

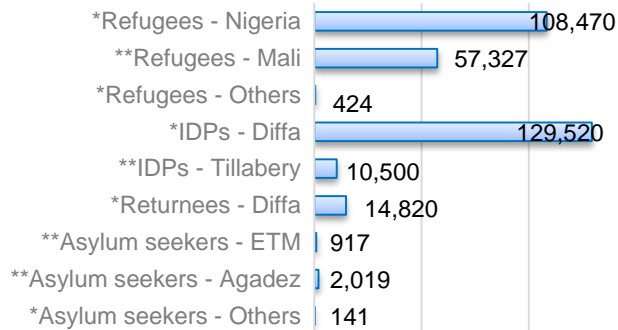
Niger

April 2018



POPULATION OF CONCERN

324,138



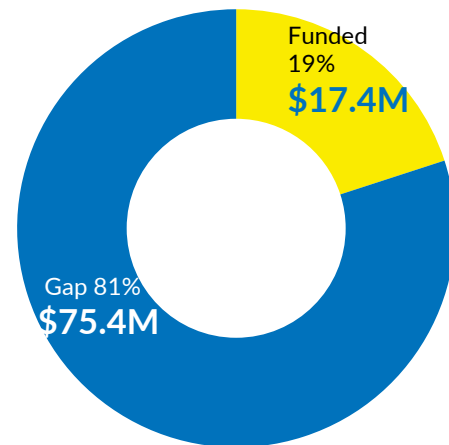
* Government of Niger official figures

** UNHCR figures

FUNDING (AS OF 01 MAY 2018)

USD \$92.8 M

requested for the Niger Country Operation



KEY FIGURES

1,020

Refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM from November 2017 – April 2018

2,019

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum

10,500

Persons internally displaced in the Tillaberi region



Session with the Inter Ministerial Committee members devoted to the elaboration of the national law for IDPs in Niger – 16 April

Operational Context

The month of April illustrates the continuity of the increased complexity in the operational context. The key situations include:

- 1. The Mali situation:** began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting the majority of the refugees are increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism. A State of Emergency was declared last year, and extended for a further 6 months in February 2018. There are currently 57,327 Malian refugees in Niger, as well as over 10,000 IDPs in the region of Tillabéri. UNHCR aims to support the socio-economic integration of these refugees and the closure of the camps by the end of 2019 through urbanization and other programmes aimed at socio-economic integration.
- 2. The Nigeria situation:** began in 2013, with the arrival of the first Nigerian refugees across the border. The situation deteriorated with the first attacks in Niger territory in 2015. There are over 250,000 displaced persons in the region (108,470 refugees, 129,015 IDPs and 14,820 returnees – Govt. of Niger, Oct 2017). The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with 13,000 people.
- 3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** In the Diffa region, the situation is extremely mixed. Efforts are underway to complete biometric registration of all displaced persons, including IDPs, who are often faced with similar protection risks as refugees. However, the IDP situation in Niger has become more complex with increasing insecurity in the region of Tillabéri, bordering Mali. In 2018, attacks and insecurity in that area have resulted in the internal displacement of at least 10,500 people so far. A close follow up is being made through protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building sessions and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors.
- 4. Mixed Migration:** Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed migration, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. In Agadez, UNHCR works to identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and works with the government, as well as IOM and NGOs to provide these persons with information and assistance. 2,019 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez, 23% of them are minors and 250 are unaccompanied or separated children.
- 5. Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This programme aims to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through evacuation to Niger, which has temporarily extended its asylum space. The aim is to deliver protection services and seek durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are mainly Eritrean, Somali, Ethiopian, Sudanese and South Sudanese. To date, 1,020 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger, of whom more than 400 have already been interviewed by UNHCR Niger's Resettlement Unit. A French and a Dutch Resettlement mission took place in April while Niger also hosted the 5th meeting of the Central Mediterranean Core Group for Resettlement and Other Complementary Pathways for Admission.

