

Niamey, Niger, April 4 (Infosplusgabon) - The Nigerien government on Friday set up a Solidarity Fund to fight COVID-19, said a statement issued after a cabinet meeting.

According to the press release, the Solidarity Fund for the fight against Covid-19 is intended to cover expenses of upgrading sanitary facilities, support to households and the economy, the functioning of the institutional mechanism for managing the Covid-19 crisis and all operations related to the Covid-19 response plan.

Niger is bearing the full brunt of the coronavirus pandemic with, as of April 2, about 100 confirmed cases and five deaths.

Nearly 1,000 people who have had contact with the sick are confined.

The city of Niamey, the most affected, is placed in health isolation, while the whole country is in a state of health emergency.

Niger's technical and financial partners have announced commitments of 127.6 billion CFA francs intended to finance the Niger Health Management Plan to fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

For a total budget estimated at more than 159 billion CFA francs, with a national mobilization of a little more than 2 billion CFA francs, the financing gap of the health management plan is estimated at 157.67 billion CFA francs, said Prime Minister Brigi Rafini, during a round table of resource mobilization for the National Contingency Plan intended to counter the coronavirus pandemic in Niger.

The objective of the round table was to mobilize financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Global Pandemic Response Plan.

The event brought together representatives of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the United Nations system, the private sector and international non-governmental organizations, as well as members of the Interdepartmental Committee for Management of the Coronavirus Pandemic Response.

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