

Niger

October 2022

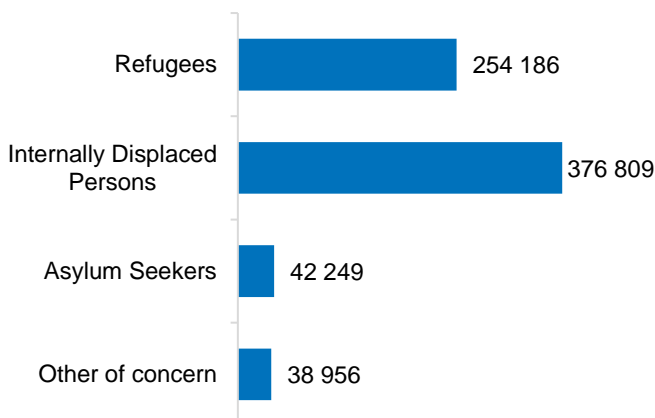
Since 2017, a total of **5,017 refugees have left Niger to third countries** through resettlement or complementary pathways. This number comprises of 3,493 persons, who have been evacuated from Libya through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)** and 1,524 refugees that have been registered in the national asylum system in Niger.

At the end of October, a total of **5,154 households (36,190 individuals)** have been affected by the rising waters of the Komadougou River in the Diffa region. UNHCR assisted a total of **2,681 people affected by the floods and provided 16,000 bags** to the authorities to reinforce dams.

Under the **social housing project in the Tillabéri region**, a total of 1,902 houses have been built to date, including 1,263 in Abala, 601 in Ouallam and 38 in Ayorou. In addition, UNHCR and its partners have granted social plots to 2,473 households.

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 OCTOBER

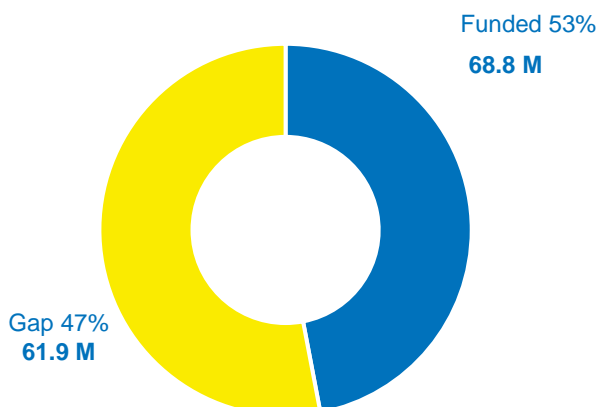
254.186 refugees, **44.249** asylum seekers, **376.809** internally displaced people, **38.957** other people of concern, such as returnees. Total number of persons of concern to UNHCR in Niger: **712.200**.



FUNDING AS OF 25 OCTOBER 2022

USD 130,7 M

Requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022



Launching ceremony of the physical verification exercise of refugees in the Maradi region in the presence of the regional authorities. UNHCR

Operational context

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting 254.186 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 350,000 IDPs and Nigerien returnees (who have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger). 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.

Tillabéri region

UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy to further integrate Malian refugees into the country and to find alternatives to camps in the Tillabéri 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.



Social houses at the urbanized site of Ouallam © HCR / Boubacar Siddo

In October, a total of **1,115 refugees** and **1,492 host community members** received medical consultations at UNHCR partner health facilities in the Tillabéri region. Of these, **381 were placed under observation** and **297 were referred** to regional health facilities.

A total of 201 women received pre-natal consultations and 200 births were assisted in the same health facilities. Lastly, UNHCR renewed 33 damaged identity documents for refugees living in the area.

Furthermore, 7,297 m³ of water was provided to refugees living in the urbanized sites of Abala and Ouallam, with a ratio of 14 liters per person per day. In addition, awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation were conducted in the urbanized site of Ouallam, reaching 116 refugees (33 men, 30 women, 25 girls and 28 boys).

Tahoua region

Since January 2022, a total of **10,608 Malians** have newly arrived in the Tahoua region due to conflict in Mali. As of 31 October, a total of **16,431 Nigerian asylum-seekers** and **3,465 Nigerien returnees** have been registered (Level 1 registration) by the *Direction régionale de d'état civil* (DREC). In addition, 14,152 asylum seekers are awaiting registration in the departments of Madaoua, Konni, and Bagaroua. The physical biometric verification (Level 2 registration) will be launched in Tahoua region in December.

The **Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered 5,787 IDP households of 49,446 individuals**, in the former Refugee Reception Zone (ZAR), located in Intikane (Tillia district).

