

UNHCR Operation in Niger

MARCH 2014 FACT SHEET



H. Dicko © UNHCR

Operational Context

The crisis in northern Mali since 2012 has forced some **50,000** Malians into exile into Niger. It has also led to the return of **5,124** nationals of Niger previously living in the Gao area. Most refugees live in the three camps established in Tillabéri region in 2012, namely Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey. In 2013, in an attempt to adapt to the **specific needs of nomadic refugees**, two "refugee hosting areas" were established in **Intikane and Tazalit**, Tahoua region. These are vast areas where nomadic Malian refugees can settle freely with their livestock enabling them to live according to their traditional and pastoral way of life with grazing land for their animals. In 2013, after the French and Ecomas military intervention and the creation of the MINUSMA force, refugees have continued to cross into Niger. Following the presidential elections in July-August 2013, a back-and-forth movement between Niger and the areas of origin in Mali has been observed. Some refugees have also asked UNHCR for return assistance. Even though in UNHCR's own assessment the **situation in Northern Mali does not yet call for an organized voluntary repatriation**, UNHCR decided to respect the will of the refugees and to assist those who wish to return home.

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in May 2013 in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states in northern **Nigeria**, thousands of displaced persons (Niger citizens, Nigerian refugees, and third country nationals) have sought **refuge in Diffa** region, southeast Niger. The local population has generously received the outflow of persons fleeing violence in Nigeria by hosting them in their families and communities. UNHCR, in coordination with partners, provides protection and humanitarian assistance through a **community-based approach**. The out-of-camp programme in Diffa focuses on strengthening the **resilience** of the affected population and the local communities hosting them.

Persons of concern by Country of Origin

	MALI	NIGERIA
	(Level 2 and continuous registration)	Based on census results and on-going monitoring
Refugees	50,429	10,044
Returned nationals	5,124	29,168
Third country		150
Total	55,553	39,362

Malian refugees by settlement

OUALLAM (7,909)	TILLIA	Intikane (Zone d'accueil)	8,941
	TASSARA	Tazalite (Zone d'accueil)	1,319
		Mangaize (Camp)	7,025
		Banibangou (Site)	538
		Chinegodrar (Site)	346
ABALA (13,812)		Abala (Camp)	12,216
		Tigzefan (Site)	1,067
		Miel (Site)	499
		Kizamou (Site)	30
AYOROU (9,223)		Tabareybarey (Camp)	8,560
		Ayorou ville	628
		Koutougou (Site)	35
	NIAMEY	(Urban)	7,724



Market gardening in Mangaizé camp: a woman looking after her vegetables to diversify her family food basket, February 2014, F. Sanchez Bueno ©UNHCR

Working with the Government

- *Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE) : protection and security*

Working with partners

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian assistance to refugees and works with various implementing partners:

- *Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED) : camp management in all three camps of Tillabéri, information in Diffa*
- *Afrique Secours Assistance (ASA): Child protection, SGBV and persons with specific needs, in all three camps of Tillabéri*
- *Akarass : site management (Intikane, Tahoua)*
- *Cadev: urban refugee programme (health and education)*
- *International Rescue Committee: site management (Tazalit), protection*
- *Niger Red Cross and Luxembourg Red Cross: shelter programme*
- *Qatari Red Crescent: health programme*
- *Save the Children: urban refugee programme (protection)*

Operational partners are: Oxfam, Plan Niger, Médecins Sans Frontières France, Humanitaires Sans Frontières, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO.

Key achievements

MALI SITUATION

- **Voluntary repatriation:** In November 2013, UNHCR and the Niger authorities launched the facilitation of the voluntary repatriation programme. In total, 2,764 refugees left camps in Tillabéri and benefitted from UNHCR's counseling and support with a 70 US dollars grant. Voluntary repatriation forms have been granted to each person to ensure their protection and security. According to figures shared by UNHCR Mali, 1,124 returned spontaneously to Mali. As of March 2014, 3000 other refugees have officially asked for a support from UNHCR Niger to return Mali.
- **Nutrition:** The last Post Distribution Monitoring realized jointly by WFP and UNHCR end of 2013 revealed a global decrease of the malnutrition rates among children below the 10 percent alert threshold (8.6%). This situation confirmed the impact of the prevention, control and management of malnutrition activities especially through the Wet-Feeding programme which is turned into a dry feeding programme in one pilot camp only as of March 2014, in Tabareybarey. If the national nutritional survey planned in May 2014 confirms this positive development, dry feeding will be extended to all camps.
- **Livelihoods:** UNHCR's livelihood strategy aims at reinforcing the self-sufficiency of refugees based on transferrable assets (livestock, small business, market gardening, handicraft). In December 2013, UNHCR directly supported 500 vulnerable households with a livestock recapitalization campaign and 760 individuals to develop Incoming Generating Activities through capacity reinforcement, training and cash/kits donation.

