

Niger

August 2022

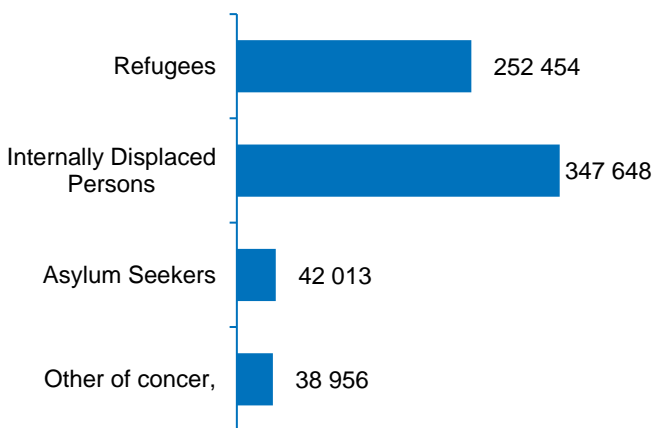
The government of Niger, with the support of UNHCR, is conducting a physical and **biometric verification exercise of** refugees and asylum seekers to validate their presence in Niger and to update their personal data and needs. This exercise began in June in Diffa, and so far, a total of 43,480 people have been verified. The exercise is ongoing.

A total of 289,799 forcibly displaced persons lives in the Diffa region (including 130,023 refugees, 120,673 IDPs, 35,491 returnees, and 3,612 asylum seekers). Many of those forced to flee had been displaced more than once.

As of August 31, a total of 4,861 persons had been resettled from Niger to third countries, including 3,411 persons evacuated from Libya (through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism ETM**) and 1,450 refugees that have been registered in Niger.

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 AUGUST 2022

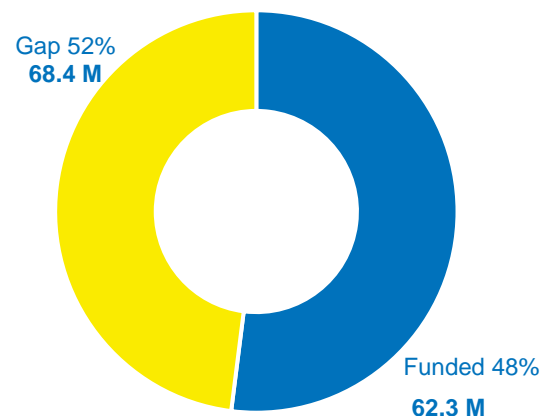
252.454 refugees, **42.013** asylum seekers, **347.648** internally displaced persons, **38.956** other persons of concern. The total number of persons of concern to UNHCR is **681.071**.



