

Niger

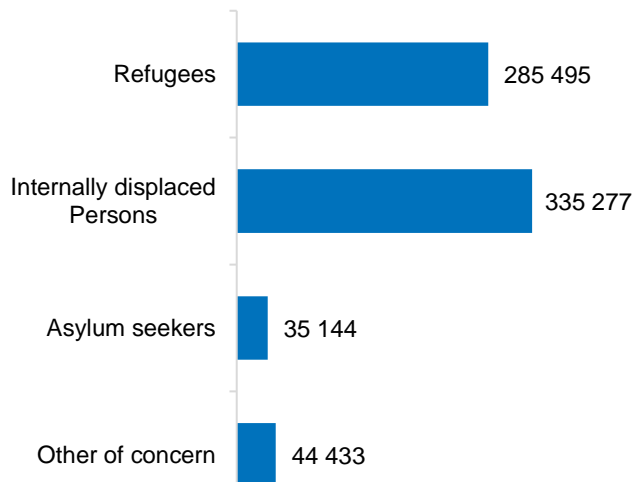
August 2023

On 31 August, the new authorities in Niger **suspended activities and movements of international organizations** in areas where military operations are taking place. UNHCR is taking steps to strengthen community mechanisms and remote monitoring to ensure continued protection and vital assistance to forcibly displaced people.

In the Tahoua Region, **210 people, including 100 refugees, 60 internally displaced persons and 50 members of the host community, benefited from a "cash for work"** project to reclaim 30 hectares of degraded land in the locality of Telemcess. Some 11,556 sylvo-pastoral half-moons were created in just 18 days, enhancing self-sufficiency and environmental protection.

A diphtheria outbreak has been reported in the **Malian refugee camp in Abala**, Tillabéri Region. Some thirty cases have been reported, including five people currently undergoing treatment and six deaths. **A contingency plan has been drawn up in conjunction with the health district.** Epidemiological surveillance is also underway in the Agadez Region, where 10 other suspected cases have been reported.

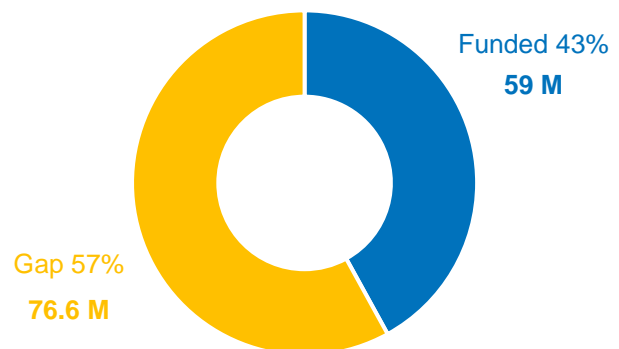
STATISTICS ON REGISTERED FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN NIGER (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2023)



FUNDING AS OF 31 AUGUST 2023

\$ 135,7 M

Requested by the UNHCR Operation in Niger in 2023



*As the crisis in Niger continues, the closure of borders is exacerbating humanitarian needs, with vulnerable communities being the hardest hit.
Photographer: Boubacar Younoussa Sidde*

Operational Context

Despite the various conflicts in the region and the current situation in the country linked to the coup d'état on 26 July, **Niger continues to receive refugees and asylum-seekers** primarily from Nigeria (67,59 per cent), followed by Mali (20,95 per cent), Burkina Faso (9,35 per cent), while 2,11 per cent are from other countries. Additionally, there **are more than 335,277 internally displaced people** and about 44,433 other persons under UNHCR's mandate. This group includes Nigerien returnees who were staying outside the country in areas affected by different conflicts and insecurity, which forced them to flee.

UNHCR's approach in Niger is multi-sectoral and aims to assist Nigerien authorities in **providing protection, assistance, and solutions to forcibly displaced individuals**. There's a specific focus on women, children, and people with special needs, **using a community-based approach**.

