

# Niger

December 2021 – January 2022

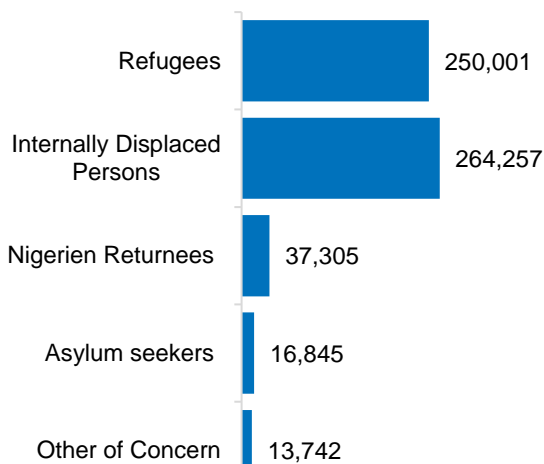
On 30 December 2021, **177 vulnerable refugees were evacuated** from detention in Libya and brought to safety in Niger. Once in Niger, the evacuees receive protection assistance and psychosocial support while waiting for durable solutions.

A total of 140,289 internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently stay in **Tillabéri & Tahoua** regions. This number continues to increase immensely due to insecurity and insurgency.

Due to the growing insecurity in the region of **Maradi**, the number of IDPs has increased sharply and reached 15,910 persons. **Diffa** region at Lake Chad hosts 236,862 displaced persons.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 JANUARY 2021

**250,001** refugees, **37,305** returnees and **16,845** asylum seekers in Niger. **264,257** are internally displaced persons. **13,742** other persons of concern



## FUNDING AS OF 2 FEBRUARY 2022

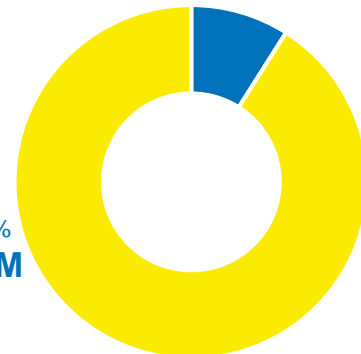
**USD 130,7 M**

requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022

Funded 9%

**11,4 M**

Gap 91%  
**119,3 M**



*In December 2021, 19 refugees have left for resettlement in third countries, including 10 evacuees from Libya and nine refugees registered in Niger © UNHCR/Niamey*

## Operational context

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open and is one of the most welcoming countries in the world**, currently hosting 250,001 refugees and asylum seekers, with 75% coming from Nigeria, 20 % from Mali, 4 % from Burkina Faso, and 1% from other countries. Furthermore, there are more than 300,000 IDPs and Nigerien Returnees residing in Niger.

UNHCR's work in Niger focuses on the **protection, assistance, and solutions** for persons of concern, with particular attention to women, children and other persons with specific needs guided by a **community-based approach**. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

## Key Achievements

### The Central Sahel Situation (Tillabéri & Tahoua regions)

#### Tillabéri region

UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy to further integrate Malian refugees** (61,487 as of January 2022) into the country and to find alternatives to camps in the Tillabéri region. With the support of development actors, Malian refugees and host communities have access to land, housing, and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructures are being reinforced. To further strengthen peaceful co-existence between the different populations, UNHCR aims to bring the populations together through 'common areas', such as village stores, cattle feeding areas, as well as through various mixed community committees.

Within the framework of the joint **ILO/UNHCR project**, a domestic waste collection and sorting centre and a basket making centre have been set-up for refugees and host community members in Ayorou. Thanks to this project, refugees & host communities work together to produce bricks and baskets.



*In Tillabéri region, refugees use solid waste to produce bricks and baskets © UNHCR*

Since early 2020 to date, UNHCR Niger has received **13,737 Burkinabe refugees** in the Tillabéri region. However, this number may be higher due to lack of access to areas where they have settled.

From December 2021 to January 2022, in Tillabery, UNHCR and its partners have provided medical health care to more than 5,000 individuals, including 10% with critical conditions, who had to be hospitalized.