FUNDING AS OF 9 AUGUST 2022

USD 130,7 M

Requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022

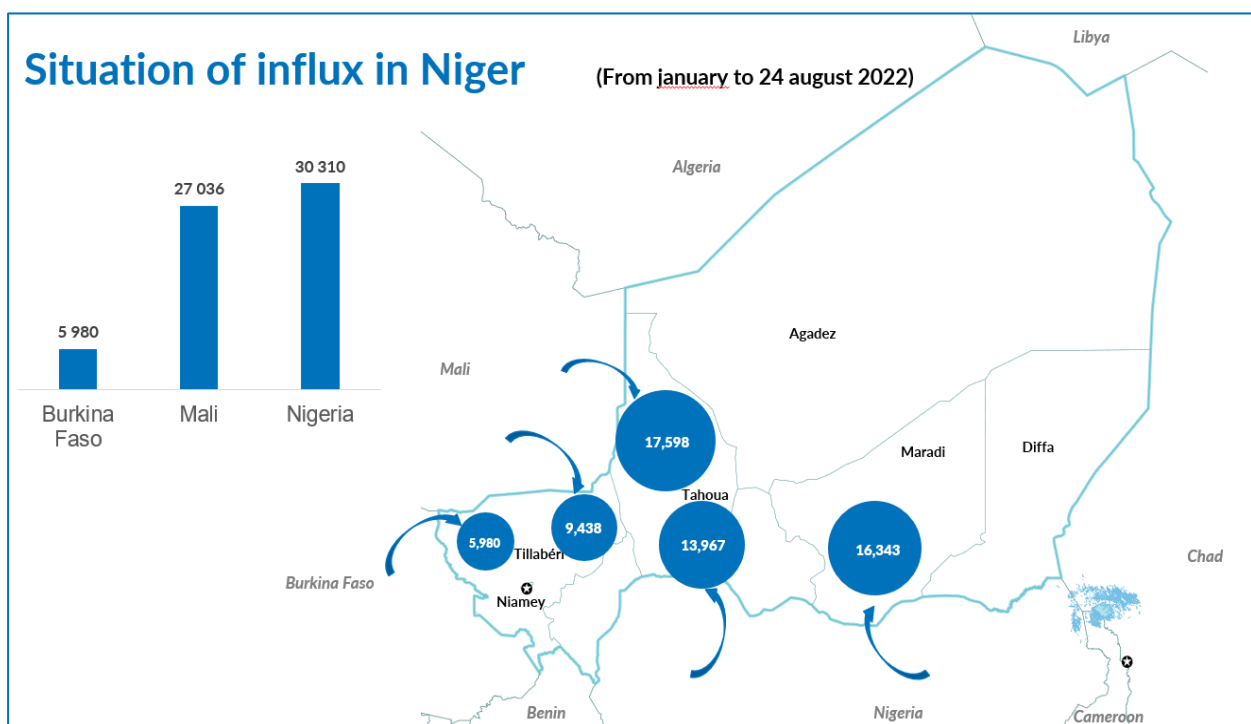


Playtime with children at the site of Hamdallaye © UNHCR / Gloria Ramazani

Operational context

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting **294,467 refugees and asylum seekers**, with 65% coming from Nigeria, 26 % from Mali, 6% from Burkina Faso, and 3% 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).

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.



Those figures represent the time-frame January to August 2022 and include persons that have recently arrived in Niger, who were captured through a monitoring process, and/or a pre-registration process. They have not all yet been verified as asylum seekers/refugees

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 (64,185 as of August 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 August 2022, UNHCR renewed 94 damaged and/or torn identity documents for refugees living in Tillabéri region. In addition, 9,989 cubic meters of water were provided to refugees living in the urbanized sites of Abala and Ouallam, with a ratio of 15 liters/person/day.

Health facilities supported by UNHCR, received **889 refugees and host community members for medical consultations. Of these, 31 were evacuated** to regional health facilities. Finally, 174 women were seen for prenatal consultations while 38 births were assisted.

Within the framework of the GIZ/BMZ-funded humanitarian housing project, **1,650 houses including 1,103 in Abala, 512 in Ouallam and 35 in Ayorou have been built.** The allocation committees of the plots and social houses in Ouallam and Abala have carried out physical checks on the occupants of the houses, to ensure that an updated list of beneficiaries will be handed to the authorities. Thus, 45 houses were handed over to 45 refugee households living in Abala.

Finally, in mid-August, UNHCR and the Tillabéri Regional Directorate of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees (DREC/MR) conducted a joint mission to monitor the progress of the humanitarian housing project in Ouallam. As a result, the Ouallam authorities signed a document to allow for the construction of social houses on 312 plots.

Tahoua region

During the reporting period, **3,899 refugee households, or 20,628 individuals** who were living in the former refugee hosting area (ZAR), were settled in 26 reception villages located in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. In addition, **the Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered and validated 7,966 households of 52,594 IDPs** in the same area.

Since January, **10,608 Malians** have newly arrived in the Tahoua region. As of August 31, a total of **16,431 Nigerian asylum seekers and 3,465 Nigerian returnees** had been registered at Level I by UNHCR and its partners, including government partner DREC. In addition, 17,000 asylum seekers were awaiting registration in the departments of Madaoua, Konni, and Bagaroua.

During the reporting period, UNHCR partners received 3,696 persons for **medical consultations**, including 1,301 Malian and Nigerian refugees, 1,837 IDPs, and 558 members of the host community. In addition, six critical cases were evacuated to the regional hospital in Tahoua.

5,000 people were reached in Tillia, Telemcess, Bangui, and other neighbouring villages through a series of sensitization sessions conducted by UNHCR and its partners ADKOUL and APBE on the themes of **child protection, prevention of and fight against gender-based violence, aspects of protection of people with special needs, and strengthening of peaceful coexistence.**

On 19 August, **UNHCR handed over two ambulances** to the Governor of Tahoua region. The regional authorities deployed the ambulances to health facilities in the departments of Tassara and Madaoua where a large number of Malian and Nigerian refugees live. This support strengthens the medical evacuations from these areas to the departmental and regional hospitals.