In a statement published on the Niger's national television ORTN on Thursday 31 August, the country's **new authorities temporarily suspended humanitarian operations in areas where military operations** are underway. This measure concerns all UN agencies and NGOs. At reporting time, neither the details of the locations impacted, nor the duration of the suspension had been specified.

Tillabéri Region

Context: Since the first arrival of Malian refugees in Tillabéri in 2012, UNHCR and the Government of Niger have collaborated to **enhance the socio-economic inclusion** of these refugees through an **out of camp strategy**. Through the support of development partners and integration initiatives within local communities, both Malian refugees and host communities have gained **access to various services, as well as opportunities for land, housing, and livelihoods**. Concurrently, there have been enhancements to national health, education, and water infrastructure. To strengthen **peaceful coexistence** among these communities, UNHCR has facilitated interaction via "common areas," including communal cereal banks, livestock feed shops, and through several **community committees**.

- In order to reduce the pressure exerted by forcibly displaced persons on already scarce and depleted natural resources, prevent protection risks, combat desertification and to strengthen social cohesion, **UNHCR has distributed 1,000 improved cooking stoves to forcibly displaced and extremely vulnerable households** that have found refuge in Ouallam and Abala.



Distribution of improved stoves in Abala © HCR

- **1,270 refugees and 2,962 members of the host community benefited from medical consultations** at the Abala, Ayorou and Ouallam health centers. Of these, 163 were placed under observation and 16 were referred to regional health structures. A total of 328 women received prenatal consultations and **75 births** by qualified attendants were registered in the three health centres.

- On 10 August, UNHCR distributed emergency shelter kits to 185 households whose homes collapsed in Tondkiwindi following heavy rains on 06 August. The destroyed houses were also rehabilitated during the second week of August. In addition, **UNHCR distributed 50 emergency shelter kits** to other displaced households living in Ouallam, helping to replace dilapidated shelters. Each kit comprises tarpaulins, ropes, mats, and sticks.
- A new diphtheria outbreak at a Malian refugee hosting site in Abala**, in the Tillabéri Region, has raised concerns about the provision of healthcare in the current context, where state systems have been disrupted or weakened due to sanctions following the 26 July coup d'état, coupled with the closure of borders. Increased difficulties in accessing medical care, raise further health risks. As of 31 August, some thirty cases have been reported, including five people undergoing treatment and six deaths. UNHCR conducted a mission to Abala and met with local authorities. A project partner provided meals for patients undergoing treatment in the UNHCR-supported isolation center. UNHCR and the Abala health district also drafted a joint contingency plan. Together with project



partners, the UN Refugee Agency conducted a joint assessment mission to the affected area, and later set up a medical tent for patient isolation, carried out biological sampling and laboratory tests, actively searched for cases at community level, identified and monitored contacts, and raised public awareness of preventive measures and vaccination. The diphtheria epidemic response is closely coordinated with local health authorities and the WHO.

Isolation tent for potential diphtheria cases set up by UNHCR in the Abala health district © UNHCR

- On 8 August, UNHCR organized a **training session on refugee resettlement for its partners and protection staff in Ayorou. 22 participants** (from CNE, APBE, CIAUD, ADES, COOPI and UNHCR) were trained on resettlement concepts, durable solutions, procedures and methodology for identifying potential cases, special needs, complementary channels, filling in the referral form and fraud prevention.
- As part of their community-based protection activities, **UNHCR and its partners conducted several awareness-raising sessions in the Tillabéri Region**, benefiting over 3,387 people. Topics covered included prevention of protection risks, available care services, preservation of the environment and promotion of peaceful cohabitation between forcibly displaced people and host communities.

Tahoua Region

Context: The Tahoua Region hosts Malian and Nigerian refugees as well as returnees. Owing to persistent insecurity along the Malian border, particularly in the Ménaka area, new arrivals of refugees have been reported in recent months in Tchintabaraden, Telemces, and Tillia. Furthermore, the Madaoua Department, situated along the Nigeria border, continues to witness **inflows of asylum-seekers from Nigeria, due to recurrent incursions by non-state armed** groups into border villages.