## Tahoua region

In December 2021, UNHCR has distributed non-food items and emergency shelter kits to **511 Nigerian refugee and Nigerien returnee households** who recently arrived in Tahoua. Furthermore, UNHCR has also distributed 94 baby-kits to families.

UNHCR and its health partners have strengthened their presence in Tahoua region after the closure of the Refugees Hosting Area (Intikane) ensuring the continuous access to medical care at the health centre of *Telemcess*. In December 2021, a total of 15,659 persons have been receiving medical consultations, out of which 1,385 have been hospitalized.

In January 2022, UNHCR has **trained 70 refugees in animal breeding and small business techniques**. Regarding access to microfinance institutions, loans were provided to three groups in Tahoua. Furthermore, two banks for livestock fodder have opened in Tillia and Tassara. In January 2022, UNHCR has distributed a total of 1,657 emergency shelter kits, 1,000 NFI kits, 499 dignity kits, and 400 baby kits to community members in Tillia, Tassara, and 16 villages in the department of Madaoua.

## The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

### Diffa region

To date, there are almost **236,943 forcibly displaced persons residing** in the Diffa region (including **130,023 refugees, 67,817 IDPs, 35,491 returnees and 3,612 asylum seekers**). Many of them have been displaced twice or multiple times already. Most of the persons live in spontaneous settlements or sites or together with the host communities. *Sayam Forage*, the only actual camp in Diffa, hosts more than **32,228 people**, and is managed by UNHCR.

Regarding shelter, during the year 2021, UNHCR distributed **emergency shelters to 851 households** and assisted **500 households in Sayam Forage camp with construction kits** (plastic sheeting, square tubes, doors, and windows) to support persons to upgrade their homes. Some other 621 households living outside the camp have been assisted with social housing construction using interlocking stabilised soil bricks (ISSB).

In December 2021, UNHCR has distributed solar lamps to 40 persons living with specific needs living in *Sayam Forage* camp. In addition, the refugees produced 675 kg of ecological charcoal briquettes, which were distributed to 419 households living in the camp at a rate of just over 1.5 kg per household. Through a partnership with the Minister of Public Health, Population and Social Action (MSP/P/AS) and the partner APBE, UNHCR is providing primary health care assistance, including reproductive health, to all persons of concern in Diffa. In December 2021, **2,161 refugees received** medical consultations and **47 of them were evacuated** to regional hospital health structures.

On 3 December, UNHCR has celebrated the **International Day of Persons living with Disabilities**, raising awareness among 1,036 refugees, 396 returnees and 76 asylum seekers living in *Sayam Forage* camp on the rights to education and decent employment. UNHCR has also organised awareness raising activities on prevention and response to Covid-19, **child protection-, and GBV related matters**, such as early and forced marriage, physical assault, and domestic violence, reaching almost 5,000 persons in the refugee camp of *Sayam Forage*, and in the sites of Djori Koulo, Awaridi, N'Guel Madou Mai, as well as in the towns of Mainé-Soroa, N'guiguimi and Diffa.

### Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerien territory have triggered internal displacement of around 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on

both sides of the border mainly targeting farmers and breeders and conduct kidnapping with the objective of ransom.

The overall strategic direction of **UNHCR's response in Maradi is to relocate refugee communities away from the border to ensure their safety**, while at the same time, easing the pressure from the host communities. Subsequently, sites have been built in nearby rural villages and services were reinforced for both, the refugee - as well as the host communities, such as access to water, health services, education, and protection assistance.

UNHCR has **relocated 3,972 households of 17,713 individuals** far away from their first entry points to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. Thus, UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three "villages of opportunity". These include 7,919 refugees in Chadakori: 5,434 in Dan Dadjji Makaou and 4,360 in Garin Kaka. But recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice.



*Ai, a Nigerian refugee of 44, widow and mother of seven children, who fled bandit attacks from her village in northern Nigeria in 2019 and who has been relocated by UNHCR to the "village of opportunity of Chadakori" has started a small business that helps her recover her smile © UNHCR / Moustapha Djibrilla*

## Mixed movements situation (Agadez)

### Agadez

Niger has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria to Niger. **These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection.** UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that the latter have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum. Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in **the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system** and implements **all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region.** Moreover, UNHCR assists people under its mandate and aims to find durable solutions, such as **resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return** to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

With the support of IOM, NGO partners and the Government of Niger, UNHCR identifies asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide them with adequate information and tailored assistance. As of 14 January 2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered **2,137 individuals** in need of international protection. The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **two guesthouses in Agadez** where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are hosted in the **Humanitarian Centre** built in the outskirts of the city.

