

# Sahel situation *(Tillabéri and Tahoua regions)*

August 2021

The Sahel regions have been hosting some 61,348 **Malian refugees** since 2012. They live mainly, Ayorou, Abala, Ouallam and in several villages in the region of Tahoua, after the closure of the Refugee Hosting Area (Intikane) as well as in the capital city of Niamey

The rapidly deteriorating security context has caused increased **internal displacement flows** with rising numbers every month. To date, some 157,804 IDPs are present in both regions.

The presence of armed groups across the border has caused forced displacement of more than **11,423 citizens from Burkina Faso** into Niger.

## KEY INDICATORS

**40,000\***

Refugees in Niger who will have **access to land** according to the Government's pledge during the Global Refugee Forum.

**+55%\***

**Increase** of the number of internally displaced persons since last year.

**672**

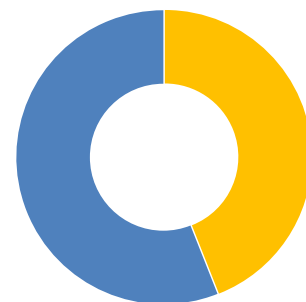
Durable houses built and finalized in the Tillabéri region.

## FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021)

**USD 110,7 Million**

requested for UNHCR's operations in Niger

Funded 56%  
**62.01 Million**



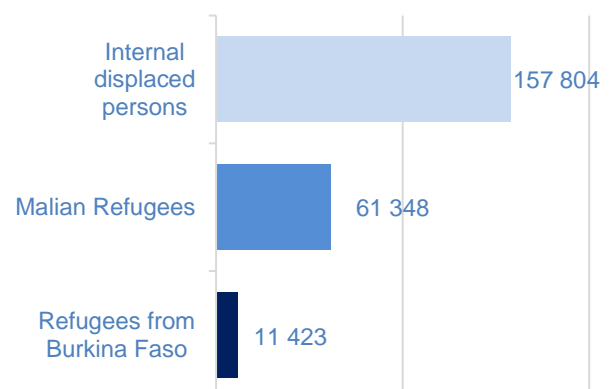
Unfunded 44%  
**48.69 Million**



*Protection monitoring interview in Wazagagaghan a village in Tahoua region © CIAUD*