- During the first week of August, the Tahoua Regional Department for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, with the support of the UNHCR, **organized a training session on child protection and gender-based violence for community protection structures**. As a result, 29 members of the Intikane Aderzagarene community structures were trained to identify and refer cases to appropriate care structures.



Forcibly displaced people in Tillia follow an awareness session by UNHCR and partners on appropriate behaviour during the post-coup crisis © UNHCR

- In August, the Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité au Statut de Réfugié (CNE) issued 6,834 refugee attestations and **6,127 refugee identity cards to Nigerian refugees whose details had been biometrically verified at sites in the Bangui council area**. The area hosts Nigerian refugees forced to flee twice, due to a surge in the activities of armed bandits active in the Nigerian states of Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi.
- On 22 August, UNHCR project partner ADKOUL began **distributing emergency shelter kits to 300 vulnerable refugees** in the villages of Bangui, Kataguiré, Jataka and Guidan Ahmed.
- The "cash for work" project to reclaim 30 hectares of degraded land is continued in Telemcess. A



Reclamation of degraded land in Telemcess © AKDOUL

total of 100 refugees, 60 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 50 local people worked on the site on a long-term basis, creating 11,556 sylvo-pastoral half-moons in just 18 days. Each beneficiary received the sum of 24,500 FCFA (about US \$ 40).

- In collaboration with community relays, **girls' and women's committees and village protection committees, UNHCR partner INTERSOS organized four awareness-raising sessions on the consequences of child labour in Bangui, Kataguiré, Jataka and Malay Rouga**. The aim of these awareness-raising sessions was to draw the attention of communities to the need to change their behaviour in order to combat this widespread phenomenon. A total of 276 people, including 82 men and 190 women, were informed about the consequences of child labour to their physical and psychological integrity, as well as to their development and health.

Diffa Region

Context: Since 2013, the Diffa Region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the north-eastern states of Nigeria.

As of 31 August, the **Diffa Region is home to 314,820 forcibly displaced individuals**, including 137,573 refugees, 140,593 internally displaced persons, 34,139 returning Nigeriens, and 2,515 asylum-seekers. Many of these individuals have experienced multiple displacements, with a majority residing in spontaneous settlements or within host communities. Nigerian refugees continue to arrive, not only at the Sayam Forage camp but also at other reception sites across the Diffa Region, seeking improved living conditions and enhanced security. The **Sayam Forage camp, the sole refugee camp in Niger**, accommodates 33,026 people.

- Protection monitoring data from **UNHCR, and partners revealed the displacement of around 3,556 individuals (570 households) from Chad** to the localities of Nguigmi (Boudouma Malian site), Gueskerou (Kidjandi), Bosso (Bosso) and Diffa (Djori Kolo), in the Diffa Region of Niger, between March and August 2023. The highest number of arrivals was recorded in August, representing 72 per cent of newly arrived households. These were people believed to be fleeing increasing attacks by non-state armed groups in the localities of Liwa, Baga Sola, Kangallam, Madji, Foutouna, Kiskra, Demaram and Amma in Chad.
- Joint needs assessments were carried out and shared with the humanitarian community in Diffa with a view to positioning and assistance. UNHCR held meetings with the Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE) to plan the registration of new arrivals as soon as the ongoing biometric verification of Nigerian refugees in the region is completed.
- UNHCR and its partners identified and documented 105 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including cases of denial of resources, physical assault, psychological violence, sexual assault and rape. **All documented cases of GBV received psychosocial support**, and cases requiring specific management were referred to partners. In addition, 1,904 people were made aware of the risks of GBV and the care services available.
- A total of **3,674 refugees** received **medical consultations** at the Sayam Forage health center. Of these, 97 were placed under observation and 44 were referred to regional health facilities. The Sayam Forage health center also provided prenatal services to 228 women, while **30 births were assisted by qualified attendants** at the same location.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners identified **177 new child protection cases** affecting forcibly displaced children in six sites and at Sayam Forage camp. All cases were documented and received psychosocial support. Awareness-raising sessions were organized on child protection issues, including gender-based violence, family separation, child neglect and exploitation, reaching 1,273 people in Mainé-Soroa Mainé Soroa, Sabon Gari, Garin Wanzam, Djori Kollo, Madouri, Guidan Kadji, Foulatari and Sayam Forage refugee camp.

