

Niger



POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 31ST JULY 2019)

424,120

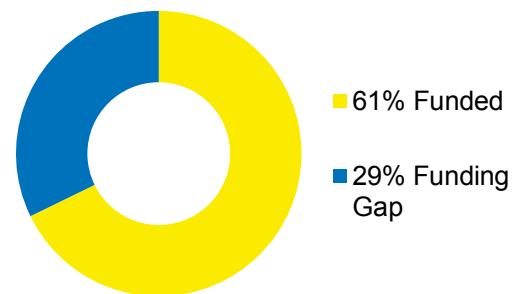
Population Group	Number
IDPs Tahoua and Tillabery	76,634
Malian refugees	56,343
Nigerian refugees Diffa *	118,868
Nigerien returnees Diffa *	25,731
IDPs Diffa *	104,288
Asylum seekers Diffa	1,435
Asylum seekers ETM	1,395
Asylum seekers Agadez	1,587
Nigerian refugees Maradi **	35,055
IDPs on Burkina border	1,013
PoC from Burkina Faso	2,190
Other	594

* Government figures / ** Level 1 registration as of 31 July 2019

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JULY 2019)

USD 75,7 Million

Financial requirements for UNHCR Niger's Country Operation



KEY INDICATORS

35,055

Number of Nigerians who have searched for refuge in Niger's Maradi Region and have been registered

2,982

Persons evacuated from Libya to safety in Niger

76,634

Internally displaced persons in Tillabery and Tahoua regions



Diffa: Rouké, a homemaker from Bagga in Nigeria, now lives in exile in Diffa. She fled Boko Haram violence. OCHA/Franck Kuwonu

Operational Context

Key situations include:

1. **The Mali situation:** has begun in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The Government of Niger and UNHCR seek to accelerate socio-economic integration of Malian refugees and settle them outside the camps in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions by the end of 2020. This is done thanks to the support of the EU Trust Fund GIZ. The regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting most of the 56,306 Malian refugees have been increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism while thousands of new people continue to arrive, especially in Tahoua region.

Furthermore, the presence of armed groups in **Burkina Faso**, nearby the Nigerien border, have triggered cross-border displacement of an estimated number of 2190 persons. Armed incursions from Burkina Faso's armed groups into Niger have caused internal displacement of at least 1013 Nigeriens. This situation is set to continue over the next months.

2. **The Nigeria situation:** has begun in 2013, with the arrival of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees who have been settled in Nigeria since decades in Diffa region. They have fled Boko Haram violence. The situation has become increasingly mixed following attacks on Niger territory since 2015. Today, there are almost 250,000 displaced persons in the region (including 118,868 refugees, 104,288 IDPs, and 25,731 returnees). The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with over 15,000 people. In 2018, despite a complex security context, all actors agreed on the need to engage strongly in development oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR and the World Bank are working closely in that direction. Additionally, with the support of EU, UNHCR and NGO partners foster economic recovery and long term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing. However, since the beginning of 2019, the security situation has further deteriorated in the Diffa region, which has pushed thousands of displaced populations to move for another time.

Moreover, in **Maradi region**, a new situation has emerged. At least 35 055 persons coming from the Nigerian states of Sokoto and Zamfara have fled situations of extreme violence and looked for refuge across the border.

3. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Today, Diffa region counts 104,000 IDPs and Tahoua and Tillabéri regions 76,634 IDPs. New movements have also been registered around the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso. Protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors and the Government of Niger are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation. In December 2018, the Government of Niger has adopted a national law for the assistance and protection of IDPs based on the Kampala Convention.
4. **Mixed Movements:** Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. Some 1600 asylum seekers are present in Agadez and residing in the humanitarian centre or in guesthouses in the city of Agadez. The Government, UNHCR, IOM and NGO partners identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide these persons with information and assistance. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of mixed movements southwards coming from Libya and Algeria.
5. **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This unique programme aims to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through temporary evacuation to Niger. The aim is to deliver protection and identify durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are predominantly Eritrean and Somali. Their profiles mainly include survivors of torture or other forms of violence in the country of origin and/or transit countries (e.g. Libya) and others with compelling protection needs. Many of them are unaccompanied children and women

and girls at risk. To date, 2,782 persons have been evacuated to Niger – 1,395 of whom are still in Niamey while the others have already been resettled. With the support of an EU Trust Fund, a new transit centre is being built near Niamey to host the evacuees while they await resettlement to third countries.