Ceremony to hand over two ambulances to the Governor of Tahoua region © / UNHCR

From 8-9 August, UNHCR organized a **training on protection monitoring** for 33 monitors of the NGO CIAUD in the Tahoua region. Participants received technical training on the conduction of rapid protection assessments (RPAs), reporting techniques and the typology of protection incidents. The training also informed participants about the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

From 10 -11 August, UNHCR organized a **training session on international protection for twenty monitors operating at various border posts in the regions of Tahoua, Maradi, Dosso, Tillabéry, Niamey, Zinder, and Diffa**. Main areas of discussions were UNHCR's mandate, the legal framework for asylum in Niger, the principle of non-refoulement, and the non-criminalization of irregular entry of asylum seekers into the territory of a state, and the monitoring and reporting of cross-border movements.

The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

Diffa region

A total of 289,799 forcibly displaced persons lives in the Diffa region (including 130,023 refugees, 120,673 IDP, 35,491 returnees, and 3,612 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. A total of **32,429 persons** lives in the Sayam Forage camp.

As for **WASH**, UNHCR continues to provide access to clean water for refugees through three pumping stations built at the Sayam Forage camp, for an average consumption of 14 liters/person/day.

More than 4,336 refugees received **medical consultations** at the Sayam Forage camp health facility. Of these, 167 were hospitalized and 62 were referred to regional health facilities. The clinics treated a total of 270 women while 69 births were assisted in the same health facility.

The Government of Niger, with the support of UNHCR, is conducting a **physical verification exercise** to verify all refugees and asylum seekers in Niger. This exercise started in Diffa in June this year. So far, a total of **43,480 individuals**, including 38,183 refugees, 232 asylum seekers, and 4,948 other persons, have been verified. The exercise is ongoing.

In August, UNHCR identified **42 new cases of child protection**, who all received psychosocial support. In addition, 1,198 people, including 448 refugees, 246 Nigerien returnees, 393 IDPs, and 111 Nigerien community members, were sensitized on child protection issues in the Diffa region. The topics included malaria prevention, personal hygiene, the harmful effects of the use of drugs, consequences of begging and children's rights, among others.

In August, UNHCR identified and documented **36 new cases of gender-based violence** in the Diffa region. They included 27 cases of destitution, 5 cases of physical violence, 2 cases of emotional violence, 1 case of sexual assault, and 1 case of forced marriage. 90% of the cases were identified by community structures and all survivors received psychosocial support and were referred to health facilities, the police, and/or the justice system for further services.

In its efforts to combat statelessness, UNHCR and its partners submitted 1,298 requests to the courts of Diffa, N'guiguimi, and Chetimari town hall for the **issuance of substitute birth certificates** for 1,027 children ages 0 to 6 and 271 adults identified in the region in August. In addition, 998 birth certificates were received and delivered to the beneficiaries.

UNHCR and its partner APBE distributed more than **1,000 non-food item (NFI) kits to new arrivals** in the *Sayam Forage* camp. In addition, a total of 132 emergency shelters were constructed by refugees and 1,300 emergency shelter kits were distributed to households whose shelters were damaged.

Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 94,421 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerien 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.

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 Dadji Makaou and 978 households of 4,360 in Garin Kaka. However, recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice.

From January to August 2022 (see map on page 2), a total of 16,343 Nigerian refugees have crossed the border from Nigeria to seek refuge in Maradi. 90% of the new arrivals were from Chindhinda in Jibia Township, Katsina State, and some from Batsari Township, Zamfara State, Nigeria. The number of refugees registered by the government in the Maradi region is 69,737, including 57,122 registered individually and biometrically (level 2) and 12,615 registered level 1 in Batchaka. In addition, 11,159 people are awaiting registration and are not included in these figures.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management in Maradi validated a total of **2,450 households of 18,990 IDPs in the communes of Tibiri, Guidan Kadji, and Gabi following the verification exercise conducted last April.**

During the month of August, 13,259 children, including 6,922 girls and 6,337 boys, benefited from psychosocial support and socio-educational activities in the seven **child-friendly spaces** of Guidan Roudji, Dan Dadji Makaou, Chadakori, Garin Kaka, Elguidi, Tankama and Tiadi. We also noted the sensitization of 2,665 people, including 1,409 refugees and 1,256 members of the host community, on issues related to child protection, such as forced/early marriage, clothing hygiene, malaria prevention and control, among others, by the child protection committees, children's clubs, and volunteers.

