

# Refugees and asylum seekers in Agadez

June - July 2021

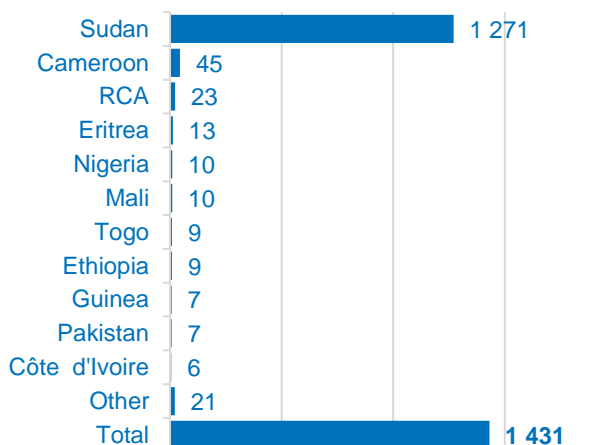
Niger has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being refouled from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

UNHCR Niger operation has opened a new office in Agadez in 2017, scaling up its operational capacity to give a response to those in need of international protection within mixed migratory flows.

In response to the complex humanitarian and security situation in Libya, Niger is increasingly turning into an alternative space for protection, including for the asylum-seekers and refugees who fail to reach Europe.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Countries of origin



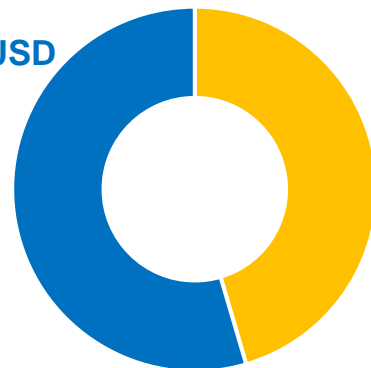
\* ProGres biometrically registered refugees as of 30 July 2021

## FUNDING (AS OF 17 AUGUST 2021)

USD 110.7 million

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 55%  
60.46 M USD



Unfunded 45%  
50.24 M USD

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

19 National Staff  
4 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Sub Office in Agadez



Refugee children awaiting resettlement playing at the humanitarian center in Agadez

## Operational Context

Niger is situated in a **geopolitically sensitive area linking the Sahara Desert with the Sahel, and West with Central Africa**. The country has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

## Operational Strategy

UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that people in need of international protection have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum. Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in **the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system** and implements **all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region**. Moreover, UNHCR gives assistance to people under its mandate and aims to find durable solutions, such as resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

As of 30 July 2021; UNHCR and its partners has identified and biometrically registered **1,431 individuals** in need of international protection. 89% of the population under UNHCR mandate in Agadez are Sudanese nationals. 45% of the entire population have a refugee status obtained in Niger or elsewhere while 55% are asylum seekers; 64% are men, 9% are women and 27% are children under the age of eighteen.

The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **6 guesthouses in Agadez** when they receive protection response and assistance while the other are hosted in the **Humanitarian Center** built in the outskirts of the city.

UNHCR and its partners provide meals, water, sanitation, health, education and all services for each refugee and asylum seeker living in the guesthouses, the Humanitarian Center, and the most vulnerable living in the host community.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR and its partner APBE conducted 202 awareness-raising sessions (reaching 575 individuals including 219 women and 356 men) on a variety of topics, including peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, community coexistence within the Humanitarian Center, and preventive measures against the spread of Covid-19.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen a proactive cooperation with the regional authorities in Agadez managing to increase the presence of the competent authorities, notably the General Directorate of Civil Status, Refugees and Migration (DGEC-RM) / Ministry of Interior responsible for Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- UNHCR, IOM and the Government of Niger continue their partnership for the identification and referral of persons of concern under UNHCR mandate.
- UNHCR Persons of concern (PoCs) continue to be expelled from Algeria. During the last reporting period, 51 persons of concern have been taken in charge by UNHCR and 22 of them are still in Agadez where they receive international

protection and assistance. Since January 2021, 13,602 people of whom 8,858 Nigeriens (65%) were expelled from Algeria.

