

Sahel situation *(Tillabery and Tahoua regions)*

January 2021

The Sahel regions have been hosting some 60,000 **Malian refugees** since 2012. They live in 3 sites in the Tillabery region and a refugee hosting area in the Tahoua region.

The rapidly deteriorating security context has caused increased **internal displacement flows** with rising numbers every month. To date, some 140,000 IDPs are present in both regions.

The presence of armed groups across the border has caused movements of a few thousand **citizens from Burkina Faso** into Niger.

KEY INDICATORS

40,000*

Number of refugees in Niger who will have **access to land** according to the Government's pledge during the Global Refugee Forum.

+50%*

Increase of the number of internally displaced persons since last year.

373

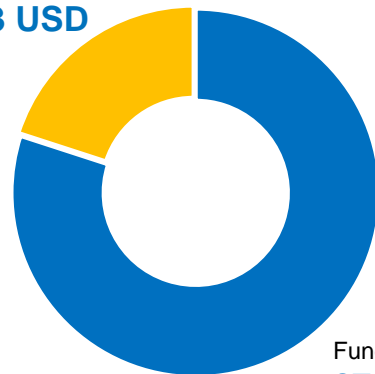
Durable houses built and finalized in the Tillabery region

FUNDING (AS OF 30 DECEMBER 2020)

USD 108,8 M

requested for UNHCR's operations in Niger

Unfunded 20%
21.3 USD

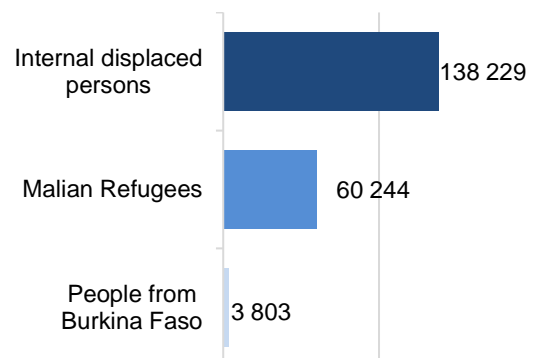


Funded 80%
87.5 USD



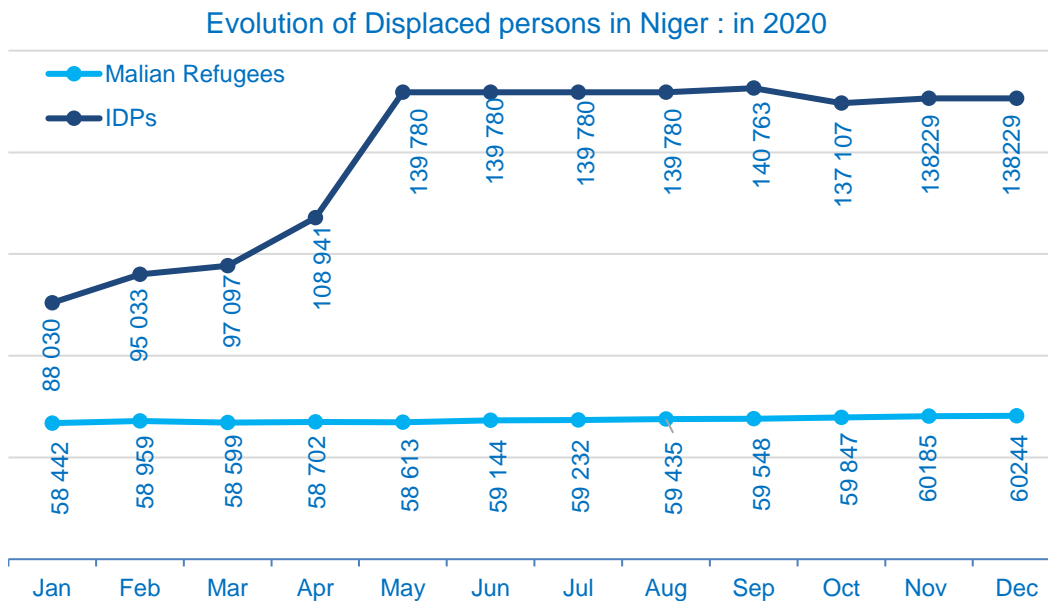
POPULATION OF CONCERN IN NIGER'S SAHEL

(UNHCR data, 31 December 2020)



