UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

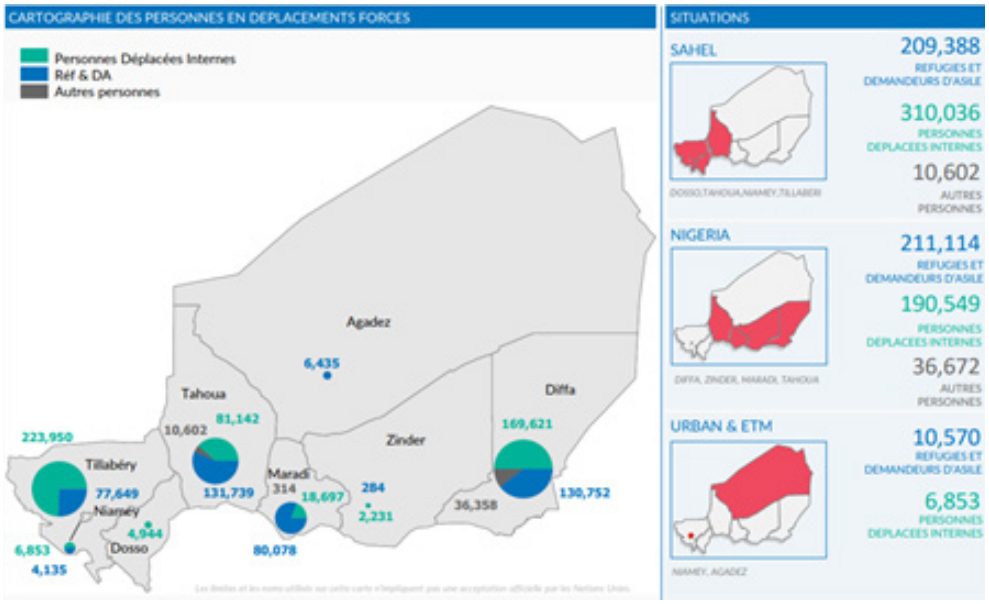
NIGER

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Quarterly | January-March 2025

STATISTICS / MAP

985,694	Forcibly displaced people
507,438	Internally displaced people (IDPs)
431,072	Refugees and asylum-seekers
42,274	Others



UNHCR supports the Government to provide a response to refugees and IDPs from the Central Sahel countries, Nigeria and to the mixed movement situation from Niger through Algeria and Libya to Europe via the Central Mediterranean Route. To this regard, UNHCR is implementing a route-based approach, consisting of providing protection services to ensure individuals have access to accurate information and safe alternatives before attempting dangerous journeys.

Key achievements in 2025

25,995 Refugees and IDPs were registered/verified	**2,714** Refugee certificates and identity cards distributed	**314** Households Received cash assistance
87 Shelter and shelter kits distributed to refugees and vulnerable host communities	**422** School desks donated to host community schools	**15,536** People received non-food item kits
1,030 Birth certificates distributed	**4,711** Doses of vaccines administered, including to 1,452 refugees	**200** Market gardeners supported

UNHCR and its partners constructed new classrooms in Garin Kaka, Maradi region, improving access to education for Nigerian refugees and host community pupils. ©UNHCR/2025)

Operational Context

During the first quarter of 2025, the security and political situation in Niger remained complex. Brigadier General Abdourahmane Tiani was formally sworn in as President of the Republic for a five-year term—the first official mandate since Niger's political transition in July 2023.

Recurrent attacks by non-state armed groups, particularly in the Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, and Diffa regions, continued to cause forced displacement and the closure of schools and health facilities in some areas. National and joint military operations by the three members of the Alliance of Sahel States Alliance (AES) comprising Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger continued within Niger and in the tri-border area, further restricting humanitarian access, especially in designated military operation zones. Authorities also tightened controls on cross-border movements.

Between January and March 2025, UNHCR and local authorities reported 2,187 new arrivals of refugees. By 31 March 2025, Niger hosted 507,438 IDPs—a 25 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2024 and 431,072 registered refugees and asylum seekers, marking a 3 per cent rise. The refugees were primarily from Nigeria (60 per cent), followed by Mali (29 per cent) and Burkina Faso (8 per cent). There were also 47,274 returnees.

Despite ongoing insecurity, political uncertainty, and severe funding shortfalls, UNHCR continued to provide protection services, assistance, and durable solutions to displaced people and host communities across eight regions.

