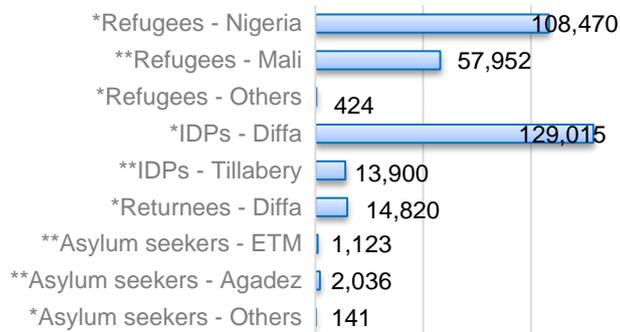


Niger



POPULATION OF CONCERN

327,881



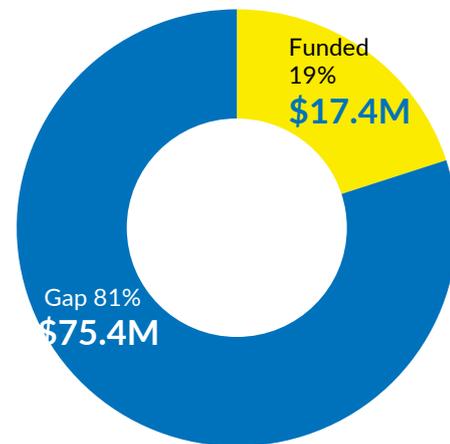
* Government of Niger official figures

** UNHCR figures

FUNDING (AS OF 01 MAY 2018)

USD \$92.8 M

requested for the Niger Country Operation



KEY FIGURES

1,287

Refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM (Emergency Transit Mechanism) from November 2017 - May 2018

2,036

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum within the mix migration flow

13,900

Persons internally displaced in the Tillaberi region



Hydraform machine in action – Brick production with a mix of clay and cement – EU Trust Fund supported project, UNHCR Diffa

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 57,952 Malian refugees in Niger. 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. A regional EU Trust Fund project was recently launched aimed at strengthening the resilience of displaced populations in northern Mali and supporting peaceful coexistence between communities.
- 2. The Nigeria situation:** began in 2013, with the arrival of the first Nigerian refugees across the border fleeing Boko Haram. The situation deteriorated with the first attacks in Niger territory in 2015. There are over 250,000 displaced persons in the region. The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with 13,969 people (as of 31 May 2018). Another EU Trust Fund project is ongoing aimed at accompanying economic recovery and municipal investments through the realization of durable housing projects.
- 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 13,900 people so far. Protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building sessions and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure close follow up on the situation.
- 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. 2,036 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez, 24% of them are minors and 205 are unaccompanied or separated children. The situation has become more complex in the last months, with the addition of downward movements from Libya and Algeria.
- 5. Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This special and rather unusual programme aims to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through temporary evacuation to Niger. The aim is to deliver protection and identify durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are mainly Eritrean, Somali, Ethiopian, Sudanese and South Sudanese. Their profiles mainly include survivors of torture or other forms of violence in the country of origin and/or transit countries (e.g. Libya) and others with compelling protection needs. Many of them are unaccompanied children (around 254) and women and girls at risk. To date, 1,287 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger and a total of 164 individuals have departed for resettlement from Niger to France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Other countries offering resettlement places are Germany, the UK, Finland, Canada and the USA.

Security Situation

The security situation in the regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillabéri** continues to be influenced by terrorist groups' actions and by inter-ethnic violence. The security situation in the **Tillabéri** region remained unstable and unpredictable in May. Military operations continue, including the joint operation Barkhane-G5 Sahel (contingent Nigerien) in progress since 20 May, in the zone of "3 borders" Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger, as well as other military operations such as Operation Dongo. Overall, the main threat in the Tillabéri region remains activism of non-State armed groups. Conflicts between armed groups in the border strip of Niger with Mali have gradually turned into an interethnic cross-border conflict between Tuareg and Fulani. Between April 26 and 28, and May 1 and 18, several attacks occurred and killed civilians of both ethnicities in Mali and Niger. The communes of Inates and Abala were directly affected by these different attacks.

