

NIGER

In 2020, Niger offered protection to 229,589 refugees and asylum-seekers from 22 countries, most of whom came from Nigeria and Mali. The number of Nigerian refugees in Niger has increased significantly over the past decade due to the Boko Haram insurgency, while Malian refugees have been fleeing to Niger since 2012 due to the ongoing conflict in the northern part of the country. Despite being a low-income country with the lowest human development indicators in the world and significant security concerns (as evidenced by the presence of 274,434 internally displaced persons) related to armed groups, the Government of Niger has generally maintained an open-door policy regarding the reception of refugees and asylum-seekers. Notwithstanding the worsening security situation and the complex geopolitical environment, the policy and institutional environment for refugees and host communities in Niger remained open and welcoming from July 2017 to June 2020 as improvements were made to asylum procedures and social protection measures.

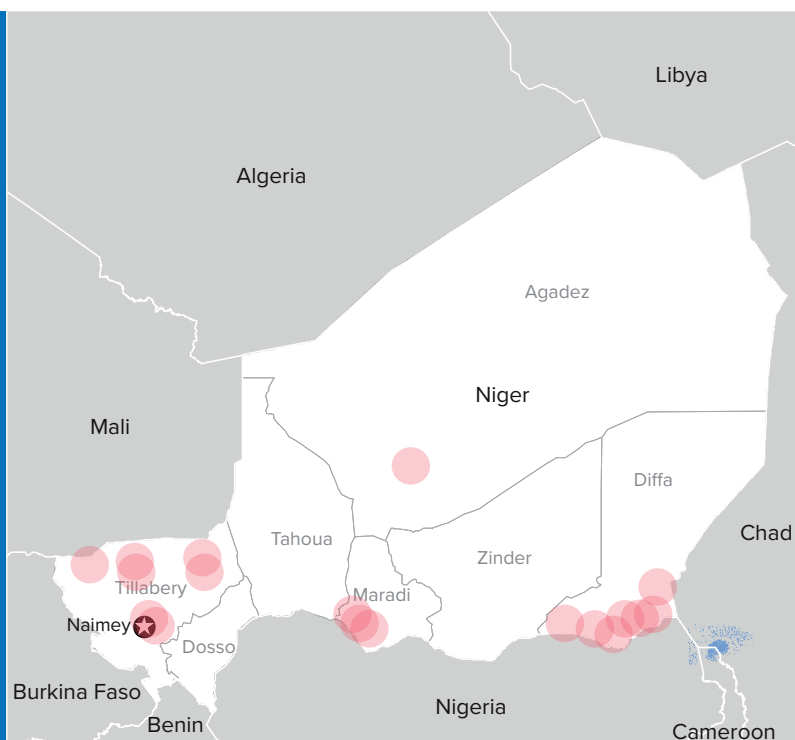
KEY POPULATION DATA

225,741
Refugees

3,848
Asylum-seekers

0.98%
of the country's population (23,310,715)
are refugees and asylum-seekers

IDA 18 RSW / IDA 19 WHR ELIGIBILITY:
SEPTEMBER 2017



Most Nigerian refugees in Niger live in urban settlements, pursuant to the out-of-camp strategy of the government of Niger and UNHCR, with the exception of Sayam Forage camp in the Diffa region (South-East Niger). In May 2019, the Maradi region in the south of Niger near the border with Nigeria saw a new inflow of more than 35,000 Nigerian refugees, who are now mainly living in hosted arrangements with Nigerien families. Most Malian refugees live in Niger's Tillaberi and Tahoua regions on the border with Mali. Of those, the majority live in semi-rural areas (Ouallam, Ayorou, Abala), while in Intikane there are "nomadic" hosting areas known as *Zones d'accueil des réfugiés* or ZARs; others reside in Niamey.

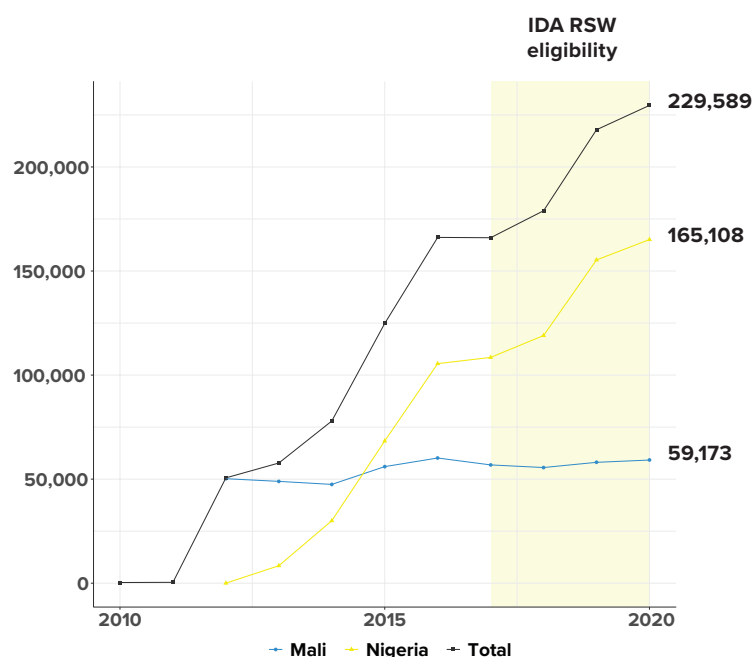


Figure 1: Number of refugees and asylum-seekers of the largest refugee population groups

OVERVIEW OF REFUGEE POLICY ENVIRONMENT (JULY 2017–JUNE 2020)

During the reporting period, Niger received an increasing number of refugees from the Sahel situation and the Lake Chad Basin while itself facing several attacks from armed groups, triggering internal displacement of Nigerien nationals. Against this backdrop of security challenges and poverty for both host communities and refugees, a lack of capacity and infrastructure at institutional levels, and legal and administrative obstacles in asylum procedures, the Government of Niger maintained its open-door policy and continued to promote a progressive approach to managing refugee situations by ensuring that the rights provided under its asylum legislation are protected and exercised whenever possible.

