

Niger

July 2022

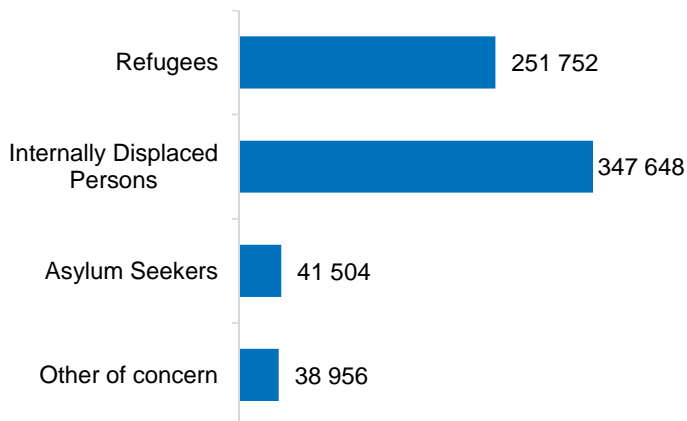
Since the beginning of the year, Niger has received **14,554 Nigerians** who crossed the border to seek refuge in the **Maradi region**. A total of **7,940 Malians** and **4,102 Burkinabés** also arrived in **Tillabéri region** fleeing the exacerbation of the conflict in the central Sahel.

The Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered and validated **7,966 households of 52,594 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** in the departments of Tillia and Tassara in Tahoua region. Since the beginning of this year, **13,726 Malians** and **9,553 Nigerians** have arrived in the region.

UNHCR distributed shelter kits, non-food items, and clothing in Madaoua and Tillia to newly arrived Malian refugees and Nigerian asylum seekers. A total of 5,033 clothing kits for men, women and children were distributed to 763 newly registered households.

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 JULY 2022

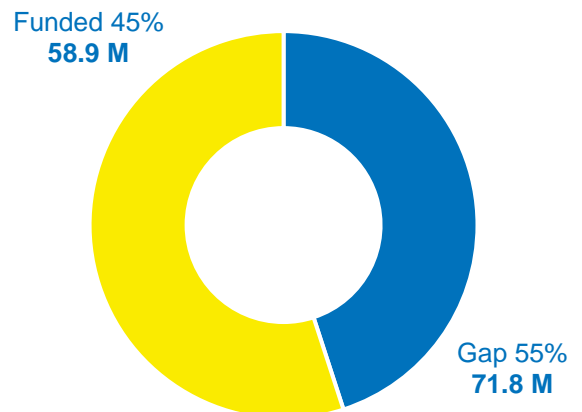
251.752 refugees, **41.504** asylum seekers, **347.648** internally displaced persons, **38.956** other persons of concern. The total number of persons of concern to UNHCR is **679.860**.