UNHCR worked with the Government of Niger to carry out registration and verification exercises, including for IDPs in Diffa. Processing of refugee cases for resettlement and complementary pathways continued through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) project with departures to Canada, Italy, France, and the United States.

Main achievements in sectors

Protection : Registration / Verification and documentation

In the Agadezz region, the heart of the mixed movement situation, UNHCR and its partners identified and registered 2,102 people in need of international protection, including 1,165 asylum-seekers and 937 refugees.

UNHCR's border monitoring partners, together with local authorities reported movements of an estimated 19,686 people (mostly migrants) between Niger, Algeria and Mali. The rose in migratory movements were mostly from Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Cameroun and Guinée Conakry.

In Diffa region hosting Nigerian refugees, UNHCR partnered with Niger's National Eligibility Commission (CNE) and with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAH-GC) to resume biometric registration and physical verification of refugees and IDPs in February. 7,936 refugees (1,938 households) from the N'guiguimi, Kablewa, and Boudouri sites were verified and 374 refugee identity cards issued. 8,746 IDPs (2,620 households) in the Chetimari site were verified, bringing the total number of IDPs registered and verified in Diffa region to 132,902 (39,795 households) since the beginning of the exercise in 2023.

In Maradi region, UNHCR, lead of the Protection Cluster, alongside state services participated in a joint training organized by IOM and l'Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes (ANLTP), on the fight against human trafficking,

with the aim of strengthening protection and assistance to people caught in precarious conditions along perilous migratory routes, especially unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking.

In Tillaberi region, four awareness sessions were held on the rights and duties of refugees and asylum-seekers, child protection and on UNHCR's mandate, in Torodi, Abala, and Ayorou, reaching 470 people.

Protection:

Statelessness

In Maradi region, UNHCR donated ICT materials such as printers and ink to local civil registry services to support the establishment of birth certificates for displaced children born in Niger and vulnerable host communities, thus contributing to preventing statelessness. UNHCR's project partner Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), further conducted awareness raising sessions on statelessness, peaceful coexistence and pendular movements, reaching 1,691 refugees and host community members in the localities of Firdji, Farin Kougou, Malamai, Dan Dadji Makao, Dan Taro, Doumangada, Kabobi, Doutchin Begoua, Dan Issa Koramar Gora and Chadakori.

In Niamey, CIAUD supported mobile court hearings to facilitate the issuance of 1,030 birth certificates to school-age children from displaced and host community families in five districts of the capital city. By 31 March 2025, 886 of these certificates had already been distributed, including to 110 refugees and 56 internally displaced children.

In Tahoua region, hosting Malian and Nigerian refugees, UNHCR in collaboration with CNE resumed biometric registration and physical verification of Nigerian refugees at the Godia Tapki site in Bangui commune in January. 3,828 individuals were registered, bringing the total registered and physically verified refugee population in Tahoua region to 36,096 since October 2024.

Additionally, 1,511 refugee identity cards and 1,203 certificates were issued at the Koumassa and Godia Tapki sites, bringing the totals to 3,261 ID cards and 2,446 certificates distributed during the first quarter of 2025. CNE also carried out the pre-registration of 3,345 new Nigerian refugees (459 households) in the host villages of Bangui, Sabarou, Guidan Sanna and Guidan Ango in Bangui commune.

Protection:

Violence against women and girls

In Diffa region, UNHCR supported women-led community-based association in the urbanized side of Awaridi and in Sayan Forage camp, the only existing refugee camp in Niger, in organizing 23 awareness sessions on the prevention of violence against women and girls. Messages on prevention and response to forced marriage and sexual violence reached 2,416 refugees and host community members. Survivors identified by the women's groups in Sayam Forage camp were referred to Save the Children, the Regional Directorate for Child Protection (DRPE), the National Eligibility Commission, and to the judiciary for appropriate support and care.

In Tillaberi region, UNHCR donated 200 dignity kits to the primary education inspectorate of Téra. The kits containing soap, torches, sanitary pads buckets and shoes, are intended for vulnerable refugee and host community girls in three primary schools and the Agricultural Vocational High School of Téra.

CIAUD further provided capacity building training for 25 members of five associations and community-based organizations. The training focused on prevention and response to violence against women and girls, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, localization and on general norms on international protection.