Security Situation

- The regions of **Tahoua and Tillaberi** have seen the growth of local non-state armed groups in tandem with or as part of Jama'a Nusrat al-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), exploiting underlying social tensions and structural poverty. A state of emergency has been declared in all Nigerian villages along the border while national and international military operations, including airborne operations, are ongoing. The last months, a rise in attacks and armed groups presence have been witnessed in the border areas between Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin, as well as in the so-called Liptako-Gourma area (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger). This will trigger additional cross-border and internal displacement. Due to the unstable security situation, humanitarian workers are being urged to reduce missions/travel throughout the area. Nevertheless, operations continue and UNHCR is still present with two field office and two field units.
- In the region of **Diffa**, the security situation has continued to deteriorate and the State of Emergency, declared since 2015, is still ongoing. Although there is a timid economic recovery, repeated suicide attacks, assaults and incursions perpetrated by Boko Haram since the month of March have resulted in secondary movements of tens of thousands of people within the region. Boko Haram and affiliated armed groups are increasingly turning to **kidnappings for ransom in Diffa region**, notably in villages bordering the Komadougou river, the islands or the axes leading to markets. Kidnappings of women and girls are more and more recurrent. Additional and secondary displacement due to this heightened risk of kidnapping has been observed.
- The **Maradi** area is located close to the border with Nigeria and has become a safe haven for the Nigerian population fleeing the armed groups operating in the Zamfara, Sokoto and Katsina province. The region is flat and the savanna-like vegetation (shrubby in the West and wooded in the East) allows easy infiltration of armed groups that are engaged in kidnappings for ransom, killings, rape, the use of explosives, intercommunity violence, youth recruitment into armed groups, etc. An aid worker has been killed. It is expected that the situation will deteriorate over the coming months, triggering IDP flows and limiting humanitarian access.
- The security context in **Agadez** has remained stable, despite an increase in criminality and armed attacks – particularly on the main roads converging in and out of the city of Agadez, often linked to different kinds of trafficking.