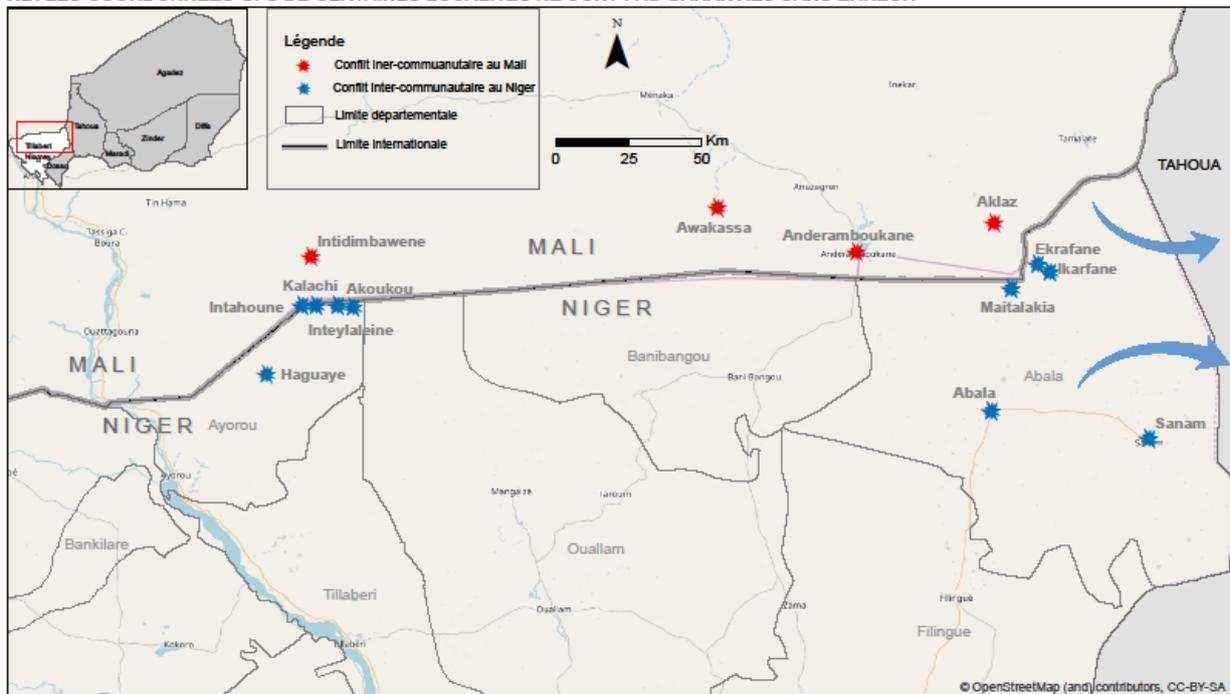
See localities of various conflicts in the map below:

NIGER: LOCALITES AFFECTEES PAR LE CONFLIT INTER-COMMUNAUTAIRE DANS LA REGION DE TILLABERI

A la date du 19 mai 2018



NB: LES COORDONNEES GPS DE CERTAINES LOCALITES NE SONT PAS GARANTIES SANS ERREUR



Les noms et les limites utilisés sur cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance du Cluster Protection.

Date de création: 22/5 2018 Source: Monitoring de protection Auteurs: Cluster Protection Feedback: Valérie Svobodova, svobodov@unhcr.org Nom du fichier: NER_TILLABERI_CONFLIT_COMMUNAUTAIRE_2_MAI_2018