FUNDING AS OF 9 AUGUST 2022

USD 130,7 M

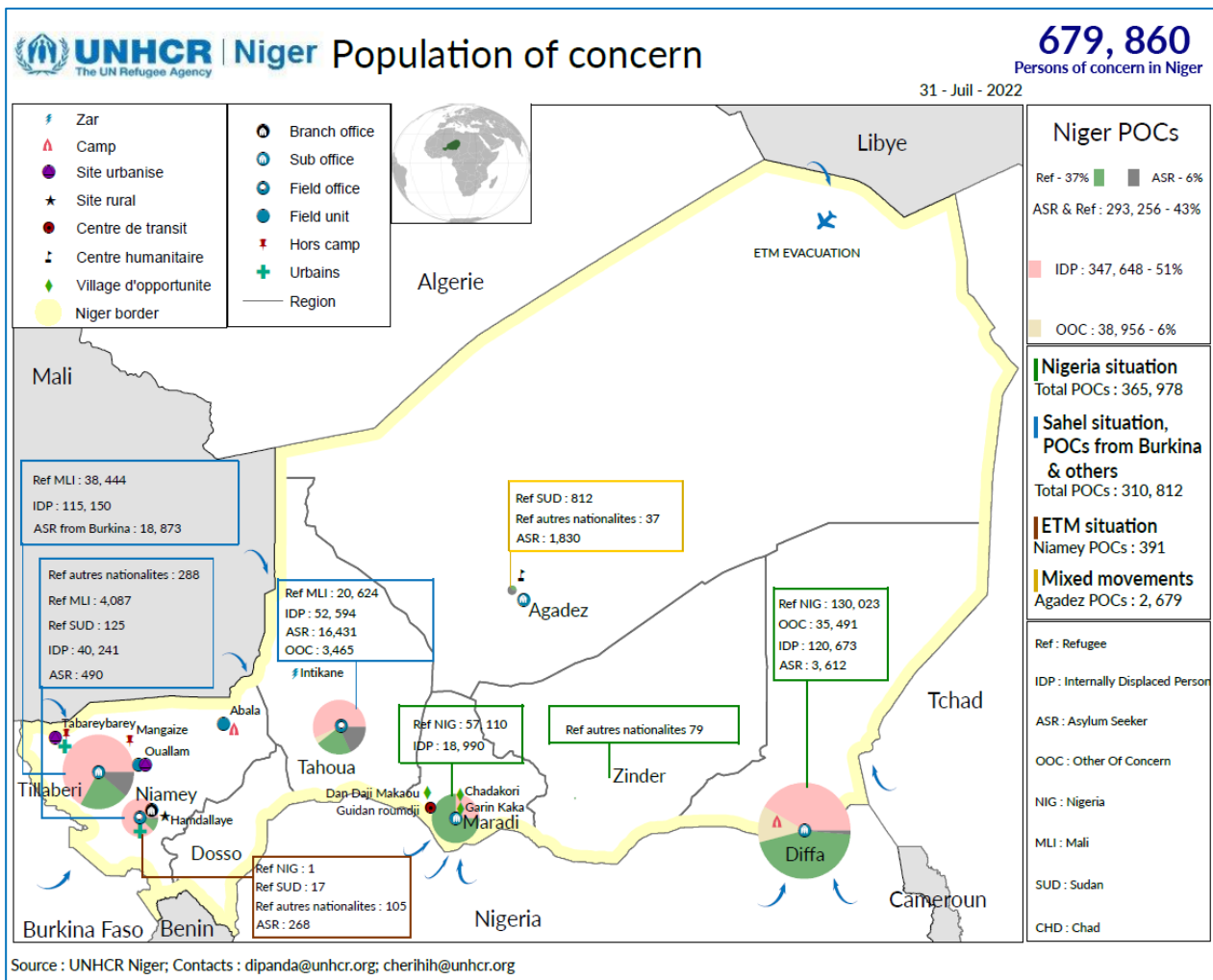
Requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022



Samuel and Rita, aged 18 and 17, are about to board a flight at Niamey's Diori Hamani airport to join their mother in Dakar through a family reunification program facilitated by UNHCR. © HCR / Boubacar Younoussa Sidde

Operational context & New Arrivals

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting **291,861 refugees and asylum seekers**, with 65% coming from Nigeria, 27 % from Mali, 6% from Burkina Faso, and 2% from other countries. Furthermore, there are **more than 347,648 Internally Displaced People (IDP)** and Nigerien returnees (who have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger).



Niger-wide priorities & events

UNHCR's work in Niger focuses on the **protection, assistance, and solutions** for persons of concern, with particular attention to women, children and persons with specific needs guided by a **community-based approach**. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

On July 20, 2022, the Minister of National Education of Niger, the General Consul of the Nigerian Embassy in Niger, the local authorities of Diffa and the UNHCR Representative in Niger have officially launched the **Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE)** in Diffa. **127 Nigerian refugee applicants, including 10 girls**, took these exams for the first time in Niger at the Lycée Général Idriss ALAOMA of Diffa, named « **Diffa-Nigerian Refugees Special Study Center** ».