Security Situation

The security situation in the regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillabéri** in particular has continued to deteriorate. An offensive was launched by the Barkhane coalition, the GATIA and the MSA (Movement for the Salvation of Azawad, a pro-government group in Mali) on the Niger-Mali border as well as operations by the Niger Defense and Security Forces and the Dongo forces (Nigerien army). Following this growing insecurity and armed interventions, the populations of the localities along the Mali and Niger border continue to move on both sides, many in the commune of Inates. Internal displacement is affecting more than 10,000 persons in that commune. The total estimated number of IDPs in the Tillabéri region has increased between February and April from 1,540 to 10,500 and is still ongoing.

The Departments of Abala and Ayorou in the Tillaberi region were majorly affected in the last days of April by waves of inter-ethnic violence between Peuhl and Tuareg groups, causing population movements within Tillaberi and to Tahoua region. More than 70 people including women and children were reportedly died.

A German aid worker was kidnapped near Inates on April 11 by a gang of armed individuals.

In **Diffa** region in April, many reported cases of targeted kidnappings and killings of civilians occurred, most likely perpetrated by Boko Haram (BH). 'Amni Farkha' Military operations started on 5 April in the Lake Chad Islands and will last for 3 months. It is foreseeable that forced displacement of populations will occur, including internal and cross border. Despite ongoing search operations, on the night of 29 April, the military position located 50 km Northeast from Diffa, was attacked by 60 armed men, probably from BH or ISWA. 6 vehicles were stolen by the attackers and 3 soldiers killed.

Tensions are also observed in **Agadez** region. The situation, with increasing arrivals of Sudanese in recent months is very volatile and fragile in terms of peaceful coexistence.

Key Developments & Achievements



PROTECTION

- During the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) retreat on 17 April, an Action Plan for the HCT Protection Strategy was elaborated.
- During the HCT retreat, a short session was also devoted to the Guiding Principles on IDPs, and the presentation of the Global Protection Action Plan for 2018-2020, launched in Geneva on 17 April. The main objective of this comprehensive, multi-stakeholder Action Plan is to reduce and resolve internal displacements. A steering group, composed of UNHCR and OCHA at the global level, will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Action Plan.
- The April Protection Cluster Bulletin is published [here](#).

Nigeria situation

- An advocacy Note on the Impact of Amni Farkhat Military Operations on the Protection of Civilians was published by the Protection Cluster [here](#).
- Mapping of community radios in the Diffa region was conducted to further target audiences for awareness raising messages.
- A training on community conflict prevention and accountability for 30 members of the Protection Working Group was organized by IRC and facilitated by Search For Common Ground.
- A workshop on IDPs Guiding Principles for 16 members of Defense and Security Forces (FDS) and 6 members of the Protection Working Group was held in Diffa on 18 of April, facilitated by the Legal Advisor to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs.
- 13 child protection sensitization sessions were carried out in the Sayam Forage camp as well as at the sites of Kintchandi, Kabléwa and Garin Wanzam. A total of 637 people benefitted.
- 23 new SGBV cases were identified in April and responded to by UNHCR and its partners (IRC, DRC).

