

# Niger

June 2022

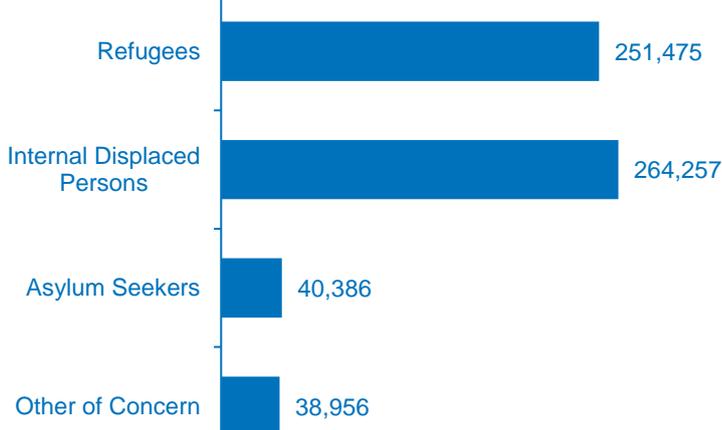
Since the beginning of this year, Niger has received **14,554 Nigerians** who crossed the border to seek refuge in the Maradi region. In addition, **7,940 Malians and 4,102 Burkinabés** arrived in Tillabéri region due to conflict in the central Sahel region. A total of **13,726 Malians** and **9,553 Nigerians** also arrived in Tahoua region.

As of June 2022, **396 social houses were under construction and 1,566 out of the 2,340 planned had been built and completed** in the Tillabéri region. Since the beginning of the project funded by GIZ/BMZ, **6,492 persons** have been employed in the production of bricks and **4,041 persons** in the construction of houses.

On 21 June, the **biometric verification exercise** began in Diffa, starting with the *Sayam Forage* camp, aiming to conduct biometric and physical verification of refugees and asylum seekers by updating the data (addresses, fingerprints, iris, and photos).

## POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 30 JUNE

**251.475** refugees, **40.386** asylum seekers, **264.257** internally displaced persons, **38.956** other persons of concern. The total number of persons of concern to UNHCR is **595.074**.

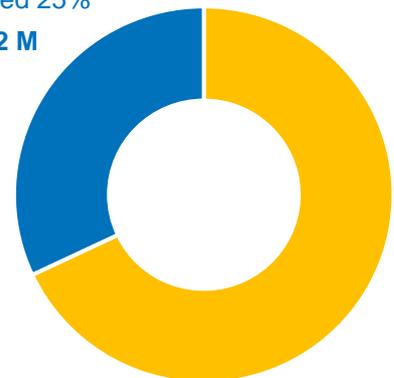


## FUNDING AS OF 5 JULY 2022

**USD 130,7 M**

Requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022

Funded 25%  
**41.2 M**



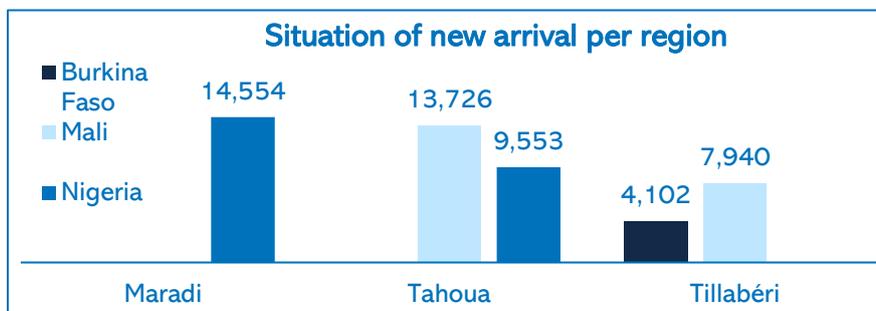
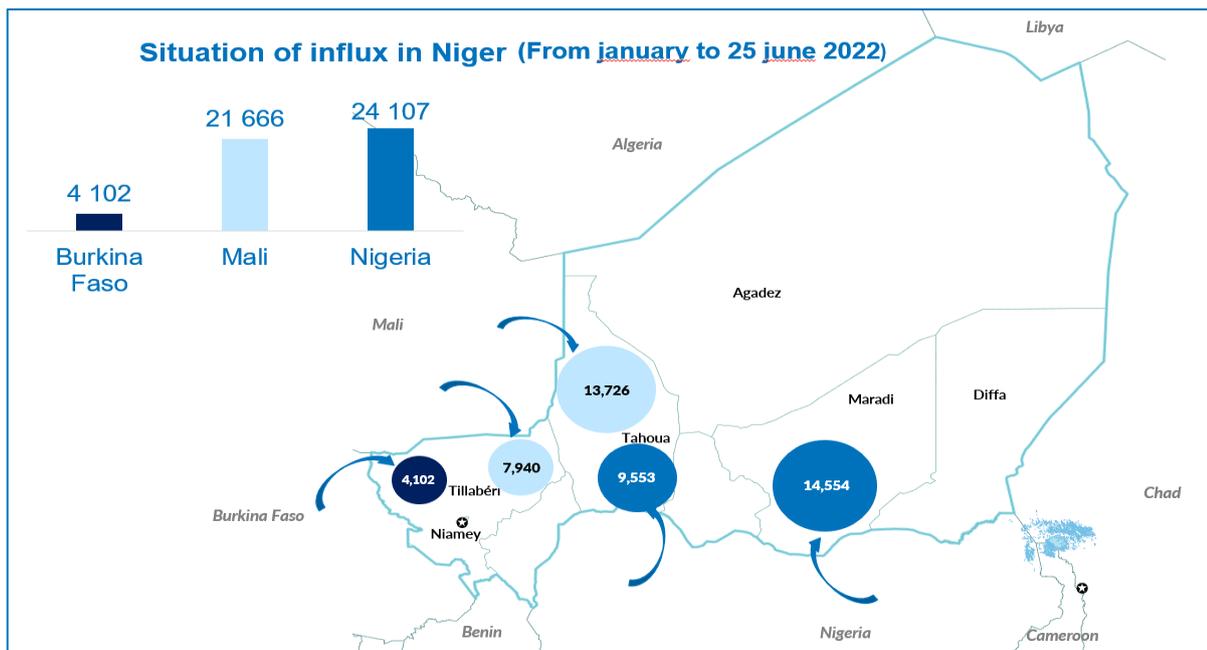
Gap 75%  
**89.5 M**