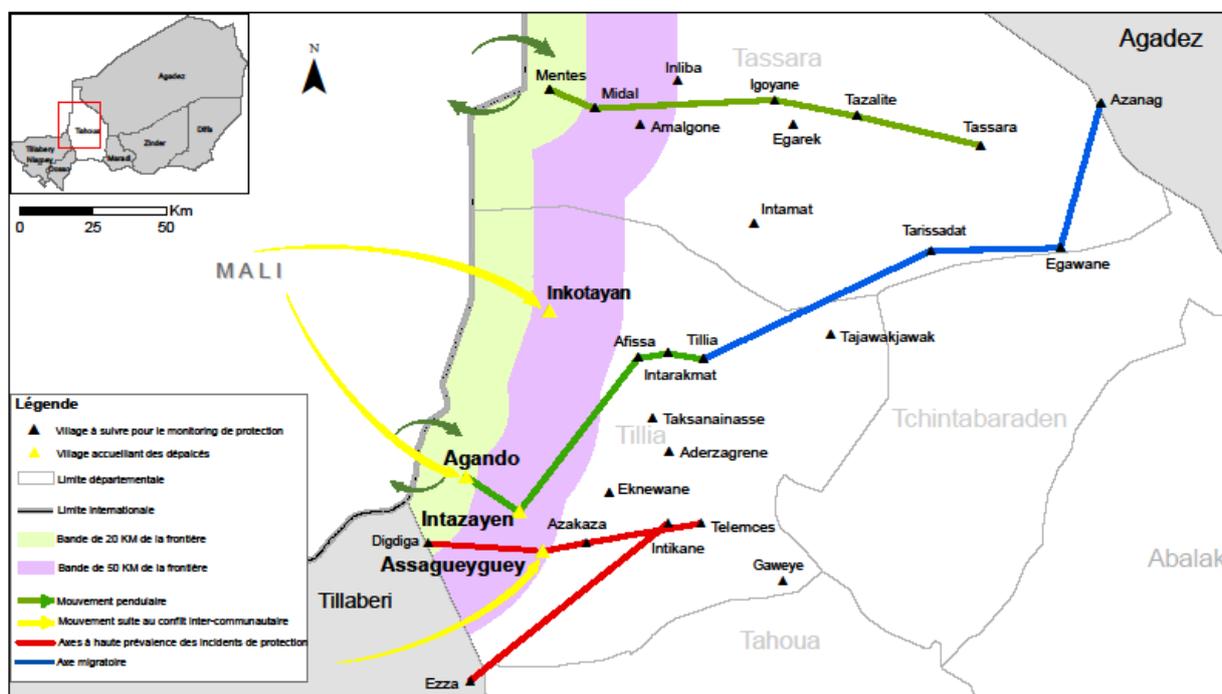
Following this conflict and the killings, people threatened are moving to Agando from Mali, and to Assageygey for IDPs from Abala (see map below).

On 18 of May, about 40 people with motorcycles attacked the village of Haguaye located 25 km from Inates. According to the focal points, there were 17 people killed and 12 houses burned.

REGION DE TAHOUA: MOUVEMENT DES POPULATIONS SUITE AU CONFLIT INTER-COMMUNAUTAIRE



A la date du 1 mai 2018



Les noms et les limites utilisés dans cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance du Cluster Protection.
Date de création: 2/5/2018 Source: Monitoring de protection Auteur: Cluster Protection Feedback: Valérie Svobodova, svobodov@unhcr.org Nom du fichier: NER_TAHOUA_MOUVEMENT_1_MAI_2018
Pour plus d'information visitez: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger/protection>

In **Diffa** region in May, the security situation was marked by incursions of the Boko Haram (BH) group in Gueskérou commune, which resulted in deadly shootings and stabbings. Despite the continuation of the Amni Farkhat military operation of the FMM / MNJTF (Force Multinationale Mixte / Multinational Joint Task Force), reportedly BH or ISWAP elements manage to infiltrate at night into villages bordering the Route National 1 (RN1) to operate.

On 11 May, forced displacement of populations occurred from the Nigerian village of Kanama, to N'garwa Koura, Fiégo and Djalori villages in Niger, following the ongoing vast search operations.

On 16 May, 30 vulnerable families from Kanama were instructed by FMM Niger to return back to Nigeria. OCHA and UNHCR unsuccessfully tried to collaborate with FMM Niger to support and reinforce the reception facilities for these civilians' in the communities where they were due to move.

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

Key Developments & Achievements



PROTECTION

- The African Union Convention on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, the "Kampala Convention" of 2009, was ratified by the Government of Niger on May 10, 2012. The Government of Niger is committed to integrating the Kampala convention in its national legal framework. A Steering Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAH/GC) and is being supported by an international legal consultant to lead the process, with the support of UNHCR.
- The Protection Strategy of the Humanitarian Country Team has been validated.
- The May Protection Cluster Bulletin is published [here](#).