Following pledges in connection with the development of the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Niger has been working to revise the overall quality of the national legal and operational framework on asylum procedure and ensure legal access to land for refugees. Key policy instruments and developments in the reporting period include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between the Government of Niger and UNHCR in December 2017 set up the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**. This was later renewed in February 2020 for an additional two years. The ETM offers **life-saving protection, assistance and solutions to vulnerable refugees** who have been stranded in detention centres and urban areas in Libya.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed on 31 January 2020 with the Ministry of Urbanism, giving some 28,000 refugees **access to land, social housing and a water supply**.
- An [Economic and Social Development Plan \(2017–2021\)](#) was developed by the Ministry of Planning to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host populations, build the capacity of national entities to deliver **basic services in affected regions**, conduct **reconstruction and recovery efforts**, promote **knowledge transfer between humanitarian/development experts and decentralized public entities**, and distribute **biometric ID cards to refugees**.
- In 2017–2018, the Government conducted a countrywide **registration campaign** aimed at collecting biometric data and issuing refugee ID cards for all refugees hosted in Niger.
- **A National Action Plan against Statelessness** in Niger was finalized and the Government of Niger undertook a reform of its civil registration law culminating in the adoption of [Law No 2019–29 of 1 July 2019](#) on civil status and its implementing Decree No 2019-463/PRN/MI/SP/D/ACR, making it easier for any refugee to register life events.

Niger became eligible for the IDA18 Regional Sub-Window for Refugees and Host Communities (RSW) in September 2017, through which the Government is pursuing policy change. In 2019, the Government began implementation of the Refugees and Host Communities Support Project (PARCA) at 15 locations affected by forced displacement. PARCA has improved the **economic inclusion of refugees and host communities** inter alia by introducing new social protection measures mainly at the 15 project sites. In 2020, the Learning Improvement for Results in Education (LIRE) project was approved, which aims to **improve the quality of teaching and learning in selected refugee-hosting communities** and to **strengthen education policies**, including for refugees.

The Government of Niger also committed to regional solutions around the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin at the [Second Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin held in Abuja](#) (28–29 January 2019) and at the [Regional Protection and Solutions Dialogue held in Bamako](#) (11–12 September 2019) including reinforcing the inclusion of refugees in national and local service delivery and advancing their socioeconomic well-being by enabling their access to markets and employment.

POLICY DIMENSIONS (AS AT 30 JUNE 2020)

1 Host Communities

1.1 Support for communities in refugee-hosting areas

At the financial and budgetary level, no policies specifically providing for timely additional financial transfers from the national level to areas economically affected by the presence of refugees are in place. However, the 2017–2021 Social and Economic Development Plan (*PDES/Plan de Développement Economique et Social du Niger*) emphasizes the inflow of refugees as an economic and security risk and identifies the lack of social and productive investments in priority areas as a major constraint.

Social protection is enshrined in the Constitution of Niger. The Government's 2011 National Social Protection Policy does not make explicit reference to host communities but recognizes the need to provide specific assistance and support for the progressive and sustainable reintegration of some groups affected by emergency situations, including disaster victims, displaced persons and refugees. The first priority area (or "axis") of the policy outlines a strategic vision to move from one-off emergency aid to the establishment of a permanent system of social safety nets that will contribute to building resilience and can be scaled up in case of crisis. The policy outlines how to link the prevention and protection aspects of social safety nets with promotion measures that contribute to poverty reduction over the medium to long term. The fourth policy axis deals with reducing inequalities and strengthening social protection for vulnerable groups (women, particularly young, and disabled persons). The general objectives of this axis are in particular to promote revitalization of the social security system and more specifically to support the existing programmes and provide special services and adequate benefits to the most vulnerable people.

With the support of the World Bank, the Government has strengthened the national capacity through the Social Safety Net (CFS) Unit which coordinates and manages adaptive social protection programmes in Niger. The CFS Unit is part of the Prime Minister's Office and has nationwide coverage, including forcibly displaced, with programmes around three main elements: sensitization, targeted cash transfers and livelihoods programming. CFS has been leading implementation of multiple cash-related projects. In March 2020, an interdisciplinary CFS working group was created pursuant to Order No 0055 of 26 March 2020, made up of various governmental and United Nations agencies, as well as civil society members, to support CFS in formulating long-term strategic, technical and operational guidelines.

1.2 Social cohesion

The sociocultural similarities between refugees and host communities in Niger are conducive to social cohesion. In fact, it should be noted that in the Maradi regions the generic term *En gudun Hijira* (literally "the people of Hegira", i.e. the prophet Mohammed's followers who had to flee from Mecca to Medina) is used in reference to IDPs and refugees regardless of their nationality and status. The Government's out-of-camp strategy is based on these endogenous dynamics of inclusion and solidarity and on the view that physical separation of individuals with differing statuses would weaken social cohesion. This strategy is part of a pragmatic medium- and long-term vision based on the assumption that the security situation in neighbouring countries will remain fragile. Depending on the specificities of each region, the different settlement and village models in place all aim to achieve inclusion. The strategy implicitly promotes socioeconomic integration to foster social cohesion, particularly in terms of access to the same level of basic services as host communities.

Presidential Decree 2014/117 created the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP), whose main functions are to maintain peace and dialogue among different communities in Niger, in order that they may live together in trust, tolerance and respect. HACP, which is made up of various organs and relies on regional delegations, is meant *inter alia* to prevent and resolve community conflicts, facilitate dialogue and promote action towards peace and national unity. The main risks to social cohesion among refugee and host communities in Niger include competition over access to natural resources, agricultural land, grass and firewood; illegal logging; destruction of crops by stray animals; reduced areas for nomads

leading to tensions between herders and farmers; and pressure on basic services. In light of this, HACP implements several social cohesion projects in areas affected by displacement with the support of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). These include a project that promotes the inclusion of youth and women in conflict prevention and peaceful resolution mechanisms and provides socioeconomic opportunities for youth, as well as a peace and social cohesion project in the Diffa region that aims to address the frustrations of host populations which are affected by rampant insecurity.

The Government's National Eligibility Commission (CNE) and UNHCR have assisted in the creation of sectoral committees on areas such as education, environment and hygiene in all refugee-hosting regions. These committees are made up of both host community and refugee representatives. In Maradi, three committees have been specifically established to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. While not yet formally established throughout the country, informal conflict resolution committees have been set up by host communities and refugees who know each other well from past interactions and shared history. These committees commonly deal with accusations of stolen livestock. Chiefdoms, often in coordination with the administrative authorities, also play a central role in supporting social cohesion and conflict resolution within and among refugees and host communities.

Many governmental and UNHCR initiatives (education and health care, one-stop shops in Ouallam, Abala and Ayorou, shelter projects for refugees also targeting vulnerable members of host communities) are available for refugees and host communities alike, which further contributes to social cohesion by avoiding disparate treatment between refugees and hosts.

