

COUNTRY OPERATION UPDATE OCTOBER 2018

Niger



POPULATION OF CONCERN

359,806

** UNHCR figures.



KEY INDICATORS

1,675

Refugees evacuated temporarily from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM (Emergency Transit Mechanism) from November 2017 – October 2018

2,133

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum

48,736

Persons internally displaced in the Tillaberi & Tahoua regions



Construction of the new Health Center (CSI type II) in Abala, supported by the EU Trust Fund



Operational Context

The key situations include:

- The Mali situation: began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting most of the Malian refugees are increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism. A State of Emergency was declared last year, and extended this year. There are currently 57,719 Malian refugees in Niger. The Government of Niger and UNHCR seek to accelerate the socioeconomic integration of these refugees and the closure of the camps through urbanization by the end of 2020.
- 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 almost 250,000 displaced persons in the region (including 118,868 refugees, 104,288 IDPs, 25,731 returnees). The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with 14,563 people. In 2018, despite a complex security context, all actors agreed on the necessity to engage strongly in development oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR and the World Bank are working closely in that direction. Additionally, an EU Trust Fund project is ongoing in Diffa region, aimed at supporting economic recovery and long term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing.
- 3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): The displaced population in the Diffa region is extremely mixed, including refugees, IDPs and returnees. However, the IDP situation in Niger has become more complex with increasing insecurity in the regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua, bordering Mali. In 2018, attacks and insecurity in the area have resulted in the internal displacement of at least 48,736 people. Protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation. A humanitarian corridor was set up in early October to secure access for evaluations, targeting exercises and emergency response of humanitarian actors.
- 4. Mixed Movements: Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, 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. 2,133 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez. 25% are minors and 229 are unaccompanied or separated children. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of downward movements from Libya and Algeria. A new humanitarian centre is being built to accommodate and screen those seeking protection.
- 5. Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM): This unique 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 and Somalian. 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 and women and girls at risk. To date, 1,675 persons have been evacuated.

Security Situation

The regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillaberi** continue to be affected by armed groups and inter-ethnic violence resulting in displacement of population in all the departments close to the Mali boarder. Movements of suspected extremists near the border have been reported, as well as incursions in villages, cattle thefts and markets attacks by armed extremists.

In the **Diffa** region in October, the security situation continues to be marked by repeated attacks by the Boko Haram (BH) armed group. 16 major incidents occurred mainly marked by killings and lootings by young boys (considered as forcibly recruited by BH).

The security context in the **Agadez** region continues to be marked by armed attacks that do not stop, particularly on the main roads converging towards Agadez. Armed attacks and the organized work of groups of bandits creates a constant psychosis among the sedentary population of Agadez and among road users.



Key Developments & Achievements

- The HNO HRP CRRP 2019 2021 workshop was organized in Niamey on the 31st October by OCHA and UNHCR with all relevant authorities and the humanitarian actors in Niger.
- Malian refugees from Niger participated in October at the « Salon international de l'artisanat de Ouagadougou (SIAO)" in Burkina Faso and one refugee from Niger won the first prize for leather work.
- The Government of Niger and the World Bank signed a project known as PARCA (Projet d'Appui aux Réfugiés et Communautés d'Accueil) worth \$80m to support host and refugee populations in Niger, with the ongoing support and coordination of UNHCR.
- A validation workshop of the Action Plan of the Declaration on Protection in the Lake Chad Basin (Abuja Declaration) was held in Niamey from 11 to 12th of October.



Protection Cluster

- The October 2018 Protection Monitoring Report on Tillaberi is available here.
- The October Protection monitoring mission report on Tassara department (Tahoua region) is available here.

Nigeria situation

- Ongoing BIMS registration is underway in Sayam Forage, in the urbanized site, prison of Diffa and at Kindjandi site.
- 5 protection awareness campaigns with the theme: "family is the best protection framework for children" were carried out at the sites of Kindjandi, Kabléwa, Garin Wanzam and the Sayam Forage camp and reached 1,668 people. These campaigns were animated by a local theater troupe.
- 39 SGBV cases were identified and reported during October. All the survivors have been documented and
 psychosocial support provided. Regular monitoring is being done for the implementation of the respective
 action plans of these survivors including medical, psychological and legal services.
- 2 trainings were organized at Chétimari, for 48 members of protection committees on protection monitoring, case reporting, referencing and exchange of experiences.

IDP situation

 A link has been developed on an interactive website, which shows in real time the number of displaced people (disaggregated by sex and age) and the number of households in the regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua, based on protection monitoring information.

Mixed Movements situation

- In Agadez, UNHCR continues to follow up on cases of persons deported from Algeria. So far, the total number from January 2018 to 31 of October is 18,726 – of which 64% are Nigerien.
- Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews continue in Agadez by a common UNHCR– National Eligibility Commission team for unaccompanied and separated children. 69 children have been interviewed so far.
- Progress continues on the new humanitarian centre for asylum seekers in Agadez, including the drilling of the second water well that reached 71m deep.
- From 22 to 26 October, UNHCR undertook a clothes distribution to 835 asylum seekers in Agadez with the support of partners DREC, APBE and COOPI. This distribution was done together with the distribution of NFI kits from MDM Belgique.

