

# Niger

April / May 2023

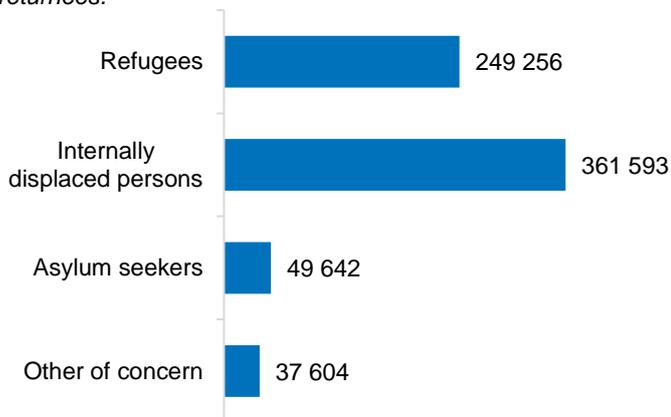
In April, **4,984 people crossed the border villages in the Agadez region**. Of these, 3,808 were expelled from Algeria (of whom 1,150 were Nigeriens in official convoys) and 1,176 were voluntary movements from Libya. These included Guineans, Malians, and nationals of other countries.

Since the establishment of the UNHCR resettlement program in Niger, **5,411 refugees have left Niger**. The number comprises of 3,740 persons, who have been evacuated from Libya under the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) and 1,671 refugees registered through Niger's national asylum system.

On 19 and 20 April, UNHCR held two meetings in Niamey with Nigerien authorities, project, technical - and financial partners to **revise its multi-year plan to provide mixed solutions for some 700,000** forcibly displaced persons in Niger.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 MAY 2023

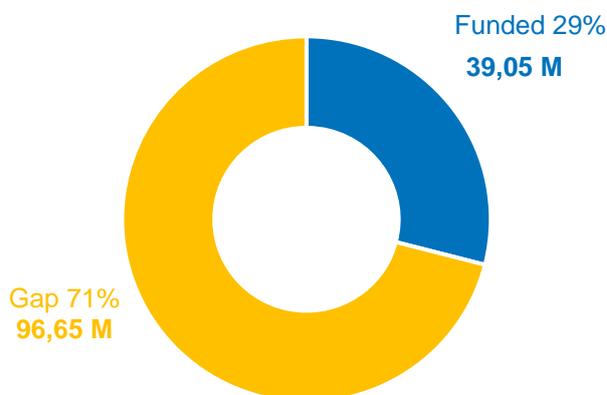
There are **698,095** forcibly displaced people live in Niger. They include **249,256** refugees, **49,642** asylum-seekers, **361,593** internally displaced people, **37,604** other people such as returnees.



## FINANCEMENT AU 10 MAI 2023

**USD 135,7 M**

Demandés par l'Opération du HCR au Niger en 2023



Thanks to the support from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), UNHCR distributed school kits to more than 3,700 refugee schoolchildren and host community members in three opportunity villages in the Maradi region.

## Operational context

Despite various conflicts in the Sahel region, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting **304,085 refugees** and **asylum-seekers**. About 66,15% of them are from Nigeria, 22,27% from Mali, 9,35% from Burkina Faso, and 2,22% from other countries. Furthermore, there are more than **361,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** and Nigerien returnees (*who have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger*). **UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, uses a community-based approach to provide protection, assistance, and solutions** for these forcibly displaced populations, with emphasis on women, children and people with special needs. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

## Highlights

### Tillabéri Region

**Background:** Background: Since the first arrival of Malian refugees in Tillabéri in 2012, UNHCR and the Government of Niger have worked for the **socio-economic inclusion of Malian refugees, based on an "out of camp" strategy**. With the support of development actors and through local integration efforts, Malian refugees and host communities have benefited from services, access to land, housing, and livelihoods, while national health, education and water infrastructure have been improved. To **strengthen peaceful coexistence between communities**, UNHCR has brought the different populations together through "common areas," such as village cereal banks, livestock feed stores, and through various joint community committees.



