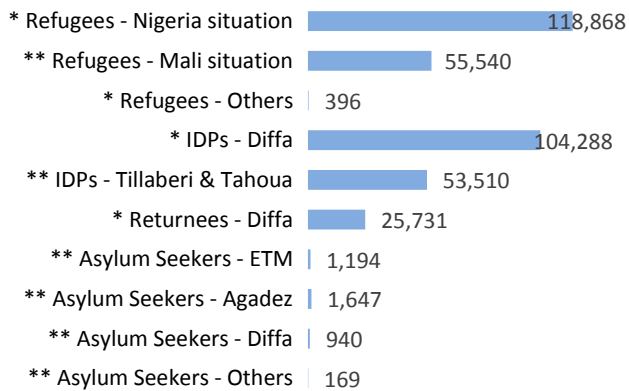


Niger



POPULATION OF CONCERN

362,283



* Government of Niger official figures.

** UNHCR figures.

KEY INDICATORS

2,202

Refugees evacuated temporarily from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM (Emergency Transit Mechanism) from November 2017 – December 2018

1,647

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum

53,510

Persons internally displaced in the Tillaberi & Tahoua regions



Sensitization session of Malian refugees from Mangaize camp in the process of Voluntary Repatriation – 27-29 of December (A. Soumana / UNHCR)

Operational Context

The key situations include:

- 1. The Mali situation:** began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting most of the Malian refugees are increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism. A State of Emergency was declared last year, extended and further expanded to areas bordering Burkina Faso this year. There are currently 55,540 Malian refugees in Niger. The Government of Niger and UNHCR seek to accelerate the socio-economic integration of these refugees and the closure of the camps through urbanization by the end of 2020.
- 2. The Nigeria situation:** began in 2013, with the arrival of the first Nigerian refugees across the border fleeing Boko Haram. The situation deteriorated with the first attacks in Niger territory in 2015. There are almost 250,000 displaced persons in the region (including 118,868 refugees, 104,288 IDPs, 25,731 returnees). The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with 15,136 people. In 2018, despite a complex security context, all actors agreed on the necessity to engage strongly in development oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR and the World Bank are working closely in that direction. Additionally, an EU Trust Fund supported project is ongoing in Diffa region, aimed at supporting economic recovery and long term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing.
- 3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** The displaced population in the Diffa region is extremely mixed, including refugees, IDPs and returnees. However, the IDP situation in Niger has become more complex with increasing insecurity in the regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua, bordering Mali. In 2018, attacks and insecurity in the area have resulted in the internal displacement of at least 53,510 people. Protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation.
- 4. Mixed Movements:** Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. In Agadez, UNHCR works to identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and works with the government, as well as IOM and NGOs to provide these persons with information and assistance. 1,647 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez. 28% are minors and 163 are unaccompanied or separated children. The majority are currently seeking asylum in Niger. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of downward movements from Libya and Algeria. A new Humanitarian Centre is being built to accommodate and screen those seeking international protection. Over 1,000 asylum seekers are currently accommodated at the centre.
- 5. Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This unique programme aims to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through temporary evacuation to Niger. The aim is to deliver protection and identify durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are predominantly Eritrean and Somali. Their profiles mainly include survivors of torture or other forms of violence in the country of origin and/or transit countries (e.g. Libya) and others with compelling protection needs. Many of them are unaccompanied children and women and girls at risk. To date, 2,202 persons have been evacuated to Niger. A new transit centre is being built near Niamey to host the evacuees while they await resettlement to third countries.

Security Situation

The regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillaberi** continue to be affected by armed groups and inter-ethnic violence resulting in displacement of population in all the departments close to the Mali border. Movements of suspected extremists near the border have been reported, as well as incursions in villages, cattle thefts and market attacks by armed extremists. The situation along the border with Burkina Faso also deteriorated significantly with attacks targeting the defence and security forces as well as the civil population. On the 30 of November, the Government of Niger (GoN) extended the state of emergency to 3 new departments of the Tillaberi region (Say, Torodi and Tera) at the border with Burkina Faso. On the 27 of December, 15 suspected extremists were killed by security and defence forces in the Tillaberi region.

In the **Diffa** region in December, the security situation continued to be marked by repeated attacks by the Boko Haram (BH) armed group with 17 major incidents in which 10 people lost their lives. 4 transport vehicles were

attacked on the 16 of December on the road to Nguigmi, killing 2 people and seriously wounding 2. The Governor of Diffa organised on the 21 of December a forum on security with all relevant parties (local and traditional authorities, civil society and humanitarian organisations, and the security and defence forces).

The security context in the **Agadez** region continues to be marked by repeated armed attacks, particularly on the main roads converging towards Agadez. Armed attacks and groups of bandits create a constant psychosis among the population of Agadez and among road users. A car belonging to an international NGO was attacked on the 8 of December by armed bandits, the driver was killed and the staff member was injured before the car was stolen.