Maradi Region

Context: For over two years, **the conflict in northwest Nigeria has forced over 80,000 Nigerians to seek refuge in the Maradi Region**. Additionally, recurrent incursions by armed gangs into Nigerian territory have led to the internal displacement of around 26,000 individuals. These armed criminal groups operate regularly on both sides of the border, mainly targeting farmers and herders and engaging in kidnappings for ransom.

UNHCR's response in Maradi aims to **provide assistance to refugees who choose to move away from the border for their safety, while also offering support to host communities to reduce the pressure** resulting from an increased presence of refugees. Subsequently, sites were established in neighbouring rural villages, and services were set up to benefit refugees and host communities, including water, health, education, and protection services. **These settlements are referred to as village development hubs popularly known in French as "Villages d'opportunité"**. Currently, there are three of such in the Maradi Region, located near the villages of Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou, and Garin Kaka.

- UNHCR continues to **support the three health centres** established in the three village development hubs with essential drugs, equipment, and medical supplies, ensuring proper healthcare for both refugees and host community members.

- To commemorate **Niger's Independence Day on 3 August**, UNHCR supported a national tree planting campaign, providing 300 seedlings for forcibly displaced persons to plant in the Chadakori health centre and village development hub. **About 80 of the seedlings were fruit trees. The campaign will contribute preserve the ecosystem in the long term.** Meanwhile, Niger has launched a land reclamation program, for which Nigeriens are invited to plant a tree each on this day to combat desertification in the country.



Tree-planting ceremony at the Chadakori health center/ © HCR

- UNHCR and project partners **raised awareness of over 4,500 people, mainly refugees host community members in the three "opportunity villages"** and several other refugee reception sites in Tahoua, on protection risk prevention, peaceful coexistence, the use of insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets, and on the prevention of statelessness among others.
- To protect the environment and combat the effects of climate change, **partner ADKOUL initiated a program to reclaim arid zones.** 1,500 seedlings have so far been planted in each of the following villages: Bangui, Kataguiré and Guidan Bagouari in the Madaoua department, Tahoua Region.

Agadez Region

Context: Niger is characterized by **mixed movements towards the Mediterranean and Europe**, while also hosting **individuals fleeing from Libya or those expelled from Algeria**. These mixed migration flows consist of both economic migrants and individuals in need of international protection. The goal of UNHCR is to ensure that the latter group has **access to protection, asylum, and humanitarian assistance**.

In Niger, **UNHCR supports the strengthening of the national asylum system** and implements a range of activities to ensure the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers. In the longer term, UNHCR endeavours to find **sustainable solutions**, such as local integration or voluntary return to the country of origin if security conditions permit. Complementary legal pathways, including family reunification, study visas, or humanitarian evacuations, are also explored. In partnership with IOM, NGO partners, and the Nigerien government, UNHCR identifies asylum-seekers within migration flows and provides tailored advice and assistance.

- UNHCR facilitated **access to primary and secondary health care at the Centre Humanitaire** health center in Agadez for 1,123 refugees and 1,278 members of the host community. Of these, 44 serious cases were identified and referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health center in Agadez. The Toudou health center also provided reproductive health **services and treatment for child malnutrition**. In addition, 110 people benefited from psychosocial support.
- As of 25 August, UNHCR and its partners have **identified and biometrically registered 2,736 people in need of international protection**. These include 1,874 asylum-seekers and 862 refugees. The most vulnerable are accommodated in five transit houses in Agadez, where they benefit from a protection and life-saving assistance, while the others are welcomed in the Humanitarian Center built on the outskirts of the city.