In Tahoua, UNHCR and partners received 3,558 people for medical consultations, including 1,590 refugees, 1,356 IDPs, and 612 members of the host community. More than 6,000 people were reached by sensitization campaigns conducted by UNHCR and its partners ADKOUL and APBE on **child protection, prevention, gender-based violence, protection of people with special needs, and strengthening peaceful coexistence**.

Diffa region

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

Since June 2022, UNHCR has been supporting the government of Niger in conducting **the physical verification exercise** of all refugees and asylum seekers in Niger. As of 5 November, a total of **78,138 persons** have been verified. This represents 55% of the initial target.

In October, UNHCR identified **13 new child protection cases**, all of whom received psychosocial support. A total of 843 refugees and host community members were sensitized on child protection issues by local protection committees. These sensitization sessions included bushfire prevention, the importance of enrolling children in school, malnutrition, malaria, violence, child abuse, neglect, personal hygiene, the effects of drug use, the consequences of begging, and children's rights, among others.

As a result of the rising water levels of the Komadougou river since early October, the RN1 has been cut off between Diffa and N'Guiguimi, forcing humanitarians to make a 15-km detour, exposing them to security risks.

Flooding continued to affect host- and displaced populations living in the communes of Diffa, Chetimari, Gueskerou, Maine, Bosso, and Toumour in the Diffa region.



Distribution of non-food item kits to the residents of the village of Lada, which was completely damaged by the rising waters of the Komadougou River. ©HCR

As of the end of October, 5,154 households (36,190 people) have been affected by the floods, out of which, UNHCR assisted a total of 2,681 people with non-food items and provided 16,000 empty bags to the authorities to reinforce dams.

A total of **3,506 refugees** received medical consultations at the Sayam Forage health centre. Of these, **153 were placed under observation and 42 were referred** to regional health facilities. A total of 187 women received pre-natal consultations and 39 births were assisted at the Sayam Forage health centre.

UNHCR conducted training on the **code of conduct for 121 government-led National Eligibility Commission (CNE) staff** and contractors hired for the physical verification exercise to ensure that rights are respected during the verification exercise.

UNHCR and partners identified and documented **54 cases of gender-based violence (GBV)** in Diffa region. These included 30 cases of denial of resources, 17 cases of physical assault, four cases of psychological violence, and three cases of sexual assault. All survivors received psychosocial support and were referred to health facilities, partners, the police, and to the judicial system. A total of 584 refugees and host community members were trained and sensitised on the prevention and response of GBV, including the available services and support programmes.

As part of its activities **to prevent the risk of statelessness**, UNHCR and its partners issued 210 substitute birth certificates to 30 women, 20 men, 66 girls, and 94 boys living at the Awaridi IDP site on the outskirts of Diffa city. In addition, 625 people with birth certificate needs were identified at the Guidan Kadji, Toudoun Wada and Goudoumaria sites.



Women and children during a physical check of Nigerian refugees at Sayam Forage camp in Diffa © UNHCR/ Gloria Ramazani

A total of 1,000 non-food items (NFIs), including mats, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen kits, mosquito nets, buckets and soap were distributed to new arrivals in Sayam Forage camp. The new arrivals continue to arrive in Sayam Forage and are either from the spontaneous sites along the national road N°1 or from Nigeria, fleeing violence and searching for protection and assistance. The kits were distributed to 1,000 households (4,956 individuals). Another 300 emergency shelter kits were distributed to 300 newly registered households in Sayam Forage camp.

As part of its **livelihoods and economic inclusion support activities**, UNHCR and its partner *Contribution au Développement Rural* (CDR) have identified 60 women at the Gachagare-Garwa site, who will receive goats and kits.

A saving group called *ALBARKA* has been set up by CDR in Sayam Forage Camp. The group is composed of 20 women and 10 men and will process agri-food products, such as sesame, peanuts, cowpeas and cassava. Finally, from October 26 to 27, the group in charge of fish farming at the Sayam forage camp benefited from a training on the artificial production of claria fry at the fish farming site.



One of the fishponds managed by Nigerian refugees at Sayam forage camp in Diffa © UNHCR/ Gloria Ramazani

Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerian 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 conduct 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, the refugee - as well as the host communities, such as access to water, health services, education, and protection assistance.

In October, UNHCR and partners identified and documented **24 child protection cases, and a total of 7,328 children received psychosocial support** in child-friendly spaces in the three "villages of opportunity" and in the Tiadi, Elguidi, and Dan Kano sites in the department of Guidan Roudjji. Finally, more than 1,621 children were sensitized on child protection issues, such as early/forced marriage, school attendance, and personal hygiene.

UNHCR's health partners at the health centers in the villages of opportunities received a total of **3,120 people for medical consultations** (1,758 refugees and 1,362 members of the host community). Out of these, 1,926 suffered from malaria; and 58 cases were hospitalized, and 21 critical cases were referred to hospitals in Maradi. 93 women received prenatal consultations and 45 deliveries were assisted.

