

# UNHCR operation in Niger

## April 2014 Fact Sheet



### 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 **6,000** Niger nationals previously living in Mali. 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** in 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. Following the presidential elections in July-August 2013 and a gradual improvement of the security situation in northern Mali, a back-and-forth movement between Niger and the areas of origin in Mali has been observed. Some refugees have also requested UNHCR for return assistance. Even though the **situation in northern Mali does not yet call for the promotion of organized massive returns**, UNHCR has offered individual assistance and since November 2013 has assisted some 6,000 refugees to return to Mali. In May 2014, a **Tripartite Agreement between Mali, Niger and UNHCR** was signed for the voluntary repatriation of refugees to supervise the process.

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in May 2013 in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states in northern Nigeria, more than **50,000 displaced persons** (Nigerian refugees, Niger nationals) have fled Nigeria and sought refuge in the Diffa region, south-east of Niger. The local population has generously received the 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 program in Diffa focuses on strengthening the **resilience** of the affected population and the local communities hosting them.

### Persons of concern by country of origin (30 April 2014)

	MALI	NIGERIA
	Level 2 + continuous registration + on-going biometrics	Based on census results and on-going monitoring
Refugees	48,284	15,000
Nationals of Niger	5,925	35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,209</b>	<b>50,000</b>

### Malian refugees by site

OUALLAM (6,587)	TILLIA	Intikane (Zone d'accueil)	10,692
	TASSARA	Tazalite (Zone d'accueil)	1,818
		Mangaize (Camp)	5,755
		Banibangou (Site)	503
		Chinegodrar (Site)	329
ABALA (14,072)		Abala (Camp)	12,721
		Tigzefan (Site)	828
		Miel (Site)	493
		Kizamou (Site)	30
AYOROU (7,834)		Tabareybarey (Camp)	7,430
		Ayorou ville	391
		Koutougou (Site)	13
		NIAMEY (Urban)	7,281

UNHCR staff handing a voluntary repatriation form to a refugee family in Niamey. April 2014 Moreno © UNHCR



### Working with the Government

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

### Working with partners

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian assistance to refugees with various partners:

- Action pour le Bien Etre (APBE): Health and nutrition for Tazalit Refugee area
- ADKOUL: multi-sectorial management of Tazalit
- 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)
- Caddev: urban refugee program (health and education)
- International Rescue Committee: site management (Tazalit), protection
- Niger Red Cross and Luxembourg Red Cross: shelter programme
- Qatari Red Crescent: health program
- Save the Children: urban refugee program (protection)

Other partners : HELP, Humanitaires Sans Frontières, Oxfam, OCHA, Plan Niger, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO.

## Key achievements

### MALI SITUATION

- **Voluntary repatriation:** Since the launch of the facilitation of the voluntary repatriation program in November 2013, UNHCR Niger has received and processed a total of **5,600** requests for return. In April, 416 families left Mangaize camp representing 1623 refugees, while other 145 refugees left Tabareybarey camp and 482 departed from Niamey. Most of them headed in the direction of Menaka, in the Gao region. Each refugee was provided with documentation and transport allowance to facilitate his journey. Some 1000 other refugees have also approached UNHCR and are planning to return in the period up to June 2014.
- **Tripartite Agreement:** On May 3, 2014, Mali, Niger and the UNHCR signed an agreement on the repatriation of Malian refugees. One immediate effect of the agreement is the creation of a tripartite commission which will meet for the first time in Bamako in June 2014. The main outcomes of the Agreement are the joint commitment by all parties to uphold the voluntariness of returns, secure the rights of repatriated refugees, and maintain asylum for those who wish to stay in Niger. The Malian government was led by the Minister of Interior and Security, General Sada Samaké who also visited Tabareybarey, one of the three camps hosting Malian refugees.
- **Selection of Partners:** UNHCR concluded the process initiated in 2013 for the revision of the partnerships and contracts established in 2012 at the peak of the crisis. In the post-emergency phase, UNHCR consequently reviewed its partnerships based on a competitive and transparent process. In this regard, calls for tenders were launched in various sectors and the selection has been completed. UNHCR awarded contracts to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for protection in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions, to the International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) and ADKOUL for the camp/site management in the two "refugee hosting areas" of Intikan and Tazalite respectively. Qatar Red Crescent is in charge of Health and nutrition in the three camps; while Action Pour le Bien Etre (APBE) implements the same role in the refugee hosting areas. The new partners are scheduled to take over in June 2014. It is to be noted that ACTED was already awarded camp management in the Tillabéri region in October 2013.
- **Improving on service delivery:** In its constant search to improve on service delivery and monitor the quality of partnership delivery to refugees, UNHCR has set up a complaints' mechanism at the Niamey refugee Centre (guichets unique). The mechanism launched in April enables refugees to express grievances and formally lodge complaints against staff, agencies and partners who abuse authority. The complaints are registered by three independent legal workers who transmit them to a special committee which in turn examines and provides individual and/or collective decisions. So far, 64 complaints have been registered and transmitted to the special committee.

### NIGERIA SITUATION (DIFFA)

- **Population influx and response:** In March and April 2014, about 13.000 arrivals were reported as more deadly attacks continue unabated in Nigeria. As a result, the number of civilians fleeing into the Diffa region has increased to more than 50.000 displaced persons. In the meantime, UNHCR and its partners prepare an interagency contingency plan while they continue with border monitoring, providing protection and assistance to the displaced population and their host communities in the Diffa region.

### Donors for Niger in 2014

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

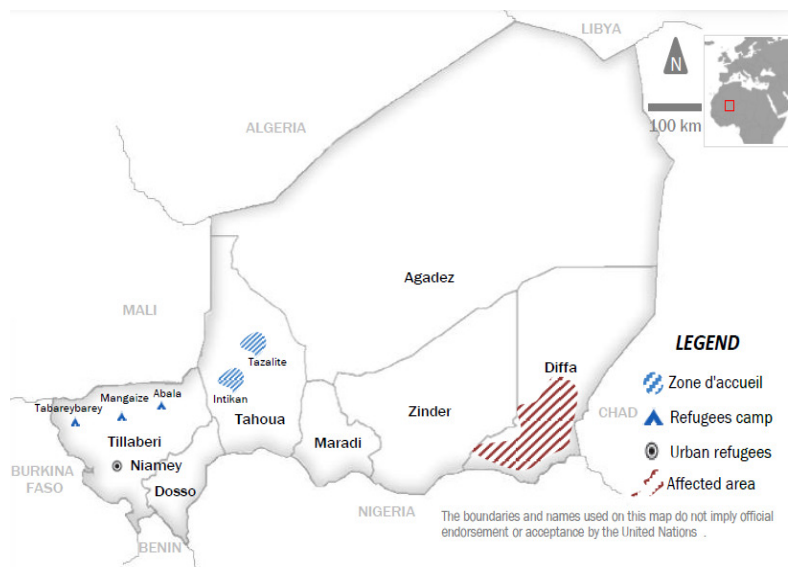
### Donors for Malian Refugees

Japan, Spanish private donors, Switzerland, the United States of America, UN Program 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

79 national staff, 34 international staff, including 4 United Nations Volunteers.

For further details please contact:

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