In Niamey, 12 refugee women gathered at a safe space at the Hamdallaye transit centre, some 40 kilometres from the capital city, to share their experiences and encourage each other. They also participated in a beaded jewelry workshop, helping to strengthen social cohesion while building new artisanal skills that contribute to their empowerment.

Protection:

Solutions

Between January and March, 38 people departed from Niger for resettlement to Canada and Norway, bring total departures for resettlement and through complementary pathways to third countries since the beginning of the ETM programme in Niger in 2017, to 6,783 individuals. The total departures include 4,283 evacuees from Libya and 2,500 Niger-registered refugees.

In Niamey, UNHCR, IOM and regional authorities relocated 484 migrants from the site of l'Université des Jeunes Filles in Niamey, to the UNHCR-managed Emergency Transit Mechanism Centre, at Hamdallaye. Earlier during the year, 107 other remaining migrants (mostly from The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Senegal and Togo), from a group of 400 relocated to the site in 2024 by the Government of Niger, were repatriated to their countries of origin. The Hamdallaye site created in 2017 serves as a transit centre for extremely vulnerable refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger, for whom UNHCR has been processing solutions such as resettlement. As of 31 March 2025, there were 940 people at the centre, including 364 Niger -registered refugees, 92 evacuees from Libya and 484 migrants.

Education:

In Diffa region, UNHCR and its partner ADES completed the construction of six classrooms, two blocks of latrines, an administrative office and a storage room at the Sayam Forage camp. The infrastructure was inaugurated by Diffa's regional Governor, who hailed the initiative, recognizing their role in strengthening access to education for refugee and host community children in Diffa. UNHCR further provided school equipment to Mohamed El Kanem Secondary School in Diffa. The equipment included desks, tables, chairs, cabinets, mail trays, papers for printing, and sets of large compasses, rulers and squares, along with volleyballs.

In Maradi region, UNHCR in partnership with Italian Cooperation, handed over five newly constructed classrooms to regional authorities. Built by UNHCR's partner Agence de Développement Economique et Social (ADES), the classrooms will increase the capacity of the primary schools in Dan Zambadi (Madarounfa commune) and Garin Kaka (Chadakori commune), in accommodating Nigerian refugee and host community children.

In Niamey, UNHCR handed over 422 benches, 17 teachers' desks, and 14 chairs to local education authorities, destined for the primary schools in Hamdallaye Centre and the Beri Koira host village. These items will significantly improve the learning environment where some pupils had previously been sitting on the floor or overcrowded benches.

In addition, UNHCR donated a large consignment of books, school supplies, and teaching guides to the Niamey Regional Directorate of National Education (DREN). The donation included 6,495 English-language textbooks, 1,378 basic school supplies (notebooks, slates, pens, and pencils), 304 teaching guides, 295 reading and math books and 51 schoolbags, helping ensure every child has the tools they need to learn.

In Tahoua region, ADES donated teaching materials to the Regional Directorate of National Education, comprising 250 teacher's guides covering various subjects and levels, 218 boxes of chalk and 50 sets of classroom tools (rulers, set squares, compasses and protractors).

In Tillaberi region, following UNHCR's coordination efforts, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided 578 school kits to primary school children in the refugee sites in Ouallam. Each kit comprised a backpack, 10 notebooks, two boxes of chalk, pens coloured pencils, drawing books, and erasers.

UNHCR and its partner ADES also handed over six newly constructed and equipped classrooms to authorities in Tera, Tillaberi region, along with two manually operated wells that were upgraded into autonomous water points

Lifesaving assistance:

In Agadez, UNHCR distributed food vouchers to 1,704 refugees and asylum-seekers at the Humanitarian Centre.

In Niamey, UNHCR and its partners carried out the final distribution of food vouchers to 286 refugee and asylum-seeker households at the Hamdallaye site. Refugees and asylum-seekers had been

informed in December 2024 that the food voucher assistance would end on 31 June 2025, as part of the broader phase-out strategy aiming to promote self-reliance, livelihoods, and similar initiatives. However, funding cuts hastened the termination of the programme, without sufficient support for the planned self-reliance activities.

Health:

In Diffa region, 985 vaccine doses were administered to children targeted under the Expanded Programme on Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, measles, smallpox, polio and yellow fever. Amongst the immunized were 433 refugee children aged 0 to 11 months.