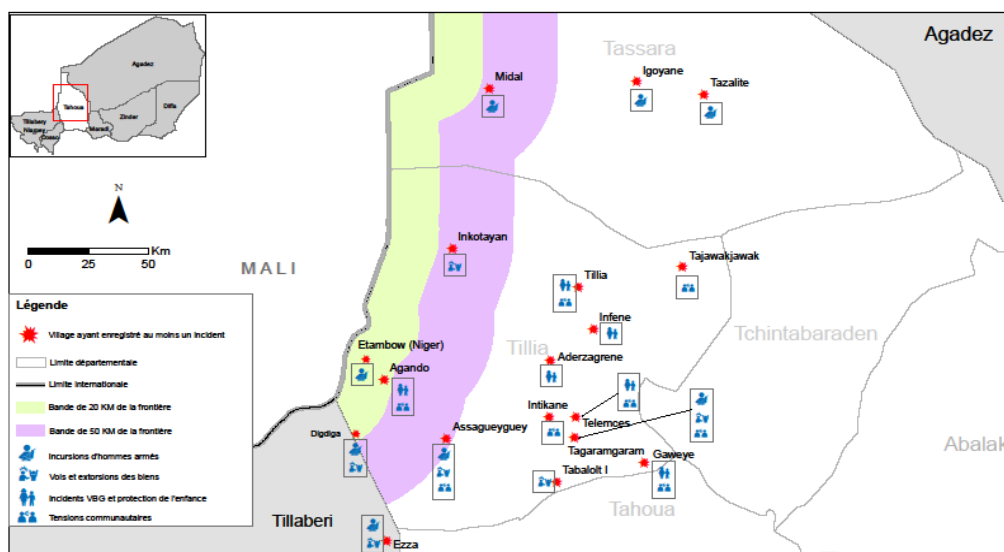
Mali situation

- The areas affected by growing insecurity in Tillaberi region are facing enormous problems of safety and protection.
- Training (28-29 of April) of protection actors in the Tillaberi region on child protection was organized by the Regional Directorate for Child Protection and UNICEF.
- Training was carried out in Tahoua region for all actors intervening with refugees on child protection and SGBV.
- The first protection monitoring mission in Tahoua region was conducted in April.

REGION DE TAHOUA: INCIDENTS DE PROTECTION ENREGISTRES DANS LES DEPARTEMENTS DE TILLIA ET TASSARA



Du 1er janvier au 31 mars 2018



Les noms et les limites utilisés dans cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance du Cluster Protection.
Date de création: 5/4/2018 Source: Monitoring de protection Auteur: Cluster Protection Feedback: Valérie Svobodova, svobodov@unhcr.org Nom du fichier: NER_TAHOUA_FLASH_INCIDENT_4_AVRIL_2018
Pour plus d'information visitez: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger/protection>

IDP situation in Tillaberi region

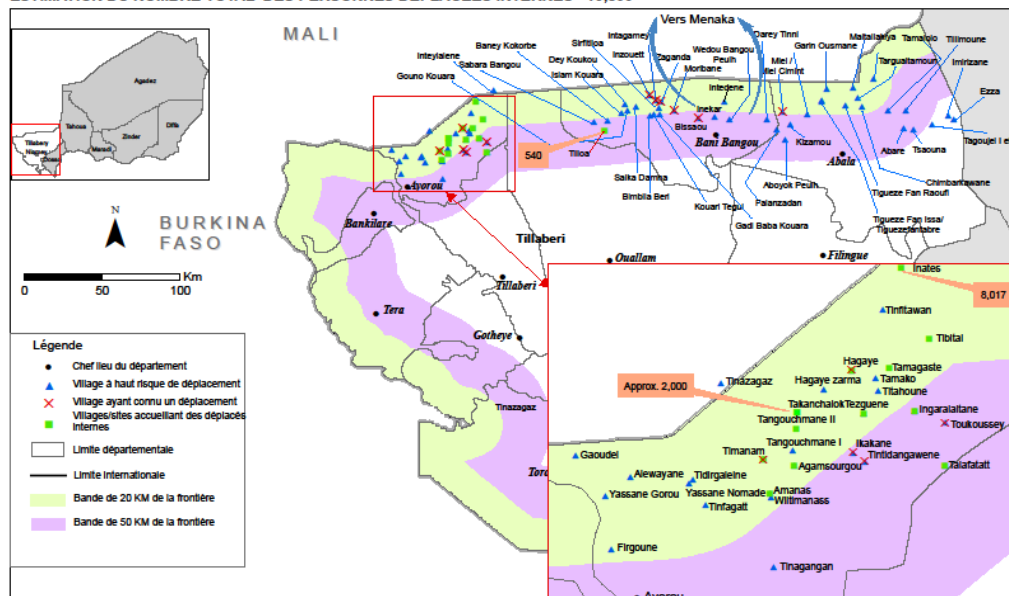
- The March protection monitoring report in the region of Tillaberi has been published [here](#). It should be noted that most of the localities located in the northern band are inaccessible to humanitarian for security reasons with very important protection implications.
- A training for military officers on IDP Guiding Principles was conducted on 24th April in Tillaberi.
- A strategic workshop of protection working group for IDPs in Tillaberi was held on 23rd April.
- Important internal population displacements continued following the displacement of 8,017 people in the Inates commune in March. Approximately 2,500 more people moved to Takanchalok village between March and April.
- DRC conducted a multi sector RRM evaluation on 9-10 of April and a rapid protection evaluation on 19 of April in Takanchalok. The people are mainly Touaregs and Peulhs. High Protection risks for children, SGBV and psycho traumatic risks are reported.