Screening for malnutrition at the Type II health centre built by UNHCR in the "village of opportunity" of Dan Dadji Makaou in the Maradi region. © UNHCR / Gloria Ramazani

## Operational context & New Arrivals

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting **291,629 refugees and asylum seekers**, with 69% coming from Nigeria, 21 % from Mali, 5 % from Burkina Faso, and 5% from other countries. Furthermore, there are more than **300,000 Internally Displaced People (IDP)** and Nigerien returnees (who have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger).



## Niger-wide priorities & events

UNHCR's work in Niger focuses on the **protection, assistance, and solutions** for persons of concern, with particular attention to women, children and persons with specific needs guided by a **community-based approach**. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

In June, UNHCR Niger has organized training workshops on **Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in all field offices**. A total of **330 UNHCR and UN sister agencies staff, national and international NGO staff, and state agents were trained** were trained on policy, standards, prevention mechanisms, and appropriate responses.

As of 30 June 2022, **4,522 persons have been resettled from Niger to third countries**; these include 3,341 evacuees from Libya (through the ETM programme) and 1,266 refugees registered in Niger. Among the **3,710 persons evacuated from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, **394 evacuees** are still in Niamey including 121 refugees pending departures and 137 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

On 16 June, UNHCR teams, partners, authorities, and community members in Niger celebrated the **International Day of the African Child** under the theme **'Elimination of harmful practices affecting children'**. Several cultural and advocacy activities were organized to stress the fundamentals of child protection.



*Children in Ouallam at an awarding ceremony. © UNHCR*



*Refugee girls singing beautifully on 20 June at the Palais des Congrès in Niamey. © UNHCR / Moustapha Djibrilla*

On 20 June, UNHCR Niger celebrated the **World Refugee Day** through its field offices, including in the capital Niamey. Interactions as well as cultural and sports activities were organized with refugees.

This year, the day was jointly celebrated with the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the DAFI scholarship, the Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative fund for refugees.

## Background and key achievements

### The Central Sahel Situation (Tillabéri & Tahoua regions)

#### Tillabéri region

UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy to further integrate Malian refugees (62,904 as of June 2022) into the country and to find alternatives to camps in the region**. With the support of development actors, Malian refugees and host communities have access to land, housing, and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructures are being reinforced. To further strengthen peaceful co-existence between the different populations, UNHCR aims to bring the populations together through 'common areas', such as village stores, cattle feeding areas, as well as through various mixed community committees.

In June, UNHCR partners received 3,926 people for medical consultations, including 1,524 forcibly displaced persons and 2,402 members of the host community. In addition, 560 were referred to district hospitals of Abala, Ayorou, and Ouallam. Furthermore, UNHCR renewed 103 damaged or torn identity documents for refugees living in Tillabéri. Also, a total of 8,270 m<sup>2</sup> of water was provided to refugees living in the urban sites of Abala and Ouallam, with a ratio of 15 litres/person/day.