Hydraform brick production site in Ouallam © UNHCR

- In April, about **1,115 refugees and asylum-seekers and 2,634 host community members received health care in the health facility** in the Tillabéri Region. Some 174 women benefitted from prenatal consultations, while 196 births were assisted in the same health facility. In addition, 1,196 refugee and asylum-seeking children and IDPs aged between 0-59 months were inoculated during the mass vaccination drive against yellow fever, measles, and other diseases.
- As a result of increased attacks on villages by non-state armed groups in the Tri-border area, Malian and Burkinabe asylum seekers continued to flow into the Tillabéri area. **In April, the CNE registered 290 individuals (96 households)**. These individuals reportedly came from Ménaka, Inchinanane, Adranboukane, Inokan, Tamalet, Azaragane, and Inakar, fleeing the abuses of non-state armed groups.
- On April 5, UNHCR organized a training **workshop on peaceful coexistence**, access to justice, and social cohesion for local authorities, traditional and religious leaders, and community leaders in the Abala department of the Tillabéri region.
- UNHCR's partner *Comité international pour l'aide d'urgence et le développement* (CIAUD) **has initiated the process of targeting beneficiaries of the livelihoods project**. In order to ensure

the achievement of the expected results, a general assembly was held to restructure and revitalize the existing groups. A total of 300 refugees will benefit directly from this project.

## Tahoua

**Background:** As of 30 April, about **20,622 Malian refugees, 16,431 refugees and 3,465 Nigerien returnees are registered in the Tahoua Region**. New arrivals are also being reported in the localities of Telemces and Tillia, due to persistent insecurity at the border with Mali (Menaka).

As of 31 December 2022, 51,036 individuals (5,988 households) including 13,279 people (1,590 households) newly displaced persons, have been documented by Tahoua regional authorities. As of December 28, 2022, **7,529 individual (2,165 households) Nigerian asylum-seekers have been biometrically registered** in the council area of Bangui in Madaoua division. This represents 26% of the target for Madaoua.

- Between April 24 and 27, a **joint mission of the government of Niger and UN agencies** co-led by the Ministers of Interior and Humanitarian Action, as well as the Humanitarian Coordinator of Niger, visited the villages of Tintabaraden, Tassara, and Tillia in the northern Tahoua region. Their objective was to **assess critical needs and discuss with newly arrived refugees and IDPs possible solutions to forced displacement** and develop a contingency plan to address the anticipated influx in Tahoua.
- From 2022 to April 2023, **new refugee influxes were recorded in the three localities of Tillia, Tassara, and Tintabaraden. Approximately 34,913 people (4,662 households) fled violence in Mali, while 15,619 people (2,876 households)** were forced to flee attacks by non-state armed groups in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina in Nigeria. These people are still waiting to be registered. UNHCR has already carried out four distributions of basic necessities to newly arrived Malian refugees, but the needs remain great.
- From April 17 to 19, 2023, **UNHCR participated in a CASH distribution initiated by the World Bank-funded Refugee and Host Community Support Project (PARCA)**. A total of 1,776 refugee and host community households in the villages of Jataka, Guidan Bagouari, and Maikourou each received 108,000 CFA francs (about US\$186).
- On April 20, 2023, **UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and ADES conducted a rapid needs assessment mission in the village of Malalabi, Bangui commune**. The assessment followed an alert received about a cross-border movement of people from the Nigerian villages of Ganri Idi, Kalagué to the Nigerian locality of Malabi, Bangui commune. According to the authorities, 68 households with 266 people were affected by this movement. Based on individual interviews and data collected through focus groups, the priority needs are food assistance, shelter, protection and basic social infrastructure.
- In April 2023, UNHCR and its partners **received 1,733 persons including refugees, IDPs, and members of the host community for medical consultations** in the Tahoua region. 57 serious cases were evacuated to regional facilities.
- More than **1,000 people were reached by awareness sessions** conducted by UNHCR and its partner Association pour le Bien Etre (APBE), on reproductive health and 464 women were received for prenatal consultations.



Distribution of food rations to Malian asylum seekers who recently found refuge in the Tchintabaden department in the Tahoua region © UNHCR

## Diffa

**Background: The Diffa Region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the north-eastern states of Nigeria since 2013.** Since 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 islands in the Lake Chad area.

