

Niger

January 2021

Due to rising insecurity in **Maradi** region, the number of **internally displaced persons** has raised sharply and reached **17,262 persons**.

The number of **IDPs in Tillabery and Tahoua region** has increased with **47%** over the last 12 months. At least 138,229 persons are internally displaced.

With the support of the EU, UNHCR has constructed **2,409 social houses** for the most vulnerable refugees and Nigeriens in **Diffa region**.

KEY INDICATORS

3,361*

Number of vulnerable persons in detention in Libya that have been evacuated to safety in Niger since November 2017.

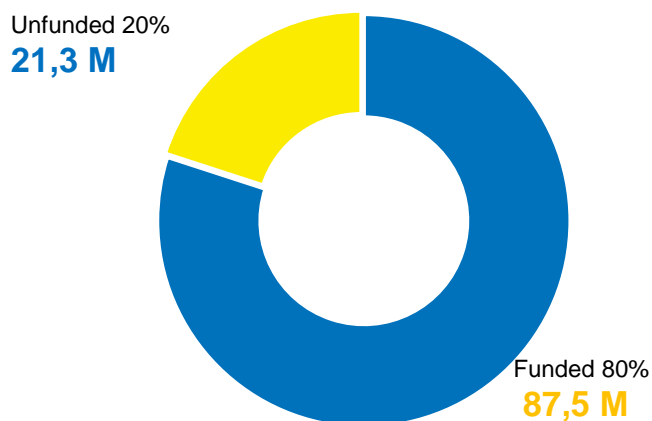
573,059*

Persons who have fled their home countries or are internally displaced and living in Niger.

FUNDING AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020

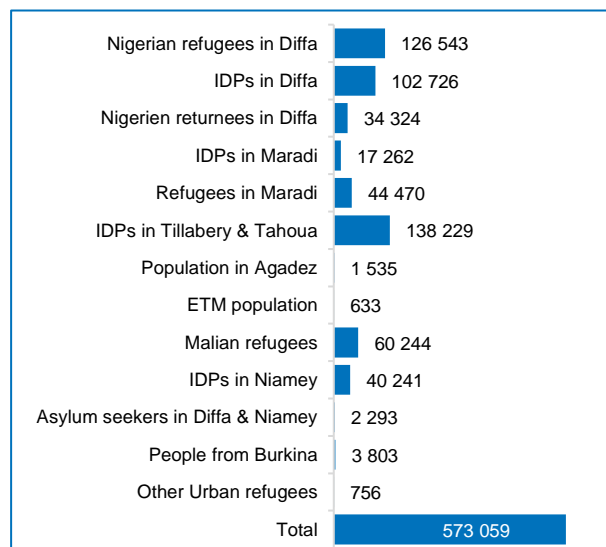
USD 108,8 M

requested for the Niger situation



Construction of social housing for the most vulnerable refugees and host households is ongoing in the Tillabery region. UNHCR has pledged to construct 4000 social houses in Tillabery
© UNHCR / Marlies Cardoen

POPULATION OF CONCERN



Update On Achievements

The operation is managed by over 390 staff in 8 locations: 1 Representation, the ETM office and the one-stop-shop in Niamey; three Sub-Offices in Agadez, Diffa and Maradi; two Field Offices in Tahoua, and Tillabery and two Field Units in Abala and Ouallam.

Operational Context

*Prevention and response to the **global COVID-19 pandemic** is key today. While UNHCR continues to deliver aid, the organization has set up a strategy which focuses on increased coordination with the Government and other stakeholders. Prevention is paramount and carried out through communication campaigns, distribution of hygiene kits to the Government and refugees and site planning. UNHCR has donated tons of medical supplies and equipment to the Government, including Refugee Housing Units (RHU) to isolate confirmed cases. An important scale up of medical and WASH (Water Hygiene Sanitation) staff is ongoing. An estimated **5,992,023 USD** will be needed this year to continue and scale up measures in UNHCR's field operations to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and prevent further spread.*

Sahel Situation began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in **northern Mali**. UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a joint strategy to close the camps in the Tillabery region and to support the socioeconomic integration of the **60,244 Malian refugees** into the country. With the support of the EU Trust Fund and GIZ, as well as development partners such as the World Bank and ILO, Malian refugees and their host communities have access to land, housing and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructure is being reinforced.

The deteriorating security situation has caused the **internal displacement of 138,229 persons** in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions. Protection monitoring, especially in the border areas, and an adequate protection response for identified cases is ongoing. Due to rising insecurity in these areas, at least 6,534 Nigeriens, mainly women and children, fled to Mali. Most of them are settled in the Cercle of Anderamboukane and Menaka.

Finally, the presence of armed groups in **Burkina Faso** has triggered the cross-border displacement of **3,803 persons at the least**. Armed incursions into Niger from Burkina

Faso's armed groups have also caused internal displacement. These persons are stuck in inaccessible zones near the border. Their exact numbers are expected to be higher. This situation is set to continue over the next months.

Nigeria Situation began in 2013, with the arrival to the Diffa region of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees who had been settled in Nigeria for decades. The situation has become increasingly mixed following attacks on Nigerien territory since 2015. Today, there are almost 263,518 displaced persons in the region (including **126,543 refugees, 102,726 IDPs, and 34,324 returnees**), many of them in secondary movement. The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages the Sayam Forage refugee camp, with over 20,499 people. UNHCR is strongly engaged in development-oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR, NGO partners and the World Bank foster economic recovery and long-term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing.

The **Maradi region** witnessed an influx of refugees since May 2019, fleeing gruesome killings, rape, kidnappings for ransom and pillaging of property by armed groups in North Western Nigeria. To respond to the new emergency, UNHCR opened a field office and deployed a team. UNHCR and partners are relocating refugees to "opportunity villages" away from the border to ensure their safety and ease pressure on the host population. In cooperation with the Government and with the support of the humanitarian and development community, UNHCR improves Infrastructure and access to basic services while giving an emergency response. To date, **UNHCR has biometrically registered 44,470 refugees**. Moreover, the number of IDPs is on the rise as security deteriorates sharply in the border region. Currently, Maradi region registers **17,262 IDPs**.

On 20th January 2021, **3,361 persons have been evacuated to Niger** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**; 633 are still in Niamey while 2,752 have already left Niger, and 116 departures are pending.

Niger is a **major crossroads of migratory movements** northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean region. These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. **1,535 asylum seekers and refugees**, mostly Sudanese, are based in Agadez since 2018. The most vulnerable (about 100 people) are housed in guesthouses in the city of Agadez. The Government, UNHCR, IOM and NGO partners identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide these persons with information and assistance. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of mixed movements leaving Libya and Algeria.

CONTACTS

Ms. Marlies CARDOEN, External Relations Officer, cardoen@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 49 (*Sahel, Diffa*)

Ms. Laurence BRON, Associate Reporting Officer, bronl@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 09 71 63 (*ETM*)

Ms. Valeria DELL'AQUILA, Associate Reporting Officer (Inter-Agency), dellaqui@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 58 32 (*COVID-19 response plan, Mixed Movements*)

Mr. Selim MEDDEB HAMROUNI, Associate Reporting Officer, meddebha@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 97 (*Maradi*)

Mr. Jean-Sébastien JOSSET, Associate Communications Officer, josset@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 90 76 69 77 (*Press*)

LINKS

[UNHCR operation page - Twitter](#)