

# Sahel situation *(Tillabery and Tahoua regions)*

December 2020

The Sahel regions have been hosting **Malian refugees** since 2012. They live in 3 sites in the Tillabery region and a refugee hosting area in the Tahoua region.

The rapidly deteriorating security context has caused increased **internal displacement flows** with rising numbers every month.

The presence of armed groups across the border has caused movements of a few thousand **citizens from Burkina Faso** into Niger.

## KEY INDICATORS

**40,000\***

Number of refugees in Niger who will have access to land according to the Government's pledge during the Global

Refugee Forum

**+50%\***

**Increase** of the number of internally displaced persons since March 2019 to date.

**92**

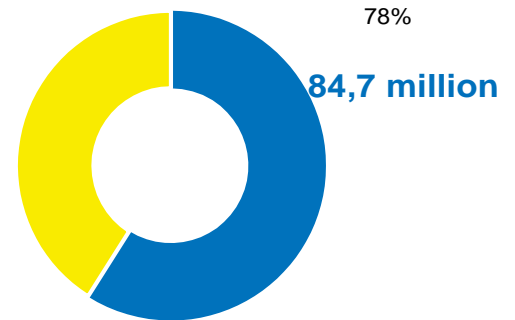
Durable *hydraform* houses built in the Tillabery region