Update on Achievements

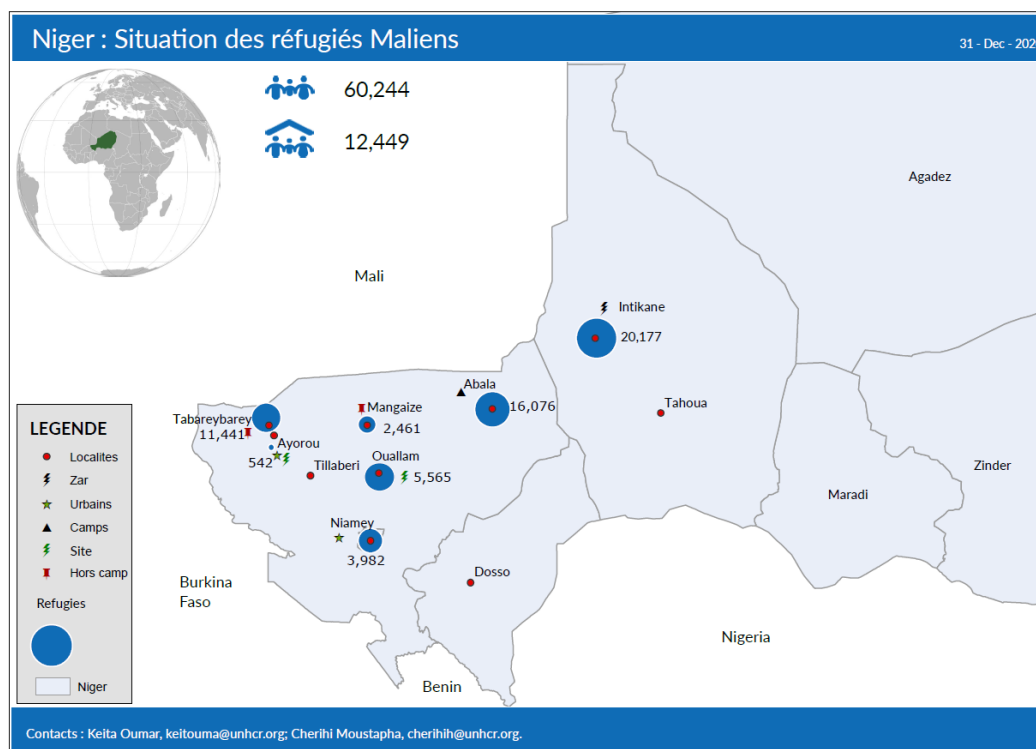
Operational Context



Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso are all struggling to cope with numerous militant groups moving between the three countries. The **security situation** in the tri-border region including in the Nigerien regions of Tillabery and Tahoua has sharply deteriorated. This threat is forcing people to flee their homes, and further deprives vulnerable communities of critical basic services as armed groups directly target schools, health centers and other infrastructure. The civilian population is victim of extortion, targeted killings, cattle theft and shop looting and threatened to leave their villages. A state of emergency was first introduced in 2017 and is still in place.

Moreover, the **global sanitary crisis and the measures taken by the Government to limit the propagation of the virus** has heavily impacted on the operational context, delaying assistance and limiting livelihood opportunities.

Operational Strategy



The interventions in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions are aligned to **UNHCR's Sahel strategy**, a scaled-up response to the unprecedented violence and displacement crisis in the Sahel. Activities planned pre-COVID 19 will be implemented in line with public health measures imposed as a result of the pandemic. Key priorities include addressing shelter needs in overcrowded settlements, supporting education in localities with large concentrations of displaced populations, providing effective response to SGBV incidents aggravated by confinement measures, and continuing other protection activities such as registration, documentation and facilitating access to asylum.

The Sahel crisis is monitored by a broad community-based network and analysis is shared with the humanitarian community. Capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation. UNHCR has the lead over the national protection cluster. Legislation for assistance and protection to IDPs based on the Kampala Convention is in place.

After almost 8 years of presence in Niger, UNHCR and the Government of Niger give priority to **medium- and long-term solutions for Malian refugees** with a view to promote social cohesion, self-reliance and a durable integration into national services and systems. All Malian refugee camps have been closed in 2020 in line with the joint vision of the Government and UNHCR and given the deterioration of the protection and security context. They are now settled in sites in the villages of Ayerou, Ouallam and Abala. Supported by major donors such as **GIZ and EUTF**, UNHCR gives Malian refugees access to land and housing, creates jobs and includes them into national systems.

