

### Security Context

- The month of April saw a significant increase in the number of reported security and protection incidents (approximately 99 incidents reported), compared to the month of April (55 reported incidents). Several criminal acts were reported, particularly on the Western axis, between Diffa and Maine Soroa (see 'Protection Monitoring' below).
- The security climate in the region of Diffa is becoming more and more precarious in recent weeks, and the terrorist threat increasing. This is primarily due to a lack of means of subsistence of members of the insurgent groups, leading to increased criminal activity, mainly directed against wealthy individuals in the region. This results in a persistence in the risk of collateral damage by FDS members, who remain on high alert and highly nervous.
- Despite the security situation, the majority of humanitarian actors maintain their activities in the region.
- This heightened security situation is reflected country wide, while a significant increase in the number of attacks against FDS and Gendarmerie, and thefts in the Western region of Tillabery – including of UNHCR partner vehicles, have been reported in the past month.

### Highlights

- The Protection Working Group held a Strategic Planning workshop from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of May, where the main strategic objectives were defined, as well as an exit strategy and referral system elaborated.
- A voluntary relocation operation began on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, and will continue until at the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Up to 2,500 persons have requested to be relocated to Sayam Forge camp, including 1,200 from Diffa town, 700 from Toumour and 600 from the camp of Kablewa.
- During the month of May, the World Bank carried out a follow up mission to Niger to work closely with and support the Government in the elaboration of a proposal for funding through the IDA 18. UNHCR supported the mission, to ensure that key priorities are included, notably future actions and arrangements for refugee populations on the territory. It is likely that this funding will become available in early 2018.
- Additionally, in the framework of the UNHCR / WB partnership, a consultant has been jointly recruited to work on a mapping of all existing programmes and strategies for the Diffa region. This will be used to feed into the draft Exit Strategy / Post Conflict Development and Resilience Strategy for the Diffa crisis, developed by the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP), and to identify gaps and needs.
- UNHCR are working closely with FIDA, WFP and FAO on the elaboration of a joint strategy to maximise the impact of livelihoods activities in the Diffa region. Initial discussions were held in the month of June, while a draft strategy will be developed in the coming months.
- From the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of May, Diffa University hosted an International Symposium on the deradicalisation and reinsertion of youth associated with the insurgent group Boko Haram. 4 main resolutions were adopted including:
  - 1) That the Diffa Forum on Security and Development be institutionalized as a space for information sharing, advocacy and the safeguarding of peace in development.
  - 2) An observatory to monitor the indicators of peace and to implement the conclusions of the different fora should be established. The University of Diffa must propose to the appropriate Minister the composition, powers and duties of it.
  - 3) Accelerate the creation of the Higher Institute of Training and Research specialized on Peace and Security issues.
  - 4) Create an inter-university network on the prevention of violent extremism and the radicalization of young people.