Nigeria situation

- 932 newly arrived refugee households in Sayam Forage camp have been registered in May.
- A workshop on the minimum standards of child protection in emergency contexts was held from 22 to 23 May 2018 in Diffa.
- UNHCR and SFCG met with young people of Sayam Forage camp and Kidjandi site on 8-9 of May as part of the implementation of the "Youth Initiative Fund" project. Proposals for sensitization activities on hygiene in public places and the organisation of a football tournament have been made.
- 13 child protection sensitization sessions were carried out by partners and protection committees in Sayam Forage, Garin Wanzam Yébi, Dagaya, Kitchiandi and Kabléwa. A total of 1.178 people benefitted.
- 37 SGBV sensitization sessions were conducted with the support of the women's groups and protection committees, who also conducted 4 mass sessions with the Miroir theatrical troupe at the sites of Kindjandi, Garin wazam, Sayam and 2 in Mainé sites. These focused on the consequences of SGBV including sexual violence, forced marriage and domestic violence, cohesion within the couple, and the services available. 3,863 people were reached by these activities.
- The process of identifying children at risk of statelessness at priority sites (Garin Wazam and Kindjandi) reached 1,523 children, including 1,156 refugee children. The operation in Bosso was interrupted for reasons of security and accessibility.
- Training on the Core Humanitarian Standards was done by DRC on 3 of May, with the technical support of the PWG for the benefit of 37 participants from UN agencies, State technical services, local and international NGOs.
- A workshop on transversal protection was also facilitated by the PWG for 20 RRM actors as part of the capacity building of its members on 22 of May, dedicated to the protection-accountability technical day.