UNHCR Representative Emmanuel Gignac with Nigerian refugee candidates and visiting one of the laboratories in Diffa. © HCR / Jean Sebastien

As of 31 July 2022, **4,861 persons have been resettled from Niger to third countries**; these include 3,411 evacuees from Libya and 1,450 refugees registered in Niger. Among the **3,710 persons evacuated from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, a total of **393 evacuees** are still in Niamey including 121 refugees pending departures and 152 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

In July, UNHCR organized training sessions in Niamey and Tahoua on the **reporting, identification, and referral of potential resettlement cases** for UNHCR and partner staff. The training provided staff with knowledge on procedures, vulnerabilities, tools, resettlement categories, and methodologies for identifying potential resettlement cases, including resettlement criteria. Medical cases, anti-fraud policy and family composition were also discussed. Lastly, an exercise on external and internal referral has helped participants to better understand the identification tools.



Training of UNHCR partners and staff on resettlement in Tahoua. © HCR

Background and key achievements

The Central Sahel Situation (Tillabéri & Tahoua regions)

Tillabéri region

UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy to further integrate Malian refugees (63,155 as of July 2022) into the country and to find alternatives to camps in the region**. With the support of development actors, Malian refugees and host communities have access to land, housing, and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructures are being reinforced. To further strengthen peaceful co-existence between the different populations, UNHCR aims to bring the populations together through 'common areas', such as village stores, cattle feeding areas, as well as through various mixed community committees.

In July, UNHCR **distributed kits for small trades and food preparation kits to 22 women living** at the Ouallam IDP site. The food preparation kits are composed of, bags of rice, pasta, tables, chairs, thermos flasks, plates, spoons, and cooking pots. As for the small trade kit, it is composed of sugar, dates, soaps, cookie boxes, cleanser, tea, and candies.

In addition, UNHCR partner APBE received 756 people for medical consultations, including 245 refugees and 511 members from the host community. 31 among them were placed under observation while 81 were referred to other health facilities. In addition, 37 women were received for prenatal consultations and 17 joined the family planning program, and a total of 38 deliveries were facilitated at the Ouallam Integrated Health Centre. Finally, as part of the government's extended vaccination program, 489 doses of vaccine were administered to children aged 0-59 months in Ouallam.

UNHCR and the regional authorities of Tillabéri visited the Ayorou solid waste recovery site. Opened in July 2020, this project involves 129 refugees and 129 members of the host community. The beneficiaries of this project stated to have produced **six tons of natural organic fertilizer** that will be purchased by the authorities as part of the land recovery. It will also be used for tree planting during the commemoration of the proclamation of Niger's Independence or National Tree Day, celebrated on August 3 each year.



Joint visit of the authorities and UNHCR to the Ayorou solid waste recovery site. © HCR

Tahoua region

The Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered and validated **7,966 IDP households, or 52,594 individuals** in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. Since the beginning of this year, **13,726 Malians and 9,553 Nigerians** have arrived in Tahoua region on top of the 3,899 households of 20,628 persons that were living in the former refugee hosting area (ZAR) of Intikane.

From July 18 to 19, a **joint mission led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action of the Tahoua region, defense and security forces, and humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, took place in the department of Bagaroua**. The purpose of the mission was to conduct rapid assessments of the protection needs and best interests of 27 unaccompanied children in the villages of Ambagoura, Tawey and Sahiya. These villages have been hosting people from Nigeria since March 2022.

UNHCR distributed shelter kits, non-food items, and clothing (donated by USA for UNHCR) in the departments of Madaoua and Tillia to newly arrived Malian refugees and Nigerian asylum seekers in these two localities. A total of 5,033 clothing kits for men, women and children were distributed to 763 (out of 903) newly registered households.

The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

Diffa region

A total of 235,211 forcibly displaced persons live in the Diffa region (including 129,835 refugees, 67,817 IDP, 35,445 returnees, and 2,114 asylum seekers). Many of them had been displaced more than once. Most stay in spontaneous sites or with host communities. The refugee population continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp from Nigeria, but also in other hosting sites in the Diffa region, seeking better humanitarian assistance and protection. **32,587 persons** live in the Sayam Forage camp.

UNHCR has provided access to **clean water for refugees through three pumping stations built at the Sayam Forage** camp, water trucking, and water racks, with an average consumption of 12 liters/person/day. In addition, UNHCR has installed two new 5,000-liter bladders to increase access to water and cover the critical need for drinkable water.

