

Niger

June 2023

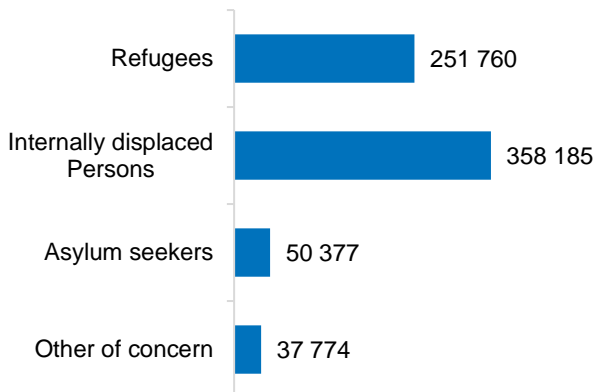
Following the launch of Niger's roadmap for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) by the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization, the inter-ministerial technical working group continued identifying and conceptualizing the commitments that Niger plans to present at the GRF in December 2023.

Since the resettlement program was set up in November 2017, 5,487 refugees have left Niger for third countries. They include, 3,773 people evacuated from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) and 1,714 refugees in Niger, registered under the national asylum system.

On 20 June, UNHCR Niger celebrated World Refugee Day across the country. Discussions, cultural and sporting activities were organized around the theme 'Hope away from home'. Niger authorities, UNHCR partners, donors, refugees and host communities participated in all celebrations.

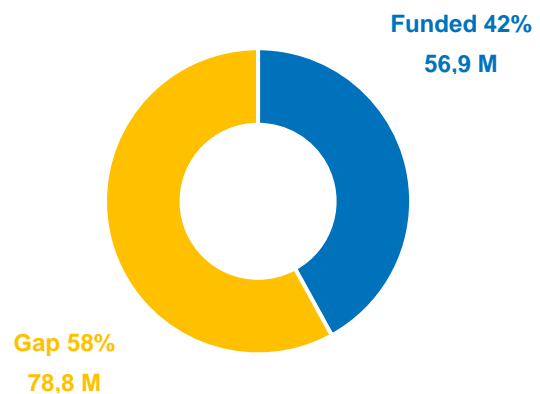
STATISTICS ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN NIGER (AS OF 30 JUNE 2023)

251,760 refugees, 50,377 asylum seekers, 358,185 internally displaced persons, 37,774 other persons of concern, such as returnees. Total forcibly displaced persons: 698,096.



FUNDING \$ 135,7 M

Requested by Niger Operation in 2023



Taekwondo demonstration by refugees from Hamdallaye, Niamey © UNHCR /Antonia Vadala

Operational context

Despite various conflicts in the Sahel region, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting **302,137 refugees** and **asylum-seekers**. About 66,13 percent of them are from Nigeria, 22,14 percent from Mali, 9,52 percent from Burkina Faso, and 2,21 percent from other countries. Furthermore, there are more than **358,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** and over 37,000 other persons including **Nigerien returnees** (*who have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger*). **UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, uses a community-based approach to provide protection, assistance, and solutions** for these forcibly displaced populations, with emphasis on women, children and people with special needs. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

On 20 June, UNHCR Niger celebrated **World Refugee Day** with a series of events across the country's refugee-hosting regions. Round table discussions, cultural and sporting activities were organized with refugees, partners, local authorities and embassy representatives. This year's theme was **"Hope away from home,"** with a focus on the importance of refugees' integration.



Slam performance by Nigerien slammer Debboslam and a group of refugees, to mark World Refugee Day in Niamey © UNHCR / Boubacar Younoussa Sidde

Tillabéri Region

Background: Since the first arrival of Malian refugees in Tillabéri in 2012, UNHCR and the Government of Niger have worked for their **socio-economic inclusion, based on an "out of camp" strategy**. With the support of development actors and through local integration efforts, Malian refugees and host communities have benefited from services, access to land, housing, and livelihoods, while national health, education and water infrastructure have been improved. To **strengthen peaceful coexistence between communities**, UNHCR has brought the different populations together through "common areas," such as village cereal banks, livestock feed stores, and through joint community committees.

