

UNHCR Niger - 7 November 2013

The regional authorities in Diffa estimate the number of displaced persons that have left the three northern states of Nigeria under emergency rule (Borno, Yobe et Adamawa) and entered Niger territory to be 37,000. Following newly published figures by the Diffa regional civil registry office the number of Niger nationals that returned to their country stands now at 29,000 while the number of Nigerian refugees increased to 8,000. In addition, an earlier count by the Niger Red Cross counted 150 third country nationals.

The census undertaken by the regional civil registry office covered 19 areas and was, thus, much wider than previous ones. The census was supported financially by UNHCR.

Based on a similar exercise undertaken by various humanitarian actors earlier, the humanitarian community had fixed a planning figure of 10,000 persons in need of protection and assistance in 2013. UNHCR, based on the updated figures of the regional civil registry office has now decided to raise its planning figure for 2014 to 20,000. This means that in Diffa region, due to the fact that the refugees live in local villages and mainly with host families, as well as side by side with Niger nationals that returned from Nigeria, the protection and assistance activities are not limited to Nigerian refugees only. UNHCR's activities will target in the first instance the most vulnerable among the displaced population but also include host families. In a community based approach the "out of camp programme" will focus on strengthening of the capacities of the local communities and institutions to deal with this humanitarian crisis.

For detailed figures please refer to the <http://data.unhcr.org/SahelSituation/region.php?id=71>