Key Developments & Achievements

- In Diffa region, since the 15 of December, movements of 3,310 people have been registered. These are mainly inter-site movements, although some are also cross-border movements. These movements are due to ongoing incursions and attacks in the area by BH.
- 6 awareness raising campaigns were organized during the month of December as part of the “16 Days Activism against gender-based violence” campaign at Sayam Forage camp, Garin Wanzam, Kindjandi and Kablewa sites. A total of 3,190 people participated. The themes discussed were exploitation and abuse of children, the role of gender at home, the causes and consequences of SGBV, the services available, early marriage and human rights.
- 3,995 Malian refugees benefitted from voluntary repatriation in 2018. In December, 913 Malian refugees from the Mangaize camp received their Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF) and cash support to transport them to Mali.



Nigeria situation

- Protection incidents increased again in December compared to November with 118 incidents reported. This increase is due to the resurgence of activities of non-state armed groups. Women and girls continue to be targeted in cases of attacks or incursion by BH elements; 3 women were abducted on the 14 of December in Garin Gaway. This situation creates panic and prevents women moving in certain localities (Kablewa, Ngortogol, Ngagala).
- Several protection activities were organized in December to reach persons with specific needs in Sayam Forage camp: 462 persons living with a handicap were registered, while shelters, carts, wheel chairs, and canes were distributed as well as eye examinations and glasses provided.
- 1,856 birth certificates have been distributed to persons at risk of statelessness in the communes of Gueskerou and Nguigmi.
- 4 validation workshops of community-based protection plans for the Chetimari, Gagamari, Boudouri, Maina Kadeiri, Kindjandi, Toumour, and Kablewa sites were organized. The objective is to share protection plan documents with protection actors to better coordinate the overall response.

Mali Situation

- New displacements of population occurred with IDPs reaching refugee camps and the outskirts of Tillaberi town in December. As of the 18 of December, there were a total of 340 people in the outskirts of Tillaberi, about 100 people in Sakoirra and 480 in Walagoungo/Anzourou (all localities not far from the city), while during the last week of December, more than 300 IDPs reached Tabareybarey refugee camp to seek protection.
- 2,753 persons with specific needs have benefitted from a clothes distribution in Intikane refugee hosting area (ZAR) in the Tahoua region in December.

IDP situation

- A [link](#) has been developed on an interactive website, which shows in real time the number of displaced people (disaggregated by sex and age) and the number of households in the regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua, based on protection monitoring information.
- Last figures indicate that more than 53,500 people have been internally displaced in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions as of 30 of December. Please see the latest map [here](#).
- An overview of the interconnection between major incidents in northern Mali and the impacts in the Northern parts of the Tillaberi region as of November is available [here](#).
- An illustrative map showing the location of closed and opened markets in the northern part of the Tillaberi region in December is available [here](#)

Mixed Movements situation

- Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews continue in Agadez by the National Eligibility Commission (CNE). 87 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been interviewed so far, as part of a total of 288 interviews. A first group of 6 UASCs were granted refugee status in December. More information is available [here](#).
- On December 12 and 13, a UNHCR/UNICEF joint mission was conducted in Agadez in order to assess the child protection needs for UASC asylum seekers. The Regional Directorate for Child Protection in Agadez, as well as other partners also participated in the assessment, which included several focus group discussions with the PoCs.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- UNHCR has been evacuating refugees from detention centres in Libya to Niger temporarily since November 2017. In December 2017, UNHCR signed a MoU with the Govt. of Niger regarding the ETM process. To date, 2,202 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger and a total of 995 individuals have departed for resettlement to Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom and The United States.
- UNHCR has received a total of 3,516 resettlement pledges for refugees out of Niger for 2018-2019; the pledges also include resettlement places for some refugees already hosted by Niger.
- Of those already hosted in Niger, 285 refugees from Mali, Nigeria, Central Africa, Mauritania and Ivory Coast have departed for resettlement.
- As part of the implementation of the communication strategy developed by UNHCR and the National Eligibility Commission (CNE), UNHCR, the administrative and traditional authorities of the communal district Niamey 3, organized a meeting on the 31 of December on awareness on peaceful coexistence between the asylum seekers / refugees evacuated from Libya and the host population of Niamey.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Mali situation

- Health infrastructure improvement is ongoing in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions which will benefit both refugees and host population, including:
 - Rehabilitation of the current health centre in Intikane is finished and work is ongoing to transform the CSI (Integrated Health Centre) into a CSI Type II.



Construction of living quarters for doctor and midwife at Intikane health centre.

- The construction of 2 CSI Type II health centres for the Abala and Ayorou urbanized sites is ongoing.



Curative ward and Maternity ward in Abala


SHELTER AND NFI
Mixed Movements situation

- Relocation of asylum seekers continued in December, with 104 more people installed in the Humanitarian Centre, reaching a total of 1,052 persons living on the site. The “Centre d’Hébergement Solidaire” in Agadez is now closed.


Nigeria situation

- In the context of the Urbanization project, activities continued in November in Diffa:
 - The construction of 531 houses is in progress in the Diffa commune, with 54 houses completely finished; 140 households already live on the site in the Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) installed.
 - The construction of 108 houses has begun by the partner CISP on the urbanized site of Chétimari and 94 houses are finished. 302 more houses are under construction on the urbanized site of N’Guigmi with 262 finished.
- In collaboration with members of the Shelter / NFI working group, 1,005 emergency shelter kits were distributed in Nguigmi commune, while the installation of 280 transitional shelters in Sayam Forage camp was completed by the partner COOPI.