UNHCR's partners APBE (Action Pour le Bien-Être) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) identified **52 cases of sexual and gender-based violence**. Survivors received psychosocial support and were referred to appropriate services. Awareness-raising activities on sexual and gender-based violence issues and available services were conducted in the three opportunity villages.

Since the official launch of the physical verification of refugees in the Maradi region in early October, a total of 599 households (2,941 individuals) have been received and their cases processed, which is 3% of the initial target.



Nigerian woman receiving a hygiene kit at the Chadakori 'village of opportunity'. UNHCR

UNHCR's partner APBE conducted **sensitization campaigns on** attending health centers, respecting the rights of neighbors, hygiene, the use of Insecticide treated mosquito nets, cholera prevention measures, management of water points, and hygiene. These activities reached 15,339 women and 9,517 men in the "villages of opportunity" of Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka.

Agadez

Niger is a hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time witnessing people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria and Libya 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 people under its mandate and aims to find durable solutions, such as **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 30 October 2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered **2,664 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.



Thanks to a generous donation of clothing from U4U, UNHCR distributed clothes to refugees and asylum seekers in Agadez. UNHCR

UNHCR facilitates access to **primary and secondary health care** through the Toudou health center. A total of 639 refugees and 178 members of the host community were seen for medical consultations, including 41 serious cases. The latter were referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health center in Agadez. The Toudou health center also provided reproductive health services and management of child malnutrition.

Hamdallaye / ETM

As of 31 October 2022 and since the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) launched in 2017, a total of **5,017 refugees had left Niger to third countries under resettlement or through complementary ways**. This number comprises of 3,493 persons, who have been evacuated from Libya through the **ETM** and 1,524 refugees that have been registered in the national asylum system in Niger. Out of **4,063 evacuees from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, **666 evacuees** are still in Niamey of whom 42 refugees are awaiting departure and 211 are awaiting interviews and decisions by third countries.

Urban refugees in Niamey

As of 31 October, Niamey hosts a total of **4,551 refugees and 512 asylum-seekers**. 91% (4,112) 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).

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. UNHCR manages several temporary housing facilities (cases de passage) in cooperation with partners organizations to ensure adequate protection for persons with specific vulnerabilities. To ensure inclusiveness and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperate and **support the Central Refugee Committee of Niamey**, comprised of refugee leaders from the various communities.

Partnership

UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions towards IDPs, 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 aligned with the joint Government of Niger and **UNHCR 'out of camp' policy**. UNHCR aims at strengthening relationships with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, private sector, 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 *Direction Générale de l'Etat Civil et des Réfugiés* (DGEC-R) to ensure adequate international protection.

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:

Bettina Schulte, External Relations Officer, schulte@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 82 80 39 04
Jean-Sébastien Josset, Associate Communications Officer, josset@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 90 76 69 7

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PERSONNES RELEVANT DE LA COMPÉTENCE DU HCR (PoC)
 OCTOBRE 2022

712,200

TOTAL PERSONNES EN DÉPLACEMENTS FORCÉS

254,186

REFUGIÉS

42,249

DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

376,809

PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

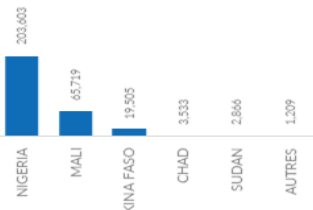
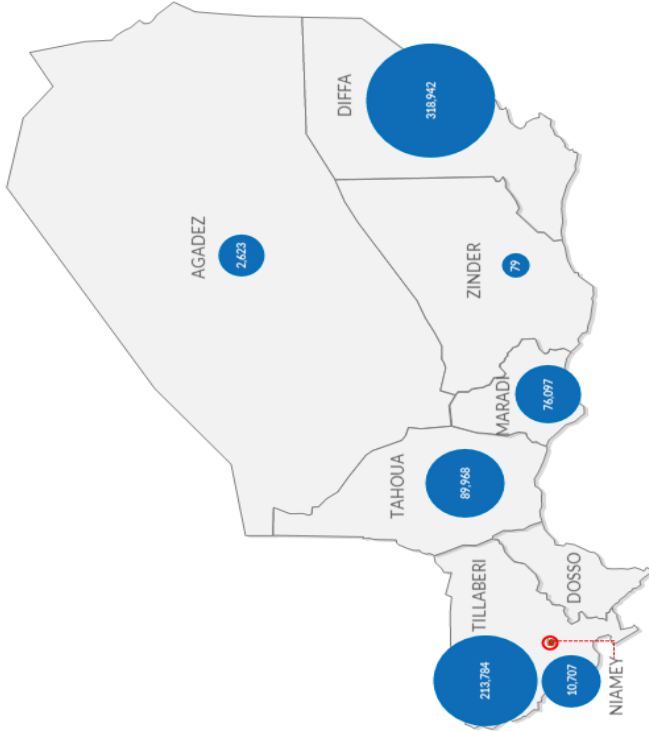
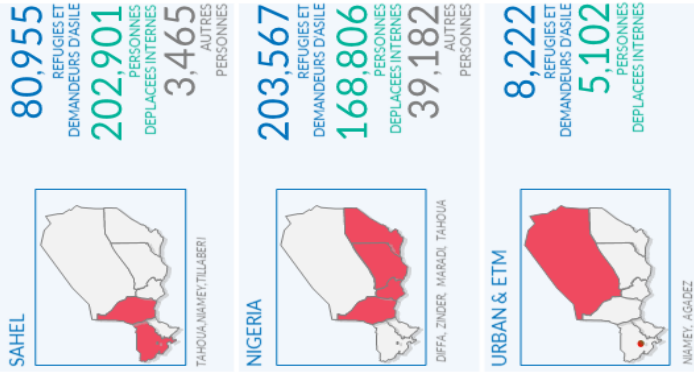
38,956

