

Almost 12,000 new arrivals in Sayam Forage Camp during the second half of 2020
January 2021

The Diffa region hosts **265,696*** **Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons and Nigerien returnees.** More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements.**

(*Government figures)

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on many roads following **attacks, kidnappings and the increased use of explosive devices.**

The security situation has a strong negative impact on the economy of the region, **reducing opportunities for both host and displaced populations.**

KEY INDICATORS

226,383

Number of people of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database.

1,674

Individuals were registered in Sayam Forage Camp during the month of December following a secondary displacement.

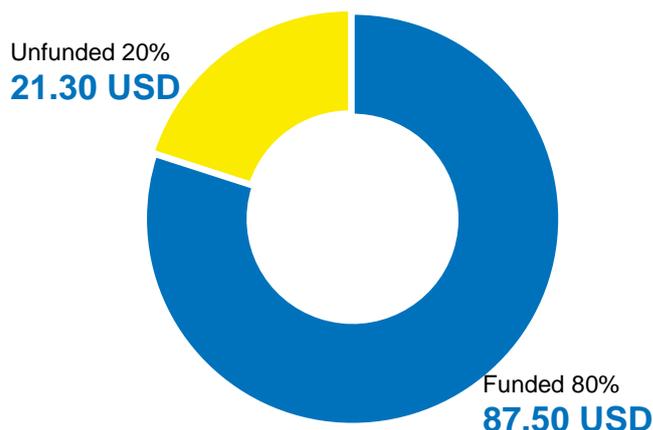
2,409

As of 31st December 2020, houses built in Diffa region.

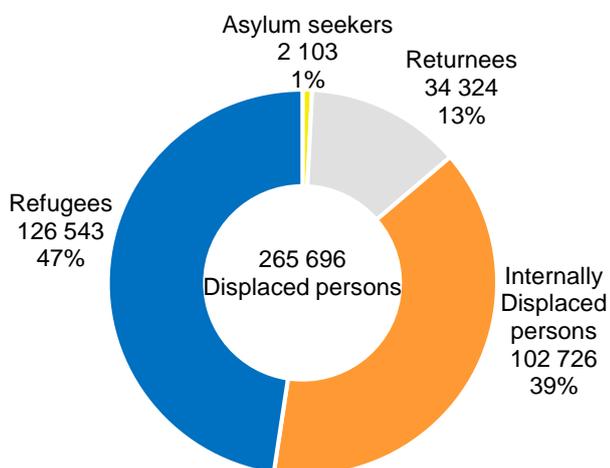
FUNDING (AS OF 30 DECEMBER 2020)

USD 108.8 million

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation



POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA
(GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Population movements and security situation

The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on Niger soil in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the Niger region of the Lake Chad Islands.

On the night of December 12-13, 2020; the town of Toumour, 75 kilometers east of Diffa, was the object of an armed attack claimed by Boko Haram. During this attack, which targeted civilian populations, 34 persons were killed including, ten by bullets, four by drowning and twenty by fire and around a hundred injured . Most of the inhabitants fled to the bush, some only returning the following day during the morning. This incident led to population displacements toward Diffa, a town located at 100 kilometers away. Located at 14 kilometers from the Nigerian border, Toumour host 20 000 Nigerians refugees, 8 000 internally displaced persons and 3 600 Nigerian returnees who still need humanitarian assistance.



Toumour village after the attack of Boko Haram on 12th December 2020.