- The UNHCR sub office in Agadez, in coordination with the country office in Niamey, advocated with WFP, to provide food for Malian refugees through its project partner COOPI. **As a result, 178 x 50 kg bags of rice, 59 x 50 kg bags of beans and 47 cartons of oil were distributed to the refugees in Assamaka.** The individual daily ration is 297 g of rice, 99 g of beans and 4.55 g of oil.



Food distribution to Malian refugees in Assamaka © COOPI

- Following the damage caused by bad strong winds and torrential rains to the Humanitarian Center's infrastructure, with a few minor injuries on 7 August, UNHCR and its partners DREC-MR and ADKOUL as well as refugee representatives, carried out a **joint rapid needs assessment in the area on 8 August. They assessed the extent of damage to shelters and other community infrastructure.** Many victims, estimated at over 800, were left homeless. To prevent a similar situation in the future, the assessment team recommended the construction of emergency community sheds with much stronger materials capable of withstanding not only the weather, but also the rigors of the area's climate.

Resettlement

As of 31 August, **5,534 refugees have departed from Niger for third countries through resettlement programs or complementary pathways** such as study visas. This figure comprises 3,784 individuals evacuated from Libya to Niger under the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) and 1,750 refugees processed and registered within Niger's national asylum system.

Hamdallaye / ETM

Since 2017, a total of **4,242 asylum-seekers have been evacuated from Libya to Niger under the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM).** As of August 2023, about 579 evacuees are still on-site at Hamdallaye. This remaining caseload includes 101 persons awaiting imminent departures to third countries and 251 pending interviews and decisions from resettlement countries.

- To promote self-reliance and peaceful coexistence within the framework of the ETM project, 25 host community members and 12 refugees were trained in sewing, another 12 hosts and six refugees were trained in carpentry, while two hosts and 13 refugees were trained in computer skills. In addition, 92 community members and 13 refugees were involved in market gardening.
- Refugees and members of the host community reclaimed 96 hectares of degraded land out of a planned 106 hectares in BeriKoirra and Hamdallaye. In addition, they planted 6,500 seedlings, including 2,900 fruit trees, in the reclaimed areas.
- To prevent the risk of GBV, 10 solar-powered streetlamps were installed in Hamdallaye and five in the village of Berikoira.

Urban Refugees - Niamey

As of 31 August, the city of Niamey hosts 4,993 refugees and 802 asylum-seekers. 4,259 (85 per cent) of these refugees originate from Mali. In accordance with Nigerien law, **Malian nationals affected by the armed conflict in northern Mali are recognized as refugees, prima facie**, while people of other nationalities go through the regular government procedure for determining refugee status.

Given the urban context of Niamey, UNHCR has brought together partners involved in implementing **protection and assistance interventions for urban refugees and asylum-seekers under** a physical structure known as **the "One-Stop Shop"**. This approach serves to reduce costs, enable integrated operations, and enhance coordination of services provided by different partners. Refugees and asylum-seekers receive assistance and guidance on documentation, along with information about various forms of support such as medical care, psychological aid, and education. The centre also operates a "hotline" that refugees can call toll-free for queries, assistance advice, or complaint filing.

At the same time, UNHCR and its partners carry out regular home visits and monitor the well-being of beneficiaries in Niamey. **UNHCR runs several temporary guest houses in cooperation with partners, to ensure adequate protection for people with specific vulnerabilities.** To ensure inclusion and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperate and support the Niamey Central Refugee Committee, made up of refugee leaders elected by their peers.

- During the last week of August, the Niamey field office launched a series of awareness-raising campaigns in the five councils of Niamey, in the guest houses and on the Hamdallaye ETM site. The aim was to better inform refugees and asylum-seekers about the risks associated with their protection. More specifically, the initiative aimed to disseminate key messages, educate and remind refugees and asylum-seekers of appropriate behaviours in the current context, identify and analyze the various impacts linked to the current socio-economic and political situation, as well as changes in the living conditions of people forced to move, while identifying the needs and expectations of people under UNHCR's mandate.