Article 10 of [Law No 97-016](#) of 20 June 1997 establishing the Status of Refugees (Refugee Law) makes explicit reference to non-discrimination between refugees and nationals as regards education, health, accommodation, personal safety, security of assets, freedom to choose a place of residence and freedom of movement. Under Article 22 of [the Constitution](#) of Niger, the State commits to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, girls and persons living with disability and to public policies supporting their self-fulfilment and participation in national development. It also provides that the State will guarantee women equitable representation in public institutions through the national gender policy and respect for quotas. Article 4 of [Law 2011-42](#) of 14 December 2011 on legal and judicial aid provides that such aid is accessible to all without any distinction on the grounds of nationality, sex, age or other such considerations. Despite the relevant legal framework, women and girls –from both refugee and host communities – have low access to education and are underrepresented in decision-making committees and employment.

1.3 Environmental management

Environmental protection, whose importance is mentioned in the 2010 Niger Constitution, is a priority expressed in several strategic plans of the Government, primarily through the 1998 National environment plan for sustainable development (PNEDD) and the 2017–2021 social and economic development plan (PDES). To support these plans, Niger has an extensive legal framework for environmental and social management which is further described below. While these policies do not directly refer to refugees or host communities, they apply in refugee-hosting areas nonetheless.

Article 2 of Law 2018-28 of 14 May 2018 determining the fundamental principles of environmental assessment provides for such assessments, under the responsibility of the National Environmental Assessment Office (BNEE) of the Ministry of the Environment, to be conducted in relation to projects, programmes or any other activities that might harm the biophysical and human environments. Such assessments are similarly carried out in refugee settlements and sites, and require a follow-up action plan addressing the environmental impacts of the refugee settlement, suggesting corrective measures and ensuring monitoring and surveillance mechanisms.

Several plans, programmes and strategies define the policy on access to energy for the entire population, notably the Rural Energy Service Access Programme (PRASE, April 2009) and the National Strategy for Access to Modern Energy Services (SNASEM, January 2006). [The National Programme for Domestic Energy](#) (PNED), currently under revision, aims to ensure an affordable domestic energy supply through

sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity. This objective is also being pursued in areas affected by forced displacement; across all of the regions concerned, nearly 30,000 vulnerable households (refugees, IDPs and hosts) have received support from partners to switch from wood to gas.

Waste management systems remain generally underdeveloped with insufficient triage systems, uncontrolled dumps and limited processing or recycling systems. There are nonetheless a number of executive orders applicable to the issue: Order No 97-01 of 10 January 1997 establishing environmental impact studies; Law No 2014-63 of 5 November 2014 banning the production, import, sale, use and storage of bags and packaging made of low-density flexible plastic, and Decree No 2015-321/PRN/MESU/DD of 25 June 2015 determining the modalities of application of Law No 2014-63 of 5 November 2014 banning the production, import, sale, use and storage of bags and packaging made of low-density flexible plastic.

The water sector is quite decentralized as provided in the November 2016 [Sectoral Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Plan](#) and is hence regulated differently throughout the country. The Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation supports local authorities in developing and managing public water services. Consultation frameworks are in place for water users, including refugees. Through this Plan, a participation approach to sanitation is promoted at community level to raise awareness of harmful sanitation practices and to decide collectively on the most adequate hygiene standards. This approach is also being advocated in all refugee-hosting regions. However, emergency community latrines, provided by UNHCR partners, are rapidly deteriorating and are being abandoned by the population.

1.4 Preparedness for refugee inflows

Niger does not have a national preparedness framework specific to refugees or displaced populations more generally. Risk and crisis prevention structures do exist within the Department of Risk and Disaster Prevention at the Civil Protection Department (Ministry of Interior) with a focus on floods and fires, and within the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (DNP-GCA) of the Prime Minister's Office with a focus on food, nutrition and pastoral crises and coordinating early recovery. The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management is responsible for developing, monitoring and evaluating humanitarian policy and disaster management to anticipate the occurrence of disasters, including refugee inflows, and for coordinating national responses by drawing up contingency and action plans and preparing programmes and budgets, including the mobilization of partners and resources.

The Nigerien authorities are involved in and supportive of the development process for refugee contingency plans led by UNHCR, including [the Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRRP) for Nigerian refugees with a specific chapter for Niger which is fully aligned with the Government's out-of-camp and, in addition to emergency needs, provides for interventions in the areas of civil registration, livelihood, comprehensive solutions and education.

2 Regulatory Environment and Governance

2.1 Normative framework

The commitments of Niger under international law on refugee issues are explicitly incorporated and codified into national legislation and regulations. Niger is party (without reservations) to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Niger enacted [Law No 97-016](#) establishing the Status of Refugees on 20 June 1997 (the Refugee Law) and passed an implementing Decree ([No 98-382/PRN/MI/AT](#)) on 24 December 1998. The law guarantees refugees access to property ownership, security, courts, basic services and freedom of expression and movement without discrimination. Niger is also party to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and a signatory to ILO Convention No 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999).

The National Eligibility Commission (CNE) is a collegial body responsible for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) that was established under Article 5 of the 1997 Refugee Law and is composed of 17 representatives from the various Ministries, as well as civil society representatives. UNHCR is a member of the Commission with an observer and advisory role. The functions of CNE were defined in Order 208/MI/AT/SP/CNE of 14 July 2000, while the Order of March 2006 further granted CNE the mandate for refugee registration and first-instance adjudication of refugee status.

Under [Order No 142/MI/SP/D/AR/DEC-R](#), all asylum-seekers fleeing the armed conflict in northern Mali are recognized as refugees prima facie. They are registered by the Government through a UNHCR-assisted process. Nigerian refugees hosted in the Maradi region since May 2019, as well as those in the Diffa region who fled the Boko Haram insurgency from 2013 onwards, are also recognized as refugees prima facie under the new [Order No 00571/MISP/D/ACR/SG/DGECM-R](#) of 9 July 2020. This supersedes Order No 806/MI/SP/D/AC/R/DEC-R of 4 December 2013, which accorded them temporary protection. All other asylum-seekers are subject to individual refugee status determination by CNE. In the event that CNE rejects an application, an appeal can be lodged with the [Comité de Recours Gracieux](#) (Informal Appeals Committee – CRG), established under [Order No 127/MI/D/DEC-R5 of March 2006](#). CRG is made up of representatives of three Ministries and one member of civil society.

UNHCR has observed a need for capacity building among staff members of CNE and CRG as regards RSD procedural standards to improve the quality of the decisions taken by these two institutions. Both CNE and CRG are entirely dependent on UNHCR financial support. Although CNE is staffed by dedicated governmental officials, it faces severe administrative and technical challenges that mainly translate into extended waiting periods in the asylum procedure and the creation of a significant backlog of cases. The Government is fully aware of these shortfalls and exhibits willingness to work towards addressing them with external support. One of its priorities is to review the legal and operational framework of the national asylum procedure, which it pledged to do at the Global Refugee Forum.