## POPULATION OF CONCERN IN NIGER'S SAHEL

*(UNHCR data, 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2021)*



# Update on Achievements

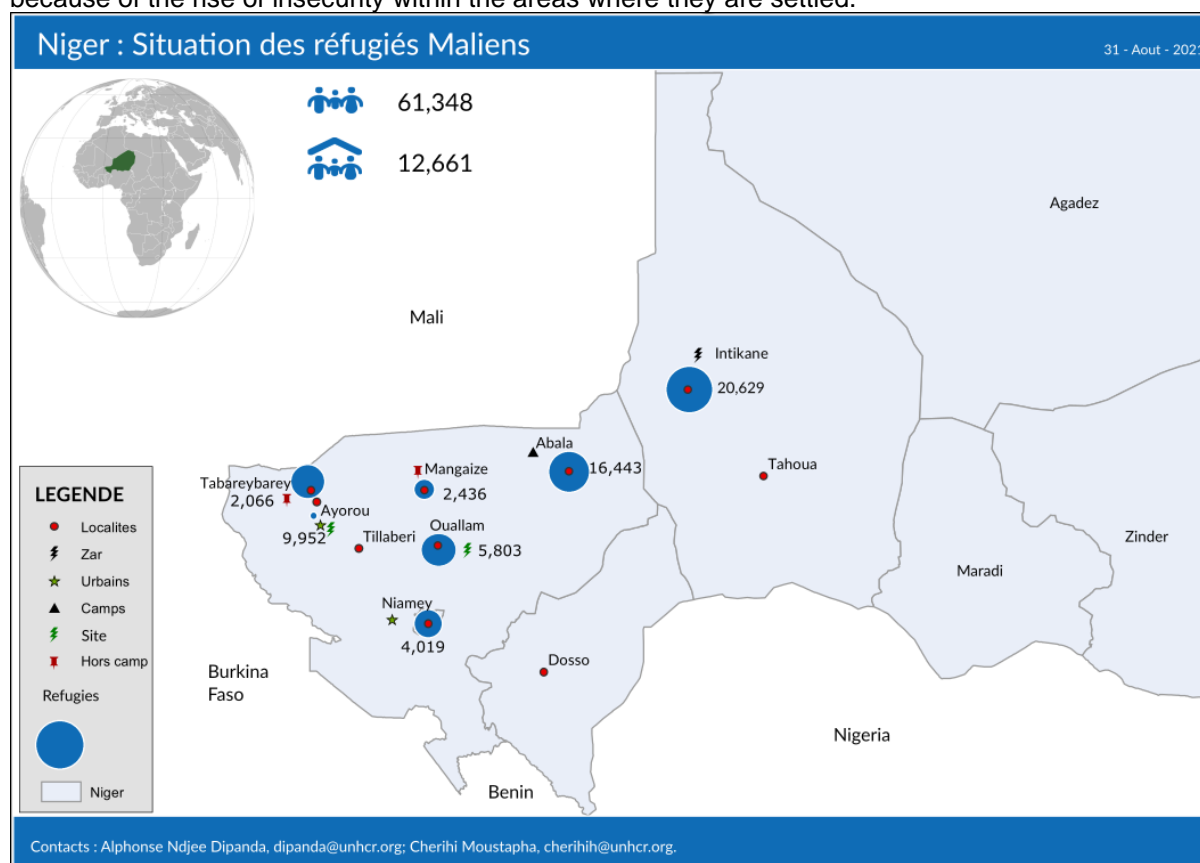
## Operational Context

Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso are all struggling to cope with numerous militant groups moving between the three countries. The **security situation** in the tri-border region including in the Nigerien regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua has sharply deteriorated. This threat is forcing people to flee their homes, and further deprives vulnerable communities of critical basic services as armed groups directly target schools, health centres and other infrastructures. The civilian population is victim of extortion, targeted killings, cattle theft and shop looting resulting in the continue threat to leave their villages. A state of emergency was declared in 2017 and is still in force.

Moreover, the **global sanitary crisis and the measures taken by the Government of Niger to limit the propagation of the COVID-19 virus** has heavily impacted on the operational context, delaying assistance, and limiting livelihood opportunities.

## Update on Achievements

UNHCR Niger has registered refugees from Burkina Faso since the beginning of 2020. As of to date, the country hosts 11,423 Burkinabe refugees in the Tillabéri region. However, their number may be higher due the limitations to the protection monitoring that the Humanitarian Community is facing because of the rise of insecurity within the areas where they are settled.



**The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs produce a wide range of reports, evaluations, and infographics on the humanitarian situation in Niger. All documents can be consulted here:**

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger>

## Protection

Since the closure of the Refugees Hosting Area of Intikane on 16 June 2021, UNHCR's **protection monitoring teams conducted remote monitoring activities including the tracing of population movements**. Thus, during the month of August, the protection monitoring system recorded a total of 177 protection incidents in Tahoua (151) and Tillabéri (26). The recorded cases included murders and assassinations; theft of livestock, money, and seeds; physical and sexual assaults; burning; death threats; kidnappings; collection of zakat in cash or in kind from villagers by non-state armed groups; intercommunity clashes and arbitrary arrests by defence and security forces.

As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021; **3,235 refugee households of 17,841 individuals and 4,144 IDPs households of 29,422 persons have been traced in 26 opportunity villages** in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. They are mainly concentrated in the villages of Telemcess and Tillia. This may be linked to the fact that these villages are relatively secure and offer easy access to basic social services such as health, education, and water.

UNHCR and its partners identified **63 new cases of SGBV** in the Tahoua region and 15 in the Tillabéri region. All cases received psychosocial support and documentation. The cases that require more appropriate care were referred to the various partners and care structures. To prevent SGBV, UNHCR and its partners conducted awareness sessions on the risks and consequences of SGBV, the referral mechanism, as well as the available care services, reaching more than 1,000 people in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions.

In August 2021, UNHCR and its partners **identified more than 500 child protection cases** in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. Most of them in IDP sites. The utmost vulnerabilities encountered by children were lack of access to education, illness, abuse, and exploitation, among others. Almost 50% of cases of Tahoua region have not been referred because of absence of partners caused by the closure of the Refugees Hosting Area (Intikane). In addition, more than 2,000 people have received sensitization sessions on child protection issues and how to identify them.

UNHCR and its partners have identified and documented more than **1500 persons living with special needs** among the newly displaced people caused by the upsurge of attacks against civilians in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions since the beginning of 2021. These individuals received direct assistance or were referred to partners for appropriate care. They have also been prioritized for food, NFI, emergency shelter, and cash grants distributions.

