

UNHCR Operation in Niger

DECEMBER 2013 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 **5,124** nationals of Niger previously living in the Gao area. 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**, 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. In 2013, after the French and Ecomog military intervention and the creation of the MINUSMA force, refugees have continued to cross into Niger. Following the presidential elections in July-August 2013, a back-and-forth movement between Niger and the areas of origin in Mali has been observed. Some refugees have also asked UNHCR for return assistance. Even though in UNHCR's own assessment the **situation in Northern Mali does not yet call for an organized voluntary repatriation**, UNHCR decided to respect the will of the refugees and to assist those who wish to return home.

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in May 2013 in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states in northern **Nigeria**, thousands of displaced persons (Niger citizens, Nigerian refugees, and third country nationals) have sought **refuge in Diffa** region, southeast Niger. The local population has generously received the outflow of 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

	MALI	NIGERIA
	(Level 2 and continuous registration)	Based on November 2013 census
Refugees	49,770	8,385
Returned nationals	5,124	29,168
Third country		150
Total	54,894	37,703

Malian refugees by site

OUALLAM (8,175)	TILLIA	Intikane (Zone d'accueil)	6,944
	TASSARA	Tazalite (Zone d'accueil)	1,027
		Mangaize (Camp)	7,291
		Banibangou (Site)	538
		Chinegodrar (Site)	346
ABALA (16,077)		Abala (Camp)	14,079
		Tigzefan (Site)	1,116
		Miel (Site)	845
		Kizamou (Site)	37
AYOROU (9,778)		Tabareybarey (Camp)	9,125
		Ayorou ville	628
		Koutougou (Site)	35
	NIAMEY	(Urban)	7,759



Tuareg refugee mothers and their children await medical consultation in Intikane refugee hosting area © H. Dicko, May 2013

Working with the Government

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

Working with partners

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian assistance to refugees and works with various implementing partners:

- *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 in Intikane, Tahoua*
- *Cadev: urban refugee programme (health and education)*
- *International Organization of Migration: refugee relocation*
- *International Rescue Committee: site management in Tazalit, protection in Diffa*
- *Luxembourg Red Cross: shelter programme*
- *Qatari Red Crescent: health programme*
- *Save the Children: urban refugee programme (protection)*

Operational partners are: Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières France, Humanitaires Sans Frontières, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Commission Nationale UNESCO.

Key achievements

- **Continuous registration:** As of 30 November, there were some 49,770 refugees registered. A new influx of more than 2,000 Malian refugees fled insecurity in Gao and Kidal in November and arrived in Tahoua. Their registration is under progress. UNHCR periodically verifies the physical presence of refugees in camps and refugee sites during distribution of assistance, and renewal of refugee documents. Biometric registration currently piloted for the voluntary repatriation programme will be implemented in 2014 at large for all refugees.
- **Voluntary repatriation:** On 20 November 2013, UNHCR and the authorities launched the facilitation of the voluntary repatriation programme. Some 218 refugees in Mangaize were the first to benefit from UNHCR's counseling and assistance. While the current conditions in Mali are not conducive for a large-scale organized repatriation, UNHCR acknowledges the right of each refugee to voluntarily return home. UNHCR's role in this process is to ensure that refugees make an informed and free choice. UNHCR also provides an assistance package equivalent to 70 USD for those who decide to go home. The Government of Niger and UNHCR continue to extend their protection and assistance for those who remain in the country of asylum and those newly arrived.
- **"Guichet unique":** On 19-20 November, UNHCR and the German multinational company SAP organized a workshop in Niamey to present a software product for the Guichet Unique. SAP which is specialized in enterprise software, partnered with UNHCR and developed a tailor-made IT tool to manage the urban refugee programme in Niamey. The software which will be common to all service providers in the Guichet Unique will improve the management of the refugee caseload, the provision of assistance and the complaints system.
- **Local tenders:** Under a competitive bid process, ACTED has been awarded the contract for camp management in all 3 camps of Tillabéri as of 1 October. A similar process has been launched for health and protection activities in Tillabéri.
- **Energy:** On 6-15 November, 1,873 families benefitted from a first distribution of cooking gas in Abala, and received a complete kit made of a bottle of gas of 6kg, burner, firebox and security padlock. Families were trained on the use of gas as domestic energy and fire prevention systems in the camps are reinforced. By providing alternative energy in the largest refugee camp in Niger, this project limits impact on the environment and on firewood resources. It also helps preserving the nutritional impact of food aid as refugees do not have to sell parts of their food rations to buy domestic energy.
- **Wet feeding:** From 11 to 30 November, a project was piloted in Mangaize to track attendance in the wetfeeding programme through the use of electronic bracelets and Smartphone/Android receptors. Results will help reinforce monitoring to better fight against child malnutrition.
- **Diffa:** On 5 November, regional authorities published the results of a wide census of the population displaced by the security situation in Nigeria and living in Diffa region. Some 37,000 persons have sought refuge in Diffa including more than 8,000 Nigerians and the return of 29,000 nationals of Niger. Based on this update, UNHCR has decided to raise its planning figure for 2014 to 20,000 persons of concern. UNHCR's activities will target in the first instance the most vulnerable among the displaced population but also include host families. Moreover, on 4 December, the Government of Niger issued a Decree granting temporary refugee status to Nigerians who have fled Adamawa, Borno and Yobe federal states since 14 May 2013 seeking asylum in Niger.

Donor Contributions to Niger

Belgium, CERF, ECHO, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Private donors: Good Neighbors (Niger), International Olympic Committee (Switzerland).

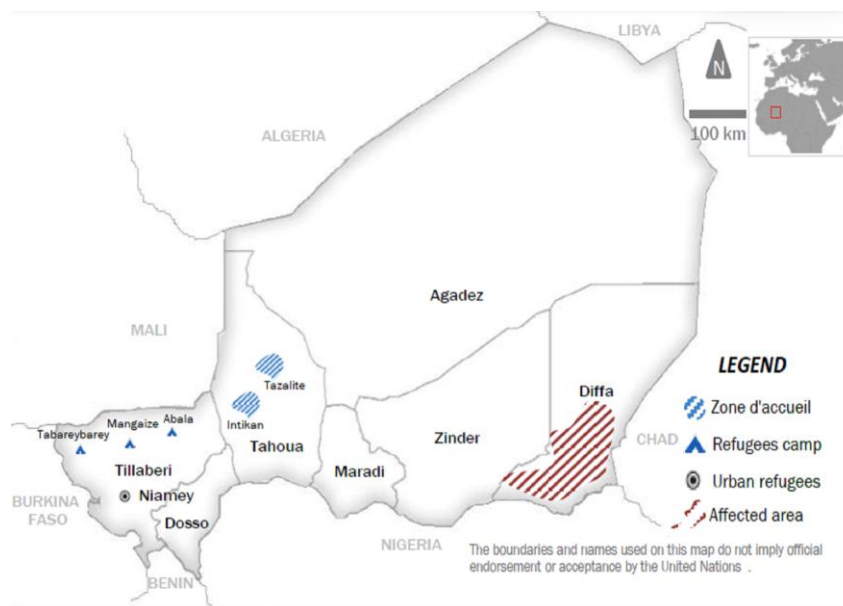
Donor Contributions to the Mali situation

Canada, CERF, ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Private donors, Saudi Arabia, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America, UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, UNICEF.

Funding situation (in million USD)

Ex-Com approved budget	Funding received to date	Funding level
52,925,462	28,100,369	53%

Refugee Camps/Sites in Niger



UNHCR staff

78 national staff, 39 international staff, including 4 United Nations Volunteers.

For further details please contact:

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

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