Most Government policies are available online and can also be found upon request at the relevant governmental entities. UNHCR, often in cooperation with the Government, disseminates all relevant policy information to refugees and asylum-seekers through information and sensitization campaigns, individual counselling and refugee community leaders in a bid to increase awareness and understanding.

2.2 Security of legal status

There is no restriction on the legal stay of documented refugees and asylum-seekers. Asylum-seekers are issued a renewable attestation by the Government confirming their status, valid for three months, as well as proof of registration including their personal information and a picture. Refugees receive a renewable attestation from the Government confirming their status, valid for one year, and every refugee aged 13 and over is to be issued with a refugee ID card that is valid for three years. These various documents can be renewed fairly quickly and easily. There have been reports of some delays in renewal associated with temporary unavailability of the machines producing the documents.

The right to non-refoulement in Niger is enshrined in Article 6 of the Refugee Law. Under Article 7 of the Refugee Law, CNE can give its opinion on the potential expulsion of a refugee further to a decision taken by a panel of governmental, parliamentary and civil society representatives as per Article 5. A UNHCR representative also assists in this decision and has the right to be heard. There have not been any reported cases of unlawful termination of refugee status or refoulement for the last year, as at 30 June 2020.

Closure of borders due to COVID-19 has had little to no impact in terms of access to the territory by refugees or asylum-seekers, who are still able to arrive and leave by established migration routes.

2.3 Institutional framework for refugee management and coordination

Made difficult by the multiplicity of actors and the operational complexities in a country where there are several overlapping conflicts, emergencies and hazards, the effectiveness of the coordination structures is further hampered by the security context, which hinders humanitarian intervention.

Overall management of refugees is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. Given the multi-sectoral nature of the out-of-camp strategy, UNHCR works with other Ministries including Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Urban Planning, Justice, Education, Health, Hydraulics, Planning, etc. However, the division of responsibilities between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, which is in charge of the management of IDPs, has resulted in some operational coordination and strategic challenges in mixed and secondary movement situations, notably in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua. On a day-to-day basis, the governmental action that includes refugee affairs, is broadly coordinated by the Prime Minister, Head of the Government.

Order No 0699/MI/SP/D/ACR of 21 November 2016 on the organization of the services of the Ministry of Interior assigns the coordination of external partners and CNE activities to the Director-General of Civil Status Migration and Refugees (DRECRM). DRECRM faces operational constraints due to limited staffing capacity.

At the sub-national level, the Regional Directorates of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees oversee response coordination in support of the Governors through coordination committees, adjusting their duties and functions according to the specificities of each region, including the roles played by local authorities in response to refugee inflows the existence of sectoral coordination mechanisms prior to the arrival of refugees and the mixed nature of the displacement situation. In Niamey, the multisectoral working group for refugees led by UNHCR fulfils this role in conjunction with other working groups.

In addition to these coordination mechanisms, there are Regional Committees for the management of displaced persons which are placed under the leadership of the Governorates and which cover the overall response to refugees and IDPs in areas of mixed displacements. They are made up of Regional Technical Directors, Prefects, the President of the Regional Council and humanitarian actors. These committees meet monthly under the leadership of the Governors and with two co-leads: the Regional Directorate of Civil Status/Migration and Refugees, and the Representative of the Ministry of Humanitarian Action. These committees are supported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNHCR.

Since September 2017, a government-led decentralization process has resulted in increased responsibility and autonomy for Regional Councils and municipalities in four key sectors: education, health, environment and water/sanitation. Regional sectoral working groups are led by the concerned regional technical directorates with the support of humanitarian actors.

The Government largely relies on UNHCR refugee data for its data collection and management process, having notably access to UNHCR electronic registration system for asylum-seekers. Overall refugee data is not part of the national database; however, refugees are increasingly becoming part of Government surveys conducted in Niger. In 2018, refugees were included in the national poverty exercise led by the Government's National Institute of Statistics and the World Bank. The resulting data, which is still being processed for publication, offers a rich comparative analysis of refugees and their hosts. Refugee data is also taken into account through the national health information system (Système National d'information Sanitaire – SNIS), which aligns with the Health Ministry's national policy on health information management and provides reliable quality information to decision-makers, health officials and partners. Refugee populations are also fully integrated into the Government's COVID-19 pandemic response plan.

At the various levels of governance, there is no formal process through which refugees are consulted regarding decisions that affect them. While there are refugee committees in Niger, including in Niamey, their mandate is limited to assuring the quality of services towards refugees rather than following up on decision-making processes. Such consultations instead take place through informal interactions with the chiefs of villages and townships and through the same channels of communication used between Niger nationals and the local authorities.

Focus group and individual discussions regularly take place under the purview of UNHCR, the Government and partners with members of the refugee community on a variety of issues, including the impacts of specific interventions or programmes or the implementation of a new policy, with the aim of collecting the

feedback of a fair representation of the refugees taking into account age, gender, diversity and special needs. Such feedback is passed on to departmental and regional authorities to inform the design and implementation of future programmes and activities.

2.4 Access to civil registration and documentation

Article 10 of Decree 98-382/PRN/MI/AT provides refugees with the right to documentation, notably in the form of a refugee identity card and a travel document (*titre de voyage*).

The individual refugee ID card allows beneficiaries to enjoy freedom of movement and to access various facilities and services such as school enrolment, access to health services, subscriptions to mobile phone SIM cards, bank accounts, financial transactions, etc. These refugee ID cards are produced by UNHCR but formally issued to refugees by the Government, which registers the issuance in its own database.

Refugee households are also issued with a refugee attestation, which lists all members of a refugee household and includes their photographs and biographical data. These are issued jointly by the Government and UNHCR. There is no difference between a refugee attestation and a refugee ID card in terms of access to services.

Asylum-seekers are issued by the Government with an attestation confirming their legal status and bearing a governmental stamp, as well as a proof of registration document that lists each family member individually with a photograph and personal data. While both of these documents are issued by the Government, only the attestation can be used to access basic services.

Documentation issued for vital events in Niger is governed by [Law 2019-29](#) of 1 July 2019 on civil status in Niger and Law 2007-30 of 3 December establishing the civil registry. The civil registration process is overseen by the Ministry of Interior, Public Security, Decentralization, Migration and Religious and Customary Affairs and the Directorate General of Civil Status and Refugees (DGEC-MR). It is, however, a decentralized process with primary, secondary and declaration centres based on the size of the population in the area concerned (Article 11 of [Law 2019-29](#)). Secondary centres are most common in tribal and rural areas. Refugees and asylum-seekers in Niger are governed by these laws as regards vital events affecting them and have equal access to the civil registration centres on a par with nationals.