- To mark **World Environment Day on 05 June**, UNHCR and project partners APBE and RET Germany organized clean-up campaigns on the urbanized site of Abala. About 138 people, including refugees, internally displaced persons and members of the host community. More than 1,000 people at the Abala urbanized site were impacted by awareness-raising on the use of latrines to preserve the environment, and also engage in the fight against plastic pollution, in line with this year's theme.

- During the first week of June, administrative authorities of Téra identified and allocated a site to 757 IDPs (123 households) from the Kaniki, Kalangou and Eguey hamlets - villages located in the Sakoira council. This intervention was deemed necessary because these IDPs had settled on private plots in flood-prone areas on the outskirts of Téra town.



- From 5 – 9 June, UNHCR and its partner APBE distributed emergency shelter kits and core relief items (CRIs) to 2,144 individual (393 vulnerable households) refugees and asylum seekers from Burkina Faso, IDPs and members of the host community living in the town of Téra.
- Distribution of shelter and NFI kits to Burkinabe refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Téra © UNHCR
- From 30 May - 03 June, the Protection Cluster led a mission to the Tillabéri Region and organized a workshop to strengthen protection coordination mechanisms to validate service mapping. Forty participants, representing a wide range of stakeholders including state actors (technical services and security forces), UN agencies and NGOs, took part in the workshop.

Région de Tahoua

Background: As of 30 June, about **20,622 Malian refugees, 16,431 refugees and 3,465 Nigerian returnees are registered in the Tahoua Region**. New arrivals are also being reported in the localities of Telemces and Tillia, due to persistent insecurity at the border with Mali (Menaka).

- To improve self-sufficiency, 710 beneficiaries (243 refugees and 467 members of the host community) received payments as part of cash-for-work projects to reclaim arid land. As a result, 50 hectares of degraded land were reclaimed in the villages of Bangui, Katagiri and Guidan Bagouari to optimize the land for agriculture and livestock farming, but also to combat desertification.
- From 1 to 2 June, the UNHCR Ouallam office participated in the field liberation forum initiated by the WFP and Niger's High Authority for Peace Consolidation. The forum primarily addressed the challenges of rural land management, the national strategy for sustainable solutions, and strategies to tackle conflicts between farmers and graziers. These conflicts are partially rooted in the lack of identified grazing areas and passage corridors

Diffa Region

Background: **The Diffa Region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the north-eastern states of Nigeria since 2013**. Since the first attacks on Niger soil in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living on the Niger side of islands in the Lake Chad area.

As of 30 June, about **314,820 forcibly displaced persons live in the Diffa** Region (including 137,573 refugees: 140,593 IDPs, 34,139 Nigerian returnees and 2,515 asylum-seekers). Many of these people have been displaced more than once. Most of them stay in spontaneous settlements or with host communities. Refugees from Nigeria have continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp, and at other sites in the Diffa

Region, cohabiting with the host community, seeking humanitarian assistance and security. An estimated **32,994 people live in Sayam Forage** – the only refugee camp in Niger.

- As part of the search for durable solutions to the situation of Nigerian refugees, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugee Eligibility (CNE) organized a workshop on international protection, durable solutions, and specifically voluntary repatriation, on 7 and 8 June. The workshop was attended by UNHCR representatives, administrative and customary authorities, members of the criminal justice system, academics, local elected officials, and decentralized technical services from the Diffa Region. Participants recommended strengthened collaboration with Nigerian authorities, humanitarian workers and security services across the borders to ensure sustainable returns in safety and dignity.
- UNHCR and its partners identified and documented 128 new cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including cases of denial of resources, physical assault, psychological violence, sexual assault and rape. **100 percent of GBV cases documented received psychosocial support**, and cases requiring specific care were referred to partners. 3,211 people were also made aware of the risk of GBV and the care services available.
- **2,269 refugees** received medical consultations at the Sayam Forage health centre. Of these, **48 were placed under observation and 11 were referred** to regional health facilities. A total of 119 women were seen for prenatal consultations and **29 deliveries** were assisted at the Sayam Forage health centre.