As of 30 April 2023, about **314,820 forcibly displaced persons live in the Diffa Region (including 137,573 refugees: 140,593 IDPs, 35,142 returnees and 2,515 asylum-seekers)**. Many of these people have been displaced more than once. Most of them stay in spontaneous settlements or with host communities. Refugees from Nigeria have continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp, and at other sites in the Diffa Region, cohabiting with the host community, seeking humanitarian assistance and security. An estimated **32,994 people live in Sayam Forage** – the only refugee camp in Niger.

- In April, **UNHCR identified 501 new child protection cases**. They all received psychosocial support. 286 refugees and host community members benefitted from awareness raising on child protection issues by local protection committees and UNHCR project partners.
- In April, UNHCR and its partners identified and documented 161 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including denial of resources and opportunities, physical assault, psychological violence, sexual assault, and rape. **100% of the documented cases received multi-sectoral assistance** including psychosocial support, while the cases requiring specific management were referred to partners. In addition, 3,087 people were made aware of the risk of GBV and available management services.
- In April **2,419 refugees** received medical consultations at the Sayam Forage health centre. **45 of them were placed under observation and 13 were referred** to regional health facilities. About 318 women benefitted from prenatal consultations and **34 deliveries were assisted** at the Sayam Forage health centre.
- To prevent the risk of statelessness, UNHCR and its partners identified and submitted **applications for birth certificates for 969 children and 400 adults who did not have birth certificates**. In

addition, 2,476 people were sensitized to the risks of statelessness and the importance of civil status documents. Finally, 162 births were registered at the Sayam Forage health facility.

## Maradi

Background: For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians to flee to the Maradi Region in Niger**. In addition, repeated incursions by armed bandits on Niger territory, have triggered internal displacements of about 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border, targeting farmers and breeders and conducting kidnapping for ransom.

**UNHCR's response in Maradi has been to support refugees willing to do so, to relocate, away from the border to ensure their safety**, while at the same time, provide assistance to host communities to ease the pressure resulting from the large presence of refugees.

Subsequently, Village development hubs (Villages d'opportunités) have been identified in surrounding villages and are progressively being developed, providing services or improved access to potable water, health, education, and protection for both refugee and host communities. At the moment, there are three of such 'Villages d'opportunités' in Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka in the Maradi Region.



Distribution of food rations to Malian asylum seekers who recently found refuge in the Tchintabaden department in the Tahoua region © UNHCR

- UNHCR continues to **support the three health centers** at the "villages of opportunity". Hence, a batch of medicines has been made available to these health centers in order to properly treat the refugees and members of the host community.
- On April 13, UNHCR and the Regional Directorate of Education (DREN) officially launched the **distribution of 7,002 Education Cannot Wait project school kits in the "villages of opportunity" of Garin Kaka**. This activity continued in the schools of the two other "opportunity villages" and in a school in Guidan Roudji. The population was made aware of the importance of these kits and their use. It was noted that the involvement of the village chiefs, who contribute to the follow-up of the pupils in the schools by making regular visits, encourages the parents to send their children to school.

## Agadez

**Background: Niger is a hub for mixed movements heading northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time, it receives people fleeing Libya or being expelled from Algeria.** These migratory flows are mixed, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that the latter have access to protection, and assistance and may access the national asylum system.

UNHCR in Niger supports the **strengthening of the national asylum system** and implements a set of activities meant to ensure the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers. In the long term, UNHCR seeks to find durable solutions, such as local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visas or humanitarian evacuations are also considered.

With the support of IOM, NGO partners, and the Government of Niger, UNHCR identifies asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provides them with counselling and assistance. As of 31 January, UNHCR and its partners have **identified and biometrically registered 2,637 individuals in need of international protection**. These include 820 refugees and 1,826 asylum seekers. The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **five guesthouses in Agadez** where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are hosted in the **Humanitarian Centre** built on the outskirts of the city.

- In April 2023, UNHCR **facilitated access to primary and secondary health care through the health centre located in the humanitarian centre**. About 628 refugees and 844 members of the host community received medical consultations, including 25 serious cases. Those affected were referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health centre in Agadez. The Toudou health centre also provided reproductive health services and treatment for child malnutrition. In addition, 79 people received psychosocial support.
- **At the end of April there were more than 7,900 migrants deported from Algeria to Assamaka since the beginning of 2023**, exposed to several protection risks. A humanitarian response plan was developed by the authorities in Agadez at the end of March 2023, to assist migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees in secondary movement, which are estimated at about 100 persons. UNHCR has also developed emergency protection and assistance activities for the implementation of a joint humanitarian response plan by UN agencies. Activities include training in international protection, the national and international legal framework for asylum, and distribution of essential emergency items to at least 500 migrants and asylum seekers.