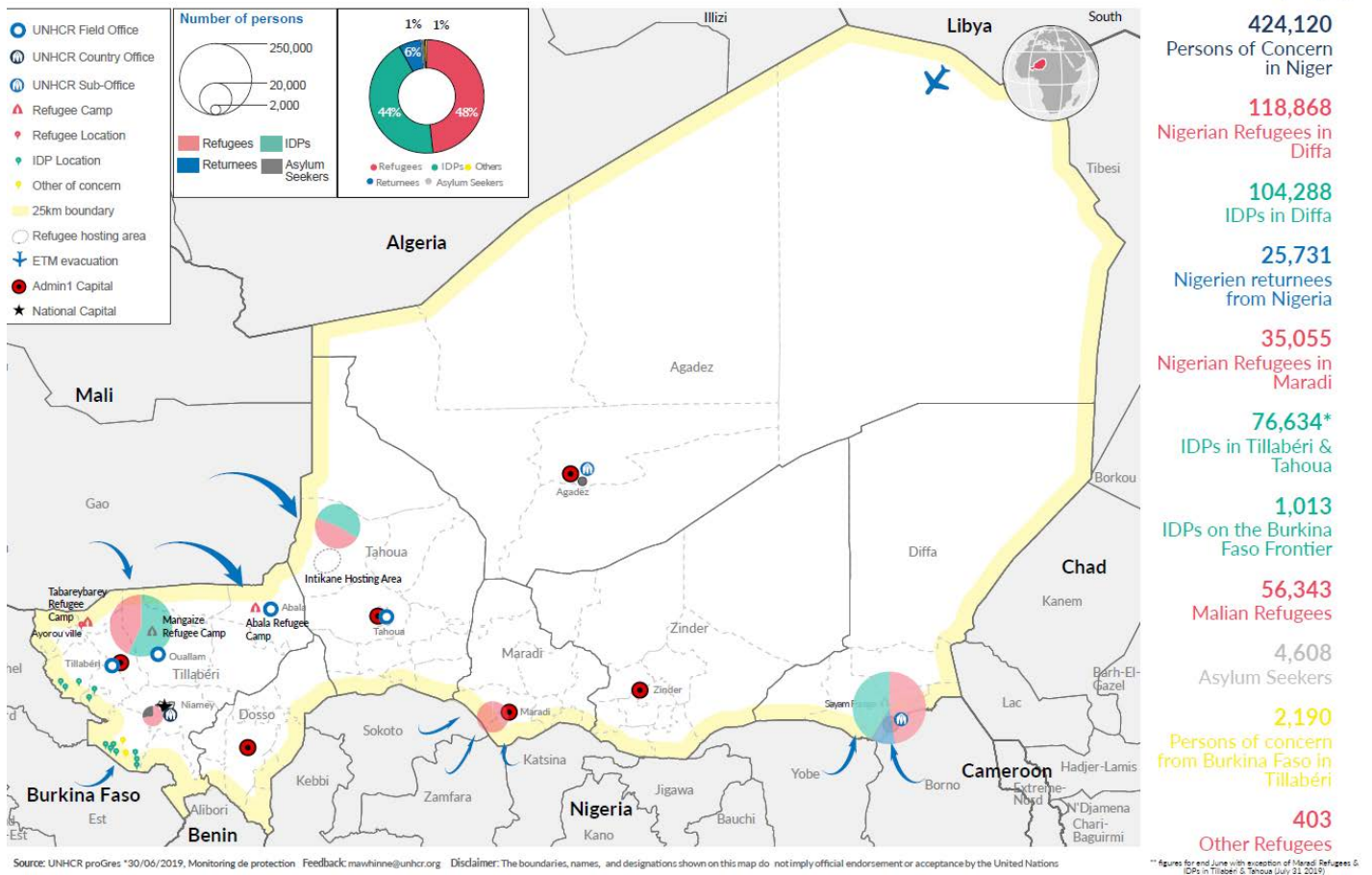
Key Developments & Achievements

- **World Refugee Day (20 June 2019)** has been celebrated in several cities and villages. This year's theme was "every step counts". The main activities have taken place in the transit center for evacuees from Libya in Hamdallaye in presence of the Government, the diplomatic community and the local population. UNHCR's representative has thanked the Nigerien authorities for their legendary hospitality towards refugees and asylum seekers. Several cultural activities have taken place: an exhibition of refugee craft, a culinary degustation, chants, ...
- On June 19, a new evacuation operation from Libya has brought 131 persons to Niger. During the months of June and July, the transfer from Niamey to the new **ETM transit centre in Hamdallaye** of the refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger has continued while the most vulnerable cases remain in Niamey. Today, over 1100 people are residing in the new center. Improvements at the Centre are ongoing, including the installation of offices, sports facilities and improvement of WASH facilities.

- In **Maradi region**, UNHCR and the Government have carried out a level 1 registration of 35,055 Nigerians. While registration continues, UN and NGO actors have jointly developed an **emergency response plan**. UNHCR's strategy aims to (1) continue giving emergency assistance with a strong focus on protection; (2) put in place a humanitarian-development oriented response by relocating refugees to three villages identified by local authorities, where a minimum of basic social services and economic opportunities are present. Capacities and infrastructure will be reinforced. (3) A coordinated and parallel emergency assistance will be given in coordination with all stakeholders. UNHCR has a team in place and looks into reinforcing its presence in the area. REACH has published a [briefing note](#) outlining the humanitarian situation, needs of affected populations and expected constraints humanitarian actors might face as rolling out interventions.