## FUNDING (AS OF 1 DECEMBER 2020)

**USD 108,8 M**

requested for UNHCR's operations in Niger

Funded  
78%

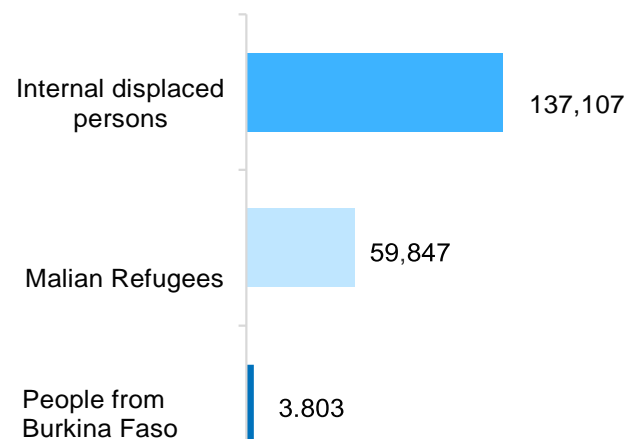


Unfunded 22%  
**24,1 million**



## POPULATION OF CONCERN IN NIGER'S SAHEL

*(UNHCR data, 30 November 2020)*



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

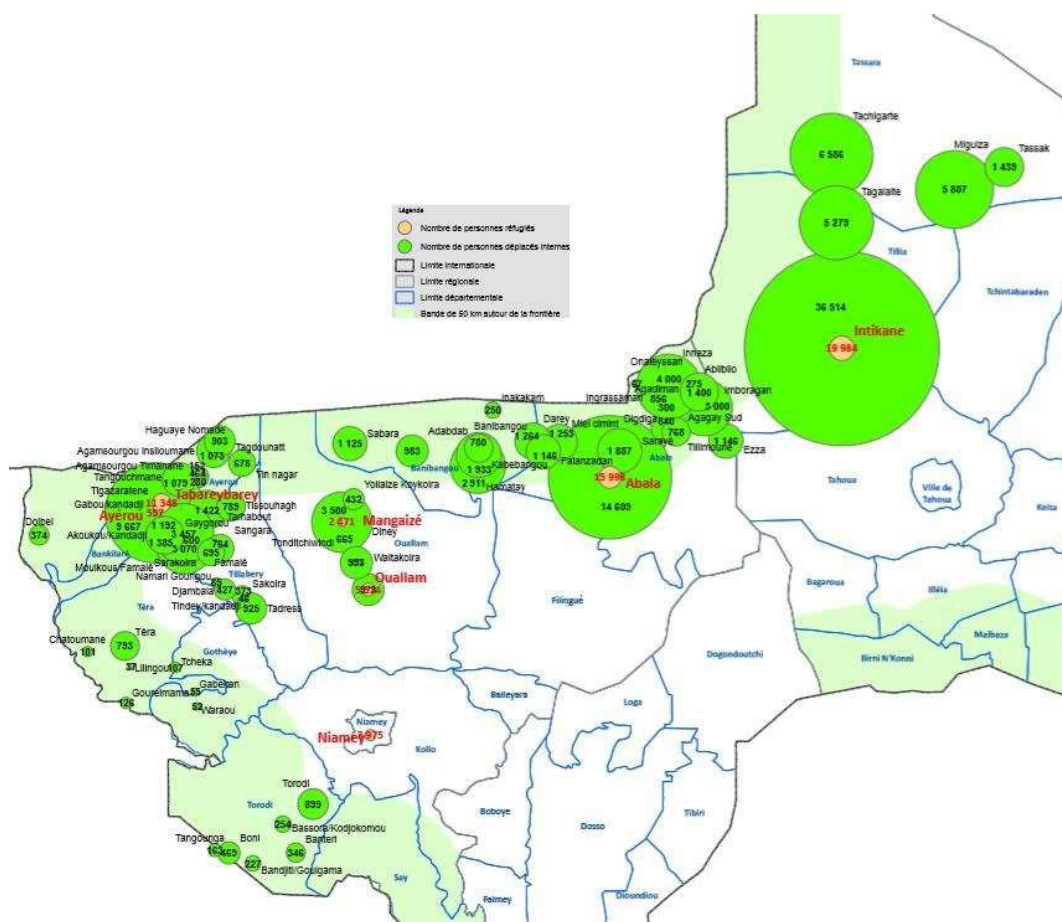


Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso are all struggling to cope with numerous militant groups moving between the three countries. The **security situation** in the tri-border region including in the Nigerien regions of Tillabery and Tahoua has sharply deteriorated. This threat is forcing people to flee their homes, and further deprives vulnerable communities of critical basic services as armed groups directly target schools, health centers and other infrastructure. The civilian population is victim of extortion, targeted killings, cattle theft and shop looting and threatened to leave their villages. The national government of Niger has recently extended a state of emergency in the Tillabery region which was first introduced in 2017.

Moreover, the **global sanitary crisis** has heavily impacted on the operational context, including due to measures taken by the Government of Niger to limit the propagation of the virus. These measures had important consequences for humanitarian actors in the field.

Following the High Commissioner's mission to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger countries in January 2020, UNHCR activated an emergency situation on 10 February 2020 for the Sahel situation. This included an L2 for Niger. The focus of the activation was in particular on the Liptako Gourma area, and specifically Tillabery and Tahoua regions in Eastern Niger.