Refugee children in a classroom in Mai Adoua, 2 km from the humanitarian centre in Agadez © UNHCR

## Resettlement

As of 30 April, **5,411, refugees have left Niger to third countries under resettlement or through complementary** ways, such as study visas. This number includes 3,740 persons evacuated from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) and 1,671 refugees processed and registered through the national asylum system in Niger.

## Hamdallaye / ETM

- Out of the **4,063 refugees evacuated from Libya between 2017 and 2023**, 439 evacuees are still in Niamey, residing at the site of Hamdallaye, of whom 42 are awaiting imminent departure and 166 are awaiting interviews and decisions by resettlement countries.
- In April, UNHCR offices in Libya and Niger completed preparations and formalities for the first convoy of the most vulnerable asylum seekers evacuated from Libya to Niger for the year 2023, marking the 33rd convoy since the ETM program began.
- In April, UNHCR and its partners continued to implement **18 planned quick impact projects for refugees and host communities in Hamdallaye and Agadez**. These projects include agricultural production, vocational training, and small business activities aimed at strengthening self-reliance and promoting peaceful coexistence.



More than 200 refugees took participated in music and art classes in Hamdallaye as a means to overcome trauma © UNHCR

## Urban refugees in Niamey

As of 30 April, Niger's capital city – Niamey, hosts about **4,810 refugees and 776 asylum-seekers**. 88% (4,213) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerian law, Malians who are victims of armed conflict in northern Mali are recognized on a prima facie basis while other nationalities undergo the regular procedure of refugee status determination (RSD), implemented by the authorities of Niger.

UNHCR has rallied partners involved in the implementation of protection and assistance activities for urban refugees and asylum-seekers into one physical structure, called the Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop). **The One-Stop-Shop has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as a better coordination of services provided by different partners**. Refugees and asylum seekers

receive support and guidance in the area of documentation, and information regarding medical, psychological, and education and other forms of assistance. **The centre also manages a hotline, which refugees can call free of charge to ask questions, to seek advice regarding assistance, or to make a complaint.**

UNHCR and partners also regularly conduct home visits and monitor the well-being of beneficiaries in Niamey. Several guest houses (cases de passage) are managed by the UN Refugee Agency, in collaboration with partners, to ensure adequate protection for persons with special needs. To enhance inclusiveness and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperate and **support the Central Refugee Committee of Niamey**, comprised of refugee leaders from the various communities.

In the context of a multidimensional migration crisis and in support of the Government of Niger, the European Union is **supporting assistance, protection, and the search for durable solutions for asylum seekers and refugees evacuated** from Libya through the ETM project (2022-2024)" for an envelope of 34 million USD for a period of 33 months from April 2022. Thus, on March 28, 2023, a mission composed of the European Union ambassador, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior, the Director General of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees, the UNHCR representative and UNHCR partners visited the Hamdallaye site.

## Partnership

**UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger**, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions towards IDPs, to ensure a coherent protection response in the country. The Cluster also shares information amongst all relevant partners, bridges identified gaps, and ensures the strategic direction of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions target economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and is aligned with the **Global Compact on Refugee (GCR), the Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus** and is aligned with the joint Government of Niger and **UNHCR's 'out of camp' policy**. UNHCR seeks to strengthen relationships with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and the media. The UN Refugee Agency also works with other government bodies, national and international project and operational partners. Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the *Direction Générale de l'Etat Civil et des Réfugiés* (DGEC-R) to ensure adequate international protection

### Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2023

European Union | Germany | Canada | United states of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Kingdom | Luxembourg | Monaco | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

### And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2023

Sweden | Norway | Denmark | Netherlands | Germany | Switzerland | Ireland | Belgium | Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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**PERSONNES RELEVANT DE LA COMPÉTENCE DU HCR (PoC)**  
 MAI 2023