In Diffa, displaced women, refugees and hosts work together to produce soap © UNHCR

- Before the rainy season, the NGO Welthungerhilfe offered timely assistance to 200 farmers in the Sayam Forage camp, in the form of five tonnes of improved seeds, including two tonnes of millet, two tonnes of sorghum, and one tonne of cowpea. These specially selected seeds are known for their high yield and resilience to climate change. Each beneficiary was provided with 10kg of millet, 10kg of sorghum, and 5kg of cowpea, ensuring equitable distribution of resources.

Maradi Region

Background: For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians to flee to the Maradi Region of Niger**. In addition, repeated incursions by bandits on Niger territory, have triggered internal displacements of about 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border, targeting farmers and breeders and conducting kidnapping for ransom.

UNHCR's response in Maradi has been to support refugees willing to do so, to relocate, away from the border to ensure their safety, while at the same time, provide assistance to host communities to ease the pressure resulting from the large presence of refugees. Subsequently, Village Development Hubs (Villages d'Opportunités) have been identified in surrounding villages and are gradually being developed to offer services and improve access to potable water, health, education, and protection for both refugee and host communities. Currently, there are three such Villages d'Opportunités in Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou, and Garin Kaka in the Maradi Region.

- UNHCR continues to **support the three health centers** it built in the village development hubs. To ensure proper treatment for refugees and members of the host community, a supply of medicines has been made available at these health centers.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner ADES, organized a series of training sessions for 100 teachers from the Guidan Roumdji and Madarounfa departments in the Maradi Region. The training focused on mitigating the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in schools. Out of the trained teachers, 42 were men and 58 were women from 38 schools. GBV and PSEA structures/committees will subsequently be set up in each school to facilitate the creation of a referral and incident management system.
- On 16 June, UNHCR celebrated the Day of the African Child in the village of Dan Daji Makaou. During the ceremony, ADES, a UNHCR project partner, awarded prizes to 24 children, including the top three pupils in each of the eight grade levels of the. Among them were 16 host community children, seven refugees, and one internally displaced child from Dan Dadji Makaou Elementary School. The occasion also served as an opportunity to raise awareness among parents about the importance of supporting the education of newly enrolled sixth-grade students.

Agadez

Background: **Niger is a hub for mixed movements heading northwards to Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, while at the same time, it receives people fleeing Libya or being expelled from Algeria**. These migratory flows are mixed, 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, and assistance and may access the national asylum system.

UNHCR in Niger supports the **strengthening of the national asylum system** and implements a set of activities meant to ensure the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers. In the long term, UNHCR seeks to find durable solutions, such as local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visas or humanitarian evacuations are also considered. With the support of IOM, NGO partners, and the Government of Niger, **UNHCR identifies asylum-seekers within the migratory flows and provides them with counselling and assistance**.

- In June, UNHCR facilitated access to primary and secondary health care at the Agadez humanitarian centre for 782 refugees and 901 members of the host community. Among them, 26

serious cases were identified and referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health centre in Agadez. The Toudou health centre also provided reproductive health services and treatment for infant malnutrition. 81 people also benefited from psychosocial support.