Fourteen refugees received certificates for completing an online training in community health, gaining essential skills to support public health activities in their communities. This training was jointly organized by the Universities of Diffa and Geneva, local authorities, the Yara association, ADES, and UNHCR.

In Tahoua region, 3,726 vaccine doses were administered to children and pregnant women under the Expanded Programme on Immunization, including 1,019 doses (27 per cent) to refugees, thanks to advocacy by UNHCR, for the inclusion of displaced people in national systems and programmes.

Shelter and non-food items (NFIs):

In Diffa region, UNHCR and its partner CIAUD, distributed 802 NFI kits to 14,010 refugees and vulnerable host community members (2,802 households) in Diffa, Mainé-Soroa, N'Guigmi, and Sayam Forage Camp (Chetimari). The kits comprised pots, plastic sheets, blankets, buckets, soap, mats, and clothing items.

In addition to the 802 NFI, UNHCR distributed some 300 non-food item kits, including a batch of clothing items, to support 300 vulnerable households in Diffa. They comprised 98 refugee households, 197 internally displaced households, and five from the host community.

In Maradi region, UNHCR and partner ADES distributed 1,526 undergarments to primary schoolgirls in the three opportunity villages. The distribution included 528 in Garin Kaka, 508 items in Chadakori and 490 in Dan Dadji Makaou. The initiative also included hygiene awareness sessions for girls and encouraged female teachers to integrate hygiene education into their teaching practices.

As part of extended flood response efforts, UNHCR also provided cash assistance to cover the cost of non-food-items for 314 affected host community households in Tibri and 257 households in Tchadi, Maradi region.

To improve access to adequate and secure shelters, 55 semi-durable shelters built by UNHCR, and its partners were allocated to refugees in two opportunity villages, notably 33 in Chadakori and 22 in Garin Kaka.

In Tahoua region, UNHCR's partner ADKOUL distributed semi-durable shelter kits to 32 refugee households in the commune of Bangui. Each household received 10 bags of cement, 11 metal roofing sheets, steel tubes, roofing hooks, wire, doors, windows, nails, coarse sand and 40,000 CFA francs to support material transport and labour costs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

UNHCR and its partners constructed two new solar-powered boreholes at the Hamdallaye transit centre and near the Beri Koira host community village, improving access to adequate water supply and promoting peaceful coexistence amongst evacuees from Libya, refugees and host community members.

In Agadez, UNHCR's partner ADKOUL (meaning development, progress and emergence in Tamajeck, a national language in Niger), distributed 3,240 bars of laundry soap to 1,620 people at the centre, helping to improve hygiene conditions.

In Tillaberi region, six carts and six donkeys were handed over to WASH committees in the urbanized sites of Abala and Ouallam hosting Malian refugees. These are being used to transport waste to designated disposal sites. In Abala, 6.4 cubic metres of waste have already been removed using the new carts.

Self-reliance and economic inclusion:

In Maradi region, farmers from four vegetable garden sites supported by UNHCR, harvested around 4,268 kg of assorted vegetables in the last week of March, valued at 484,500 CFA francs—nearly double their previous sales. To date, total harvests stand at 12,091 kg, worth 1,422,200 CFA francs.

In Niamey, UNHCR partner CIAUD delivered the first set of startup kits to five young refugee and host community entrepreneurs, in the domains of catering, hairdressing and aesthetics.

In Tillaberi region, UNHCR and CIAUD promoted livestock breeding activities by distributing 84 young animals including sheep and feed to 21 heads of IDP and host community households in Abala. The High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) also distributed a total of 120 goats to displaced and host community households around Abala, as part of its peace and social cohesion programme.

CIAUD further distributed 21 bags of groundnuts and four sheep to three women's groups made up of refugees, IDPs, and host community members in Abala. In addition, seven traders received various goods such as wheat flour, cowpeas and sugar, to help start their own businesses.

CIAUD also distributed a variety of vegetable seeds such as tomatoes, onion, moringa and cabbage, to 200 market gardening groups in Ouallam, Tillaberi region. The same group also received tool kits comprising 160 watering cans, 60 rakes, 60 machetes, 60 buckets, 60 mats, 60 baskets, 30 shovels, 18 wheelbarrows, 18 pickaxes, and six bags of compost. Protective equipment provided included sprayers, safety gears, 55 mosquito nets, 24 phytosanitary products.