### SAHEL

90,198 REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

200,770 PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

3,465 AUTRES PERSONNES

TAHOUA, NIAMEY, TILLABERI

### NIGERIA

200,260 REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

155,721 PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

34,139 AUTRES PERSONNES

DIFFA, ZINDER, MARADI, TAHOUA

### URBAN & ETM

8,440 REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

5,102 PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

NIAMEY, AGADEZ

### CARTOGRAPHIE DES PERSONNES CONCERNÉES

■ Réfugiés  
■ Demandeurs d'asile  
■ Personnes Déplacées Internes  
■ Autres personnes

Région	Refugiés	Demandeurs d'asile	Personnes Déplacées Internes	Autres personnes
TAHOUA	835	1,843	3,465	16,431
NIAMEY	41,621	272,205	128,748	904
TILLABERI	4,858	5,102	43,895	78
MARADI	15,128	72,022	16,431	78
ZINDER	78	1	43,895	78
DIFFA	34,139	140,583	137,589	2,899
AGADEZ	835	1,843	3,465	16,431

### PRINCIPAUX PAYS D'ORIGINE

Nigeria	197721
Mali	66579
Burkina Faso	27959
Soudan	2974
Chad	2433
Autres	1222

### PDI – PRINCIPALES RÉGIONS

Diffa	140593
Tillabéri	126748
Tahoua	72022
Miradi	15128
Niamey	5102

### ÉVOLUTION MENSUELLE REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

Month	Refugees & Asylum Seekers
JAN 2022	280,883
FEB 2022	279,172
MAR 2022	201,853
APR 2022	283,318
MAY 2022	291,029
JUN 2022	291,266
JUL 2022	291,266
AUG 2022	295,877
SEPT 2022	294,467
OCT 2022	296,036
NOV 2022	302,044
DEC 2022	302,056
JAN 2023	299,279
FEB 2023	300,819
MAR 2023	303,708
APR 2023	296,898
MAY 2023	304,085

### ÉVOLUTION MENSUELLE PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

Month	Internally Displaced Persons
JAN 2022	264,257
FEB 2022	264,257
MAR 2022	264,257
APR 2022	264,257
MAY 2022	264,257
JUN 2022	264,257
JUL 2022	264,257
AUG 2022	264,257
SEP 2022	264,257
OCT 2022	264,257
NOV 2022	264,257
DEC 2022	264,257
JAN 2023	264,257
FEB 2023	264,257
MAR 2023	264,257
APR 2023	264,257
MAY 2023	264,257

### PROFIL DE LA POPULATION – REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

#### DEMOGRAPHIE

Age Group	Female (%)	Male (%)
60+	2%	2%
18-59	24%	18-59
12-17	9%	12-17
5-11	15%	5-11
0-4	4%	0-4

#### FEMMES & ENFANTS

82%

### PROFIL DE LA POPULATION – PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

#### DEMOGRAPHIE

Age Group	Female (%)	Male (%)
60+	2%	2%
18-59	22%	18-59
12-17	10%	12-17
5-11	15%	5-11
0-4	7%	0-4

#### FEMMES & ENFANTS

83%

### BESOINS SPÉCIFIQUES

Besoin spec. & jar	301,30
Enfant à risque	26,884
Femme à risque	20,145
Parent seul	11,837
Besoin médical élevé	5,539
Vieillard à risque	5,511
Handicap	4,910
SGBY	3,472
Torture	2,272
Family unity	1,340
Enfant non accompagné ou...	1,230

### PRINCIPALES OCCUPATIONS

Agriculture, foresterie, pêche...	41,094
Nettoyage et aides	34,630
Hôtellerie, vente au détail &...	14,461
Autres	5,032
Transformation des aliments...	3,345
Travailleurs de l'artisanat et de...	3,201
Opérateurs d'installations fixes et...	1,766
Vendeurs	1,318
Miniers	1,243
Affaires, administration &...	1,243

Date de création : 15.09.2021 | Sources : UNHCR, Données échantillonaires UNCI, Statistiques des populations - Rapports statistiques mensuels du UNHCR pour les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile, statistiques validées du comité central MAH/OC pour les IDPs | Les statistiques doivent être considérées comme provisoires et sujettes à modification | Feedback: [dsarad@unhcr.org](mailto:dsarad@unhcr.org)