NIGER: SITUATION DE DEPLACEMENT INTERNE DANS LA REGION DE TILLABERI

(Mise à jour du 25 avril 2018)



ESTIMATION DU NOMBRE TOTAL DES PERSONNES DEPLACEES INTERNES= 10,500



Les noms et les limites utilisés dans cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance du Cluster Protection.
Date de création: 27/4/2018 Source: Monitoring de protection/DRC Auteur: Cluster Protection Feedback: Valérie Svobodova, svobodov@unhcr.org Nom du fichier: NER_TILLABERI_FLASH_25_avril_2018
Pour plus d'information visitez: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger/protection>

Mixed Migration situation

- In the region of Agadez, 2,019 asylum seekers have been biometrically registered by UNHCR (as of 27th of April). The registration exercise reveals that 90% of these people are Sudanese, mainly from Darfur. 182 are refugees and 113 were detected by BIMs as registered as refugees in other countries.
- The existing “hébergement solidaire” and guesthouse network cannot accommodate the current numbers of persons seeking asylum. Discussions are ongoing with the Niger authorities to ensure an appropriate response. The most vulnerable asylum seekers are accommodated in UNHCR ‘case de passage’ or guesthouses in Agadez.
- Following the protection team mission on 3 of April, a map showing protection actors in the Agadez region was produced. Recommendations were addressed to the actors in order to avoid protection gaps in Agadez protection mechanisms.
- 30 convoys of 8,939 people deported from Algeria arrived in Assamaka (North Niger) between January and end of April 2018. There were 3,943 Nigeriens and 4,996 persons of various other nationalities amongst them. There is no reception mechanism in Assamaka, and the deportees often wait 2 or 3 days without any food, medical and accommodation assistance before their transfer to the IOM transit center in Arlit or Agadez. UNHCR is deeply concerned about this situation.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- No new evacuation flights from Libya were organised in April, while the flights were put on pause, awaiting the departure of refugees for resettlement to third countries. New flights are scheduled for the coming weeks.
- By the first week of May, 108 refugees departed for resettlement from Niger, including one unaccompanied child medically evacuated to Italy on April 4th. 61 departures from Niger to resettlement countries are presently pending.
- UNHCR has received a total of 2,681 resettlement pledges for evacuated refugees out of Niger.



EDUCATION

Nigeria situation

- As part of the Distance Education Programme, 63 secondary students (15 girls, 48 boys) have been assisted to travel to Kano (Nigeria) to complete the BECE brevet, exams, certified by the NECO (National Examinations Council). This is part of the UNHCR supported ‘Distance Education Programme’ for Nigerian secondary school refugees in the Diffa region.

Mali Situation

- 8 motorbikes and 20 bicycles were distributed to the Regional Directorate of Education to facilitate the transportation of the teachers to the Tabareybarey camp.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Nigeria situation

- 180 newly arrived children at the Sayam Forage refugee camp were vaccinated against measles, which will bring the number of children vaccinated against measles to 233 in this month.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Nigeria situation

- Under UNHCR coordination, the Luxembourg Red Cross has deployed 205 transitional shelters to Maine Soroa in the Diffa region, to secure the beneficiaries of the Urbanization project on the land plots already completed.
- In the context of the Urbanization Trust Fund project, 10 pilot durable houses are under construction.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Mali situation**

- An Agreement on the delegation of the management of the Ayorou hydraulic system through a process of partnership with local authorities was completed in April. This mechanism ensures the inclusion of the refugees in the local management of the water infrastructure.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE****Nigeria situation**

- UNHCR is strengthening the resilience capacities of Sayam Forage camp population through the implementation of agro-pastoral Activities. An increase of 26 fishponds is ongoing and 5 hectares of land have been prepared for market gardening. 5 groups of 25 persons each have received 160 small animals.