## Operational Strategy

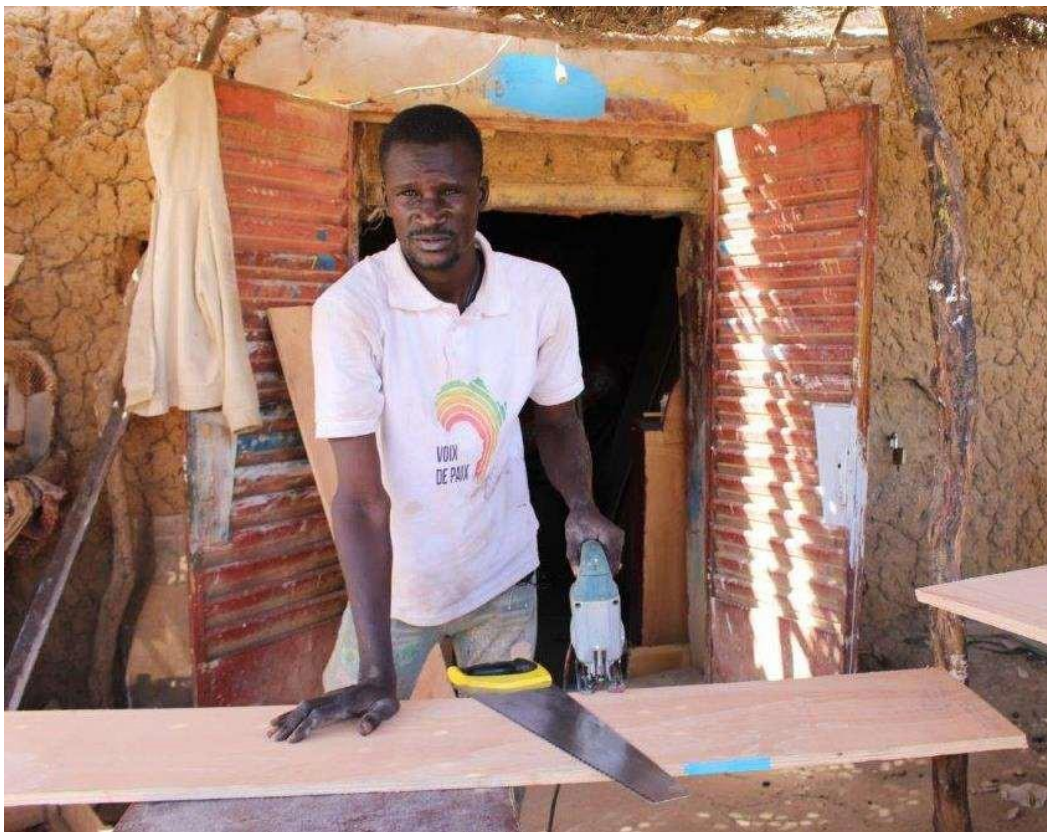


The interventions in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions are aligned to [UNHCR's Sahel strategy](#), a scaled-up response to the unprecedented violence and displacement crisis in the Sahel. Activities planned pre-COVID 19 will be implemented in line with public health measures imposed as a result of the pandemic. Key priorities include addressing shelter needs in overcrowded settlements, supporting distance education, providing effective response to SGBV incidents aggravated by confinement measures, and continuing other protection activities such as registration, documentation and facilitating access to asylum.

[With the support of CERF and ECHO](#), the Sahel crisis is monitored by a broad community-based network and analysis is shared with the humanitarian community. Capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation. UNHCR has the lead over the national protection cluster. Legislation for assistance and protection to IDPs based on the Kampala Convention is in place.

After almost 8 years of presence in Niger, UNHCR and the Government of Niger give priority to **medium- and long-term solutions for Malian refugees** with a view to promote social cohesion, self-reliance and a durable integration into national services and systems. All Malian refugee camps have been closed in 2020 in line with the joint vision of the Government and UNHCR and given the deterioration of the protection and security context. They are now settled in sites in the villages of Ayerou, Ouallam and Abala. Supported by major donors such as **GIZ and EUTF**, UNHCR gives Malian refugees access to land and housing, creates jobs and includes them into national systems.

A strong **tripartite collaboration** has been developed amongst the **World Bank, the Government of Niger, and UNHCR** to improve access to basic public services and further support for economic opportunities. With the support of **ILO, PBF and Spain**, Malian refugees benefit from livelihood interventions.



## Achievements

### Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs produces a monthly report on the Tillabery and Tahoua regions which can be consulted here:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/op%C3%A9rations/niger>

- With the support of ECHO and flexible donors such as USA, France, Luxembourg, Canada and Monaco, UNHCR and partners conduct protection monitoring activities in areas where refugees and internally displaced persons are settled. Most of the protection incidents reported were imposed zakat, cattle theft, physical aggressions including rape and conflicts between farmers and herders. Monitoring allows for the identification of survivors, their referral to service providers and the follow-up of cases linked to child protection, SGBV and other persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR has set up two mobile clinics to help victims of sexual and gender-based violence and providing reproductive health services and will reinforce assistance offered through mobile clinics by the end of the year.
- In Ayerou, 64 new Malian refugees have been registered and receive protection and assistance. In the Tillabery region, 3,337 Malian refugees have notified their attention to benefit from a cash grant for voluntary return to Mali. Given the global pandemic and the closure of borders, voluntary return activities are currently suspended. At the same time, 392 persons who have previously benefited from a cash grant for voluntary return to Mali have come back to Niger, mainly to the city of Ayerou, as the security conditions in Mali are still not met.
- In the Tillabery region, awareness sessions against sexual violence and other harming practices have been carried out and reached 198 persons, including 54 men and 21 boys. Sessions on psychological violence reached 148 persons. 33 members of protection committees in Ouallam and Tondikwindi have received trainings on the different types of SGBV and referral.
- In Ouallam, work is ongoing to construct 6 classrooms with a capacity of 50 persons each. At the same time, refugees are sensitized on the need to send their children to school. 22 children have been identified for pre-school.
- Ouallam has celebrated a clean-up campaign day on 6 November under the theme “I love my commune”. Over 50 youngsters have taken part in this initiative.