- As of June 30, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically **registered 2,693 people in need of international protection**. These include 1,826 asylum seekers and 820 refugees. The most vulnerable are in five transit houses in Agadez, where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are accommodated at the Humanitarian Centre built on the outskirts of the city.
- Between 17 and 20 June 17, **Assamaka authorities reported the arrival of 500 people from Mali** (86 households) in a border locality known as Point Zero, near Assamaka in the Agadez Region. The new arrivals reported fleeing attacks by non-state armed groups in the area of Izzaragane, located in Mali's Menaka Region. Nigerien security officials have verified that among them are individuals who had previously passed through the Tillia refugee reception area in the Tahoua Region before proceeding to the locality of Inguizam in Algeria. However, they were later expelled from Algeria by the Algerian authorities due to a dispute with local herders. It was discovered that the refugees had occupied the homes of the herders during their absence.

- Agadez authorities, in collaboration with UNHCR and its partner CIAUD, have begun pre-registration of the newly arrived Malian refugees in Assamaka. They have also received multi-sectoral assistance from MSF, COOPI and a construction company working on the Arlit-Assamaka road, but the need for shelter, water and food remains critical. In addition, UNHCR is concerned about allegations of violence, including sexual violence and protection cases that have been reported.



UNHCR launched the construction of two buildings with three classrooms, an office and a store in the Mai Adoua school compound, in Agadez. UNHCR/ Amadou Maman Guimba

- On June 19, UNHCR organized a coordination meeting with humanitarian actors, UN agencies and local authorities in Assamaka, to mobilize support for the newly arrived Malian refugees. UNHCR and the Nigerian authorities are once again expressed concern about the repeated expulsions of hundreds of people from Algeria, including individuals in need of international protection, since the beginning of the year. Although the Algerian government announced in May that it would temporarily halt these expulsions, it has been unable to meet its commitment.

Resettlement

As of 30 May **5,487, refugees have left Niger to third countries under resettlement or through complementary** ways, such as study visas. This number includes 3,773 persons evacuated from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) and 1,714 refugees processed and registered through the national asylum system in Niger.

Hamdallaye / ETM

- Since 2017, a total of 4,242 asylum-seekers have been evacuated from Libya to Niger through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). As of June 2023, approximately 579 evacuees are residing

at the site, with 10 awaiting imminent departure and 202 awaiting interviews and decisions from resettlement countries.

- In June, a mission comprising representatives from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the NGO Good Neighbors, and UNHCR conducted a series of visits to the Hamdallaye and Ouallam sites. The purpose of these visits was to assess the transformative impact of livelihood opportunities at both locations. This mission took place in the context of UNHCR's development of a USD 4 million project proposal submitted to KOICA, which aims to implement livelihood and education interventions.

Urban refugees in Niamey

As of 30 June, Niger's capital city – Niamey, hosts about **4,968 refugees and 839 asylum-seekers**. 86 percent (4,261) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerien law, Malians who are victims of armed conflict in northern Mali are recognized on a prima facie basis while other nationalities undergo the regular procedure of refugee status determination (RSD), implemented by the authorities of Niger.

UNHCR has rallied partners involved in the implementation of protection and assistance activities for urban refugees and asylum-seekers into one physical structure, called the Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop). **The One-Stop-Shop has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as a better coordination of services provided by different partners.** Refugees and asylum-seekers receive support and guidance in the area of documentation, and information regarding medical, psychological, and education and other forms of assistance. **The centre also manages a hotline, which refugees can call free of charge to ask questions, to seek advice regarding assistance, or to make a complaint.**

UNHCR and partners also regularly conduct home visits and monitor the well-being of beneficiaries in Niamey. The UN Refugee Agency manage several guest houses (cases de passage), in collaboration with partners, to ensure adequate protection for persons with special needs. To enhance inclusiveness and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperate and **support the Central Refugee Committee of Niamey**, comprised of refugee leaders from the various communities.

- On 21 June, UNHCR, **the Government of Monaco and Bioforce organized the first forum on the employability of refugees in humanitarian professions in Niger.** This was highlighted by a round-table discussion on the theme of "Reflecting on One Year of Implementing the Pilot Project - Capacity Building for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in West and Central Africa." The purpose was to evaluate the progress made during the first year of project implementation. During this period, 26 refugees participated in short training courses in Niamey, covering diverse topics related to humanitarian professions. Additionally, one refugee was granted a scholarship to pursue a nine-month training course at the Bioforce training centre in Dakar.