Furthermore, UNHCR conducted a joint mission with the Tillabéri Regional Directorate of Civil Status, Migration, and Refugees (DERC/MR) to conduct a **rapid protection assessment in Ballayara**, where a population movement was reported. Approximately 795 households of 3,772 individuals, including people from Banibangou in Niger and from the Aderanboukane circle of Mali, reportedly fled in this locality. The most immediate identified needs include shelter, non-food items, and food.

Some 4,993,397 bricks have been produced under the urbanization and shelter project. Since the beginning of the project, **6,492 persons**, including refugees (1,178 women and 2,529 men) have been employed in brick factory and **4,041** in house construction. In addition, **777 houses were handed over to beneficiaries in Abala and 356 in Ouallam**. Finally, 165 latrines are being built in Abala and 152 latrines in Ouallam.

## Tahoua region

**The Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered and validated 7,966 IDP households, or 52,594 individuals** in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. In regard to refugees, since the beginning of this year, a total of **13,726 Malians and 9,553 Nigerians** have arrived in Tahoua region on top of the **3,899 households of 20,628 persons** that were living in the former refugee hosting area (ZAR) of Intikane.

From 15 to 16 June, UNHCR organized a **training session on the roles and responsibilities of the state in protection interventions and durable solutions**. This training brought together local authorities, civil society members as well as locally elected officials and agents of the defence and security forces. At the end of the training, it was recommended that statistics on refugees and asylum seekers should be maintained until the end of the verification exercise. It was also recommended that collaboration between actors should be strengthened to better maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.

From 17 to 18 June, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice conducted a training session on **international protection and on the prevention of statelessness** for local actors in Tahoua region. A total of **35 participants** from the civil status systems of Tahoua, Illela, Konni, Madaoua, Bouza and Keita, members of the civil society and community leaders, as well as border police officers were trained. International and regional instruments on statelessness were discussed. The concepts and definitions of climate change were also discussed, including the effects of climate change on population movements and subsequently, on the risk of statelessness.



*Training of authorities and civil society members on protection and on the prevention of statelessness in Tahoua.*

## The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

### Diffa region

**235,211 forcibly displaced persons live** in the Diffa region (including **129,835 refugees, 67,817 IDP, 35,445 returnees, and 2,114 asylum seekers**). Many of them had been displaced more than once. Most stay in spontaneous sites or with host communities. The refugee population continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp from Nigeria, but also in other hosting sites in the Diffa region, seeking better humanitarian assistance and protection. **32,587 persons** live in the Sayam Forage camp.

UNHCR has provided access to clean water for refugees through three pumping stations built at the Sayam Forage camp, water trucking, and water racks, with an average consumption of 12 liters/person/day. In addition, UNHCR has installed two new 5,000-liter bladders to increase access to water and cover the critical need for drinkable water.

**In June, UNHCR and APBE identified and documented 49 cases of gender-based violence** in Diffa region. These cases affected 33 refugees, 7 Nigerien returnees, and 9 internally displaced persons. They include 24 cases of denial of resources/opportunities, 21 cases of psychological violence, and 4 cases of physical assault. All survivors received psychosocial support and were informed about available services. In addition, UNHCR trained 19 members of the community protection committees in Nguigmi on their roles and responsibilities as well as case on identification and reporting mechanisms.



The **biometric verification exercise** began in the Diffa region on 21 June 2022, starting with the *Sayam Forage* camp, aiming to conduct biometric and physical verification of refugees by updating the data (addresses, fingerprints, iris, photos, and vulnerabilities). In addition, asylum seekers and returnees will also be verified. The exercise also aims to update the database for more targeted services, the provision of protection, and lastly, to issue certificates and refugee identity cards to all persons

aged 14 and over. Thus, since the onset of the verification exercise, 1,658 persons have been verified so far, of which 311 were new households of 1,333 individuals.

Furthermore, more than **2,864 refugees** benefitted from medical consultations at the Sayam Forage camp health facility and 26 of them were referred to regional health facilities. A total of 191 women were received for ante-natal consultations while 56 births were assisted in the same health facility.

As part of the prevention activities of statelessness, UNHCR and its partners identified **1,672 children and 910 adults** at risk of statelessness in need of civil documentation. A total of **1,435 applications for backdated birth certificates** were submitted to the courts in Diffa and Maine Soroa. A total of 45 birth

declarations were registered at the Sayam Forage Camp and submitted to the Chetimari town hall for the establishment of birth certificates.

## Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,986 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerien territory have triggered internal displacement of around 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border mainly targeting farmers and breeders and operate kidnapping with the objective of ransom.