AUTRES PERSONNES

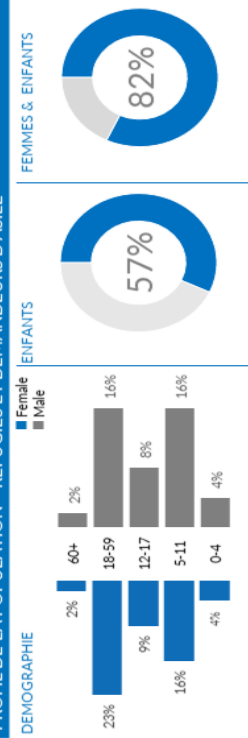
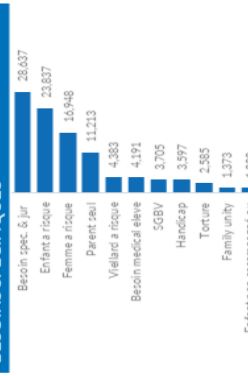
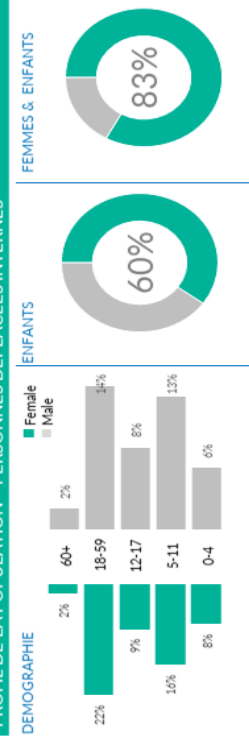
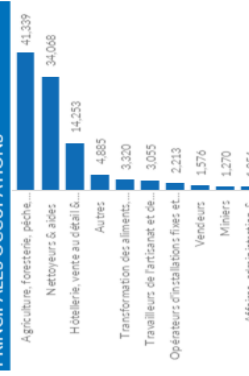
La population des réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile représente une augmentation de 17% par rapport à septembre 2021. Elle constitue 42% de la population concernée au Niger dont 36% de réfugiés et 6% de demandeurs d'asile. Les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile proviennent principalement du Nigeria (69%), du Mali (22%) et du Burkina Faso (6%).

Le nombre de personnes déplacées à l'intérieur du pays est estimé à plus de 375,000 soit 53% des personnes relevant du HCR et une augmentation de 34% en un an. La région de Tillabéri accueille 41% de la population déplacée, alors que celle de Diffa recense 40%.

La situation du Nigeria compte 56% des personnes déplacées. Le Sahel central totalise le deuxième plus grand nombre (40%), et enfin celle des urbains qui compte 2% de la population déplacée.

PRINCIPAUX PAYS D'ORIGINE

CARTOGRAPHIE DES PERSONNES CONCERNÉES

SITUATIONS

EVOLUTION MENSUELLE REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

EVOLUTION MENSUELLE PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

PROFIL DE LA POPULATION - REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

BESOINS SPECIFIQUES

PROFIL DE LA POPULATION - PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

PRINCIPALES OCCUPATIONS


Date de création: 15/05/2021 | Source: - Données géographiques: UNCC. Statistiques de populations: Rapport statistique mensuel du UNHCR pour les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile, statistiques validées; du comité central IOM/OC pour les IDP. Les statistiques doivent être considérées comme provisoires et sujettes à modification. | Feedback: danab@unhcr.org