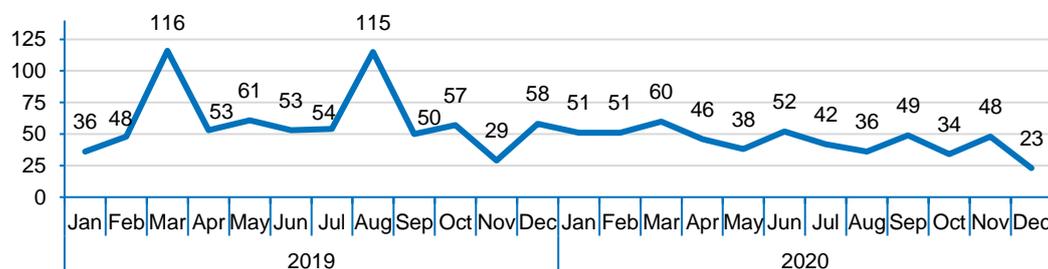
This attack caused enormous damage, thus leaving populations in a heightened vulnerability. The first rapid assessments of need on the Toumour site following the attack show 20 600 people are in need of emergency assistance in terms of shelter, non-food items, security, food, WASH, health, protection and education. In collaboration with humanitarian partners and local authorities, UNHCR is organizing the emergency response for affected communities, however, recent floods of the Komadougou river made it difficult for aid workers to access Toumour.

Following the first attacks in the Diffa region in 2015, the population on the move has become increasingly mixed. The majority of the displaced are settled in more than **140 spontaneous sites, villages and towns** along the one main road of the region, the **Route Nationale 1**. At the request of the authorities, UNHCR has established two camps: the refugee camp of Sayam Forage and the IDP camp of Kablewa. The latter was closed by the Government in June 2017 after a suicide bomb attack.

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour, Bosso roads following the discovery of explosive devices, successive attacks and kidnappings. The border with Nigeria has been closed in August 2019 which increases the price of essential goods for population. In 2020, attacks against the population including kidnappings, the trademark of Boko Haram, continue as threats towards humanitarian workers.

A total of 23 protection incidents were reported in the region during the month of December 2020 compared to 84 for the previous month, which represent a decrease of 72%. 57 individuals were victims during the reporting period against 151 in the previous month. This decrease may be linked to the deterioration of roads due to the flooding of the Komadougou river and the intensification of military operation in nigerain territory surrounding the border of Niger which force insurgents to move far away in the Lac Tchad bassin.

Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2019 to Dec 2020



Population Statistics

The latest figures published by the government on September 30th, 2020 estimate the number of displaced persons in the Diffa region at **265,696** out of which 226,383 are registered in UNHCR's database. Out of the total population, 79% are women and children. Since January 2020, more than 3,600 refugees from Chad and Nigeria have crossed the Lake Chad island and have found safety in Kindjandi and Toumour, where UNHCR provides an emergency response. The city of Diffa currently hosts more than 23,000 displaced persons.

Achievements

Operation Strategy

The key pillars of the UNHCR strategy for the Diffa region are:

- **Ensure institutional resilience** through capacity development and support to the authorities (locally elected and administrative authorities) in the framework of the Niger decentralisation process;

- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanisation program through sustainable interventions and dynamic partnerships including with the World Bank; Ensure a coordinated and high-quality **protection response** and maintain an **emergency response capacity**

Main Milestones

Protection response

- During the month of December, protection actors have improved their coordination and the quality of the response, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism.
- **Child protection:** Almost 8 000 individuals have been reached out with sensitization activities during the month of December in Diffa region on SGBV issues and registration of children to schools. 42 community structures member of Diffa, Mainé and the camp of Sayam Forage have been trained on child protection, SGBV issues and technics of sensitization. 568 persons doing a secondary displacement after the terrible attack of insurgent against the village of Toumour have received first psychological aid and psychosocial support. In terms of distribution, 15 orphans' refugees living in the city of Diffa have received food kits while 10 children at risk of protection including survival of SGBV have received shelter kits. Besides 30 kits have been distributed to families of children at risk of protection and 12 persons living with specific needs have received the same assistance.
SGBV: During the month of December, 23 new cases of gender-based violence have been reported in Diffa region. The cases range from denial of resources (13) to physical assault and sexual assault and rape (4 cases each), psychosocial violence and rape (1 case each). 100% of cases have benefited of psychosocial support and have been referred either to health facilities, police and/or justice for the other services. Moreover 30 food kits and 50 dignity kits have been distributed to SVBG survivals. Following the attack against the village of Toumour during the second half of the month 568 persons have benefited of first psychological aid while 684 women living in the camp of Sayam Forage have received dignity kits.
Persons with specific needs: In the camp of Sayam Forage 199 latrines have been built for the benefit of persons with specific needs. 2 children's tricycles and 4 canes have been distributed to person with specific needs.
On the other hand, 34 individuals have benefited of physiotherapy consultation at the site of N'Guemadou Mai, 28 of them having technical mobility aid (crutch, simple cane, English cane.)