To improve access to alternative sources of funding, UNHCR and CIAUD facilitated the opening of accounts for five village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), comprising 100 refugees, 70 host community members and 30 IDPs, in Tillaberi region.

Clean energy and environment:

In Niamey, UNHCR and its partners completed the installation of solar equipment in 80 shelters, in the administrative block, and the health post of the Hamdallaye transit centre. Adkoul also installed 20 new solar lamps at the Hamdallaye Centre and Beri Koira host community primary schools.

In Maradi region, UNHCR facilitated the distributions by NRC, of 185 solar lamp kits in the opportunity villages of Garin Kaka, Chadakori, and Dan Dadji Makaou, helping to improve lighting and security for Nigerian refugees and their hosts.

To mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions and promote natural pest control, CIAUD and UNHCR organized training for management committee members made up of refugees and host communities in Maradi, on producing biopesticides using neem leaves and chili fruit.

Partnerships and Coordination:

In Diffa region, UNHCR met with the coordinator of a family agriculture development programme ProdAF, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to strengthen coordination for a $450 million self-reliance programme including $80 million allocated to Diffa region. The programme targets 40 per cent of displaced people and 60 per cent of host communities. It supports agriculture, fish farming, livestock, WASH, women's leadership, health, youth empowerment, and infrastructure development.

In March, UNHCR also actively participated in the launching of the Diffa Regional Coordination Committee on Empowerment and Socioeconomic Inclusion, chaired by the Secretary General of the governorate. The initiative brought together NGOs, UN agencies, and regional technical services and aimed to coordinate an integrated response to economic vulnerability.

In Niamey, UNHCR, in partnership with the European Union, handed over office and transport equipment worth 17,495,000 CFA (approximately USD 30,000) to the rural council of Hamdallaye. The donation including motorcycles, desks, computers, and office supplies seeks to strengthen social services and support Niger's pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, related to improving access to education, adaptation to environmental hazards and durable solutions.

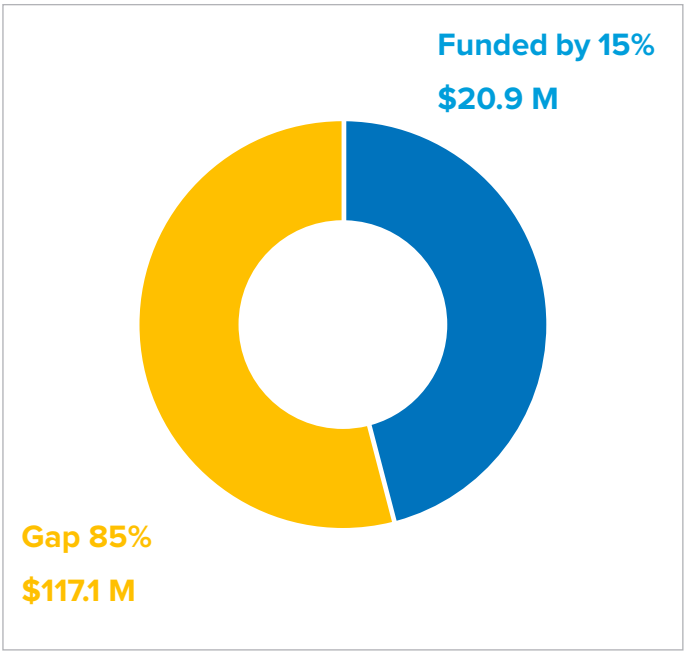
Funding cuts and efficiency measures:

Due to a drastic reduction of funding, UNHCR Niger has de-prioritize activities in several key sectors essential to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of displaced populations. As a result, programmes in shelter, protection, education, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) have undergone significant cuts. The response is now focused on addressing the most urgent protection risks in the most affected regions—Tillabéri, Diffa, Maradi, and Tahoua—where insecurity and forced displacement are most acute.

FUNDING AS OF 31 MARCH 2025

USD 138 million

Required by UNHCR Niger in 2025



UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of its donors who have provided earmarked and flexible funding to support operations in Niger in 2025.

CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR operations in Niger in 2025.

CERF | European Union | Italy | Republic of Korea | Luxemburg | Canada | Monaco | United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors.

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Tony Aseh, Administrateur Principal Chargé des Relations Extérieures, aseh@unhcr.org, Tel : +22780068182.
Helen Ngoh Ada, Chargée de la Communication, ada@unhcr.org, Tel : +22782819755.
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