### Education

- UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS continue the implementation of education activities to support refugees' children hosted in the guesthouses in Agadez. Once finalized transitional classes to learn French, these children are registered in the public education system fully integrating the host population.
- Moreover, INTERSOS and COOPI continue to provide unformal education and assistance to the minors hosted within the Humanitarian Center, which are still not schooled, including minors under the age of 6. They have provided several sessions of introduction to mathematics, reading, drawing, motricity and sport activities, etc.
- COOPI also organized 281 sessions of recreational and cultural activities (music, dance, card games, checkers, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.). These activities reached 1,173 people, including 272 women, 361 men, 309 girls and 231 boys. INTERSOS reached 2,263 individuals through 159 psychosocial sessions.
- UNHCR, through its partners COOPI and INTERSOS, organized several awareness sessions on health (nutrition and child growth, malaria, diarrhea in children, COVID-19), peaceful coexistence, violence against children, violent games and the participation of unaccompanied minors in social cohesion activities and in various meetings. Through these activities COOPI has reached 1,860 persons while INTERSOS reached 221 persons.

### Health & Mental Health

- UNHCR Niger provides first and second medical assistance to all PoCs hosted in Agadez through the partnership with APBE. Medical consultations, medical referrals to public health structures. From June to July, APBE conducted 3,046 medical consultations; 80% of those consulted were refugees, among which 74 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and 10 to the Mother and Child Health Center of Agadez. The implementing partner APBE also provides reproductive health services for women of childbearing age as well as malnutrition management services for children.
- APBE continues to conduct collective and individual awareness sessions on compliance with drug prescriptions, malaria prevention, family planning, food hygiene and prevention against COVID-19 within the Humanitarian Center and the Public Health Center in the city of Agadez. Thus, 1,860 refugees and members of the host community, including 895 women, 760 men and 250 children have been reached.
- UNHCR, through its implementing partner COOPI, provides psychological and psychiatric support to all refugees and asylum seekers in distress or showing symptoms of trauma experienced in their countries of origin or in their first host countries. From June to July 2021, COOPI conducted 94 counseling sessions for 50 men, 33 women, 8 boys and 3 girls. In addition, 71 people were received for psychiatric consultations while 83 follow-ups were conducted. In addition, COOPI provided psychological follow-up to 131 people.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR Niger in Agadez provides PoCs within the Humanitarian Center as well as in the guesthouses with 3 meals per day. Specific dietary needs are taken in charge and followed-up by the implementing partners COOPI and APBE.

- During the month of June and July 2021, UNHCR, through its partners, has provided necessary meals for the entire PoCs population (1,431 individuals), namely an average number of 4,293 meals per day.

### **Water, Sanitation, Shelter and NFIs**

- UNHCR has constructed a Humanitarian Center built several kilometers outside of the city of Agadez. This facility was equipped with over 330 refugee housing units (RHU), WASH and latrines system, community spaces and offices for staff working on the site. Due to a massive fire occurred in January 2020, the 80% of refugee housing units has been destroyed or damaged. UNHCR has immediately reacted by relocating all the vulnerable households within 6 guesthouses in the city of Agadez and is currently implementing the construction of 200 new durable and semi-permanent structures and a permanent water pipeline supply.
- During the month of June and July, UNHCR population of concern in Agadez faces many difficulties related to water shortage due to the hot season and the increased need of water. Hence UNHCR and its implementing partner APBE has proceeded to the renewal of the hydraulic network of the Humanitarian Center through the installation of new water storage tanks

### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- UNHCR continues to work on the implementation of the new Food Strategy within the Humanitarian Center, to reinforce self-reliance through CBI (cash-based Intervention).
- UNHCR has reestablished several refugee engagement committees, such as Child Protection and Site Pacific Coexistence, within the Humanitarian Center as well as others have been established within the guesthouses in Agadez.

### **Durable Solutions**

- UNHCR Niger promotes access to solutions (asylum, readmission, repatriation, regularization of stay) for the different groups identified in the mixed movements. UNHCR Niger guarantee the follow-up of all cases of PoCs proposed for Resettlement or other Complementary Pathways in third countries: Preparation of files, eligibility procedures, request of laissez-passer to the Government for PoCs on departure, transfer to Niamey pre-departure, medical screening procedures, etc.

## **Financial Information**

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

Italy | RDPP NA |

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

African Development Bank Group | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | France | European Union | Germany | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors

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

United States of America 33 million | Germany 17.7 million | Private donors Austria 6.2 million | Canada 5.6 million | Private donors Germany 3.1 million | Japan 2.9 million | France 2.8 million  
Holy See | Iceland | Luxemburg | Malta | Norway | Private donors

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

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 49.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Private donors Japan 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Private donors Italy 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.6 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | 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.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### External / Donor Relations

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