

## Almost 6,500 new arrivals in Sayam Forage Camp since January 2021 March 2021

The Diffa region hosts **265,696\*** **Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons and Nigerien returnees.** More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements.**

(\*Government figures)

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on many roads following **attacks, kidnappings and the increased use of explosive devices.**

The security situation has a strong negative impact on the economy of the region, **reducing opportunities for both host and displaced populations.**

### KEY INDICATORS

**226,383**

Number of people of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database.

**5,917**

Households of 27,811 individuals were registered in Sayam Forage Camp as of 28 February 2021.

**2,710**

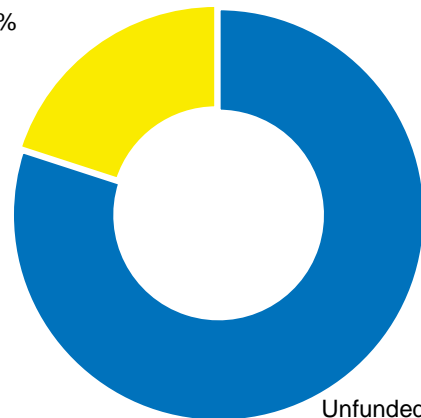
Houses built in Diffa region as of 28 February 2021.

### FUNDING (AS OF 2 MARCH 2020)

**USD 110.5 M**

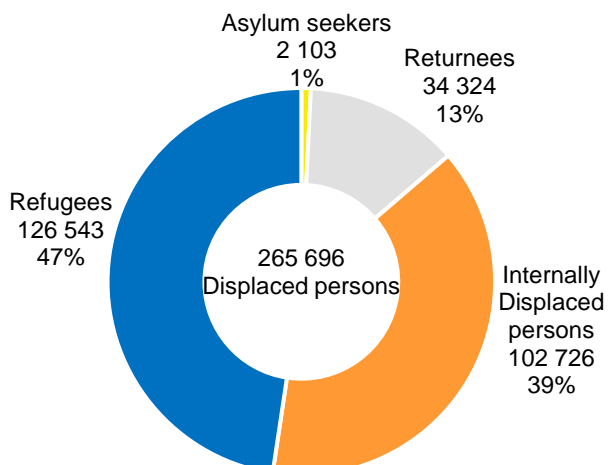
requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 17%  
**18.3 M**



Unfunded 83%  
**92.2 M**

### POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA (GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



Construction of durable houses in Diffa © Ramatou Issa

## Operation Strategy

The key pillars of the UNHCR strategy for the Diffa region are:

- **Ensure institutional resilience** through capacity development and support to the authorities (locally elected and administrative authorities) in the framework of the Niger decentralisation process.
- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanisation program through sustainable interventions and dynamic partnerships including with the World Bank. Ensure a coordinated and high-quality **protection response** and maintain an **emergency response capacity**

## Update on Achievements

### Operational Context

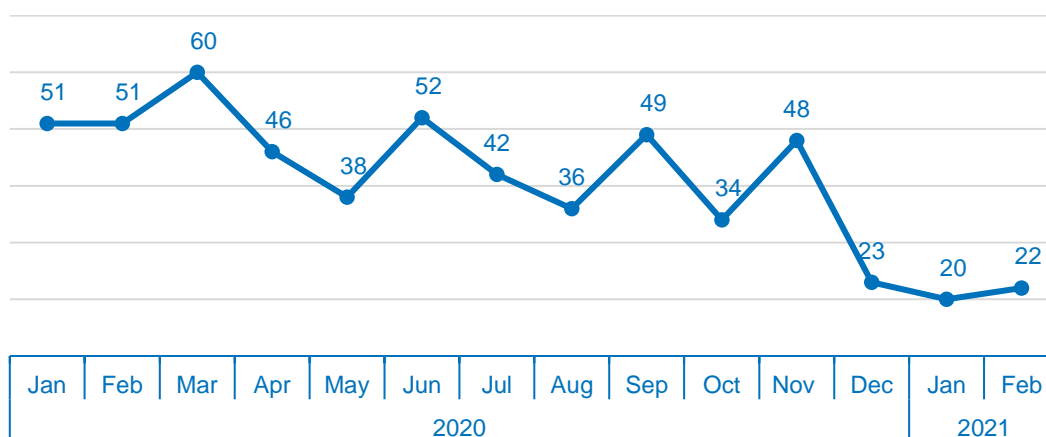
The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on Niger soil in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the Niger region of the Lake Chad Islands.