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

## Protection

### Protection Monitoring

- A peak in the number of protection incidents was reported in March due to increased MNJTF action, as well as increased insurgent attacks and incursions. This dropped significantly in the month of April, while significant numbers of the insurgent group were killed by MNJTF forces, and many dispersed. However, May saw a resurgence in the number of attacks, mainly due to the reorganisation of the insurgents, particularly along the western axis between Diffa and Maine Soroa.
- The key protection incidents reported in the month of May include:
  - 12 cases of incursions in the communes of Chetimari and Maine Soroa: this is mainly due to the mobility of the insurgents, the absence of FDS forces, the proximity to BH bases, the secondary uncontrolled routes used for trafficking, and the reduction in the water levels of the Komadougou River.
  - 25 arrests for association with the insurgent group (including 5 in Kablewa camp and 7 refugees);
  - 5 cases of pillage of health centres, food stocks and a school canteen at Garin Dogo;
  - 16 cases of youth enrolment in BH: reasons for enrolment include economic difficulties and a lack of means of subsistence;
  - 9 kidnappings: 4 men were released for ransom, 2 youth escaped and 3 men remain in captivity;
  - 8 cases of armed racketeering;
  - 6 murders, including 5 men and a young girl of 12 years old;
  - 5 cases of physical aggression by the insurgent group;
  - 1 case of intercommunal tension regarding access to water;
  - 2 fires in Gagamari;
  - 11 discoveries of UXOs in Toumour, Maine Soroa, Gueskerou and Bosso;
  - 10 cases of SGBV (3 rape cases – 1 against a minor, 4 cases of psychological violence and 3 cases of physical aggression);
  - 3 cases of surrender of ex-combatants: a marked reduction in the numbers of those surrendering has been reported. This is due to the fact that the conditions are no longer satisfactory encouraging people to come forward, while the insurgent group are reportedly actively recruiting new members.
- In total, there are 201 Nigeriens (including 4 women and 8 minors), as well as 49 Nigerians in custody in Diffa civilian prison. Anyone arrested for association with terrorist groups is systematically referred to Niamey prison. Those in custody in Diffa are being monitored. Most are in custody for criminal activity, including theft of livestock, possession of weapons, consumption of drugs, sexual aggression, amongst others.
- A survey was jointly launched with the implementing partner Handicap International on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, to last 3 weeks. The aim of the survey is to identify the situation of persons with specific needs (PWSN) in the Diffa region, with a view to proposing response activities.

### Protection Coordination

- The Protection Working Group (PWG) held a Strategic Planning workshop from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of May in Diffa. The objective of the workshop was to define the key strategic objectives, as well as an exit strategy, and to strengthen the referral mechanisms in place in the region.
- In the month of May, a survey on accountability was launched by UNHCR and the PWG in 142 sites throughout the Diffa region. The results are expected in June.
- An SOP on information sharing amongst the members of the PWG was signed by all members in the month of May. This should greatly assist in the coordination of the group and in ensuring a well-informed understanding of the context by all.
- A Protection Baseline survey was completed in 142 sites, and a draft report shared in May, by the partner REACH, with the PWG. The final report will be shared in June. The survey focused on a variety of issues, and dealt with the specific protection needs of IDPs and refugees separately. The survey also includes a returns intentions section.
- The draft Abuja Declaration Action Plan was shared with the UNHCR staff as well as PWG members so as to provide an update on its implementation.

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

- The GTP has prioritised working closely with the administrative and legislative authorities on the domestication of the Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, which came into force in 2009.

## Population Movements

### A: Movements to and from Sayam Forage and Kablewa camps

- The current population of **Sayam Forage** camp is 10,225 persons, including 9,732 refugees and 523 returnees. In 2017 the month of February showed a peak in the number of persons returning to Damassak, however the majority of these refugees then came back to the camp. Between January and May a total of 4,060 persons left the camp, while 3,086 then returned. The reasons for leaving cited include: registration and identification, verification of the state of homes and businesses, search for jobs on reconstruction projects.
- Between January and May, 1,798 spontaneous new arrivals were registered in Sayam Forage, while 685 refugees were voluntarily relocated from Toumour, Diffa and Garin Wanzam.