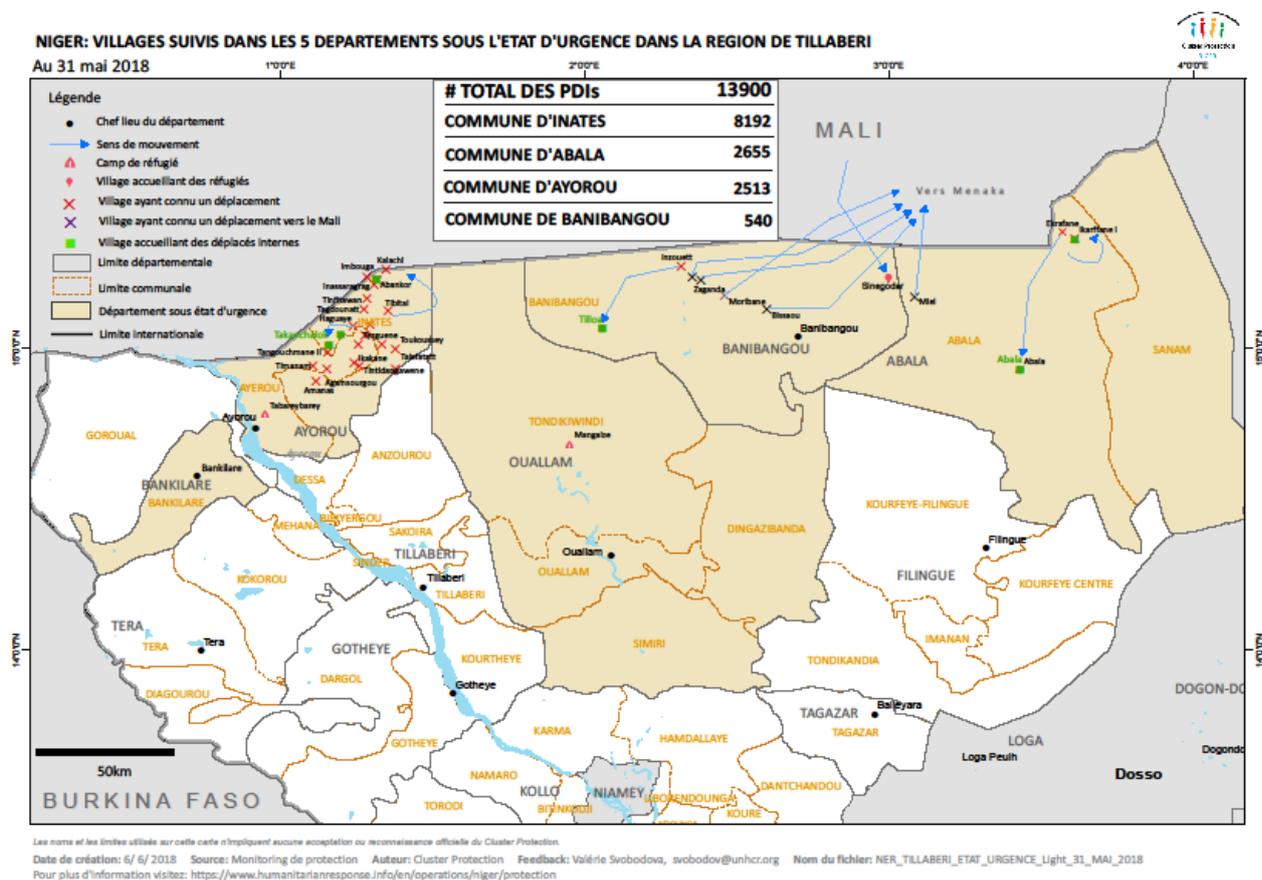
Mali situation

- Training of administrative, local and traditional authorities, refugee leaders, and partners was held on 2-3 of May at Telemces, Tahoua region in the framework of the REGARDS project on peaceful coexistence, rights and duties of refugees.
- A refugee certification renewal mission was organized in Intikane to ensure the legal protection of refugees.
- A joint mission (UNHCR/CNE) for screening and registration of new Malian asylum seekers in Intikane occurred in May.
- An exploratory mission was led in Agando and its surroundings to locate and identify newly arrived Malian and Nigerien nationals in the Tillia department.

IDP situation in Tillabéri region

- The May protection monitoring report in the region of Tillabéri has been published [here](#).
- Important internal population displacements continued following displacements in March and April. Approximately 2,867 more people moved in Abala and Inates communes in May, reaching a total of 13,900 IDPs.
- During the month of May, 19 villages in 10 communes of the Tillabéri region were monitored, through interviews with key informants and group discussions on the following topics: vulnerabilities, risk related to population movements, protection incidents, access to basic services, and community protection mechanisms.
- Following the recommendation made by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to the Government suggesting the integration of displaced persons in the host villages, 3 sites have been identified to host IDPs in Ayorou Department (Inatès and Abankor) and Baninbangou (Tilola). A joint mission (government and humanitarian actors) visited the various sites from 24 to 26 of May, in order to assess the viability of these sites and the compliance with minimum humanitarian standards. As a result, 3 sites were proposed (Inatès, Tilola and Tangousman) and multi-sectoral recommendations were made to improve the management of IDPs.

- Key messages related to protection issues such as peaceful coexistence, SGBV, people living with disability and fire prevention have been translated to local languages and were broadcast on radios in the Tillabéri region.



Mixed Migration situation The Sudanese “Dossier”

- In the region of Agadez, 2,036 persons of concern have been biometrically registered by UNHCR (as of 7th of June). The registration exercise reveals that 88% of these people are Sudanese, mainly from Darfur. 525 of them are hosted in 6 guesthouses, and 731 in the “Centre d’hébergement solidaire”.
- Since January, Agadez authorities and UNHCR have been discussing the possibility to secure an area to build a transit facility for asylum seekers. The Ministry of Interior, through the Governor of Agadez, informed UNHCR that a 5 hectare plot has been put at UNHCR’s disposal to host asylum seekers.
- 162 Sudanese were arrested by the police during raids on 2, 3 and 4 May. They were detained for several days at the police station before the deportation of 132 of them on 7 of May to the Libyan border. UNHCR have strongly advocated against further deportations and have been assured by the Government that there will be no further deportations. So far, the agreement is holding.
- 189 persons of concern were registered during the month of May; an average arrival of 11 people/day. The Sudanese are the majority with 157, followed by 19 Cameroonians and 13 of other nationalities.
- There is a relative increase of persons of concern of nationalities other than Sudanese, which can be explained by several new waves of deportees of sub-Saharan nationalities from Algeria. Among them, some are refugees and advocacy for their readmission is ongoing.
- People with Specific Needs (PWSN) are systematically identified during registration and referred as appropriate to APBE for health care and COOPI for psychosocial care. These PWSN are housed in a secure environment and receive assistance.
- 598 cases were identified and recorded as of 31 May, as shown in the table above:

Specific Needs	👤	%
Specific legal and physical protection needs	98	4.7%
Women at risk	55	2.6%
SGBV	16	0.8%
Single parent	7	0.3%
Disability	34	1.6%
Serious medical condition	38	1.8%
Older person at risk	6	0.3%
Torture	72	3.5%
Unaccompanied or separated child	232	11.1%
Child at risk	34	1.6%
Family unity	6	0.3%
Total *	598	

- A joint technical team composed by UNHCR, Governorate, Regional Council, DREC, COOPI, APBE, ICRC, WFP, the Representative of the Mediator of the Republic, the FDS, and the Religious and Traditional Leaders was set up for the sensitization of the host community and Sudanese on peaceful coexistence. It held two meetings on 10 and 25 of May to carry out its mission and achieve the goal of easing tensions.
- Sensitization sessions on peaceful cohabitation in the guesthouses and the “centre d’hébergement solidaire” for a change of attitude of the PoCs continued.
- Preparation of the “[Forum Régional sur l’espace d’asile dans le contexte de la migration mixte à Agadez](#)”: meetings with the Sultan of Agadez, the Mayor, the Vice President of the Regional Council and the SG of Agadez governorate in order to exchange with them on the practical organization of the forum that will be held in July.
- During the month of May, 3,380 people were deported from Algeria in 6 convoys. The total number of deported people since January is 12,387 of whom 6,423 are Nigeriens (52%). 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)

- UNHCR has been evacuating refugees from detention centres in Libya to Niger temporarily since November 2017. In December, UNHCR signed a MoU with the Govt. of Niger regarding the ETM process. The flights were temporarily paused in March and April to enable case-processing and resettlement departures. The flights resumed on the 10th of May. In May, there were two flights, the first evacuating 132 persons while the second evacuated a further 135 persons.
- UNHCR has received a total of 2,681 resettlement pledges for evacuated refugees out of Niger for 2018-2019; the pledges also include resettlement places for some refugees already hosted by Niger, as an expression of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing with Niger. Since the beginning of the evacuations, UNHCR has submitted more than 1,200 refugees for resettlement consideration, the large majority consisting of evacuees from Libya.
- UNHCR, UNICEF and the competent Niger authorities have also put in place a mechanism for the determination of the child’s best interest with regard to solutions. To date, this mechanism, also known as the Best Interest Determination (BID) Panel, has decided upon 227 cases of evacuated unaccompanied children.

**EDUCATION****Nigeria situation**

- As part of the Distance Education Programme, a joint mission UNHCR - COOPI - Directorate of Secondary Education (DRES) of Diffa, accompanied 33 refugee candidates to SSCE (Baccalaureate) in Kano, Nigeria to pass the exams for the academic year 2017-2018.

**HEALTH & NUTRITION****Mali situation**

- At the end of May, a preparatory mission took place in Intikane ZAR for the implementation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation project aimed at improving maternal and newborn health. The mission conducted a baseline assessment and a facilitator training was conducted to organize discussions with refugees in focus groups.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Nigeria situation**

- In the context of the **Urbanization EU Trust Fund project**, the Steering Committee of the project has been set up under the leadership of the Regional Council of Diffa. Many activities were organized in May in the Diffa urbanized sites :
 - More than 1,000 beneficiary families were mobilized for the construction of 1000 RHU (Refugee Housing Unit or IKEA houses) and the general aspects of the project;
 - Training on the implementation of these houses is underway (40 people trained); these houses are the first stage of the establishment of beneficiaries on the plots identified, pending the construction of permanent homes.
 - The title deeds are ready for distribution to beneficiaries.
 - 10 pilot durable houses are under construction in Diffa commune.
 - A brick making factory is set up, with a solar energy pumping station.
 - 40 young people have completed the brick production training and are finishing the home construction training. A new class of 40 youth is being trained in brick fabrication.
 - Trained apprentices have produced around 22,000 bricks since the opening of the training centre.
 - Key awareness messages were designed and shared, with support from SFCG (Search for Common Ground) for dissemination through radios in the Diffa Region, in order to strengthen the authorities and communities understanding of the "Urbanization" project.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Nigeria situation**