UNHCR and its partners organized several sensitization sessions on peaceful coexistence reaching approximately 5,000 persons in Tillia, Tassara, Abala, Ayorou and Ouallam as well as Torodi, Tera, Bankilaré and Gotheye.

## Education

UNHCR continues to advocate for increasing schooling rates of girls and boys, including those living with disabilities in the Refugee Hosting Area of Intikane and the sites hosting refugees and internally displaced persons in Tillabéri region.

## Health

In August 2021; UNHCR and its partners have reorganized their presence in Tahoua region (Health Centre of Telemcess) after the closure of the Refugees Hosting Area (Intikane) ensuring the continuity of provision of access to medical care in the health centre built with the support of EUTF in Abala as well as in the health districts of Ouallam and Ayorou. Almost 3,000 individuals were reached, among them 300 required hospitalization and 11 extremely critical cases were referred to the regional hospitals of Tahoua and Tillabéri.

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

As of the end of August 2021, the construction of **1,277 social houses** was ongoing of which 967 have been completed in the Tillabéri region, more specifically 614 in Abala, 291 in Ouallam and 35 in Ayorou. Some 3,182,000 bricks have been produced so far. Since the start the project; 5,225 persons

have been employed in brick production and another 1,923 persons in house construction.

A team composed of UNHCR, a land surveyor, and APBE technicians physically identified 392 plots in Abala. These plots will soon be handed over to refugees and very vulnerable members of the host community.

## WASH

UNHCR is boosting sensitization sessions in the regions to prevent the spread of the extensive cholera epidemics. Sensitization on the COVID-19 also continued, as well as on water borne diseases, reaching 2,500 individuals on the refugee and IDPs sites in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions.

## Livelihood

UNHCR's implementing partner ADES distributed poultry to 50 vulnerable women head of households. These include 50 refugees and 10 members of the host community.

Also, within the framework of the joint ILO/UNHCR project, 130 refugees and 130 members of the host community were identified, trained, and supported to create a cooperative to build the necessary infrastructure (fishponds) for the creation of a fish farming in Ayorou. Additionally, several kits of transformation of the market garden products were also distributed to the group of the market gardeners of the site.

## Natural Resources

As part of the implementation of [the joint UNHCR/ILO project](#), 129 refugees and 129 members of the host community were trained in waste collection and recovery. The beneficiaries were trained in the transformation of domestic waste into latrine slabs, paving stones, charcoal, etc.

Thus, two kiosks serving as waste collection points will be implemented in Ayorou as well as a 1000 m2 site for the installation of machines for the collection, sorting, and transformation of this waste.

## Working in partnerships

UNHCR interventions have long been targeting refugees, IDPs and host communities who live in same conditions of high vulnerability -- with a view to move towards economic integration and social inclusion. This approach of inclusion and development is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and aligned with the Global Compact for Refugee (GCR) and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. This approach is at the core of the joint Government of Niger and UNHCR's [OUT OF CAMP vision](#) and its operationalization through ongoing collaborations with the World Bank Group (WBG), the German Development Agency (GIZ), the European Union (EUTF) and the ILO amongst other UN agencies. With the idea of deepening its role of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) convener, UNHCR is also looking into strengthening relationships with private sector actors as they are a crucial partner for boosting economic growth and job creation.

Increasing collaboration with International and National NGOs with a comparative advantage on delivering economic inclusion programs on the ground, including through livelihood initiatives is also at the core of the strategic approach to development solutions of the GCR, the Government of Niger, and UNHCR Niger.

To lend support to the [Protection Cluster](#) at national level in terms of advocacy, facilitate coordination between countries and regional IASC, providing visibility through data driven analysis, and serving as a platform for information sharing and best practices, the Regional Bureau in Dakar has initiated bilateral and multilateral consultations with key stakeholders including donors to revitalize the Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG). A task force composed of UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, UNWOMEN, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR and SOS has been established to draft the strategy as well as the ToRs which are being commented on and will be further adopted. Through the Regional Protection Working Group, appropriate support will be provided to the protection crisis in the Sahel.

# Financial Information

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

Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Spain

### 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>

**Germany** 47.4 million | **United States of America** 33 million | **Private donors Australia** 6.2 million | **Canada** 5.6 million | **Private donors Germany** 4.4 million | **Japan** 2.9 million | **France** 2.8 million | Holy See | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Norway | Spain | Private donors

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

**Norway** 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 55.7 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 28.5 million | **United Kingdom** 28.4 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 20.7 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 14 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 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.

## External / Donor Relations

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