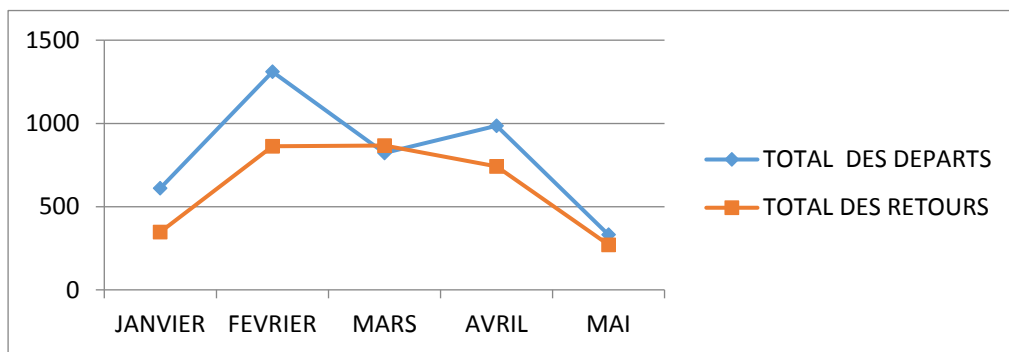


Fig.1.1: Arrivals and departures to Sayam Forage refugee camp 2017

- A relocation of up to 2,500 refugees to Sayam Forage began at the end of May. Refugees are being relocated from Diffa, Toumour and Kablewa. The process should be completed by the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. SOPs were established to better define the roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in the relocations.
- A reflection with the State partner the DREC-RM (Regional Directorate for Civil Status, Refugees and Migration) is ongoing regarding those minority refugees of different nationalities in Kablewa camp (Chadians, Malians and Cameroonians).
- The current population of the camp of **Kablewa** is 16,512, including 15,809 IDPs, 477 refugees, 204 returnees and 123 persons of other nationalities. Approximately 2,400 persons left the camp between January and May, however, many returned.
- However, a notable reduction in the numbers of spontaneous arrivals to the camp has been reported. This is mainly due to a problem of security in the surrounding area. In May, the FDS carried out a search in the camp, and collected several weapons, as well as intercepting five persons suspected of planning an attack in the camp.

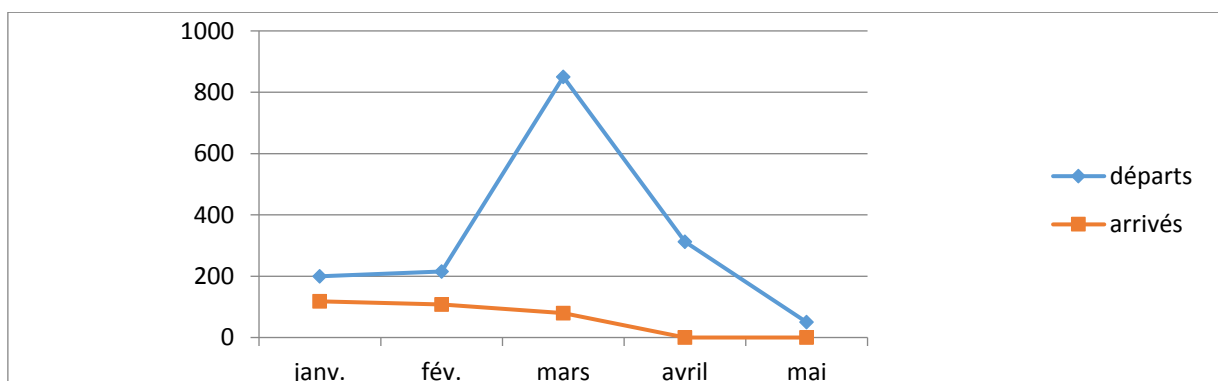


Fig. 1.2. Arrivals and departures to Kablewa IDP camp 2017

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

## B. Spontaneous IDP returns to village of origin

- Between January and May, approximately 11,749 IDPs have returned to their villages of origin, mainly in the communes of Toumour, Maine Soroa, Gueskerou and Bosso. A recent Protection Baseline survey showed that the majority of IDPs wish to return to their villages of origin, however many zones are still heavily affected by mines and UXOs. Between January and May 45 cases (explosions / injuries) were reported.
- It is necessary that the government and humanitarian community establish a plan for IDP returns, including a security evaluation of zones of return, initiatives to rebuild destroyed housing and restoration of basic services.

## C. Inter-site displacements

- Between January and May, a reported 14,521 people moved between sites, mainly leaving sites in Gueskerou, Kablewa, Toumour and Bosso due to multiple BH incursions, as well as in search of additional humanitarian assistance.
- These repeated movements bring additional problems such as malnutrition amongst children, and heightened child protection risks (school drop outs, separation of children from parents) and a lack of follow up with PWSN.