UNHCR Niger | Population of Concern

July 31st 2019





PROTECTION

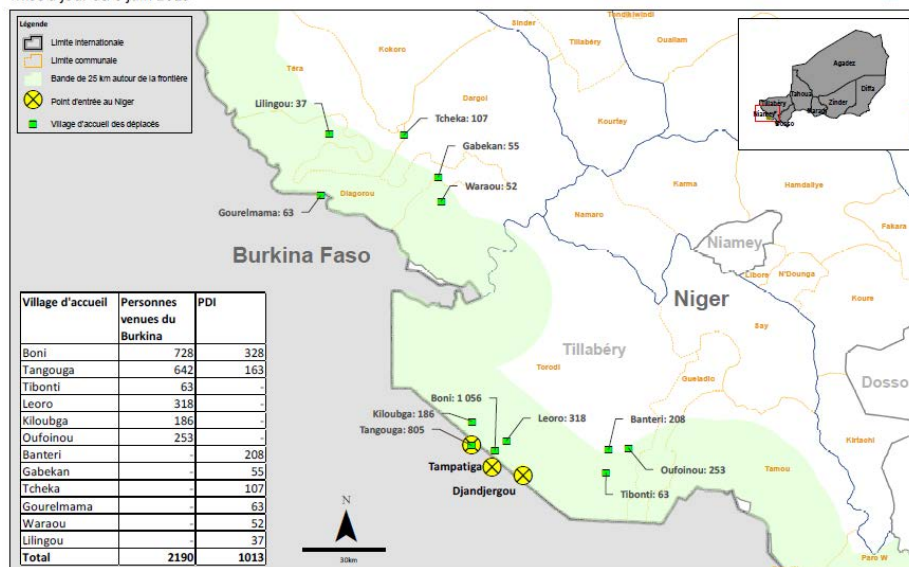
Protection Cluster

- The protection cluster has updated a 3W overview on the situation in Diffa region. The document can be downloaded [HERE](#). A map with an overview of actors in the protection sector can be downloaded [HERE](#).
- The protection monitoring reports for Tillabery and Tahoua, as well as Diffa, covering the month of May have been published and are available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).
- In Diffa region, a first wave of some 1500 defense and security forces has been trained on protection of Internally Displaced People in the context of forced displacement. The full report can be found [here](#).
- The protection cluster has observed an increase in violent incidents. Monitors have witnessed new population movements to the city of Diffa and pendular movements towards the Lake Chad islands. Moreover, migratory movements along the border with Chad and Nigeria have also been registered.
- REACH has carried out assessments in eight sites in Diffa region since the month of May. These assessments give a good analysis of access to basic social services, needs and displacement dynamics. The documents are available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Mali situation

- In **Tahoua and Tillabery regions**, UNHCR has been tasked by the Government to accelerate its existing out of camp strategy in Tillabery, and close the camps. Malian refugees in the camps of Mangaize (7156 persons) and Tabareybarey (10648 persons) should be relocated respectively to the villages of Ouallam and Ayrou. The authorities have also requested to relocate thousands of newly arrived Malians, who are currently residing in Agando, Assagueyguey and Chinouaren to the refugee hosting area of Intikane. This latter site hosts already 19 133 persons.
- UNHCR has updated its position on returns to Mali. The document is available on Refworld at [this link](#).
- Along the border with **Burkina Faso**, UNHCR in cooperation with the protection cluster has set up a community-based protection monitoring system to collect data on displacement and foresees to reinforce infrastructure in hosting areas.

Niger: Villages d'accueil des personnes déplacées : Frontière avec le Burkina
Mise à jour au 6 juin 2019



Nigeria situation

- A joint UNHCR - UN WOMEN mission has visited the Sayam Forage camp with the aim of establishing joint actions in order to strengthen the services offered to women, including the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and equipment at the Camp, as well as the establishment of 8 new spaces for social cohesion in the region of Diffa.
- A sensitization session has been held at the urbanization site in Diffa covering different topics such as social cohesion, water management, theft, and the participation of beneficiaries to the construction of latrines and housing. Eighty direct and indirect beneficiaries (out of which 30 were women and 50 were men) participated.