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. To date, 1,675 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger and a total of 834 individuals have departed for resettlement to Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and The United States.
- UNHCR has received a total of 3,886 resettlement pledges for refugees out of Niger for 2018-2019; the pledges
 also include resettlement places for some refugees already hosted by Niger.
- Of those already hosted in Niger, 201 refugees from Mali, Nigeria, Central Africa, Mauritania and Ivory Coast have departed for resettlement.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Mali situation

- As part of the **EU Trust Fund Mali Situation project (#AfricaTrustFund)**, health infrastructure improvement is ongoing in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions which will benefit both refugees and host population:
 - o Rehabilitation of the current health centre of Intikane is finished.
 - The construction of 2 CSI Type II for the Abala and Ayorou urbanized sites is ongoing.

SHELTER AND NFIS

Nigeria situation

- In the context of the EU Trust Fund Urbanization project (#AfricaTrustFund), activities continued in October in Diffa:
 - The construction of 381 houses is in progress in the Diffa commune, with 38 houses completely finished;
 - A new "Lotissement" was created in Assaga commune, and targeting of beneficiaries has begun by the partner CISP;
 - Discussions are underway in Toumour with local authorities regarding the urbanization site and the ongoing security constraints.

Mali situation

 In Abala, the final plans of the future urbanization site are finished (electricity, topographic study, roads, infrastructure etc.).

Key Challenges

Mali situation

 Increasing insecurity, due mostly to armed attacks and ethnic tensions, continues to pose the biggest challenge in the area of the country bordering Mali and Burkina Faso.

Nigeria situation

In the Diffa region, in addition to the threat posed by terrorism, the level of criminality is increasing significantly. Killings and lootings are becoming more frequent, creating tensions and fears among the local community.

IDP situation

 The massive increase in the magnitude of internal displacements in Tillaberi, increasing to over 48,000 IDPs, is creating significant protection challenges and is underfunded. Regular access remains the main issue.

Mixed Movements

In the Agadez region, UNHCR must continue strengthening cross border coordination in order to support refugees coming from the bordering countries. Works on the humanitarian centre must continue so that all persons of concern are accommodated and protection and basic needs provided.

Emergency Transit Mechanism

• For those refugees evacuated from Libya, the main challenge remains to improve the fluidity of the process of departures for resettlement, in order to free more refugees from the Libyan detention centres. With ongoing conflict in Libya, major efforts must be made to ensure the evacuation of the most vulnerable.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: a total of 317 national and international staff (*this includes 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, DEDI, DRC, Forum Réfugié Cosi, FRC, GVD, HI, IRC, SFCG, SDO.

CONTACTS

Mathilde Corre, Associate Reporting Officer, corre@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 58 96 Giulia Raffaelli, Associate External Relations Officer, raffaell@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 51 Louise Donovan, Associate Public Information Officer, donovan@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 34 73 Benoit Moreno, External Relations Officer, morenob@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 19 24 17

LINKS: Regional portal - Twitter - Blog



FUNDING UPDATE | 2018

\$92.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2018¹



CONTRIBUTIONS³ | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	12,500,000	-	12,500,000
European Union	-	-	-	8,587,019	8,587,019
Italy	-	-	-	4,840,338	4,840,338
France	-	-	3,077,816	774,294	3,852,110
Japan	-	-	-	1,800,000	1,800,000
CERF	-	-	-	809,241	809,241
Spain	-	-	800,000	-	800,000
Canada	-	-	706,991	-	706,991
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	-	-	-	195,578	195,578
UN Peacebuilding Fund	-	-	-	142,219	142,219
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	65,000	65,000
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	-	35,595	35,595
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	5,309,384	11,817,614	(1,080,389)	(568,035)	15,478,575
Total	5,309,384	11,817,614	16,004,419	16,681,248	49,812,665

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Niger shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS⁴ | USD

United States of America 163.9 million | Private donors Australia 11.1 million | Germany 7.6 million | Canada 3.3 million | Private donors Sweden 2.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2 million

Japan | Norway | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 58.7 million | United Kingdom 45.3 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | Japan 26.5 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Japan 16.1 million | Switzerland 15.8 million | Private donors Italy 15.1 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Sweden 12.2 million | Italy 11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

1. The financial requirements for Niger include requirements for the operation's regular programme, Central Mediterranean Route Situation, Mali Situation and the Nigeria Situation.

2. The percentage funded (54%) and total funding amount (\$49,812,665) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$42,971,149 representing 46% of the financial requirements.

3. Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

4. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Niger. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.

5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

For more information: http://reporting.unhcr.org

Follow us on @UNHCRgov