A strong **tripartite collaboration** has been developed amongst the **World Bank, the Government of Niger, and UNHCR** to improve access to basic public services and further support for economic opportunities. With the support of **ILO, PBF and Spain**, Malian refugees benefit from livelihood interventions.

Achievements

The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs produces a wide range of reports, evaluations and infographics on the humanitarian situation in Niger. All documents can be consulted here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger>

Security and displacement

- Terrible attacks against the villages of Tchoma-Bangou and Zaroumdarey during the first week of 2021 caused the death of more than hundred civilians and led to the displacement of at least 10 000 individuals from the two attacked villages and eight other villages to Ouallam and Mangaizé. UNHCR and its partners are providing assistance including emergency shelters, food, water supplies and protection services. Moreover, end of December 2020 2020, 70 households of 260 individuals have sought refuge in Ouallam. These persons fled the rise of insurgency in the villages of N’Gaba, Djoko and Koira near the Malian border.
- In Tahoua, UNHCR organized a training on registration for the National Eligibility Commission, responsible for refugee matters. They have proceeded to the renewal of 5 622 refugee attestations and 3 633 refugee identity cards. Moreover, 640 refugee attestations have been renewed in Ayorou, 25 in Abala and 6 in Ouallam. Finally, 708 refugee identity cards and 8 birth certificates have been given to refugees living in the Tillabery region.

Protection

- With the support of ECHO and flexible donors such as USA, France, Luxembourg, Canada and Monaco, UNHCR and partners conduct protection monitoring activities in areas where refugees and internally displaced persons are settled. Most of the protection incidents reported were imposed zakat, cattle theft, physical aggressions including rape and conflicts between farmers and herders. Monitoring allows for the identification of survivors, their referral to service providers and the follow-up of cases linked to child protection, SGBV and other persons with specific needs.

- UNHCR has set up two mobile clinics to help victims of sexual and gender-based violence and providing reproductive health services. They are currently located in Intikane and Ayerou and foresee to offer help to survivors of GBV in 2021.
- In Tillabery region, 46 new cases of GBV have been identified during the month of December, each case has received a shelter and NFI kit and was referred to the appropriate structures follow up. To strengthen the GBV response, 300 dignity kits have been distributed to 300 girls and women on the IDP site of Tadress near the city of Tillbéri. 700 other kits have been distributed to 350 refugees and 350 IDPs at Abala. 10 GBV survival living at Abala have received income generating activity kits to start a business and empower themselves.
- In Tahoua regions 87 news cases of GBV have been identified amongst the displaced population, all cases have benefited of psychosocial aid, while the cases that require more attention have been referred either to health centers, received a livelihood support or legal assistance. During the month of December, the mobile clinic in Tahoua has identified 91 cases of GBV. These cases have been sensitized about their rights and informed about the services available to them.
- During the first week of December 2020, UNHCR have trained 8 staffs from its NGO partners on protection, complementary pathways and referral mechanism.
- More than 3 000 persons from the regions of Tahoua and Tillbéri have been sensitized on various topics such as covid-19 prevention, protection, SGVB and available services, WASH and so on. In the Tillabery region, awareness sessions against sexual violence and other harmful practices have been carried out and reached 230 persons, including 128 women, 63 men, 25 girls and 14 boys.

Access to land, housing and shelter

- During the last week of the year 2020, 230 emergency shelter kits have been distributed in Abala and 122 in Ouallam. Emergency shelter consists of a kit with tarpaulin, mats, wood, ropes and tools for construction which can be used to provide a simple but sturdy shelter. In 2020, emergency shelter activities were possible thanks to the support of Japan and CERF as well as unearmarked funds from different donors such as USA, France and Luxembourg.
- As of December 2020, UNHCR and its partners have given land plots to 511 households in Ayorou and 598 households in Ouallam as well as to 50 host households in Ayorou and 2 in Ouallam.

- 893 constructions of social houses are ongoing of which 373 have been built in the Tillabery region, more specifically 110 in Ouallam, 38 in Ayorou and 225 in Abala.

In total 1,709,448 bricks have been produced. At the end of 2020, the project employs 492 in brick construction and another 323 persons in construction.



COVID-19 response and WASH

- 85 positive cases of covid-19 have been identified at Ayorou, which is hub of the pandemic in the Tillabery region. Most of the case came from a gold mine near Menaka in Mali. Among these active cases, 19 are health workers from the Tillabery health facilities.
- UNHCR has rehabilitated 25 toilet blocs and 33 latrines in Intikane. More than 500 residents of the camp have been reached by sensitizations activities on themes such as the prevention against COVID-19 and WASH infrastructures maintenance.
- In Tillabery region, the partner Forge Art has trained 35 refugees in the production of solid and liquid soap and bleach. Another 35 refugees were trained on face mask manufacturing.