From December 2021 to January 2022, UNHCR and its partner APBE conducted 502 awareness-raising sessions reaching 1,075 individuals on peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, community coexistence within the Humanitarian Center, and on Covid-19. UNHCR and COOPI also organized 481 **recreational and cultural activities** (music, dance, card games, checkers, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.). These activities reached 2,090 people, including 478 women, 512 men, 609 girls and 491 boys. In addition, INTERSOS provided psycho-social support to **4,263 individuals through 311 psychosocial sessions**.

UNHCR has provided first and secondary health care to all refugees and asylum seekers hosted in Agadez through the partnership with APBE. From December 2021 to January 2022, APBE conducted 6,404 medical consultations; 80% of those consulted were refugees, among which 101 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and 19 to the mother and Child Health Center of Agadez. APBE also provides **reproductive health services and malnutrition management services for children**.

## Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

### Hamdallaye

As of 31 January 2022, **4,594 persons have been resettled from Niger to third countries** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**; these include 3,260 evacuees from Libya and 1,334 refugees registered in Niger. Among the **3,710 persons evacuated from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, **528 evacuees** are still in Niamey including 86 refugees pending departures and 168 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

On 30 December, the second evacuation flight for 2021 with 177 evacuees on board arrived in Niamey. **A total of 349 persons were evacuated in the two flights received in 2021**. Upon arrival, all evacuees were subject to mandatory COVID-19 quarantine, which has been extended due to large number of COVID-19 positive evacuees.

**In December, 19 refugees departed on resettlement to third countries**, among them 10 Libya evacuees and 9 Niger-registered refugees. Resettlement submissions to Canada, Finland and the USA were completed against the given quotas in 2021. In December 2021; UNHCR supported 372 households of 519 people with Cash Based Assistance (CBI) compared to 494 households of 675 people in January 2022.

## Urban refugees and asylum seekers (Niamey)

### Niamey

As of 31 January 2022, Niamey hosts a total of 4,093 refugees and 163 asylum-seekers. 94% (3,982) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerien law, Malians who are victims of the armed conflict in northern Mali are **recognized on a prima facie basis** while other nationalities undergo the regular governmental procedure of refugee status determination (RSD).

The urban setting of Niamey prompted UNHCR to bring together the partners involved in the implementation of interventions aimed at the protection and assistance of urban refugees and asylum seekers in one physical structure, called the **Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop)**. The latter has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as better coordination of the interventions of the different partners. At the same time, UNHCR and partners regularly conduct home visits and monitors the well-being of beneficiaries in the five communes of Niamey.

UNHCR manages several temporary housing facilities in cooperation with implementing partners organizations to ensure adequate protection for persons with specific vulnerabilities. To ensure inclusivity and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperates and **supports the Central Refugee Committee of Niamey**, comprised of refugee leaders from various communities. The Committee has played an integral part in outreach efforts, notably during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Working in partnership

**UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger**, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions, to ensure a coherent protection response in the country. The Cluster also shares information amongst all relevant partners, bridges identified gaps, and ensures the strategic direction of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions aim to move towards economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and is aligned with the **Global Compact for Refugee (GCR) and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus** and is at the core of the joint GoN and **UNHCR's out of camp vision**. UNHCR aims at strengthening relationships with **private sector actors as they are a crucial actor for boosting economic growth** and job creation; as well as at engaging with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media. The office also works with other government bodies, national and international implementing and operational partners.

Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the National Commission for Eligibility (CNE) to ensure adequate international protection and delivery of multisectoral assistance to its persons of concern.