Awareness-raising session in Niamey's Commune 1 © HCR

More than 2,000 people were reached thanks to a participatory approach that characterized the various discussions, enabling the real concerns and expectations of refugees and asylum seekers in Niamey and the Hamdallaye ETM site to be gathered.

- UNHCR and partners distributed monthly cash assistance to 726 of 734 targeted refugees and asylum-seekers began on 7 and 8 August, at Niamey's two one-stop shops (Bonkanay and Darsalem) and at the Hamdallaye site.

Partnerships

UNHCR oversees the coordination of the Protection Cluster in Niger, which, in collaboration with all protection partners, guides and harmonizes interventions towards internally displaced individuals, ensuring a coherent response across the country. The Cluster also shares information with all relevant partners, addresses identified gaps, and provides strategic direction for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions aim to progress towards economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully supported by the Government of Niger and aligns with the **Global Compact on Refugees and the Humanitarian-Development and Peace Nexus**, and with the Niger Government's out-of-camp policy. UNHCR seeks to enhance relationships with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, universities, and media outlets. The office also collaborates with other government bodies, operational and implementation partners both nationally and internationally. UNHCR Niger works closely with the Directorate General of Civil Status and Refugees (DGEC-R), the main counterpart of UNHCR, to ensure adequate international protection for all refugees and asylum-seekers present in Niger.

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNUNHCR Niger operation in 2023

European Union | Germany | Canada | Belgium | USA | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Kingdom | France | Italy | Luxembourg | Monaco | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors | CERF

And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNUNHCR globally in 2023

Sweden | Norway | Denmark | Netherlands | Germany | Switzerland | Ireland | Belgium | Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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 90766977

LINKS : UNHCR NIGER OPERATIONAL PAGE - TWITTER - FACEBOOK



Photographer : Hector Perez

PERSONNES RELEVANT DE LA COMPETENCE DU HCR
 31 Aout 2023

700,349
**TOTAL PERSONNES EN
DÉPLACEMENTS FORCÉS**
285,495

REFUGIES

35,144

 DEMANDEURS
D'ASILE

335,277

 PERSONNES
DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

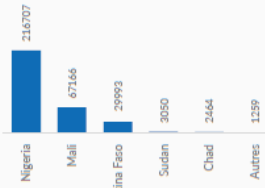
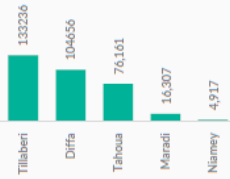
44,433

 AUTRES
PERSONNES

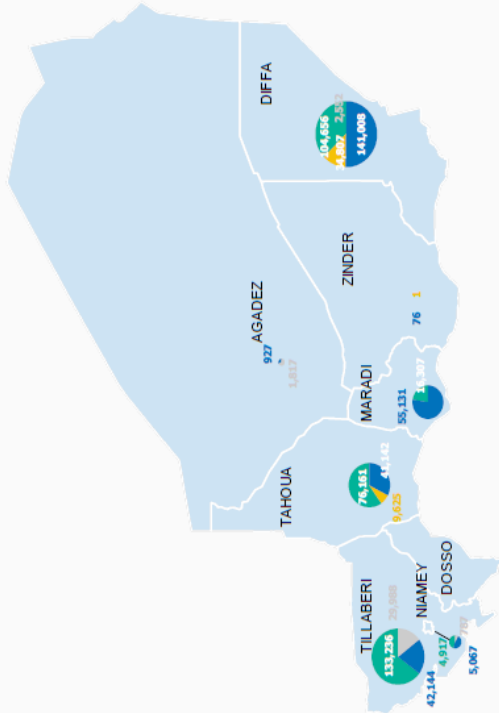
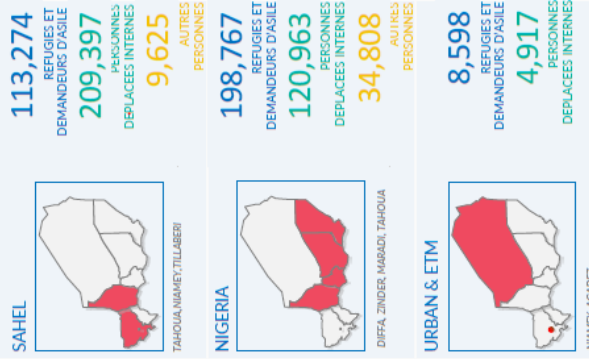
La population des réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile représente une augmentation de 9% par rapport à Aout 2022. Elle constitue 46% de la population concernée au Niger dont 41% de réfugiés et 5% de demandeurs d'asile. Les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile proviennent principalement du Nigeria (88%), du Mali (21%) et du Burkina Faso (9%).

