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| [Niger Hepatitis E: World Vision responds](https://www.wvrelief.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15187:niger-hepatitis-e-world-vision-responds&catid=7719:stories&Itemid=10331)  | PDF | Print | E-mail |

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| Written by Marie Paule Koona     |
| Thursday, 25 May 2017 01:43  |
| A World Vision emergency response team is assisting the Niger government in responding to the Hepatitis E outbreak that is currently affecting Diffa region since 19 April 2017. According to the regional department of Public Health in Diffa, the outbreak has already recorded **300 cases with over 26 reported deaths**, the majority being pregnant women.Hepatitis E is a liver disease caused by a virus that is transmitted via the fecal-oral route, mainly through contaminated water, according to the World Health Organization. Diffa region, which is near the border with Nigeria, faces an unprecedented security and humanitarian crisis, since 2015. The region is hosting more than 300,000 IDPs, refugees and returnees who fled Boko Haram’s long-running violence.  World Vision’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist for the Lake Chad Basin emergency response, Sandy Ngilambi is in Diffa, Niger. She says:“Low access to water, poor hygiene and sanitation practices within the Diffa region are exacerbated under climatic and extraordinary migratory pressures due to mass displacements.”“The epidemic has the potential to spread widely across the region and to neighbouring countries affected by the Lake Chad conflict, putting many more lives at risk”.World Vision, together with the UK-based consortium START Network, is on the ground responding to this health crisis as part of our commitment to keeping children safe.World Vision is distributing essential hygiene kits consisting of jerry cans, soaps and other non-food items. So far 295 hygiene kits have been distributed to households mostly females headed. Pregnant and lactating women as well as children under five have also received support.  “One of our main concerns is ensuring that children, as the most vulnerable to harm in times of disasters, and all those who might be affected, will have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene kits to help prevent the spread of the disease”, said Sandy.World Vision is planning the second distribution of hygiene and non-food items at Kablewa and Garim Wanzam sites in the days ahead. Health education on preventive measures has been provided to care givers at health center levels. Antenatal care group and awareness campaigns are also being organized in markets, churches and other public places. This will be coupled to the disinfection of households. World Vision is working in Niger since 1994 and is currently responding to the humanitarian crisis affecting the Lake Chad Basin region, providing emergency relief in the areas of health, education, water and hygiene, food security and the protection of children.  |