The overall strategic direction of **UNHCR's response in Maradi is to relocate refugee communities away from the border to ensure their safety,**

while at the same time, easing the pressure from the host communities. Subsequently, sites have been built in nearby rural villages and services were reinforced for both refugee and the host communities, such as access to water, health services, education, and protection assistance. Consequently, UNHCR has **relocated 3,972 households of 17,713 individuals** far away from their first entry points to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. Thus, UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three **"villages of opportunity"**. These include 1,809 households of 7,919 refugees in Chadakori; 1,185 households of 5,434 in Dan Dadji Makaou and 978 households of 4,360 in Garin Kaka. However, recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice.



*The president of the refugee committee in the opportunity village of Dan Dadji in Maradi registering people who have received the cholera vaccine. © UNHCR/ Gloria Ramazani*

## Agadez

Niger has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria to Niger. **These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection.** UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that the latter have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum.

Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in **the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system** and implements **all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region.** Moreover, UNHCR assists its persons of concern and aims to find durable solutions, such as **resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return** to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

With the support of IOM, NGO partners and the Government of Niger, UNHCR identifies asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide them with adequate information and tailored assistance. As of 1 July

2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered **2,613 individuals** in need of international protection. The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **five guesthouses in Agadez** where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are hosted in the **Humanitarian Centre** built in the outskirts of the city.

In June, UNHCR, through the medical team of its partner APBE, conducted 595 medical consultations in Agadez. 71% of those consulted were refugees, of which 19 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health centre in Agadez. Other nine very serious medical cases were evacuated to these health facilities. **APBE also provided reproductive health services and malnutrition management services for children.**

During the registration and protection monitoring activities, UNHCR identified 765 persons living with specific needs (PBS). Among them, 188 benefited from specific nutritional support, while GBV cases and chronically ill people benefited from a special follow-up.

Finally, 13 awareness sessions were conducted by APBE in Agadez and reached 66 persons. They focused on peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, and protection. UNHCR and COOPI organized 296 sessions of **recreational and cultural activities** (music, dance, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.). These activities reached 782 persons. In addition, INTERSOS reached 202 children including 109 boys and 93 girls through **37 psychosocial supports.**



## Hamdallaye & Urban refugees

In June, UNHCR's health care implementation partner APBE **received 572 individuals for consultations in Hamdallaye and in the guest houses in Niamey.** 324 medical prescriptions, 33 examination forms and 22 consultation forms were issued. Of these cases, 13 were treated in the guest houses.

As of 30 June 2022, Niamey hosts a total of **4,522 urban refugees and 774 asylum-seekers.** 89% (4,010) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerien law, Malians who are victims of the armed conflict in northern Mali are **recognized on a prima facie basis** while other nationalities undergo the regular governmental procedure of refugee status determination (RSD).

On 14 June, Bioforce, UNHCR and the government of Monaco launched an innovative project in Niamey to train refugees and IDP in humanitarian and development work in West Africa. The three partners believe that it is crucial to enable refugees and IDP, through adequate training, to play a much more central role in the preparation and implementation of programs intended for them so that their voices can be heard. This pilot project will enable some **160 refugees and IDP in the region to be trained in various humanitarian professions hoping that they will then be recruited in this sector.**

**A total of 335 complaints were received in June through the Niamey one-stop shop's hot line,** including 325 complaints from Niamey, six from Agadez, one from Ayorou, and four from Hamdallaye. The complainants were from 212 women and 123 men. Most of the complaints are related to the renewal of expired refugee certificates, appointments for the reimbursement of prescriptions and medical procedures,

requesting information on the asylum application procedure, following up on requests for food aid and accommodation.

The urban setting of Niamey prompted UNHCR to bring together the partners involved in the implementation of interventions aimed at the protection and assistance of urban refugees and asylum seekers in one physical structure, called the **Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop)**. The latter has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as better coordination of the interventions of the different partners. At the same time, UNHCR and partners regularly conduct home visits and monitors the well-being of beneficiaries in the five communes of Niamey.

## Partnership

**UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger**, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions, to ensure a coherent protection response in the country. The Cluster also shares information amongst all relevant partners, bridges identified gaps, and ensures the strategic direction of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions aim to move towards economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and is aligned with the **Global Compact for Refugee (GCR) and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus** and is at the core of the joint GoN and **UNHCR's out of camp vision**.

UNHCR aims at strengthening relationships with **private sector actors as they are a crucial actor for boosting economic growth** and job creation; as well as at engaging with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media.