### **Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2021**

African Development Bank Group | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | France | Germany | Intesa Sanpaolo | Italy | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | Sweden | United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

### **And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2021**

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | Private donors in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain Sweden and the United States

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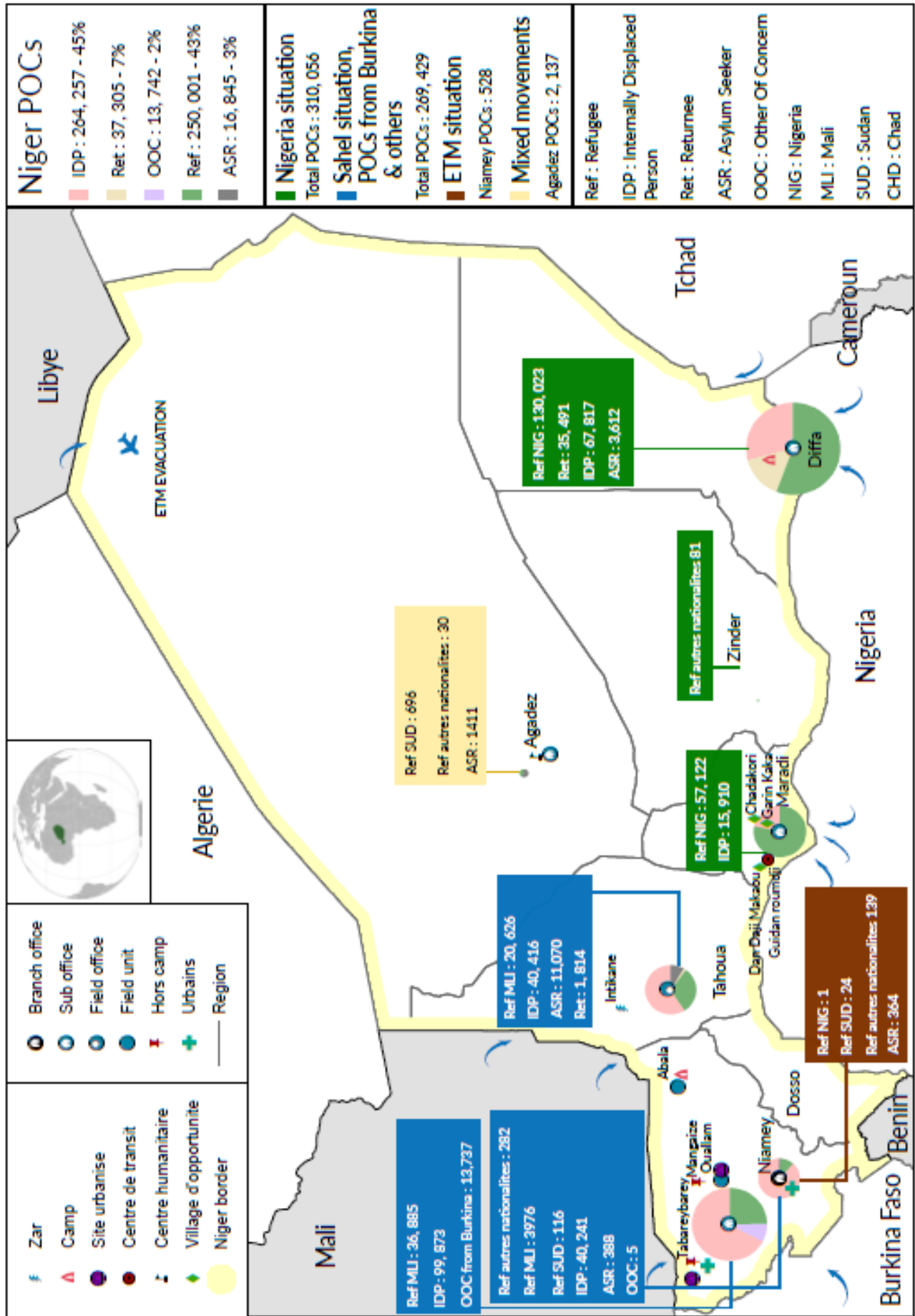
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Persons of concern in Niger

31 - Jan - 2022

## UNHCR | Niger Population of concern



Source : UNHCR Niger, Contacts : dipanda@unhcr.org; cherih@unhcr.org