In August, **UNHCR's health partners** in the Maradi region received 4,373 people - 2,454 refugees and 1,919 members of the host community for consultation. Of these, 2,513 were suffering from malaria, 96 severe cases were hospitalized, and 32 extremely critical cases were referred to departmental and regional hospitals in Maradi.

Throughout the month, APBE conducted several series of **awareness-raising activities** on aspects of community life, such as on attendance at health centers, respect for the rights of neighbours, but also on the use of garbage cans, the use of impregnated mosquito nets, measures to prevent cholera, hygiene measures, management of water points, and personal and clothing hygiene. These activities reached 29,241 women and 20,687 men in the 'villages of opportunity' of Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka.

The national holiday of the proclamation of Niger's independence (August 3, 1960) has been called the festival of the tree since 1975 and is an opportunity to advocate for increased greening, **combat desertification and contain the effects of climate change**. On this occasion, refugees from the three "villages of opportunity" planted 125 fruit trees in Chadakori, 125 in Garin Kaka and 30 in Dan Dadji Makaou.

UNHCR's **protection monitoring** partner CIAUD identified, documented and referred 242 cases of people with special needs, including 68 women, 20 men, 80 girls and 74 boys. The most common vulnerabilities observed were elderly people living alone, widowed women, people with physical and psychological disabilities, separated and unaccompanied children, and ill people.

According to a new report by the *Directorate General of Civil Protection* (DGPC), published on 29 Monday, at least **75 people have died during the recent floods in Niger**, with 54 people who died due to collapsed buildings while 21 others died as a result of drowning. The region of Maradi recorded 30 deaths, followed by that of Zinder with 23 deaths. The 9 other victims were recorded in the region of Tahoua. Another 108,346 people representing 12,739 households were affected across the country. In response to the floods in Maradi, UNHCR has provided essential emergency items, such as tarpaulins, jerry cans, mosquito nets, blankets, mats, buckets, solar lamps, and clothing to 5,532 people being affected.

Mixed movements (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.

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 refugee seekers and refugees 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 explored.



Coordination meeting between UNHCR, parents of students, authorities, NGOs INTRESOS and APBE on the resumption of school activities at the Humanitarian Centre © / UNHCR

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 2nd September 2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered 2,680 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.

From August 19 to 25, 2022, UNHCR organized a **training session on refugee status determination** for officers of the National Eligibility Commission in Agadez. The training aimed to update their knowledge of the asylum system and the referral of cases for better management.

UNHCR facilitated the provision of **primary and secondary health** care to all persons of concern living in Agadez through its partner APBE. In August, APBE conducted 1,859 medical consultations; 46% of those consulted were refugees, of whom 32 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health centre in Agadez. APBE also provided **reproductive health services and malnutrition management services for children**.

In addition, the partners APBE and COOPI reached 931 people through awareness activities. These activities focused on peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, respect for medical prescriptions, the importance of community structures and the dangers of drug abuse within the humanitarian centre. The partners APBE and COOPI organized **69 language courses in French and Hausa** for 342 people including 79 men, 46 women, 110 boys and 107 girls.

As part of the **greening of the humanitarian centre**, the partner AIRD provided refugees and asylum seekers with 83 trees. AIRD ensures the water supply for the trees to allow the residents of the centre to maintain the trees.

Hamdallaye

As of 31 August 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.



Hamdallaye site, close to the city of Niamey, © HCR / Romain Pichon-Sintes

During the month of August, UNHCR's health partner APBE **received 738 cases of regularization** of medical consultations, prescriptions, examination forms, and hospitalization for **refugees and asylum seekers living in Hamdallaye and in the transit huts of Niamey**. 312 cases have been reimbursed, while 426 are being verified for reimbursement.

Urban refugees (Niamey)

As of 31 August 2022, Niamey hosts a total of **4,518 refugees and 504 asylum-seekers**. 91% (4,112) 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).

The urban setting of Niamey prompted UNHCR to bring together the partners involved in the implementation of interventions aimed at the protection and assistance of urban refugees and asylum seekers in one physical structure, called the **Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop)**. The latter has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as better coordination of the interventions of the different partners. At the same time, UNHCR and partners regularly conduct home visits and monitors the well-being of beneficiaries in the five communes of Niamey.

