

Niger

November – December 2019

On 31st of December, **124 vulnerable refugees** were flown in from detention in Libya. Their cases will be process in Libya while awaiting durable solutions.

A new emergency theatre has emerged in **Maradi region**, where UNHCR has biometrically registered **35,359 persons**.

UNHCR has officially launched its out of camp strategy in Tillabery region. Today, **45%** of the refugee population in Mangaize camp has already moved to the city of Ouallam.

KEY INDICATORS

3088*

Number of vulnerable refugees in detention that have been evacuated to safety in Niger since November 2017.

45%*

Percentage of persons under our mandate living in Agadez and had their files examined or under examination.

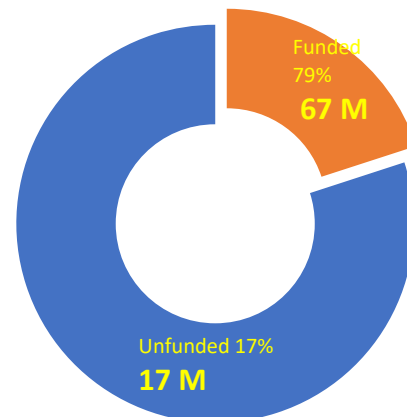
439,634

Number of registered refugees, returnees, IDPs and asylum seekers in Niger.

FUNDING AS OF JANUARY 2020

USD 17,449,498 M

requested for the Niger situation



Aissa Dangui, internally displaced person in Niger, currently residing in Tahoua region © UNHCR / Boubacar SIDDO

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Nigerian refugees in Diffa	119.541
IDPs in Diffa	109.404
Nigerien returnees	29.954
Refugees in Maradi	35.359
IDPs in Tillabery and Tahoua	80.844
Population in Agadez	1.608
ETM population	634
Malian refugees	58.051
Asylum seekers Diffa&Niamey	1.794
People from Burkina	2.190
Other urban refugees	255
TOTAL:	439634

Update On Achievements

The operation is managed by over 380 staff in 8 offices: 1 Representation in Niamey; three Sub-Offices in Agadez, Diffa and Maradi; two Field Offices in Tahoua, and Tillabery; two Field Units in Abala and Ouallam.

Operational Context

Sahel Situation: began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in **northern Mali**. UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a joint strategy to close the camps in the Tillabery region and to support the socioeconomic integration of the **57,999 Malian refugees** into the country. With the support of the EU Trust Fund and GIZ, as well as development partners such as the World Bank and ILO, Malian refugees and their host communities have access to land, housing and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructure is being reinforced.

The deteriorating security situation has triggered the **internal displacement of 80,844 persons** in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions. Protection monitoring, especially in the border areas, and an adequate protection response for identified cases is ongoing.

Finally, the presence of armed groups in **Burkina Faso** has triggered the cross-border displacement of **2190 persons at the least**. Armed incursions into Niger from Burkina Faso's armed groups have also caused internal displacement. These persons are stuck in inaccessible zones near the border. Their exact numbers are expected to be higher. This situation is set to continue over the next months.

Nigeria Situation: began in 2013, with the arrival to the Diffa region of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees who had been settled in Nigeria for decades. The situation has become increasingly mixed following attacks on Nigerian territory since 2015. Today, there are almost 260,000 displaced persons in the region (including **119,541 refugees, 109,404 IDPs, and 29,954 returnees**), many of them in secondary movement. The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages the Sayam Forage refugee camp, with over 15,000 people. UNHCR is strongly engaged in development-oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR, NGO partners and the World Bank foster economic recovery and long-term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing.

The **Maradi region** witnessed an influx of refugees since May 2019, fleeing gruesome killings, rape, kidnappings for ransom and pillaging of property by armed groups in North Western Nigeria. To respond to the new emergency, UNHCR opened a field office and deployed a team. UNHCR and partners are relocating refugees to "opportunity villages" away from the border to ensure their safety and ease pressure on the host population. In cooperation with the Government and with the support of the humanitarian and development community, UNHCR

improves Infrastructure and access to basic services while giving an emergency response. Today, **UNHCR has biometrically registered 35,359 refugees.**

Niger is 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. **1,608 asylum seekers and refugees**, mostly Sudanese, are based

in Agadez since 2018. The most vulnerable (about 100 people) are housed in guesthouses in the city of Agadez. The Government, UNHCR, IOM and NGO partners identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide these persons with information and assistance. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of mixed movements leaving Libya and Algeria.

On 31 December 2019, **3,080 persons have been evacuated to Niger** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism**; 800 are still in Niamey while 2,310 have already left Niger, and 162 departures are pending.



Sidi proudly shows the jewels made during the EU-sponsored training in Niamey. "As a Tuareg blacksmith, I make almost everything that is necessary for life in the desert: tents, bags, saddles, swords, pottery, padlocks, keys, shields, lances, beds, musical instruments and, of course, jewels."

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LINKS

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