Article 30 of [Law 2019-29](#) creates a legal obligation for adults to register births, deaths and marriages. There is no fee for such registrations. In the government-established civil registration centres and in the secondary centres of groups of villages or tribes, any declaration must be made within 60 days of the event (Article 37 of [Law 2019-29](#)). Births and deaths occurring in health facilities must be declared immediately or at the latest within 10 days (Article 42 of Law 2007-30). However, the timely issuance of birth certificates in rural areas and to a lesser extent in urban settings is hampered, inter alia, by home births, delayed declarations and tardiness in transcribing the records into the civil registers. A 2015 research study revealed that up to 82 per cent of the entire population in the Diffa region, including the majority of displaced persons, were undocumented.

The level of civil registration in Niger remains very low, both for nationals and for refugees. In order to tackle this issue, the Government conducted a countrywide registration campaign in 2017–2018 with the aim of collecting biometric data and issuing refugee ID cards to all refugees hosted in Niger. Beyond the prevention of statelessness, this exercise was critical to inform effective assistance programmes for refugees.

2.5 Justice and Security

The level of the security threat in certain regions is high and affects refugees and nationals equally. Non-state armed groups perpetrate direct attacks on refugees, as exemplified by the attack on the *Zones d'Accueil des Réfugiés (ZARs)* in Intikane on 30 May 2020, causing deaths, destruction and population movements including forced returns. Forced secondary displacements as a result of such attacks are expected to continue. In some instances, armed groups have launched attacks on the local populations in

refugee-hosting areas, and attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups in north-eastern Nigeria also at times spill over into neighbouring areas in Niger. This widespread insecurity affects the ability of the Government's administration and humanitarian actors to operate in certain zones, particularly in border areas.

The Government has put in place preventive and security measures to ensure the civilian nature of refugee camps. These have included screening mechanisms for new arrivals implemented by the Director-General of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees (DRECMR) of the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization and law enforcement authorities, as well as relocating refugee camps to safer areas when required.

Refugees and asylum-seekers have the right to access law enforcement and judicial process under the same conditions as Nigerien nationals and other non-nationals. As such, they have access to the two existing systems: the formal court system and the customary courts and traditional mediation mechanisms. However, in practice, access to the formal judicial system is constrained by the lack of financial means as well as the limited geographical coverage in remote areas. Filing a complaint requires a tax stamp that most refugees and indigent nationals cannot afford.

Article 15 of [Law 2011-42](#) of 14 December 2011 on legal and judiciary aid establishes free legal aid for any indigent persons and Article 18 establishes free legal assistance for certain categories of people, such as persons with disabilities and certain minors. Refugees and asylum-seekers are not among these categories. The National Association of Legal and Judicial Assistance (ANAJJ), created under [Law 2011-42](#), provides legal aid to refugees with the support of local and international non-governmental organizations.

Customary courts and traditional mediation resolutions are available to refugees, but they do not provide the same level of legal protections as the formal court system. While traditional chiefs may act as mediators and counsellors to arbitrate matters of customary law including marriage, inheritance, land and community disputes, they do not have competence in either civil or criminal issues and have no policing or judicial powers. Refugees often resort to using the local customary courts and chiefs as they often share the same culture and customs as the local nationals, especially in the Diffa and Maradi regions. These systems are also more accessible and less costly.

Niger has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Article 8.2 of the Constitution provides for the equality of all before the law without any distinction of sex, social origin, race, ethnicity or religion and Article 22 provides that the State shall take all measures to fight violence against women and children in public and private life. As per the Nigerien Penal Code, rape is punishable by 10 to 30 years in prison, depending on the circumstances and the age of the victim. In 2008, Niger issued a National Gender Policy that was revised in August 2017.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is an issue of great concern to the Government of Niger, which is committed to fighting against it. [The National Strategy for Prevention and Response to SGBV \(2017–2021\)](#), which includes refugees, is implemented through various Ministries (Health, Justice, Interior, Defence, Education, Youth and Sports, etc.) and civil society organizations under the leadership of the Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women and Child Protection. The latter leads the SGBV working group, which regularly initiates awareness campaigns targeting at-risk populations including refugees. The multisectoral and multi-partner approach developed by the Government puts the emphasis on preventive activities targeting groups at heightened risk of SGBV: engaging with men and boys, supporting safer environments and mitigating the risk factors associated with survival sex.

The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread among female refugees and asylum-seekers due to a lack of male or community support. Identification of persons at risk has improved thanks to various sensitization and awareness-raising campaigns by the Government, UNHCR and partners, but the reporting of incidents remains low.

In areas where Government services are available to the population, female refugees have access to and routinely avail themselves of local services without discrimination. In areas in which Government services

are not available, survivors of gender-based violence have access to services through UNHCR and its partners. As regards justice in such cases, refugees have access via CNE, to which referrals are made by UNHCR partners in charge of GBV case management with the consent of the survivor.

3 Economic Opportunities

3.1 Freedom of movement

As per Article 10 of the Refugee Law, documented asylum-seekers and refugees are free to move within Nigerien territory and choose their place of residence under the same conditions as Nigerien nationals and other non-nationals. Detention is not used for migration-related offences. The out-of-camp policy promoted by the Government of Niger means that there are no refugee camps in the country except for the one in Sayam Forage. The people in that camp live there for security reasons following several attacks; however, they are free to move out of the camp and settle elsewhere.

3.2 Right to work and rights at work

Article 9 of the Refugee Law provides that refugees have the same right to exercise salaried or unsalaried professional activity as nationals of the country that has concluded the most favourable conventions with Niger. In practice, refugees originating from ECOWAS countries have the same rights as Nigerien nationals regarding access to the labour market and to financial and business development services. Refugees coming from non-ECOWAS countries are considered to be foreigners and their access to work is regulated by any agreements that Niger might have concluded with those countries. However, a 2018 ILO-UNHCR market systems analysis revealed that in practice, few refugees are aware of their rights and that host community employers tend to ignore the regulations and preferentially hire nationals. Asylum-seekers do not formally have the right to work, but are in practice able to work in the informal sector as it is largely unregulated.

Article 9 also ensures that working refugees enjoy the same salary and protection as nationals for a given job (ECOWAS refugees) or as foreigners (non-ECOWAS refugees). Refugees are not allowed to work in the public sector, which is reserved for Nigerien nationals.