In July, 260 households benefited from **shelter kits to improve/strengthen their houses built in banco**. These households have already put the tiles on the houses and 30 of them have begun fixing doors and windows. In addition, 1,205 houses out of a total of 1,401 identified by the heads of the neighbouring villages of Sayam Forage camp, need tarpaulins to be reinforced during the rainy season.

As part of the EU Trust Funds funded "**Kallo Tchidaniwo**" institutional and community resilience building project in the Diffa region, **seven micro-enterprises were established in the seven communes of the project's intervention**. These micro-enterprises are composed of 42 girls and boys of all statuses (refugees, IDPs, returnees, and the host community) formerly employed in the construction sector. In addition, the "Diffa Enterprise House" has started to assist those young community members to apply for the National Support Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (FONAP). Several project files have already been submitted to this institution for funding.

Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,986 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerian territory have triggered internal displacement of around 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border mainly targeting farmers and breeders and operate kidnapping with the objective of ransom.



Oumma Yacouba, a Nigerian refugee and artist living in the village of opportunities of Dan Dadjji Makaou © HCR / Gloria Ramazani

The overall strategic direction of **UNHCR's response in Maradi is to relocate refugee communities away from the border to ensure their safety**, while at the same time, easing the pressure from the host communities. Subsequently, sites have been built in nearby rural villages and services were reinforced for both refugee and the host communities, such as access to water, health services, education, and protection assistance.

For security reasons, UNHCR has **relocated 3,972 households of 17,713 individuals** far away from their first entry points to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. Thus, UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three **"villages of opportunity"**. These include 1,809 households of 7,919 refugees in Chadakori: 1,185 households of 5,434 in Dan Dadjji Makaou and 978 households of 4,360 in Garin Kaka. However, recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice.

On July 28, UNHCR, the National Commission on Refugee Status (CNE), and the Directorate of Civil Status, Migration, and Refugees conducted a joint mission to the communes of Guidan Roumji to assess, verify, and profile households from Nigeria in the villages of this commune. A total of 60 households composed mostly of Nigerian returnees were identified.

Agadez

Niger has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria to Niger. **These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection.** UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that the latter have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum.

With the support of IOM, NGO partners and the Government of Niger, UNHCR identifies asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide them with adequate information and tailored assistance. As of 1st July 2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered **2,679 individuals** in need of international protection. The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **five guesthouses in Agadez** where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are hosted in the **Humanitarian Centre** built in the outskirts of the city.



Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system and implements all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region.

Moreover, UNHCR assists its persons of concern and aims to find durable solutions, such as resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

Hamdallaye - Urban refugees

As of 31 July 2022, Niamey hosts a total of **4,445 refugees and 459 asylum-seekers**. 89% (4,010) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerien law, Malians who are victims of the armed conflict in northern Mali are **recognized on a prima facie basis** while other nationalities undergo the regular governmental procedure of refugee status determination (RSD).

In July, UNHCR conducted a **training of trainers on the protection of forcibly displaced persons** at the police academy for 19 officials, including seven regional supervisors and 12 officials from the directorates of Territorial Surveillance, Public Security, and the police academy. This training completes the process of integrating a module on the protection of persons of concern to UNHCR into the training curriculum for police officers.



Refugee women at the Humanitarian Centre in Agadez. © UNHCR / Romain Pichon-Sintes

Partnership

UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions, to ensure a coherent protection response in the country. The Cluster also shares information amongst all relevant partners, bridges identified gaps, and ensures the strategic direction of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions aim to move towards economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and is aligned with the Global Compact for Refugee (GCR) and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus.

It is at the heart of the Government of Niger and UNHCR's joint vision for the implementation of an **exit strategy from the camps**. UNHCR aims to strengthen relationships with private sector actors, who play a crucial role in stimulating economic growth and job creation, as well as engage with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media

The office also works with other government bodies, national and international implementing and operational partners. Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the National Commission for Eligibility (CNE) to ensure adequate international protection and delivery of multisectoral assistance to its persons of concern.

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2022

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