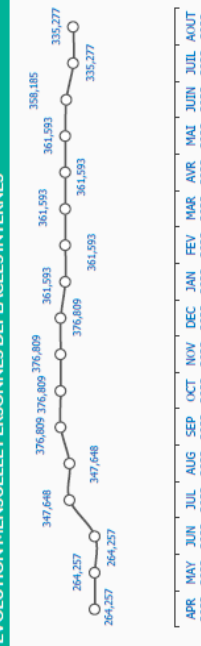
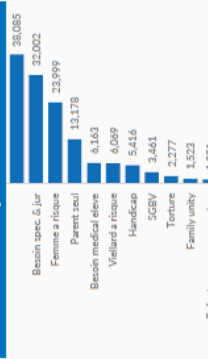
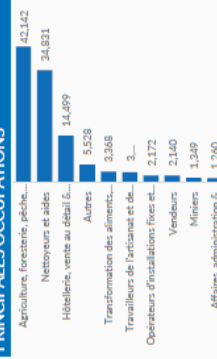
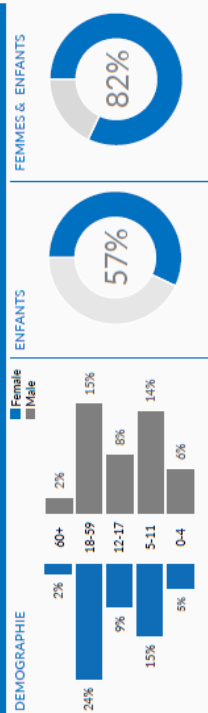
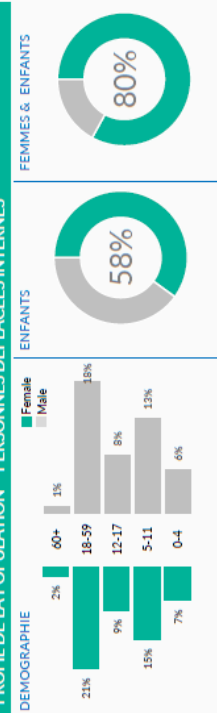
Le nombre de personnes déplacées à l'intérieur du pays est estimé à près de 335 000 personnes, dont 46% des personnes déplacées et une population déplacée, alors que celle de Diffa recense 31%.

La situation du Nigeria compte 51% des personnes déplacées. Celle du Sahel totalise le deuxième plus grand nombre (47%), la majorité étant des personnes déplacées d'origine du Nigeria.

PRINCIPAUX PAYS D'ORIGINE

PDI – PRINCIPALES REGIONS

CARTOGRAPHIE DES PERSONNES CONCERNÉES

Personnes Déplacées Internes
 Réfugiés
 Demandeurs d'Asile
 Autres personnes


SITUATIONS

EVOLUTION MENSUELLE REFUGIES ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

EVOLUTION MENSUELLE PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

BESOINS SPECIFIQUES

PRINCIPALES OCCUPATIONS

PROFIL DE LA POPULATION – REFUGIES ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE

PROFIL DE LA POPULATION – PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES


This map includes only the numbers of refugees which have been biometrically registered.