

UNHCR Operation in Niger

June 2014 Factsheet



Operational Context

The crisis in northern Mali since 2012 has forced some **50,000** Malians into exile in 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 facilitated the return of some 6,000 refugees to Mali. On 3 May 2014, a **Tripartite Agreement between Mali, Niger and UNHCR** was signed for the **voluntary repatriation** of refugees. However, as a result of the May incidents in northern Mali, UNHCR has suspended the facilitation of the repatriation process till further notice. During the month of June there was a marked increase in the number of displaced Malians arriving in the Agando area in the Tahoua region.

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 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 (June 30, 2014)

	MALI	NIGERIA
	Level 2 + continuous registration + on-going biometrics	Estimation based on 2013 Gov't census of the displaced and on-going monitoring
Refugees	52,350	15,000
Nationals of Niger	5,809	35,000
Total	58,159	50,000



Mother and kids arrive Agando among the displaced, June 2014 ©UNHCR

Malian refugees by settlement

TILLABÉRI (15,981)	Agando (Site)	2,777
	Intikane (Zone d'accueil)	11,386
	Tazalit (Zone d'accueil)	1,818
MANGAIZE (6,629)	Maingaze (camp)	5,813
	Banibangou (Site)	487
	Chinégodrar (Site)	329
ABALA (14,111)	Abala (Camp)	12,814
	Tigzefan (Site)	795
	Miel (site)	472
AYOUREOU (8,717)	Kizamou (Site)	30
	Tabareybarey (Camp)	8,321
	Ayrouou Ville	383
NIAMEY (Urban)	Koutougou (Site)	13
	NIAMEY (Urban)	6,912

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
- Cadev: 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)
- Search for common Grounds (SFCG)
- IEDA Relief
- The Social Safety Net Unit (PM's Office)

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

Key achievements

WRD 2014: UNHCR Niger, CNE and partners celebrated World refugee Day in Niamey with a programme including a press conference, sporting activities, blood donation and an official ceremony epitomized by artistic and dance competitions by urban refugees at the STIN public school neighborhood in Niamey. In his message on the occasion, the Minister the of Interior, Public Security, Decentralization, Customary and Religious Affairs, Hassoumi Massoudou, hailed and acknowledged UNHCR for supporting Niger in its efforts at protecting, assisting and seeking durable solutions to the problems of refugees hosted on its territory. Similar ceremonies were organized at UHNCR field offices and other refugee site locations in the country.

MALI SITUATION

- **Tripartite Commission:** Following the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement signed on May 3, 2014 in Niamey for the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees, the Tripartite Commission met for the first time on June 12 in Bamako. The commission which is charged with overseeing that favorable conditions are in place for voluntary repatriation, adopted its internal rules and expressed its commitment to reinforce protection monitoring in northern Mali.
- **Increasing Malian arrivals:** Within the month of June alone, 4,893 people (610 households) arrived in North Tahoua from Mali. The people have complained about the imposition of taxes by armed groups, robbery, cattle theft, and the absence of state authority as the main causes of their flight to Niger. Out of the total number, 1,062 have already relocated to the refugee hosting area of Intikane. 3,831 are currently located at Agando, 15 km from the border with Mali.
- **Tabareybarey camp hit by storm:** On June 21, 2014 a storm hit Tabareybarey camp in the Tillaberi region wounding seven people and rendering 3500 refugees without Shelter. Summarily, 733 shelters were completely washed away, 144 showers and 133 Latrines were partially or completely destroyed. Two water tanks and other communal infrastructure were also destroyed including 2 classrooms, 2 maternity wards, 2 patients' wards and a drugs store were equally destroyed by the storm. Those injured were treated immediately; while several emergency measures were taken to address shelter, health and water needs.

NIGERIA SITUATION (DIFFA)

- **Contingency Plan for the Diffa Region:** UNHCR is finalizing its contingency plan for the Diffa region hosting Nigerian refugees and Niger returnees. The contingency plan which is a key document for UNHCR and its partners contains relevant operational guidelines on providing assistance and protection to a total of 100,000 displaced persons in the event of an emergency, against an estimated 50,000 currently hosted in the region. A workshop held by UNHCR in Niamey brought together all stakeholders involved with the displaced populations in the Diffa region affected by the violence that hit Northern Nigeria.
- **Mobile Medical Screening:** An emergency needs assessment conducted by UNHCR's partner IRC in March 2014 on the lake Chad Islands revealed that 1615 displaced households with a population of 10,436 people were located in a precarious situation and in need of medical attention, water, food and other necessities. Consequently, a mobile medical **consultation** team dispatched by UNHCR and partners consulted 555 patients, 1188 children and treated many displaced PoC from various ailments on the Lake Chad islands area under the Diffa region.

Donors for Niger in 2014

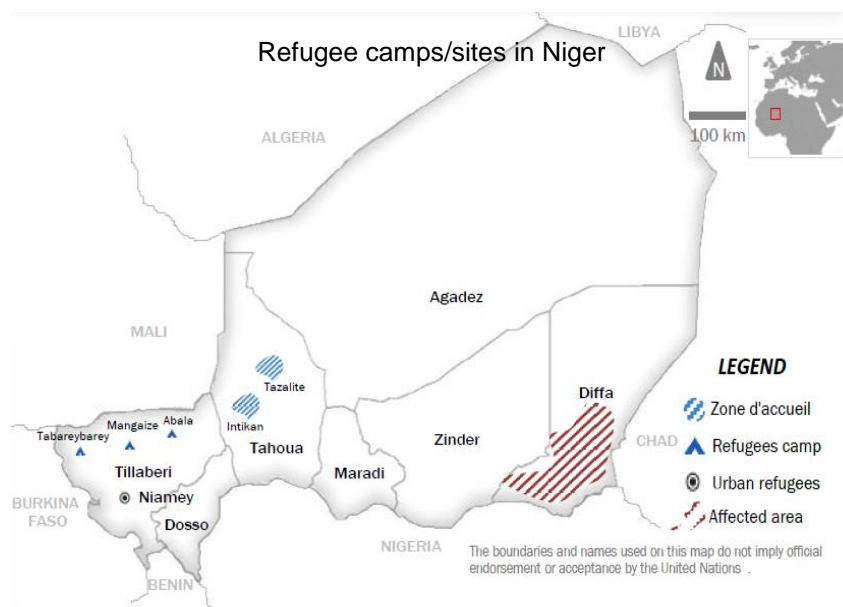
Japan, United States of America, UN Program on HIV/AIDS, Denmark, DFID, ECHO.

Donors for Malian Refugees (regional level)

DFID, Japan, Spanish private donors, Private donors in Japan, Switzerland, the United States of America, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Funding situation (in million USD, as of 30 June)

Ex-Com approved budget	Funding received to date	Funding level
41,533, 971	\$15,797,905	38%



UNHCR staff: (108 total) 69 National staff, 39 International staff, including 3 United Nations Volunteers.

For further details please contact: UNHCR Niger Office

Mr. Salissou Bacharou, Information Management Associate, email: bacharou@unhcr.org, phone: +227 92 65 73 22

Ms. Amaria Belaskri, External Relations Officer, email: belaskri@unhcr.org, phone: + 227 92 19 41 10

Mr. Tamfu Hanson Ghandi, Associate External Relations/PI Officer, email : tamfu@unhcr.org, phone : 22790834464

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

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