UNHCR manages several temporary shelters in cooperation with partner and implementing organizations to ensure adequate protection for people with specific vulnerabilities. To ensure inclusiveness and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperate with and **support the Central Refugee Committee in Niamey**, which is composed of refugee representatives from various communities.

From August 8 to 9, the Niamey field office organized a **training session on the code of conduct and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) for 32 staff from partner NGOs and local authorities**. The objective of the training was to strengthen the protection environment and reinforce the response. On 10 August, a total of 40 refugee and asylum seekers living at the Hamdallaye site and in the guest houses in Niamey were trained on PSEA.

In august, 488 complaints were received through the Niamey one-stop shop's green line, including 446 complaints from Niamey, 33 from Ouallam, 6 from Agadez, 3 from Hamdallaye. Most of the complaints were related to the renewal of expired refugee certificates, making appointments for the reimbursement of prescriptions and medical procedures, requesting information on the asylum application procedure, following up on requests for food aid, and the failure to provide health care and accommodation, among other things.

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** and is at the core of the joint Government of Niger's and **UNHCR's out of camp vision**. UNHCR aims at strengthening relationships with **private sector actors as they are a crucial actor for boosting economic growth** and job creation; as well as at engaging 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.

On 19 August, the humanitarian community in Niger celebrated the **World Humanitarian Day (WHD)** on August 19. With this year's theme "**It takes a village**", UNHCR teams and partners organized cultural and sports activities as well as exhibitions and conferences.



#Niger 🇳🇪

A l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'aide humanitaire ns avons présenté au min de l'Action humanitaire en présence de @LouiseAubinUN la bourse #DAFI qui, depuis 30 ans, permet aux réfugiés de poursuivre leurs études supérieures. 🙌

#ToutUnVillage #AvecLesRéfugiés



For more information on the visit, click [Here](#)

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

African Development Bank Group | Austria | CERF | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Italy | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | Sweden | United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2022

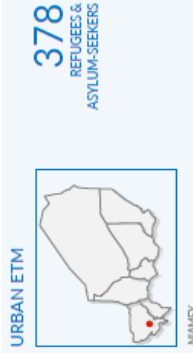
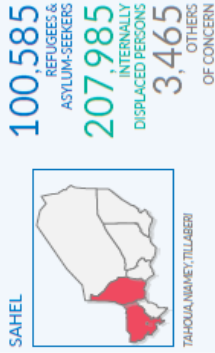
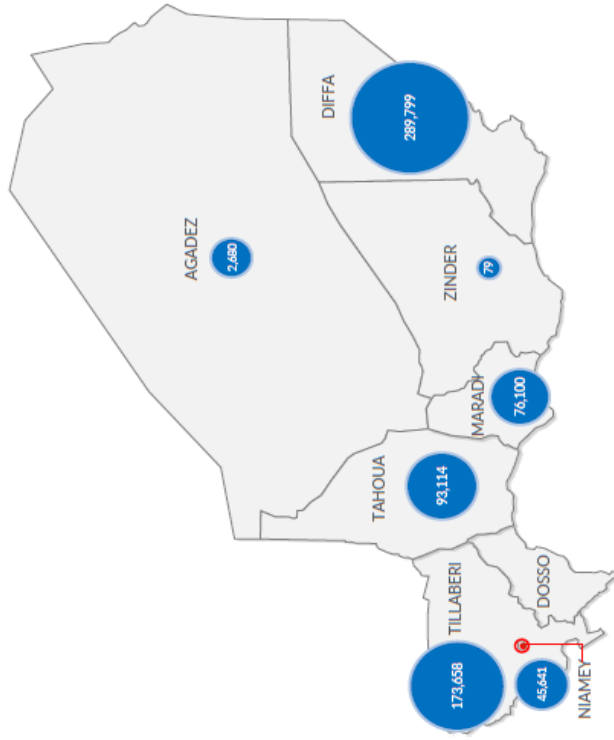
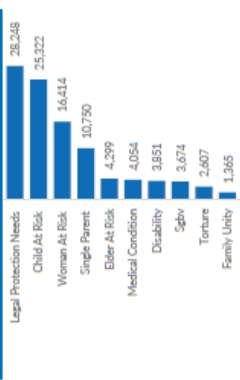
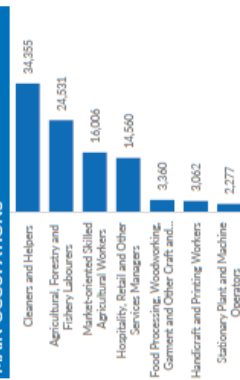
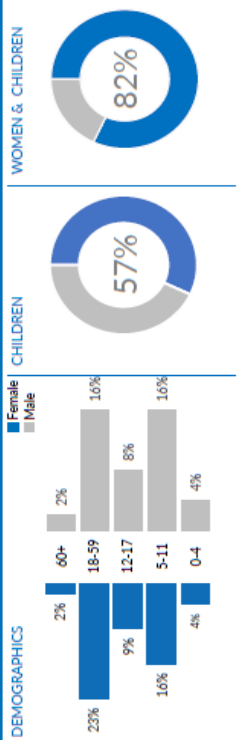
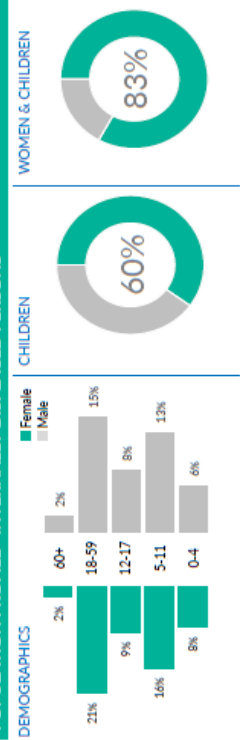
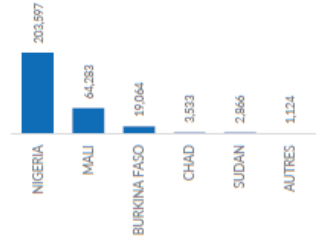
Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland | Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