There is no need for refugees to obtain a work permit prior to employment. Work contracts are validated by the National Agency for Employment in Niger (ANPE), a structure under the Ministry of Employment. Refugees have access to the employment card issued by ANPE in the same way as Nigeriens.

Agriculture and artisanal trade dominate the labour market in the country and most workers, including nationals, are in vulnerable jobs in the informal sector.

Child labour is of major concern for all populations in Niger and food insecurity pushes many children into working at an early age. The Government of Niger has adopted a decree that increases the minimum age for hazardous work to 18 and has expanded the number of dangerous occupations that are prohibited for all children. The current 2017–2021 Plan for Social and Economic Development includes activities to improve access to education for vulnerable populations, especially migrant children, and to combat child street work. This Plan includes refugee children. However, children in Niger continue to be engaged in dangerous forms of child labour, including in the mining and agriculture sectors. Gaps in enforcement of existing labour laws and regulations have left children unprotected from the worst forms of child labour.

Statistics for refugees working in the private and informal sectors in Niger are difficult to find. UNHCR estimates that 52 per cent of refugees living in urban setting are informally employed, while in rural areas, 76 per cent of refugees work in the agricultural sector and 18 per cent are employed in other sectors. Only 10 per cent of refugees in urban settings are employed in the formal sector.

Refugees can create and register businesses in their own name. There is no directly applicable law granting them this right, but the non-discrimination clause of Law 97-016 indirectly applies. In practice, refugees can register their business in their own name through the Maison d'Entreprise in the same manner as nationals. Refugees with recognized diplomas can practise a liberal profession.

3.3 Land, housing and property rights

No laws restrict land, housing and property rights for refugees. Ensuring legal access to land for housing for refugees is one of the commitments made by the Government of Niger at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.

The General Code of Local Authorities (*Code Général des Collectivités Territoriales* – CGCT) attributes competence in the area of urban planning and housing to the *Communes* (town or village). In the major sites and municipal capitals, Government authorities have been implementing urban setting settlement programmes for refugees through the *Communes* since 2015. In these settlements, ‘social parcels’ of land (between 200 m² and 400 m² to enable accommodation of livestock) are allocated to refugees as well as to vulnerable host community members. Each household benefiting from a social parcel receives a land transfer deed from the municipality offering land ownership that may be time-limited or indefinite. A total of 11 municipalities (7 in the Diffa region, 3 in the Tillabery region and 1 in the Tahoua region) benefit from this policy, and nearly 3,200 social housing units have been built by UNHCR and its partners on the social parcels in these three regions. Despite financial and technical limitations, the *Communes* discharge these functions in the development of urban settlements with the support of UNHCR and the regional urban and rural planning directorates (Directions Régionales de l’Urbanisme et du Génie Rural).

Elsewhere in the country, refugees are able to purchase land and houses in the same way as nationals. In practice, they face considerable difficulties in doing so because they generally do not have sufficient capital for such a purchase. Instead, refugees’ access to land for agricultural activities is generally negotiated by the community and the chieftdom by way of lending mechanisms. In terms of rain-fed agriculture, the challenge lies primarily in finding available land in the context of demographic pressure. Access to land for off-season agricultural activities such as market gardening is constrained by insecurity around the fertile areas and the financial resources necessary to properly develop land.

3.4 Financial and administrative services

Under Article 10 of Refugee Law 97-016, as well as in practice, refugees can access financial services. They can open bank accounts in the same way as nationals, although very few exercise this right due to poor economic conditions. A valid identification document is required to open a bank account in Niger and the refugee ID cards issued by the Government fulfil this requirement.

Most refugees have not yet had opportunities to access financial services due to lack of information. In addition, unequal societal norms and gender discrimination are additional obstacles for women seeking access to financing opportunities such as holding bank accounts and managing mobile money.

The inclusion of refugees in mobile money programmes is not formally regulated; however, with UNHCR shifting from in-kind assistance to cash transfers, mainly by mobile money, since 2013, mobile financial transactions are currently widespread among refugees. Refugees and asylum-seekers can acquire SIM cards using their identification documents.

Driver’s licences issued outside Niger can be recognized by the Ministry of Transport on a case-by-case basis. Refugees holding diplomas issued in their country of origin or in a third country can apply to have them recognized at the Equivalence Department (Service des Equivalents) of any of the universities in Niger. In addition, refugees in Niger are fully able to acquire a national driver’s licence.

There are no Government policies in place to provide refugees in Niger with skills development services. However, there are numerous initiatives of this nature in Niamey and across the country run by civil society organizations, development actors and humanitarian organizations, as the key to economic and social inclusion. Refugees have access to these initiatives like the host population. Various specialized services for refugees such as accelerated education, language training, remedial learning programmes, catch-up programmes, psychosocial support, and specialized education are available through humanitarian and development projects, but are not directly run by the Government and are not based on specific policies.

4 Access to National Public Services

4.1 Education

Article 10 of the Refugee Law enables refugee children and youth to access education in a similar manner to nationals. In practice, asylum-seekers and refugees have free access to primary education in state schools. It should be noted that, although Niger committed in 2016 to providing free and compulsory education for all children aged 4 to 18 in formal, non-formal and vocational systems, compulsory education for children in this age group is not enforced. This applies equally to refugee children. In 2017, the United Nations Education Index placed Niger last among 189 countries in terms of the actual years of school attendance by the population compared to the average expected years of school attendance. According to United Nations statistics for 2018 relating to boys and girls living in Niger, which includes refugee children, the average Nigerien boy only spends 2.6 years in school and the average girl 1.5 years.

The Government has been integrating refugee children into national education programmes since March 2012. In the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions, Malian refugee children are fully integrated into the Nigerien curriculum and the Ministry of Education works to ensure the availability of teachers in the hosting schools. This strategy focuses on upgrading semi-permanent school infrastructure and building new classrooms, housing for teachers and latrines. Efforts are underway to further integrate refugee children into the national education system, with an emphasis on access, quality education and girls' attendance.

Enrolment rates among refugee children overall are low (30 per cent) compared to nationals (69 per cent), mainly due to the volatile security situation in their areas of residence, high mobility, language barriers (specifically in the case of Nigerian and Sudanese refugee children), and social and cultural norms that do not value formal education. This is especially true for girls, nationals and refugees alike, whose access to education is severely challenged by such norms and practices including early marriage and the social role assigned to girls from an early age. The enrolment rates for refugee children range from 17 to 25 per cent in rural areas, while in Niamey 56 per cent of refugee children are enrolled.