- The extraction of drinking water (32,000 l/day) from Sayam Forage camp by water trucking to the fish farm ended during the first week of May as the new solar powered well is operational and produces about 10m³/h directly in the 52 fish ponds.
- In the context of the **Urbanization EU Trust Fund project**:
 - The construction of 6 platforms for the installation of 10,000L bladders on the urbanized Diffa site has been completed. The water trucking through Care International will start with the bladders installation and the provision for the first households of beneficiaries. This activity will continue for 4 months pending the extension of the distribution network by the SEEN (national water provision network).
 - A joint mission UNHCR, DDHA (Direction Départementale de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement), Nguigmi Town Hall and SEEN was carried out on the urbanized site of Nguigmi. The installation of 6 public water fountains and the determination of the supply plan and the distribution network was also realized.

- A study of the dimensions of the network reinforcement of the drinking water distribution network, and its extension towards the urbanized site of Toumour is in progress, in collaboration with the DRHA Diffa (Direction Régionale de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement), DDHA and the Toumour Town Hall.

Key Challenges

Mali situation

- The key challenge as regards to the Mali situation is the increasing insecurity, armed attacks and ethnic tensions that create increased protection risks. Regarding the out of camp strategy, bringing public infrastructures (health, education) up to standard to absorb the refugee population into the national services mechanisms is one of the main challenges to go towards the closure of the camps. With the support of the EU Trust Fund, UNHCR will launch, during the second semester of 2018, the construction of 3 public health centres ensuring the quality of health services for both local population and refugees.

Nigeria situation

- The key challenge which is faced in the region of Diffa is the 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 civilian population.

IDP situation

- As the deterioration of the security and protection situation in the Tillaberi region continues, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) advocated to the Gov. of Niger for the integration of displaced persons in the host villages, and to identify sites to host IDPs. All monitoring evaluation reports done in May by UNHCR and its partners show the needs of multi sector interventions. Unfortunately, the situation is clearly unfunded.

Mixed Migration

- In the Agadez region, regarding the deportations from Algeria, UNHCR needs to reinforce cross border coordination in order to support refugees who are victims of expulsion.
- After the expulsion of 132 Sudanese to Libya by the Nigerien authorities, UNHCR advocated to stop new waves of expulsions.
- Peaceful coexistence sensitisation messages with local communities must continue.

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 and faster refugees depart for resettlement, the faster other refugees would be evacuated from Libya.
- There is a need for more resettlement places from third countries, as more refugees and asylum-seekers need to be evacuated from Libya.
- Solutions, including resettlement for unaccompanied child refugees should continue to 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 Best Interest Determination assessments for all unaccompanied/separated children evacuated from Libya.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: 162 national, 138*international (*this includes international consultants and affiliate workforce)

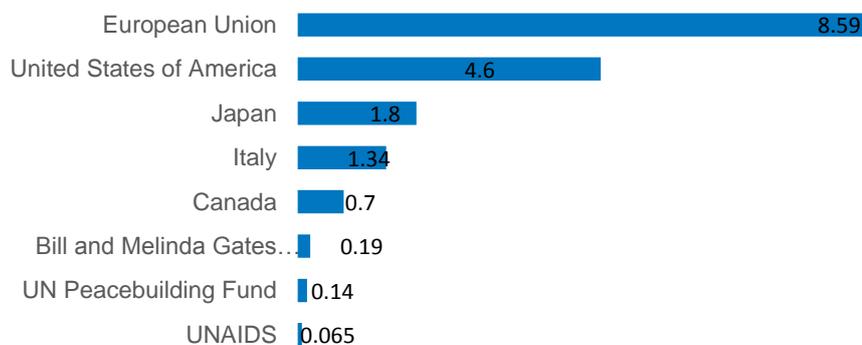
Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey, 2 Sub-Offices Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices Tillaberi and Tahoua; 2 Field Unites Abala and Ouallam

Partners

Govt. of Niger, ACTED/REACH, ADES, Adkoul, APBE, Care, CDR, CIAUD, CISP, COOPI, DRC, Forum Réfugié Cosi, FRC, GVD, HI, IRC, SFCG, SDO, UNAIDS

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 17.45 million**,
Funding received (in million USD)



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