❑ In political terms, a new Constitution was adopted in July 1999 providing for a semi presidential system of government with a separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches.
- ❑ In December 2005, Niger welcomed the 5th Games of La Francophonie Games - hosted in Niamey.