

Situation overview

The operational context in Diffa has profoundly changed during 2015. Three key moments reflect the degradation of the humanitarian situation and the security context, these include : February, with the first attacks by Boko Haram perpetrated on Nigerien soil in ; May with the massive increase in the IDP problem following the evacuation of the Lake Chad Islands by the authorities; and from August until now, the increase of Boko Haram attacks on the Niger territory. UNCHR estimate (through the examination of food distribution lists) that more than 40,000 people have been affected by the evacuation of the Lake Chad Islands. As regards to both preventive and post-attacks movements since August, according to existing information including field visits, DREC registration, partners reports etc. an additional 70,000 persons are estimated to have been affected (mainly IDPs). This is while the needs of more than 138,000 displaced people coming from Nigeria have not yet been met. The degradation of the security situation has made the situation far more complex, while many host families are themselves becoming part of the displaced IDP population, reducing the absorption capacities of the host community.

UNHCR Core projects in Diffa region

Domestic energy

Having regard to the extreme vulnerability of the displaced from the Islands, the environmental crisis in the Diffa region, and the average monthly cost of wood for domestic use (15,000 FCFA/month), it is essential to ensure the access to domestic energy. The use of gaz will allow increasing the buying power and limit to resell of food rations to buy wood.

Distance learning

The distance learning project benefits the displaced students from Nigeria who wish to continue their education in English in Niger.

Cash Based Intervention

CBI allows to reinforce the dignity of people by ensuring that each households can buy adapted goods and reduce operational costs (transport, stockage...). This activity will also reinforce the socio-economical fabric in the sensitive context of the Diffa region.

Urbanization project

In 2014 , UNHCR launched a program of " urbanization" in the Diffa region. This program aims at responding to the needs of the displaced in housing, and of the returnees whose status does not allow access to the camps.

Timeline of key events and displacement figures in Diffa region