Urbanisation program: This innovative EU-funded program simultaneously ensures legal access to land for social housing for refugees and vulnerable host households, while revitalising the local economy which has been deeply affected by the Boko Haram conflict in the region. To date, 2,409 sustainable houses for the most vulnerable families have already been built, while 1 050 are ongoing, 3,419 jobs were created, 2,490 persons were trained in the construction and more than 36,900 persons got a better access to water in 3 districts (Diffa, Assaga and Chetimari).

Livelihood Activities: 20 women of the Sayam Forage camp have been trained on the manufacturing of soap, liquid soap and bleach by UNHCR and its partners. As of 31st December, they have produced 3,840 soaps; 3,090 liters of liquid soap and 1,802 liters of bleach. On the other hand, the women trained on producing face masks have manufactured 7,104 masks during the month of December. Finally, 28 beneficiaries of cash transfer have received each a sum of 75 000 FCFA.

Combating desertification and protecting the environment: Refugees and host populations are actively taking part in the protection of the environment. Partner CDR has proceeded to the training of the 30 community members' establishment last month at the camp of Sayam Forage and the Guidan Kadji village. The training was held on the control, prevention and curative technique against vegetation fire.

Prevention and response to the COVID-19 pandemic: In partnership with the NGO APBE and "Bien-être de la Femme Rurale", 60 women have been trained and equipped to produce and commercialize soap since 2017. As part of the national COVID-19 response, refugees scaled up the production of soap, bleach and masks which are distributed within the Sayam Forage camp. 230 community structures' members of the sites of Garin Wanzam, Yebi, Dagaya, Adjimerie, N'Guelmadou Mai, Kindjandi, Toubaram, and N'guiguimi have received each 7 soaps and 3 face masks to support their effort in the sensitization against the spread of coronavirus. There are 9 active cases of COVID-19 in the Diffa region making the total number to 16 since March 2020. No death case has been recorded. Currently UNHCR does not register active cases among beneficiaries.

Education: 10 emergency classrooms and 2 classes' blocs of 4 rooms have been built, the latter have been equipped with 100 table benches. 515 students are attending lectures in the 5-distance learning centres, the registration for national examination council (NECO) is ongoing and UNHCR is compiling a list of candidates that will be submitted to Nigerian school authorities.

WASH: At the Sayam Forage camp, a volume of 2,152 m³ of water was produced by the 3 pumping stations, which represent about 8 litres / person / day for a population of 24,928. More than 12,000 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion, malaria and the prevention against the new Coronavirus at the Sayam Forage camp.

Main Challenges

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped. Structural but costly infrastructural investments in irrigation, water supply and electricity are required to enable the population to develop income generating activities;
- The Niger public services are highly dependent on humanitarian actors, which creates a risk of a sharp deterioration in living conditions for the population in case of a funding shortfall;
- Irregular access for humanitarian actors due to the security situation and military operation;

- A worsening security situation generates new major displacements and secondary movements; possible movements of Nigerian refugees back towards Nigeria might also occur.
- Recurrent flooding of the Komadougou river force a lot of refugees to make a secondary displacement toward the Sayam Forage camp

Financial Information

Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Diffa

Canada | France | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | United States of America | European Union | CERF | Peacebuilding Fund

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

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 contributions²

Germany 78.8 M | United States of America 61.8 M | United Kingdom 24.8 M | Denmark 14.6 M | Private donors Australia 12.8 M | Canada 10.2 M | Private donors USA 8.7 M | Private donors Germany 8 M | France 4.7 M | Private donors Japan 4.5 M | Spain 3.4 M | Ireland 3.3 M | Sweden 3 M | Private donors United Kingdom 2.6 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.5 M | Japan 2.1 M | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 M

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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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