Key Challenges

Mali situation

- The key challenge as regards to the Mali situation is the increasing insecurity, armed attacks and subsequent restrictions on movement, including humanitarian actors. The humanitarian situation could deteriorate further due to important ethnic tensions.

Nigeria situation

- The key challenge which will be faced in the region of Diffa in the coming months is the renewed military actions of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), code named Amni Farkhat, aimed at eradicating Boko Haram. There is a need to increase coordination between the civilian and military aspects of the humanitarian situation. Dozens of villages along the Komadougou River have been ordered to evacuate, but without protection measures in place for the civil population.

IDP situation

- Regarding the deterioration of the security situation in the Tillaberi region, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of IDPs, after her mission in Niger, strongly recommended the establishment of a multidisciplinary team, which can support the Government, and provide technical assistance, so as to ensure an adequate response to the displacement situation prevailing in the Tillaberi area. Currently, the emergency is severely underfunded.

Mixed Migration

- In the Agadez region, 90% of the asylum seekers are Sudanese; UNHCR has finished the BIMS registration for 2,019 people. The main challenge now is to work with the Government not only to ensure adequate protection but also to ensure peaceful coexistence with local communities. Many of them have specific needs that must be addressed (unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities, single parents, etc.).

Emergency Transit Mechanism

- As regards to refugee evacuations from Libya, one of the main challenges is improving the fluidity of the process of departures for resettlement – the more refugees depart for resettlement, the more refugees would be evacuated from Libya.
- There is a need for more resettlement places from third countries as the pledges of 2,681 is still not enough.
- Solutions, including resettlement, for unaccompanied child refugees should be prioritised by resettlement countries, as a large number of children are detained in Libya. Few countries have so far made pledges for the resettlement of unaccompanied children. UNHCR has completed the BIDs of all unaccompanied/separated children evacuated from Libya.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: 140 national, 137*international (*this includes international consultants and affiliate workforce)

Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey, 2 Sub-Offices Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices Tillaberi and Tahoua; 2 Field Unites Abala and Ouallam

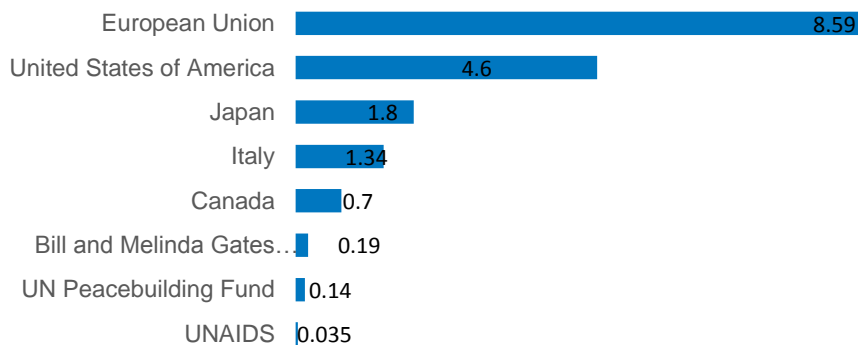
Partners

Govt. of Niger, ACTED/REACH, Adkoul, APBE, Care, CISP, COOPI, DRC, Forum Refugie Cosi, HI, IRC, KARKARA, OXFAM, QRC, SFCG, SDO, UNAIDS

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 17.4 million**,

Funding received (in million USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

United States of America (124 M) | Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Priv Donors Spain (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Italy (11 M)

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