Livelihood and CBI

- Thanks to the support of the EU Trust Fund, 1,485 refugee households including 946 in Abala, 326 in Ayorou and 213 in Ouallam have received a cash grant of 100 000 FCFA each to reinforce their livelihood activities. Moreover, during a period of 7 months, these households were also supported with 15 000 FCFA per month.
- With the support of ECHO, 1 014 vulnerable IDPs households from Ayorou, Tadress, Abala and Toula have also received each a cash grant of 27 850 FCFA. An additional 695 IDP households in Tahoua have received a similar cash grant. These grants allow refugees and IDPs to fulfill their needs in a dignified and autonomous manner.



Education

- 155 children among which 92 orphans and 19 children at risk were identified in Tadress, Sakoiria and Balleyara. These children were referred to the school authorities of Ouallam for enrollment.

- UNHCR has distributed 1,000 school kits to Burkinabe refugee children and IDP girls and boys attending school in Ouallam, Tera, Gotheye and Bankilaré. Finally, more than 200 individuals have been sensitized on the importance of birth certificates and schooling of children.

Environment

- 41.4m³ of solid waste have been collected in Ouallam and 11.23 m³ in Abala. The waste has been sent to the landfill and waste recovery of these location. 3 sanitation sessions were conducted with the support of 81 community structures members in Abala and Ouallam. To reinforce the security at night on the site of Ouallam 8 lamppost have been fixed.

Working in partnership

For UNHCR forced displacement requires a **comprehensive approach to development** and should be considered a development, poverty reduction and climate issue. Including forcibly displaced and their hosts in development interventions is key for the transition out of poverty of the country and to boosting resilience. UNHCR interventions target not only refugees and IDPs, but also host communities who live in same conditions of high vulnerability -- with a view to move towards economic integration and social inclusion. This approach of inclusion and development is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and aligned with the Global Compact for Refugee and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. This approach is at the core of UNHCR's OUT OF CAMP strategy and is operationalized through ongoing collaborations with the World Bank Group, the German development agency (GIZ) and the European Union (EUTF) and the ILO. With the idea of deepening its role of convener, UNHCR is also looking into strengthening relationship with private sector actors as they are a crucial partner for boosting economic growth and job creation.

In order to lend support to **protection clusters** at national level in terms of advocacy, facilitate coordination between countries and regional IASC, providing visibility through data driven analysis, and serving as a platform for information sharing and best practices, the Regional Bureau in Dakar has initiated bilateral and multilateral consultations with key stakeholders including donors to revitalize the Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG). A task force composed of UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, UNWOMEN, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR and SOS has been established to draft the strategy as well as the TORs which are being commented on and will be further adopted. Through the Regional Protection Working Group, appropriate support will be provided to the protection crisis in the Sahel.

Financial Information

Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in the Sahel regions

Canada | CERF | European Union | France | Germany | International Humanitarian and Charity Organization | Japan | Luxembourg | Spain | Monaco | Peacebuilding Fund | United States of America

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

United States of America 25.5 M | European Union 13 M | Germany 5.1 M | Japan 4.7 M | CERF 4.4M | Italy 3.5 M | African Development Bank 2.6 M | France 1.2 M | Spain 0.6 M | Luxembourg 0.4 M | Fondazione Prosolidar Onlus 0.3 M | International Humanitarian and Charity Organization 0.3 M | Intesa San Paolo 0.2 M | Monaco 0.07 M | Canada 0.04 M | Other private donors 0.1M

Other softly earmarked contributions²

Germany 78.8 M | United States of America 61.8 M | United Kingdom 24.8 M | Denmark 14.6 M | Private donors Australia 12.8 M | Canada 10.2 M | Private donors USA 8.7 M | Private donors Germany 8 M | France 4.7 M | Private donors Japan 4.5 M | Spain 3.4 M | Ireland 3.3 M | Sweden 3 M | Private donors United Kingdom 2.6 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.5 M | Japan 2.1 M | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 M

Holy See | Iceland | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Morocco | Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions³

Sweden 88.2 million | Private donors Spain 73.5 million | United Kingdom 45.7 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 37.5 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 31.6 million | Germany 25.9 million | Japan 23.8 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Sweden 14.2 million | France 14 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million

Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

External / Donor Relations

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