The office also works with other government bodies, national and international implementing and operational partners. Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the National Commission for Eligibility (CNE) to ensure adequate international protection and delivery of multisectoral assistance to its persons of concern.



*Family photo taken during World Refugee Day 2022 in Niamey. © UNHCR*

### **Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2022**

African Development Bank Group | Austria | CERF | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Italy | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | Sweden | United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

### **And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2022**

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### **CONTACT:**

**UNHCR Niger on Twitter:** @UNHCRNiger

**Bettina Schulte, External Relations Officer, [schulte@unhcr.org](mailto:schulte@unhcr.org), Tel: +227 82 80 39 04**

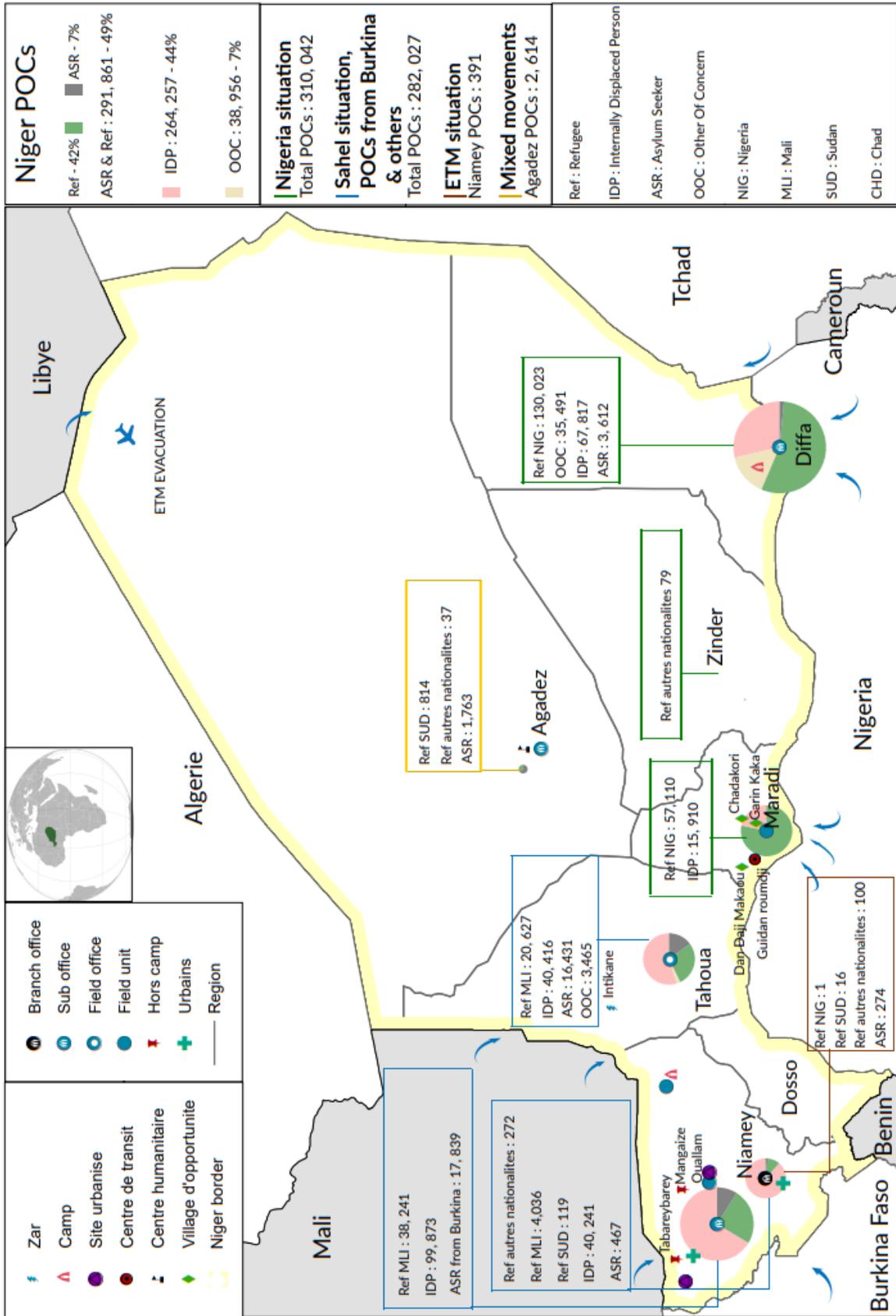
**LINK: [UNHCR NIGER OPERATION PAGE](#)**

**595,074**

Persons of concern in Niger

30 - Juin - 2022

**UNHCR | Niger** Population of concern



Source : UNHCR Niger; Contacts : dipanda@unhcr.org; cherih@unhcr.org