Overall, access to quality education by refugees in Niger is also hampered by insufficient classrooms and latrines, a lack of teachers and education materials, gaps in teacher training to meet the specific educational needs of refugees and limited availability of alternative education programmes for overaged or out-of-school children. Along the Malian border, many schools have been closed for lengthy periods of time because of the insecurity and others are at times occupied by national security forces involved in counter-terrorism operations. Many refugee and host community children are therefore deprived of education.

However, schools are being built and rehabilitated in refugee-hosting areas as part of the Refugees and Host Communities Support Project (PARCA) supported by the World Bank. The Niger Learning Improvement for Results in Education Project (LIRE), also supported by the World Bank, focuses on strengthening education planning and management as well as improving the quality of teaching and learning conditions in selected regions, supporting the special educational needs of refugees and host communities.

At national level, specialized services (such as accessible learning services, accelerated education, language training, remedial learning programmes, catch-up programmes, psychosocial support, specialized education, etc.) are limited, but refugee children and youth have the same access to them as nationals according to the Refugee Law, the National Literacy and Non-formal Education (AENF) Policy for 2012–2015 and Articles 36, 37, 38 and 42 of Law No 98-12 of 1 June 1998 on the orientation of the Nigerien education system (LOSEN).

4.2 Healthcare

As per the Refugee Law, refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy access to primary health care in the same way as Nigerien nationals. Primary health care is subsidized by the Government. Access to health services is based on the system of cost recovery for services provided and specific targeted free health services. The aim of free health care is to ensure equity in access to care. In this context, the Nigerien government

has implemented measures to provide free health care focused on children aged 0 to 5 years, pregnant women, caesarean sections, gynaecological services and family planning.

Overall, health care in Niger suffers from a chronic lack of resources, medicine and supplies and from an insufficient number of health providers for the population: reportedly, close to half of the Nigerien population do not have access to health care. It can also be expensive and in many instances unaffordable. UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations as well as development actors provided support to improve access to health care for refugees, IDPs and host communities in regions where the inflow of forcibly displaced persons put additional pressure on already poor infrastructure, including through the construction and rehabilitation of health centres.

By virtue of an agreement between UNHCR and the Ministry of Health on health assistance funded by UNHCR and its partners, refugees and host populations will continue to access health services free of charge until 31 December 2022. This implies that, at all levels of the public health structures, refugees will continue to have access to services within the framework of medical referrals under the same conditions as nationals, on the basis of the cost recovery system for children over 5 years of age and for adults in accordance with the national health policy. In Niamey, the UNHCR-led *Guichet Unique* (one-stop shop) provides free primary health-care services for urban refugees through a partnership with *Action Pour le Bien Etre*, a Nigerien NGO, as well as reimbursements for services that refugees have sought at public hospitals. Similar partnerships exist in other urban centres to alleviate the burden on the national public health system. With the gradual social and economic empowerment of refugees and the ongoing strengthening of the capacity and resilience of the Nigerien health system, it is expected that the refugees will cover their own medical expenditure from January 2023 onwards. In refugee settings and villages of opportunity, primary health care is provided to refugees at first-level health facilities managed by humanitarian organizations.

Refugee women and girls have access to sexual and reproductive health services in the same manner as Nigeriens. The free sexual and reproductive health services available to Nigerien women are equally accessible to refugee women, however the actual costs of these services are sponsored through financial support provided to the service delivery entity by UNHCR and its partners. Despite the steady decline in maternal and infant mortality in Niger, the mortality rates remain an issue of concern due to the inaccessibility of health facilities in rural areas and the prevalence of malnutrition in all regions of the country. As part of the process of integrating health services for refugees into the national health system, the Government aims to improve access to maternal and child care, reproductive and HIV health services, as a priority, through a national strategy that includes refugees.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, the Government has reinforced a communication campaign on the risks of the pandemic and prevention measures, notably through the use of community-based radios. The Government has developed a comprehensive preparedness and response plan that takes into account areas hosting refugees and fully integrates refugees and host communities.

With respect to national public health insurance systems, refugees can benefit from the same services of nationals.

4.3 Social protection

The Niger National Social Protection Policy, which also applies to refugees, was adopted in 2011 and a national social protection forum was held in 2013 to operationalize the policy and promote its ownership by key domestic stakeholders as well as development partners. Refugees in principle have access to social protection systems under this policy on the same basis as nationals under Law 97-016. The Ministry of Employment, Work and Social Protection is responsible for the social protection sector and implementation of the policy. The policy's strategic vision is to move from one-off emergency aid to a permanent system of social safety nets that build resilience and contribute to poverty reduction in the long term. However, social protection has been limited in the face of rising security threats, climate variability, forced displacement and the prevailing poverty traps that have absorbed major parts of the national budget.

The Nigerien social security scheme for salaried workers consists of three components: family benefits (in charge of maternity benefits), workplace accidents and occupational diseases, and pensions (invalidity, old age and death). Self-employed workers are not covered by the social security scheme but can voluntarily join the pension protection and workplace accident components. The National Social Security Fund (CNSS) manages the scheme under the supervision of the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security.

In addition, the social safety nets are used as short-term instruments to help the poor cope with economic shocks as well as medium/long-term poverty alleviation. Over time, the safety net programmes have strengthened and multi-year cash transfer programmes have also been developed and supported by partners such as the World Bank, including through complementary projects. The Adaptive Social Safety Nets Project supported by the World Bank complements the interventions of PARCA in the Diffa, Tahoua and Tillaberi regions, with 60,000 persons having access to income-generating opportunities. In parallel, UNHCR provides specific cash assistance on a case-by-case basis to the most vulnerable refugees, such as those with chronic illnesses or disabilities and older persons who are not supported by family members. Overall, the Government of Niger is working with international partners to align aid and social protection policies in a variety of ways, given that the Nigerien safety programmes are not coordinated as part of a coherent system. Most programmes carry out similar processes to reach out, collect information and assess potential eligible beneficiaries and then to decide on their enrolment in a specific programme. Parallel efforts to assess eligibility through different target mechanisms consume scarce public resources and contribute to duplication and gaps in coverage, reducing the effectiveness of social protection spending. The DNP-GCA has been leading a consultation process for the development of a Unified Social Registry (USR) for the Safety Nets programme. Efforts to integrate platforms, such as social registries, interoperable management information systems, and shared payment systems can create administrative cost savings and facilitate planning and coordination. The March 2019 World Bank Public Expenditure Review of the Social Protection System in Niger pointed out that information on social protection programmes, expenditures and coverage, even for recent years, is a major constraint for the development of suitable policies. An information system that could gather and update all relevant information should be part of the long-term vision in Niger.