Mali situation

- In Abala, the final plans of the future urbanization site are finished (electricity, topographic study, roads, infrastructure etc.) and Ministerial orders were released to start the land division.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- As part of the EU Trust Fund supported ETM project, work is ongoing on the new ETM centre site in Hamdallaye, 40kms away from Niamey. Following the training of 160 workers (refugees + host population), 312 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) have been installed to house refugees evacuated from Libya. The construction of infrastructure for basic services is progressing well, including latrines and showers, health posts, solar panels, cooking areas and communal gathering areas.



**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE****Mixed Movements situation**

- An official launch event was held for the opening of a food shop, supported by UNHCR, which will be used as a reconversion activity for ex-smugglers on the 26 of December, with the presence of the Vice Mayor of the commune of Agadez.

**Nigeria situation**

- After the vocational training of 50 youths from the communes of Chétimari and Maine Soroa, 8 community hangars have been built to allow them to install their businesses and start working. They also received a start-up kit.

Key Challenges**Mali situation**

- Increasing insecurity, due mostly to armed attacks and ethnic tensions, and a resulting lack of humanitarian access continues to pose the biggest challenge in the area of the country bordering Mali and Burkina Faso.

Nigeria situation

- In the Diffa region, in addition to the threat posed by terrorism, the level of criminality is increasing significantly. Killings and lootings are becoming more frequent, creating tensions and fears among the local community.

IDP situation

- The massive increase in the magnitude of internal displacement in Tillaberi and Tahoua, increasing to over 53,000 IDPs, is creating significant protection challenges and is underfunded. Regular access remains the main issue.

Mixed Movements

- In the Agadez region, UNHCR must continue strengthening cross border coordination in order to support refugees coming from the bordering countries. Work on the humanitarian centre must continue so that all persons of concern are accommodated and protection and basic needs provided.

Emergency Transit Mechanism

- For those refugees evacuated from Libya, the main challenge remains to improve the fluidity of the process of departures for resettlement, in order to free more refugees from the Libyan detention centres.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: a total of 315 national and international staff (*this includes consultants and affiliate workforce*)

Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey, 2 Sub-Offices Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices Tillaberi and Tahoua; 2 Field Units Abala and Ouallam.

Partners

Govt. of Niger, ACTED/REACH, ADES, Adkoul, APBE, Care, CDR, CIAUD, CISP, COOPI, DEDI, DRC, Forum Réfugié Cosi, FRC, GVD, HI, IRC, SFCG, SDO.

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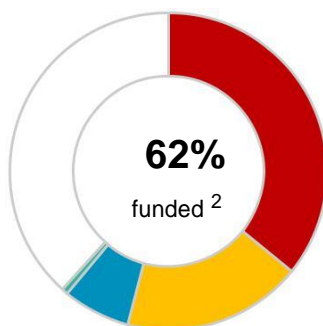
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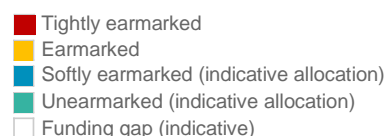
LINKS: [Regional portal](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Blog](#)

\$92.8 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2018 ¹


NIGER

as of 8 January 2019



CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
European Union	-	-	-	26,302,706	26,302,706
United States of America	-	-	12,500,000	-	12,500,000
Italy	-	-	-	4,915,311	4,915,311
France	-	-	3,077,816	774,294	3,852,110
Japan	-	-	-	1,800,000	1,800,000
CERF	-	-	-	809,241	809,241
Spain	-	-	800,000	-	800,000
Luxembourg	-	-	784,519	-	784,519
Canada	-	-	706,991	-	706,991
Sweden	-	-	285,533	-	285,533
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	-	-	-	195,578	195,578
UN Peacebuilding Fund	-	-	-	142,219	142,219
UN Programme On HIV/AIDS	-	-	-	65,000	65,000
Germany	-	-	-	10,842	10,842
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	-	35,595	35,595
Sub-total	-	-	18,154,860	35,050,786	53,205,646
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	608,560	6,341,812	(1,150,392)	(1,772,527)	4,027,454
Total	608,560	6,341,812	17,004,468	33,278,259	57,233,100

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Niger shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 163.9 million | Germany 17.2 million | Private donors Australia 14.6 million | Canada 3.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.9 million | Private donors Sweden 2.4 million | Private donors Spain 2.3 million | Finland | Japan | Norway | Sweden | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 71 million | Netherlands 47.1 million | United Kingdom 45.3 million | Norway 42.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 38.7 million | Japan 26.5 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Japan 20.3 million | Private donors Italy 18.7 million | Switzerland 15.8 million | Private donors USA 14.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Sweden 13.2 million | Italy 11.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements for Niger include requirements for the operation's regular programme, Central Mediterranean Route Situation, Mali Situation and the Nigeria Situation.
- The percentage funded (62%) and total funding amount (\$57,233,100) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$35,550,715 representing 38% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Niger. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.