

2,480 new arrivals in Sayam Forage Camp in November 2020

December 2020

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

225,118

Number of people of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database.

2,480

Individuals were registered in Sayam Forage Camp during the month of November following a secondary displacement.

2,354

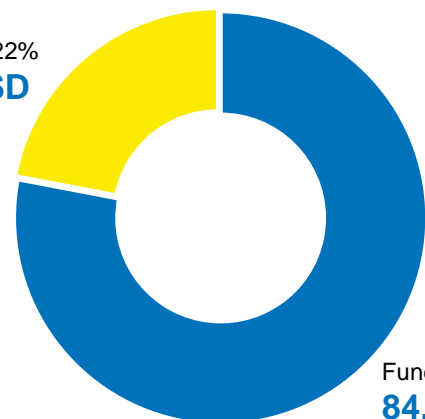
As of 30 November 2020, houses built in Diffa region.

FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2020)

USD 108.8 million

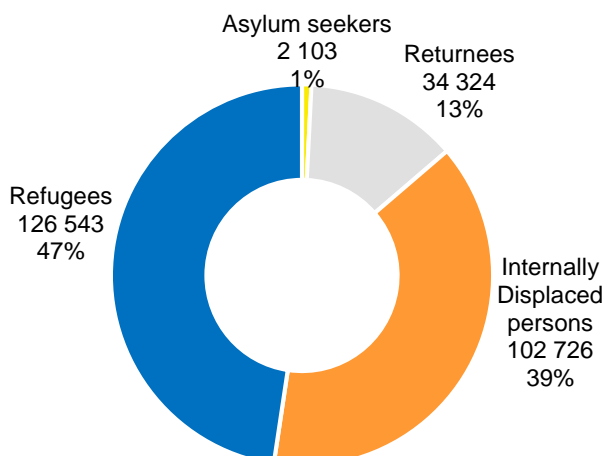
requested for

Unfunded 22%
24.1 USD



Funded 78%
84.7 USD

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA (GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Population movements and security situation

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.

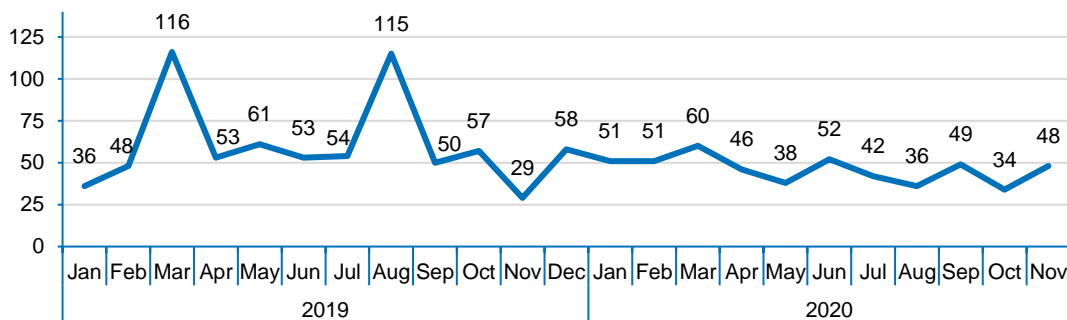
Following the first attacks in the Diffa region, the population on the move has become increasingly mixed. The majority of the displaced are settled in more than **140 spontaneous sites, villages and towns** along the one main road of the region, the **Route Nationale 1**. At the request of the authorities, UNHCR has established two camps: the refugee camp of Sayam Forage and the IDP camp of Kablewa. The latter was closed by the Government in June 2017 after a suicide bomb attack.

The security situation has serious negative effects on the economy of the region, reducing the absorption capacity of the host population and the capacity of the displaced population to support itself. The population of the fertile areas (Lake Chad, Komadougou river) have been displaced, the pastoral routes have been destroyed, and cross-border exchange and trade (seasonal migration, trade of goods) are deeply affected. Despite a significant increase in humanitarian interventions, the needs are still high. Basic services and infrastructure (water, health, and education), which were already weak before the crisis, are under a mounting pressure and highly dependent on humanitarian actors. Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour, Bosso roads following the discovery of explosive devices, successive attacks and kidnappings. The border with Nigeria has been closed in August 2019 which increases the price of essential goods for population. In 2020, attacks against the population including kidnappings, the trademark of Boko Haram, continue as threats towards humanitarian workers.

A total of 48 protection incidents were reported in the region during the month of November 2020 compared to 34 for the previous month. 151 individuals were victims during the reporting period against 51 in October. This increase may be linked to the impossibility for the Government Army to reach certain localities, including the Lake Chad islands because of the deterioration of roads due to the flooding of the Komadougou river and the rise of insecurity in the N'Guigmi department, which was considered as a haven of peace in the Diffa region.

Furthermore 487 protection incidents which affected 2,503 victims have been recorded in the whole region during the year 2020.

Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2019 to Nov 2020



Population Statistics

The latest figures published by the government on September 30th, 2020 estimate the number of displaced persons in the Diffa region at **265,696** out of which 225,118 are registered in UNHCR’s database. Out of the total population, 79% are women and children.

Since January 2020, more than 3,600 refugees from Chad and Nigeria have crossed the Lake Chad island and have found safety in Kindjandi and Toumour, where UNHCR provides an emergency response. The city of Diffa currently hosts more than 23,000 displaced persons.



Achievements

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**.

