

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR  
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

*Crisis Assistance Request Form - Niger (Dept. of State)*  
OMB Number **1405-XXXX**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

1. *Why is this collection necessary and what are the legal statutes that allow this?*

The information on this form is requested pursuant to Executive Order 12656 (Assignment of emergency preparedness responsibilities), the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. (Immigration and Nationality Act), and U.S. Department of State authorities providing for consular and emergency assistance and visa functions, including 22 U.S.C. § 4802(b) (Overseas evacuations), 22 U.S.C. § 3904 (Functions of Service), 22 U.S.C. § 2671 (Emergency Expenditures), and 22 U.S.C. § 2656 (Management of Foreign Affairs).

2. *What business purpose is the information gathered going to be used for?*

The purpose of the collection is to enable the Department of State to better communicate with U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who may be in need of assistance departing Niger during the ongoing period of political instability.

The form asks U.S. citizens and LPRs currently in Niger to share information with us about their current plans, the number of people in their group, and their exact locations. This form is also available to those in the United States or elsewhere who may be acting on their behalf. It asks for latest contact information and an emergency contact not currently in Niger.

The Department is utilizing this form to acquire the most current and accurate data to inform our consular assistance efforts. It will allow us to build a more current picture of how many U.S. citizens and LPRs plan to remain in affected areas of Niger and support options available.

3. *Is this collection able to be completed electronically (e.g. through a website or application)?*

The collection will be completed 100% electronically. The respondent accesses the form at the following link: <https://cacms.state.gov/s/crisis-intake>. The link is accessible from the Niger country information page on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and from the U.S. Embassy Niamey web site, and other Department of State communications. The Department may also choose as appropriate to distribute the form's URL through emails from @state.gov email addresses, or in messaging sent as consular information products (such as MASCOT messages).

4. *Does this collection duplicate any other collection of information?*

This collection will not duplicate any other collection of information. The form complements the existing Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) as a situation-specific tool that helps us to gather current information to best serve U.S. citizens and LPRs currently in Niger.

5. *Describe any impacts on small business.*

There is no impact on small businesses.

6. *What are consequences if this collection is not done?*

The Department would be hindered in its contingency planning and in potential operational efforts to assist U.S. citizens and LPRs in Niger if this collection is not done. The Department requires an online collection tool that can be readily used by individuals in need specifically in the crisis region – and those in the United States or elsewhere who may be acting on their behalf – to submit requests for consular assistance.

The online form helps avoid unstructured requests for assistance, such as those that arrive via e-mail messages, which may not include necessary information, and which often require entry into other systems to facilitate responses. This form is integrated with other elements of the Department's evolving information technology platform used in crisis-management situations, making it an important tool in the efficient handling of individual cases.

7. *Are there any special collection circumstances?*

No.

8. *Document publication (or intent to publish) a request for public comments in the Federal Register*

The Department is requesting emergency approval of this collection, and is not publishing a request for public comments at this time. After such approval, and subject to additional supporting information regarding how the form might be used in other crisis situations worldwide, the Department intends to publish a Federal Register Notice and seek public comment on the collection, including to inform future enhancements or modifications to the collection.

9. *Are payments or gifts given to the respondents?*

No.

10. *Describe assurances of privacy/confidentiality*

All information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a) and other applicable rules for safeguarding personally identifiable information. The form includes a Privacy Act Statement & Consent to Sharing notice that informs respondents of the purpose for the collection; relevant statutory authorities; that completion is voluntary but that without it the United States government will be constrained in efforts to provide appropriate assistance; and that information may be shared with other U.S. and foreign governmental authorities, with transportation carriers, with relevant family members and others, if they are in a position to assist in connection with the consular functions requested. Respondents are informed that submission of their request indicates their consent to the Department sharing information for such purposes.

11. *Are any questions of a sensitive nature asked?*

No.

12. *Describe the hour time burden and the hour cost burden on the respondent needed to complete this collection.*

The Department estimates that as many as 765 U.S. citizens currently in Niger. That estimate is based on the number of U.S. citizens who have previously provided information in STEP. U.S. citizens are not required to complete this form, however, nor otherwise to register their travel to a foreign country with us, so while our estimates are based on the best currently available specific information, estimates cannot be considered authoritative. The total number of submissions is also heavily dependent on actual developments in Niger.

The form takes approximately 5 minutes to complete, resulting in an estimated time burden of 36.75 hours (765 x 5 minutes) and an estimated annual cost burden of \$895. The estimated cost to respondents is based on the civilian hourly wage from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website multiplied by the annual time burden. The wage rate is estimated to be \$24.36. The Department used the Employer Costs for Employee Compensation released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2020.

13. *Describe the monetary burden to respondents (out of pocket costs) needed to complete this collection.*

There are no out-of-pocket costs to the respondents.

14. *Describe the cost incurred by the Federal Government to complete this collection.*

There will be no new cost to the federal government to set up this collection. The collection instrument is made available through an existing Department platform. The responses will be reviewed by Department employees in the normal course of their duties, including by those working to assist U.S. citizens in Niger.

15. *Explain any changes/adjustments to this collection since the previous submission.*

This is a new information collection.

16. *Specify if the data gathered by this collection will be published.*

The information collected pursuant to this collection will not be published.

17. *If applicable, explain the reason(s) for seeking approval to not display the OMB expiration date. Otherwise, write "The Department will display the OMB expiration date."*

The Department will display the OMB expiration date.

18. *Explain any exceptions to the OMB certification statement below. If there are no exceptions, write "The Department is not seeking exceptions to the certification statement".*

The Department is not seeking exceptions to the certification statement.

## **B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

This collection does not employ statistical methods.