- On 11 May 2023, UNHCR, along with its technical and financial partners, participated in the launch of Niger's roadmap by the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization, Hamadou Adamou Souley. This event served as a prelude to the second Global Refugee Forum, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 13 to 15 December, and co-sponsored by Niger. The launch was attended by Jamal Arafat, the coordinator of the World Refugee Forum, and other co-sponsors. During his visit to Niger, he also conducted field visits to the Hamdallaye and Ouallam sites.



Family photo taken at the launch of the roadmap for Niger, co-convenor of the Global Refugee Forum, in the presence of the GRF coordinator, Nigerien ministers, co-sponsors and UNHCR technical and financial partners
© HCR / Moustapha Djibrilla

Partnership

UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions towards IDPs, 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 target 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 on Refugee (GCR)**, the **Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus** and is aligned with the joint Government of Niger and **UNHCR's 'out of camp' policy**. UNHCR seeks to strengthen relationships with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and the media. The UN Refugee Agency also works with other government bodies, national and international project and operational partners. Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the *Direction Générale de l'Etat Civil et des Réfugiés* (DGEC-R) to ensure adequate international protection

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2023

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And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2023

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PERSONNES RELEVANT DE LA COMPÉTENCE DU HCR (PoC)
Juin 2023

698,096
TOTAL PERSONNES EN
DÉPLACEMENTS FORCÉS

251,760 REFUGIÉS

50,377 DEMANDEURS
D'ASILE

358,185 PERSONNES
DÉPLACÉES INTERNES

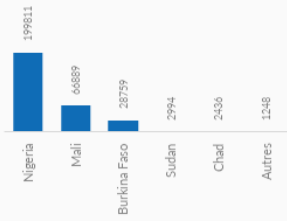
37,774 AUTRES
PERSONNES

La population des réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile représente une augmentation de 4% par rapport à Mai 2022. Elle constitue 43% de la population concernée au Niger dont 30% de réfugiés et 7% de demandeurs d'asile. Les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile proviennent principalement du Nigeria (60%), du Mali (22%) et du Burkina Faso (10%).

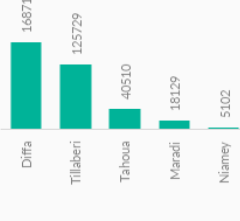
Le nombre de personnes déplacées à l'intérieur du pays est estimé à près de 362,000 soit 52% des personnes relevant du HCR et une augmentation de 36% en un an. La région de Diffa accueille 47% de la population déplacée, alors que celle de Tillabéri recense 35%.

La situation du Nigeria compte 61% des personnes déplacées. Celle du Sahel totalise le deuxième plus grand nombre (37%), la majorité étant des personnes déplacées d'origine du Nigeria.