*Maimouna and her 6 children have fled following the attack of Inates last year and are now settled as internally displaced persons in Ayerou. With the support of ECHO, she has been identified as a person with specific needs and has received a cash grant of 50 USD to respond in a dignified matter to her needs and those of her family.*

- In the Tahoua region, UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior, partners ADKOUL and CIAUD, the Tribunal of Tchintabaraden and the City Hall of Tillia have launched an important campaign against statelessness on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Through this campaign, UNHCR and partners have offered identity documents to 865 children including 265 refugee children. Moreover, the parents of the identified children have been sensitized about the importance of identity documents and birth registration.
- UNHCR and its partners have given land plots to 511 refugees in Ayorou and 598 refugees in Ouallam as well as to 50 host households in Ayerou and 2 in Ouallam. 538 constructions of social houses are ongoing in the Tillabery region. To date, 92 houses have been built of which 47 in Ouallam, 35 in Ayerou and 10 in Abala. During the third quarter of 2020, the project employs 492 in brick construction and another 323 persons in construction - some 25% of them are female.



## Working in partnership

For UNHCR forced displacement requires a **comprehensive approach to development** and should be considered a development, poverty reduction and climate issue. Including forcibly displaced and their hosts in development interventions is key for the transition out of poverty of the country and to boosting resilience. UNHCR interventions target not only refugees and IDPs, but also host communities who live in same conditions of high vulnerability -- with a view to move towards economic integration and social inclusion. This approach of inclusion and development is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and aligned with the Global Compact for Refugee and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. This approach is at the core of UNHCR's OUT OF CAMP strategy and is operationalized through ongoing collaborations with the World Bank Group, the German development agency (GIZ) and the European Union (EUTF) and the ILO. With the idea of deepening its role of convener, UNHCR is also looking into strengthening relationship with private sector actors as they are a crucial partner for boosting economic growth and job creation.

- In order to lend support to **protection clusters** at national level in terms of advocacy, facilitate coordination between countries and regional IASC, providing visibility through data driven analysis, and serving as a platform for information sharing and best practices, the Regional Bureau in Dakar has initiated bilateral and multilateral consultations with key stakeholders including donors to revitalize the Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG). A task force composed of UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, UNWOMEN, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR and SOS has been established to draft the strategy as well as the TORs which are being commented on and will be further adopted. Through the Regional Protection Working Group, appropriate support will be provided to the protection crisis in the Sahel.

## Financial Information

### Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in the Sahel regions

Canada | CERF | European Union | France | Germany | International Humanitarian and Charity Organization | Japan | Luxembourg | Spain | Monaco | Peacebuilding Fund | United States of America

### Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger<sup>1</sup>

United States of America 25.5 M | European Union 13 M | Germany 5.1 M | Japan 4.7 M | CERF 4.4M | Italy 3.5 M | African Development Bank 2.6 M | France 1.2 M | Spain 0.6 M | Luxembourg 0.4 M | Fondazione Prosolidar Onlus 0.3 M | International Humanitarian and Charity Organization 0.3 M | Intesa San Paolo 0.2 M | Monaco 0.07 M | Canada 0.04 M | Other private donors 0.1M

### Other softly earmarked contributions<sup>2</sup>

Germany 78.8 M | United States of America 61.8 M | United Kingdom 24.8 M | Denmark 14.6 M | Private donors Australia 11.4 M | Canada 10.2 M | Private donors USA 8.7 M | Private donors Germany 7 M | Private donors Japan 4.5 M | France 3.5 M | Spain 3.4 M | Ireland 3.3 M | Sweden 3 M | Private donors United Kingdom 2.3 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.3 M | Japan 2.1 M | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 M

Holy See | Iceland | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Morocco | Norway | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions<sup>3</sup>

Sweden 76.4 M | Private donors Spain 66.8 M | Norway 41.4 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 34 M | United Kingdom 31.7 M | Private donors Japan 27.8 M | Germany 25.9 M | Japan 23.8 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Private donors Italy 15.7 M | France 14 M | Private donors Sweden 11.7 M | Private donors USA 10.8 M | Italy 10.6 M

Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

1. Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

2. 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.

3. 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.

## External / Donor Relations

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