## D. Back and forth movement to Nigeria

- Between January and May, approximately 11,949 people have returned to Damassak, mainly transiting through Gagamari and Chetimari – not including several other secondary routes. A Protection Baseline survey (to be published in June) included a study on return intentions. This showed that only the refugee population of 6% of the sites surveyed intended to return to Nigeria in the coming 3 months. The main departure sites are located in Gueskerou, Toumour and Diffa. A survey undertaken regarding returns of IDPs in Nigeria showed that 92% of IDPs intend to return to their village of origin only if the security situation improves and if basic services are available.
- The main reasons cited for returns are insufficient humanitarian aid, loss of means of subsistence, limited access to basic services, and persecution experienced outside of the camps. The principle obstacles to returns identified in the survey include: insecurity (97%), homes and property destroyed (32%), houses now occupied by others (28%).
- Most remain due to the absence of conflict at their current sites (99%), the presence of family (27%), access to aid (18%) and a lack of any other means of subsistence.
- A cross border UNHCR mission to Nigeria is planned for June to gather information and mapping of the security, political and economic conditions in the areas, and to better understand the return dynamics and the principal protection risks.

### Recommendations and Unmet Needs :

- Speed up the registration process in the camps to reduce waiting times in transit sites.
- Define a clear strategy to improve the reception of new arrivals to Kablewa camp.
- Improve information gathering on return movements to Nigeria.
- Identify protection risks associated with return journeys, zones of return and of PWSN.
- Strengthen sensitization on protection referral mechanisms and also on awareness regarding mines and UXOs.

## Registration and Documentation

- A biometric registration project (Biometric Information Management System – BIMS) exercise is being planned for the region of Diffa. The aim is to biometrically register the entire displaced population in the region, and to provide them with a form of documentation. This includes refugees, IDPs and returnees. Initial discussions are underway, and the process should begin in the month of June, while a draft communication plan has already been completed.
- This is the first step of the broader 'RADH' project (Recensement Administratif de Developpement a Vocation Humanitaire) which is planned for the Diffa region, which entails a full scale identification and biometric registration of the entire population of the Diffa region – including both displaced and host populations. The Project Document for this project was jointly validated by UNHCR and the Government in the month of May, however funding shortfalls remain a barrier to its full implementation.

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

## SGBV : Prevention and Response

- In the month of May, 10 SGBV incidents were reported, including three rape cases, (1 in Kablewa camp and 1 against a minor), 4 cases of psychological violence (2 in Sayam Forage) and 3 cases of physical aggression. Three survivors were minors and all were female. The perpetrator of the rape of the minor is being tried in the Court of highest instance in Diffa. All survivors received an adapted response, including medical, psychosocial, legal and economic assistance. In the past 5 months, 28 survivors were also provided with gas bottles and dignity kits. In May, an action plan and an evaluation of the needs of survivors were completed in the region.
- In terms of prevention activities, within the camps, 6 tea debates on SGBV were completed. 148 people participated. UNHCR and IRC also met with members of the women's spaces and the protection committees of both camps to discuss the activities and challenges and to improve the coordination of SGBV management in the camps.
- Additionally, an evaluation was completed in the schools in the camps regarding the integration of SGBV aspects into the curriculum, including the prevention of abuse and sexual exploitation. The results showed the need to strengthen the capacities of the teachers regarding SGBV and to strengthen the code of conduct regarding SGBV.
- Outside of the camps, 3 mass sensitizations took place in the communes of Diffa, Maine Soroa and Foulatari from which 503 people benefitted. Additionally 25 tea debates were carried out at various sites and villages, focusing on SGBV, which benefitted 243 people. The key themes were the consequences of SGBV, forced and early marriage, emotional and psychological violence, harassment, rape, unwanted pregnancy and FGM.
- 3 trainings were carried out with authorities in Diffa, Maine Soroa and N'Guigmi regarding the process of case management of SGBV cases, the referral pathways and protection against abuse and exploitation. 90 people benefitted from the training, including 60 men and 30 women.
- The Sub-Working Group on SGBV met in mid-May to discuss the following key issues: updating the mapping of SGBV actors and PEP kits available; harmonisation of messages and tools for sensitization; elaboration of SOPs, information sharing, and the finalization of the 2017 Action Plan.