NIGERIA SITUATION (DIFFA)

- **Protection Round Table in Diffa:** On 11 February, UNHCR gathered with central and local authorities (CNE, Governor of the region, *Préfets* and mayors, technical services of the Administration), defense forces, civilian protection, NGOs, faith-based organisations and media partners to discuss the response to the humanitarian situation in Diffa. In particular, the round table clarified the procedure under which "temporary refugees" from Nigeria will be registered and documented.
- **Civil documentation campaign:** In February 2014, the Government of Niger, UNHCR and UNICEF launched the civil documentation campaign in Diffa, whose main objective is to reduce protection risks, especially for the many undocumented displaced persons from Nigeria. Niger citizens previously living in Nigeria and displaced by the fighting will receive Niger ID-cards and so will the families who host them. Refugees, i.e. citizens from Nigeria, will receive refugee attestations.
- **Population influx and response:** In January and February 2014, deadly attacks were reported on the Nigerian side of Lake Chad. As a result, more civilians are fleeing into Diffa region, reaching almost 40.000 displaced. UNHCR is worried about the humanitarian impact of the violence in north-eastern Nigeria and is preparing for an even larger influx. In 2013, UNHCR assisted some 14.000 persons with NFIs, and 8.000 with shelter, while some community-based WASH/shelter projects are on-going in villages affected by the influx. Border monitoring and protection monitoring continue for the displaced population living in Diffa and for the new arrivals.

Donor Contributions to Niger in 2014

Japan, United States of America, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

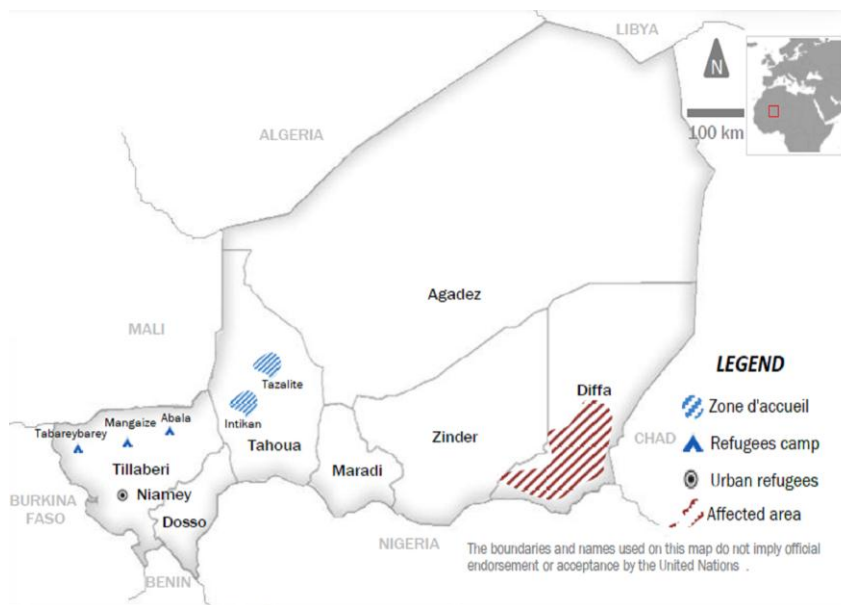
Donor Contributions to the Mali situation

Japan, private donors in Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Funding situation (in million USD)

Ex-Com approved budget	Funding received to date	Funding level
41,533, 971	7,025,000	17%

Refugee Camps/Sites in Niger



UNHCR staff

78 national staff, 38 international staff, including 3 United Nations Volunteers.

For further details please contact:

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Information Web Portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/SahelSituation/country.php?id=157>

UNHCR Niger blog: <http://www.unhcrniger.tumblr.com>