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour and Bosso roads following the finding of explosive devices, consecutive attacks and kidnappings.

In February 2021, the security situation remained worrying in the Diffa region due to terrorist activism despite government efforts to stabilize the administrative and security situation, making the humanitarian access to certain areas difficult. Armed groups attacks were recorded in February targeting the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) as well as civilian population.

Forced recruitments of civilians, looting of the army logistics stocks, as well as the use of improvised explosive devices against the Defense and Security Forces were also reported.

### Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2020 to Feb 2021



## Achievements

### Protection response

- In February, UNHCR and other protection actors continued to improve the **coordination mechanism and the quality of the response**, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism. Interviews for resettlement were conducted and profiling was carried out for durable solutions.
- Through protection monitoring system, UNHCR observed a 10% increase in documented protection incidents compared to January 2021. A total of **22 protection incidents were documented in February** compared to 20 in January 2021 affecting 85 people against 22 in January 2021.
- UNHCR has identified 14 new **child protection** cases. 100% of cases have been documented and benefited from psychosocial support. **Four unaccompanied and separated children** were reunified with their parents with the support of the child protection directorate of Diffa while another unaccompanied child has been placed in a host family.
- In February, UNHCR has identified and **documented 50 new cases of gender-based violence** in the department of Diffa. They include 27 cases of denial of resources, 7 cases of survival sex, rape, physical violence, and psychological violence (4 cases each). **All survivors have benefited from psychosocial support** and have been referred either to health facilities, police and/or justice for other services.
- Awareness raising activities on SGBV topics such early pregnancy, sexual exploitation and availability of services were conducted by UNHCR at the Sayam forage camp and the sites of Awaridi and Djori-kolo, **reaching 515 persons**.
- UNHCR has identified **43 individuals living with specific needs**, including 17 orphans in Kindjandi, 9 persons living with disabilities in Diffa and 17 in Kindjandi. All cases were documented and referred to partners for adequate response.

### Shelter

- The innovative **EU-funded program** on urbanization simultaneously ensures **legal access to land for social housing for refugees** and vulnerable host households, while **revitalising the local economy** which has been deeply affected by the Boko Haram conflict in the region. To date, **2,710 sustainable houses** for the most vulnerable families have already been built, while 1,165 are ongoing; 3,419 jobs were created, 2,490 persons were trained in the construction and more than 36,900 persons got a better access to water in 3 districts (Diffa, Assaga and Chetimari).

### Livelihood

- UNHCR and its partner APBE are implementing a new livelihood project **on market gardening, small ruminant breeding, professional training**, and Income Generating Activities in the communes of Maine-Soroa, Chétimari, N'Guigmi and

Gueskéro. The project targets **381 households** in activities such as provision of seeds, farming tools, farming kits, manufacturing of hard and liquid soap and bleach, as well as cloth bibs.

### WASH / COVID-19

- UNHCR and its partners scaled up the production of soap, bleach, and masks by refugees for distribution in the Sayam Forage camp. Awareness raising activities were conducted and no case were registered.
- 27,811 persons had access to potable water produced by 3 pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp, with an average consumption of 9 litres / person / day. More than 6,500 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion, malaria prevention and the COVID-19 prevention measures sensitizations.
- 1,316 menstrual kits were distributed by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp.

### Main Challenges

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped. Structural but costly infrastructural investments in irrigation, water supply and electricity are required to enable the population to develop income generating activities.
- The Niger public services are highly dependent on humanitarian actors, which creates a risk of a sharp deterioration in living conditions for the population in case of a funding shortfall.
- Irregular access for humanitarian actors due to the security situation and military operation.
- A worsening security situation generates new major displacements and secondary movements; possible movements of Nigerian refugees back towards Nigeria might also occur.
- Recurrent flooding of the Komadougou river force refugees to make a secondary displacement toward the Sayam Forage camp.

## Financial Information

### Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Diffa

European Union

### Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger<sup>1</sup>

African Development Bank | Central Emergency Response Fund | European Union | Germany | Italy | Monaco | Spain

### Other softly earmarked contributions<sup>2</sup>

Germany 9.2 M |  
Iceland | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions<sup>3</sup>

| Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 |  
Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

Algeria | America | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco |  
Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore  
| Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

1. Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
2. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Niger. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
3. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

## External / Donor Relations

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### LINKS

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