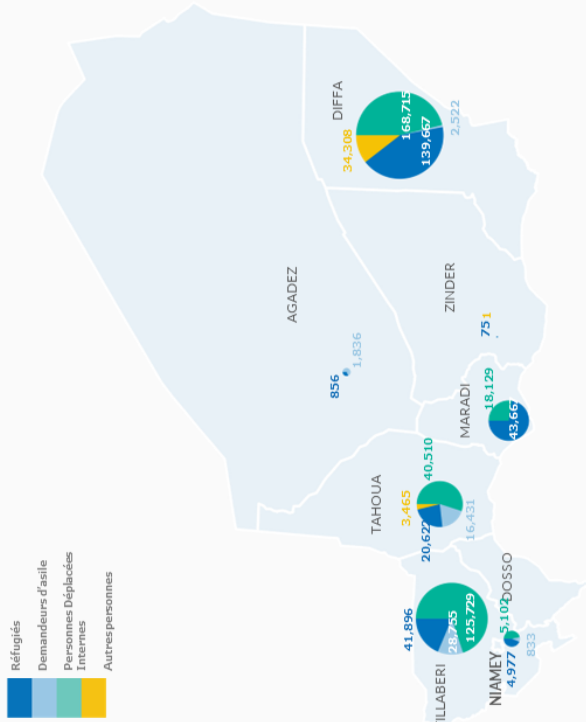
PRINCIPAUX PAYS D'ORIGINE



PDI - PRINCIPALES REGIONS

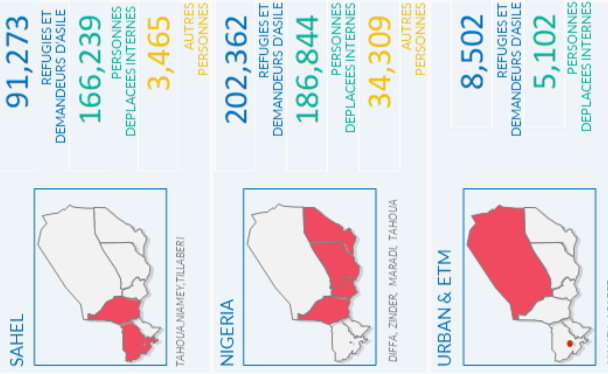


CARTOGRAPHIE DES PERSONNES CONCERNÉES



Les flèches et les notes indiquent sur cette carte l'implémentation par une occupation officielle par les Nations Unies.

SITUATIONS



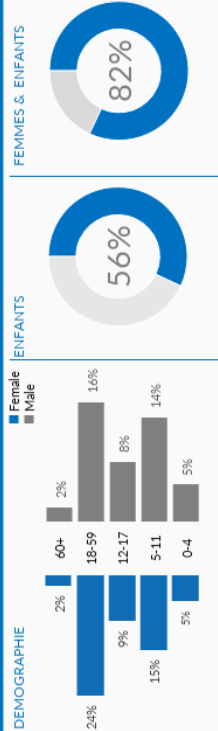
ÉVOLUTION MENSUELLE DES REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE



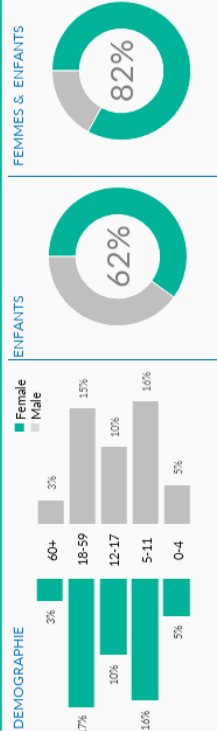
ÉVOLUTION MENSUELLE DES PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES



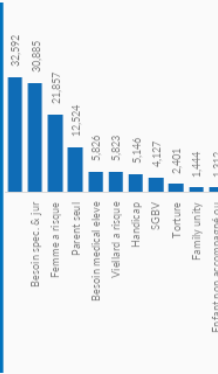
PROFIL DE LA POPULATION - REFUGIÉS ET DEMANDEURS D'ASILE



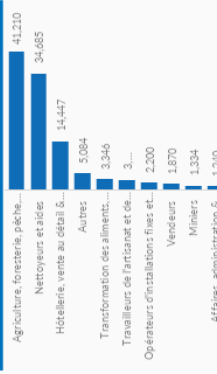
PROFIL DE LA POPULATION - PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES



BESOINS SPECIFIQUES



PRINCIPALES OCCUPATIONS



Date de création : 15.09.2021 Sources : Données démographiques : UNHCR, Statistiques des populations. Rapport statistique mensuel du UNHCR pour les réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile, statistique validée du comité central MHA/OC pour le IDP. Les statistiques doivent être considérées comme provisoires et sujettes à modification | Feedback: feedback.unhcr.org