Mixed Movements situation

- In the context of the search for durable solutions, a mission of Forum Refugie COSI has visited Agadez and has held discussions with both UNHCR staff and people under its mandate. The aim was to sensitize on complementary legal pathways offered to asylum seekers and refugees, such as family reunification, applications for student visa, private sponsorship, humanitarian visa, etc.
- During the month of June, a clean-up campaign day and a public health activity have been organised in Agadez, joining both the asylum seekers and the local community. As the newcomers are often seen as the source of increasing insalubrity in the city, this activities has reinforced social cohesion between both groups.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- Since the start of the evacuation operation from Libya, a total number of **2911 persons have been evacuated to Niger through the Emergency Transit Mechanism**. Today, 1584 persons have been resettled to third countries.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Mali situation

- In Ayorou, the newly constructed health center (type II) has been completed during the month of June. Moreover, 33 durable social houses have been constructed on the same site.



© UNHCR362

- In Tahoua region, notably in the refugee hosting area of Intikane, UNHCR has witnessed on a continuous basis new arrivals coming from Mali. These persons, estimated at 4574, have been pre-registered by the National Commission of Eligibility, UNHCR's counterpart.

- In Tillia department, the needs with regard to shelter remain a priority. Several shelters have been destroyed by storms during the month of June and 303 refugee households have been affected. At the same time, emergency shelter has been distributed to IDPs.

Nigeria situation

- To date, over 950 durable houses have been completed as part of the Urbanization project in the Diffa region, including in the communes of Diffa, Chatimari, N'Guigmi and Kablewa.



© UNHCR - New Malian arrivals in Tahoua region

Key challenges

Mali situation

- Increasing insecurity, due mostly to armed attacks and ethnic tensions, and a resulting lack of humanitarian access continues to pose the biggest challenges, especially in the areas bordering Mali and Burkina Faso. Additional displacement, both internally and cross-border, is expected over the next months.

Nigeria situation

- In the Diffa region, insecurity continues which creates tension and fear and renders the deliverance of humanitarian aid difficult. Further secondary movements will continue and pose a challenge in terms of security, protection and access to basic services for the population under our mandate.

IDP situation

- The massive increase in the magnitude of internal displacement in Tillabery and Tahoua regions is creating significant protection challenges. Just as for the Mali situation, regular access and exposure to protection risks remain the main challenges.

Mixed Movements

- In the Agadez region, UNHCR works on the strengthening of cross border coordination in order to support refugees and asylum seekers in northward and southward movements.

Emergency Transit Mechanism

- For those refugees evacuated from Libya, the main challenge remains to improve the flow of arrivals and departures for resettlement, in order to free more refugees from the Libyan detention centres.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

On 31st July 2019, the operation is managed by 368 staff (180 national, 70 international, 67 affiliate workforce and 61 interpreters on a service contract) from 7 offices: 1 Representation Office/Branch Office in Niamey; 2 Sub-Offices in Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices in Tahoua and Tillabery; 2 Field Units in Abala and Ouallam. Staff on mission in Maradi pending the opening of a field office.

Partners

Government of Niger, ADES, ADKOUL, AIRD, ANCSB, ANTD, APBE, CARE, CDR, CIAUD, CISP, COOPI, DEDI, DRC, FRC, HI, ICHAD, INTERSOS, MEDU, SDO, SFCG.

Financial information

Special thanks to other donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Private donors Spain 39.6 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 17.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions

United States of America 10 million | Private donors Australia 6.1 million | Canada 4.6 million | Germany 3.3 million

Denmark | Sweden | Private donors

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to 37,775 M USD

With the support of Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union, Germany, Italie, Private Donors, Spain, UNAIDS and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

CONTACTS

Mrs. Marlies CARDOEN, Associate External Relations Officer, cardoen@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 51
Mrs. Laurence BRON, Associate Reporting Officer, bronl@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 09 71 63
Mr. Benoit MORENO, External Relations Officer, morenob@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 19 24 17

LINKS: [Regional portal](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Blog](#)