

NIGER

UNHCR WEEKLY UPDATE

29 April – 06 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Niger authorities ordered the evacuation of the Islands of Lake Chad located on the South East of N'Guigmi Departement in order to proceed to military operations in the fight against the insurgents. This evacuation caused the displacement of around 30,000 people of Nigerien and Nigerian nationalities and third nationalities. Amongst this number 5,000 arrived in Diffa town and were installed in the MJC center (Maison de la Jeunesse et de la Culture).
- These displaced people are mainly economic migrants and they returning to Nigeria and other countries. UNHCR is following this process to ensure the voluntary nature of their returns.

Population of concern

A total of **150 000** people of concern

Refugees in operation



100,000

IDPs in operation



50,000

KEY FIGURES

100 000

Refugees

50 000

IDPs

FUNDING

USD 28,951,435

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Assistance to populations on the border in areas where military operations against insurgents are taking place.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The security situation still prevents humanitarian actors to assist displaced population in the Lake Chad areas. The availability of military escorts remains limited to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.
- All field missions were suspended since the 1st of May due to security issues.
- At the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Brigi Rafini, a delegation of the UNCT/HCT teams went to N'guigmi and Diffa yesterday. The UNHCT in Niger, Mr. Fode N'Diaye, took note of deficiencies in the relocation process. These deficiencies are mainly concerning transit conditions, transportation, humanitarian action, and the lack of access to neighboring countries. Having regards to the situation, the Prime Minister promised to shortly find appropriate solutions
- The security situation in Diffa town remains relatively calm but unpredictable.

Achievements

Protection

- UNHCR and IRC organized focus group discussions and interviews with displaced people evacuated from the Islands in order to identify protection issues likely to have taken place during the displacement. Some people walked during two or three days with no water or food and sometimes carrying small children. It was reported some died on the way.
- UNHCR holds regular meetings to ascertain whether the transiting economic migrants working on the islands are indeed returning to Nigeria voluntarily or whether they prefer to join the Sayam Refugee camp. Until today (6 May) no candidate for a return to Nigeria indicated that he/she is returning involuntarily and/or that he/she wishes to be transferred to the refugee camp.
- Two women who gave birth in Diffa were identified by IRC at the MJC center. They received baby kits and were referred to health partners for neo natal consultations.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

There is a need to reinforce the protection coordination amongst humanitarian actors in the context of the out of camp Diffa response. This response remains a challenge and discussions are underway under the supervision of the protection cluster coordinator with all actors to reach a collective strategy and a harmonized approach.

Education

- The distance education center of Maine Soroa is fully equipped but is not yet receiving students as it was not inaugurated by the First Lady and the Education Minister. Their mission was cancelled due to security concerns. Students are thus still working in the old center.
- A workshop on education in emergency situation is organized by our partner COOPI to teachers in the three of the distance education center (Maine, Diffa, Kabelawa). 14 teachers are following this workshop.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR is funding the provision of food in the MJC in Diffa town.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR carried out water trucking on the arrival of the displaced the 3rd of May at the MJC. This activity was then taken over by the Firemen unit of Diffa the 4th of May. MSF through UNHCR bladders is now in charge of distributing water for cooking and drinking.
- In Sayam Forage camp 6 out of the 40 planned latrines are fully finished and 34 are already dug. This activity is carried out by our partner the Luxembourg Red Cross.
- In the context of the out of camp situation, IRC built a fountain with 4 taps in the reception center of Maine Soroa. This fountain is connected to the public drinking water system of the city of Maine in order to respond to the needs of refugees and displaced people.

Shelter and NFIs

- Still in the context of the evacuation and following up on the Prime Minister visit to Diffa and N'Guigmi, 750 households of around 5000 people received NFI kits in N'Guigmi. This distribution was carried out by our partner CARE and is composed of blankets, mats, mosquito nets, buckets and jerrycans.

Logistics

- UNHCR heavy trucks were set up through CARE to route goods given by the Government to the displaced population in N'Guigmi.

Working with others

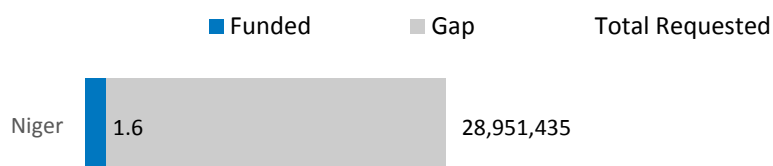
UNHCR joined a mission with OCHA in Diffa to accompany the Director for Operations in the context of the Diffa emergency. Mr John Ging did a press release advocating for Niger and other countries affected by the Nigerian crisis: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/05/un-ging-chad-niger/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed to the situation.

Funding (in million US\$)

A total of **1,582,460 million** has been funded



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Links:

<http://unhcrniger.tumblr.com/>

<http://data.unhcr.org/SahelSituation/country.php?id=502>