Main Milestones

Protection response

- During the month of November, protection actors have improved their coordination and the quality of the response, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism.
- **Child protection:** 5 clubs of 200 adolescents have been created and trained to fight against SGBV. These clubs are composed of 100 girls and 100 boys. 233 children have received birth certificates among which 195 at Kindjandi site, 38 at the camp of Sayam Forage. On the other hand, 440 children aged 0 to 6 in risk of statelessness have been identified in Chetimari and Mainé Soroa's municipalities. In line with the campaign IBelong, some sensitization messages on the importance of identity document and the risk of statelessness have been broadcasted in 4 local languages via the local radio station Dileram FM of Nguiguimi from 29 October to 13 November. Moreover, 50 primary school teachers and 30 students of a Health Institute located in Diffa have received a lecture on statelessness and its various consequences.
- **SGBV:** The Diffa sub-office, like the other sub-offices, also commemorated the "16 days of activism" under the theme: "No, to the upsurge of rape in the context of Diffa's insecurity". 3 main activities were conducted: the speech of the Regional Director of the Government Office in charge of population, women and children protection, a drama scene to sensitize on SGBV and an advocacy's activity prepared by several students and addressed to UNHCR and its partner. 60% of SGBV cases in Diffa region are rape on small children aged less than 14 years. In the frame of 16 days of activism, a sensitization campaign organised by the protection committee has reached 1,350 individuals and 124 dignity kits have been distributed. Moreover 42 members of community structures and 32 teachers have been trained on the various types of SGBV, the referral mechanism and the services available for the survivals. During the month of November, 64 new cases of gender-based violence have been reported in Diffa region. The cases range from denial of resources (35) to physical assault (11), sexual assault and rape (4 cases each). 100% of cases have

benefited of psychosocial support and have been referred either to health facilities, police and/or justice for the other services.

Persons with specific needs: In the camp of Sayam Forage 46 persons with specific needs have benefited of technical mobility aid (crutch, simple cane, English cane).

Urbanisation program: This innovative EU-funded program 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, 2,354 sustainable houses for the most vulnerable families have already been built, while 866 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 Activities: 20 women of the Sayam Forage camp have been trained on the manufacturing of soap, liquid soap and bleach. As of 30 November, they have produced 3,840 soaps, 1,811 liters of liquid soap and 1,652 liters of bleach on the other hand 8 women have been trained on making masks producing 1,416 masks during the last reporting period.

The official launch ceremony of the integrated farm fishery of Sayam Forage camp took place on 12 November. UNHCR, the University of Diffa, partner involved in the camp, members of the central committee and the camp population participated to the activity.

Combating desertification and protecting the environment: Refugees and host populations are actively taking part in the protection of the environment. Partner CDR has proceeded to the establishment of a 15 members' committee in the camp of Sayam Forage. Due to flooding of the Komadougou river, this activity was conducted remotely for the site of Kindjandi where a committee of 15 members has also been created. The plantation of bio village is ongoing at the site of Grin Wanzam. A training for the benefit of household targeted by the project have been conducted at the camp of Sayam Forage by the bio digester expert.

Prevention and response to the COVID-19 pandemic: In partnership with the NGO APBE and "Bien-être de la Femme Rurale", 60 women have been trained and equipped to produce and commercialize soap since 2017. As part of the national COVID-19 response, refugees scaled up the production and soap, bleach and masks which are distributed within the Sayam Forage camp.

Education: UNHCR has proceeded to a donation of 150 kits of hands washing devices, 150 boxes of soap and 20,000 masks to the regional directorate of primary school of Diffa. 2 classrooms have been renovated at the camp of Sayam Forage and 2 blocks of latrines of 4 cabins each have also been finalized. 404 students are registered in the 5 distant learning secondary schools while the 59 students who went to Kano to pass the Senior School Certificate Examination (**SSCE**) are back to Diffa. Furthermore, many awareness raising sessions on registration of children to school and education have been conducted in the whole region and more than 1 000 persons have been reached.

WASH: At the Sayam Forage camp, a volume of 2,381 m³ of water was produced by the 3 pumping stations, which represent about 8 litres / person / day for a population of 24,928.

More than 15,000 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion and the prevention against the new Coronavirus 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.

Financial Information

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

Canada | France | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | United States of America | European Union | CERF | Peacebuilding Fund

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

United States of America 25.5 M | European Union 13 M | Germany 5.1 M | Japan 4.7 M | CERF 4.4M | Italy 3.5 M | African Development Bank 2.6 M | France 1.2 M | Spain 0.6 M | Luxembourg 0.4 M | Fondazione Prosolidar Onlus 0.3 M | International Humanitarian and Charity Organization 0.3 M | Intesa San Paolo 0.2 M | Monaco 0.07 M | Canada 0.04 M | Other private donors 0.1M

Other softly earmarked contributions²

Germany 78.8 M | United States of America 61.8 M | United Kingdom 24.8 M | Denmark 14.6 M | Private donors Australia 11.4 M | Canada 10.2 M | Private donors USA 8.7 M | Private donors Germany 7 M | Private donors Japan 4.5 M | France 3.5 M | Spain 3.4 M | Ireland 3.3 M | Sweden 3 M | Private donors United Kingdom 2.3 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 M | Japan 2.1 M | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 M

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Unearmarked contributions³

Sweden 76.4 M | Private donors Spain 66.8 M | Norway 41.4 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 34 M | United Kingdom 31.7 M | Private

donors Japan 27.8 M | Germany 25.9 M | Japan 23.8 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Private donors Italy 15.7 M | France 14 M | Private donors Sweden 11.7 M | Private donors USA 10.8 M | Italy 10.6 M

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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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