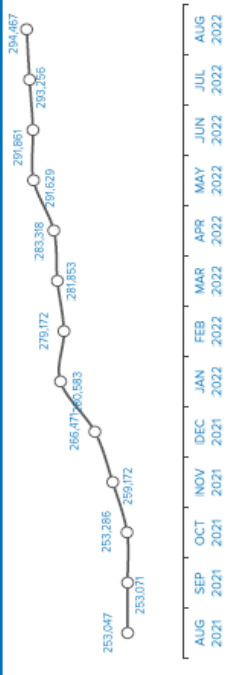
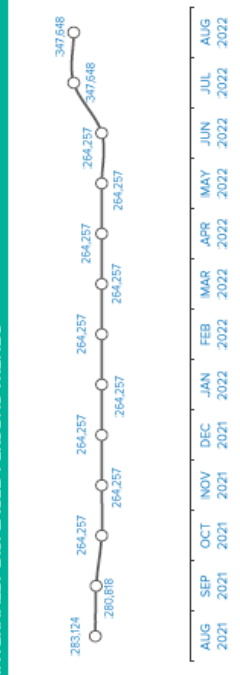
CONTACT :

Emmanuel Gignac, Representative, gignac@unhcr.org, Tel : +227 82 83 83 83

UNHCR Niger sur Twitter : [@UNHCRNiger](https://twitter.com/UNHCRNiger)

NIGER
PERSONS OF CONCERN
 AUGUST 2022

SITUATIONS

PERSONS OF CONCERN BY REGION

SPECIFIC NEEDS

MAIN OCCUPATIONS

POPULATION PROFILE - REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

POPULATION PROFILE - INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

IDPs - MAIN REGIONS

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS TRENDS

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TRENDS


681,071 TOTAL FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

252,774 REFUGEES

41,693 ASYLUM SEEKERS

347,648 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

38,956 OTHERS OF CONCERN

The total population of refugees and asylum-seekers rose to an 1.6% increase compared to August 2021. It represents 43% of the persons of concern in Niger. 37% are refugees and 6% asylum-seekers. Refugees come mainly from Nigeria (69%), Mali (22%) and Burkina Faso (9%).

The number of internally displaced persons is estimated at over 345,000. This represents 51% of the persons of concern, an 19% increase in one year. Diffa hosts 35% of the displaced population while Tillaberi counts 33%.

Nigeria situation hosts 54% of forcibly displaced population. Central Sahel has the second largest number (46%), with the majority of whom are from Burkina Faso.

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 15.09.2022 | Source - Geographic data: UNCS; Population statistics: UNHCR Monthly Statistical Reports or latest available for refugees and asylum seekers; (DP) statistics from Central Validation committee (VAH/VC). Statistics should be considered provisional and subject to change. Feedback: d.pandey@unhcr.org