4.4 Protection for vulnerable groups

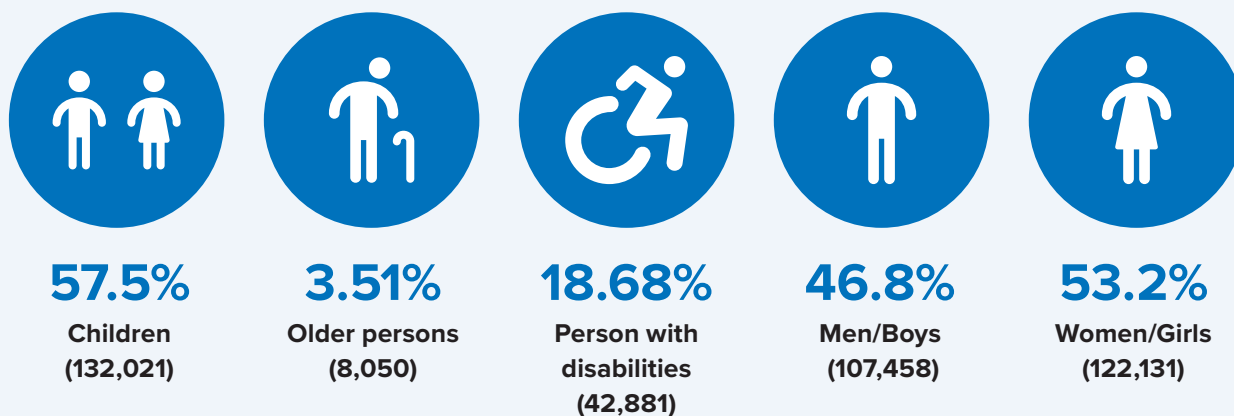
Article 10 of the Refugee Law provides access to public services, including health and psychosocial care, for unaccompanied and separated refugee children, refugee victims of trafficking in persons, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other refugee groups with specific needs, in the same way as nationals. In practice, this is feasible to the extent that these specialized services exist in the locations where the refugees reside and are able to offer meaningful support. Children under 5 years old are exempt from payment for public services. Refugee women and girl survivors of SGBV can access the national referral and related services. In practice, they are often assisted by UNHCR and its partners through public structures where these are available.

Niger passed [Law 36](#) relating to the illicit trafficking of migrants in May 2015. It applies to anyone including refugees and asylum-seekers and provides for protection and assistance measures for these victims, including medical care, protection against violence, adequate assistance in case the safety of the migrant is at stake and the right to initiate legal action. In practice, there is no specific referral mechanism to take care of victims of trafficking that would provide for a coordinated response among the different services. The law also criminalizes illegal emigration, for example through the use of fraudulent documents in contravention of international refugee law.

In terms of protection and assistance measures for vulnerable children, the normative framework includes: Order No 34/MDS/P/PF of 5 November 1993 creating a reception centre for children with family difficulties: abandoned children; Law 2014–72 of 20 November 2014 determining the competences, attributions, and functioning of juvenile courts in Niger; Order No 000027/MPF/PE/SG/DL of 11 May 2017 on the creation, attributions, organization and operation of social centres for the protection of children; and Decree 2019–369 of 19 July 2019 on the creation, attributions, organization, composition and functioning of child protection committees from national to village level. However, it is important to point out that despite the existence of this framework, there are shortcomings in implementation given the insufficiency of resources in the reception centres.

5 Cross Sectors

Characteristics of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in total refugee population*
as at 30 June 2020



5.1 Gender

In Niger, all stakeholders are making efforts to support and expand women's socioeconomic participation in both refugee and host communities. The most consequential policy sub-dimensions in terms of gender for the socioeconomic development of refugees and host communities are as follows:

- i. **Access to education** – low enrolment rate into the school system of refugee girls.
- ii. **Right to work and rights at work** – specific difficulties of women in accessing employment.
- iii. **Financial and administrative services.** Obstacles/limitations for women seeking access to financing opportunities (microfinance and other financial services).

5.2 Social inclusion

The most consequential policy sub-dimensions in terms of social inclusion for the socioeconomic development of refugees and host communities are as follows:

- i. **Education** – lower rate of literacy and enrolment of refugee children.
- ii. **Health** – cost recovery scheme applied to refugee children over 5 years old and other services.
- iii. **Protection of vulnerable persons**, including on facilitating access to reception centres for unaccompanied and separated children.

* The refugee numbers reported here do not fully match the numbers on the front page because demographic characteristics are not available for all refugees (e.g., pre-registered refugees, etc.).

Annex on Key International and Regional Instruments ratified or adhered to

- [Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 \(Protocol I\)](#)
- [Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 \(Protocol II\)](#)
- [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981](#)
- [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990](#)
- [African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa \(Kampala Convention\), 2009](#)
- [African Youth Charter, 2006](#)
- [Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984](#)
- [Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, 1962](#)
- [Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa \(the OAU Convention\), 1969](#)
- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979¹](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2007](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989](#)
- [Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 \(Ratification date: 25 Aug 1961\)](#)
- [Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954](#)
- [Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons of 1949](#)
- [ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No 105\)](#)
- [ILO Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No 111\)](#)
- [ILO Employment Policy Convention, 1964 \(No 122\)](#)
- [ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No 100\)](#)
- [ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No 29\)](#)
- [ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 \(No 87\)](#)
- [ILO Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 \(No 81\)](#)
- [ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No 138\)](#)
- [ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 \(No 98\)](#)
- [ILO Social Security \(Minimum Standards\) Convention \(the ILO Social Security Convention\), 1952²](#)
- [ILO Tripartite Consultation \(International Labour Standards\) Convention, 1976 \(No 144\), 1976](#)
- [ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No 182\)](#)
- [International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 2006](#)
- [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965](#)
- [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990](#)
- [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\), 1966](#)
- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966](#)
- [Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime \(2000\)](#)
- [Protocol relating to the status of refugees, 1967](#)
- [UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education, 1960](#)

Reservations/declarations:

1 Article 2(d) and (f) (State Party's duties to eliminate formal discrimination against women); Article 5(a) (State Party's duties to eliminate cultural and social discrimination); Article 15(4) (equality in movement); Article 16(1)(c), (e) and (g) (discrimination in marriage); and Article 29(1) (dispute resolution among States Parties).

2 Part I (general provisions); Part II (medical care); Part III (sickness benefits); Part IV (unemployment benefits); VIII (maternity benefits), IX (invalidity benefits); Part X (survivor's benefits); Part XI (standards to be complied with by periodical payments); Part XII (equality of treatment of non-national residents); Part XIII (common provisions); Part XIV (miscellaneous provisions); Part XV (final provisions).