### Recommendations and Unmet Needs – SGBV:

- Strengthen the coordination of case management by SGBV actors inside and outside of the camps.
- Establish a sensitization system for teachers and students regarding SGBV and referral mechanisms in place.
- Establish projects for women and girls at risk, to enable their self-reliance.

## Child Protection

- The main problems encountered during the month of May include: an increase in begging amongst young girls and adolescents, and an increase in 'Talibes' in the urban areas of Diffa, an increase in survival sex amongst young girls at spontaneous sites, enrolment of youth in the insurgent group, and many cases of school dropout. Much work remains to be done to combat these persistent problems.
- Efforts at identifying undocumented children continued in May in Diffa, where a total of 620 boys and 599 girls under 5 years, at a heightened risk of statelessness have been identified at 5 key sites, who were born on Niger territory since the beginning of the crisis. Sensitization sessions were organized in several communes on the themes of statelessness, the necessity of documentation. A total of 65 people benefitted from these sensitizations.

### Recommendations and Unmet Needs – Child Protection:

- Youth must be integrated into prevention activities in the fight against HIV / AIDs in the Diffa region.
- Concerted efforts must be made to develop specific projects aimed at ensuring the socioeconomic reinsertion of youth who are at a much higher risk of being victim to protection incidents when they are idle.

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

---

## Durable Solutions

- A group of Chadian refugees who have been living in the commune of Goure in the region of Zinder since 1992 have opted for local integration. They are a group of 25 families of a total of 152 persons. 3 main activities are underway as part of the integration process: (1) naturalisation process for the population, (2) construction of durable housing, and (3) provision of support to ensure the self-reliance and resilience of the population.
- A mission was carried out to Goure on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May by UNHCR and state partners. In terms of naturalization, standard procedures (submission of a file to the courts) or a special procedure through the Ministry of Interior are the two available options. UNHCR have chosen the option of naturalization through a special procedure through the Ministry of Interior, with an accompanying Decree. This is particularly important as it will mark the second time that the Government of Niger will grant naturalization as a durable solution (the first was in 2016 to a group of Rwandan refugees).
- As regards to the construction of houses, discussions are ongoing, and the initial steps for the planning of the 'lottissement' in line with the steps taken as part of the urbanization project underway in the Diffa region, have begun in Goure (for more info see Shelter and NFI section).

## Education

---

- With the perspective of improving the education system in the Diffa region, a 'roadmap' was developed by the Education Working Group, to improve the quality of education, at the demand of the Ministry of Primary education, for all communities including host and displaced.
- The main issue being encountered is the delay of the end of year examinations by a month, due to protest action earlier in the year. The main reflections in the "roadmap" include: the length of the school year, the school environment and the quality of education.
- One of the key issues found was a serious lack of classrooms available for the school year 2017 – 2018. The gaps identified include the following: 129 emergency classrooms, 244 latrines, 703 hand washing facilities and 64 water supply points. All actors in the education sector are working to improve the situation, particularly before the beginning of the next school year in October.
- As part of UNHCR's Distance Education Programme, a total of 72 junior cycle students (BECE) returned from a 20 day trip to Kano, Nigeria, to complete their end of year exams. 91 senior cycle (SSCE) students left on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to complete their final exams in Kano. This is the second year where secondary students from Nigeria have been successfully assisted to return to Nigeria to complete their final exams. It is planned to open a Distance Examination Centre in Diffa before the end of the 2017-2018 school year, so the students can sit the exams in Diffa, at the same level as other students in Nigeria.
- The construction of 3 new classrooms for the Distance Education project, as well as 3 new classrooms in the primary school in Sayam Forage camp is progressing well. The roofs will be installed and the buildings finalized in June.

## WASH

---

- In Sayam Forage camp, 80% of the SPHERE standards for drinking water have been achieved. There are currently 16l/p/d available, with a gap of 70m3 per day. In terms of showers and latrines, a gap of 123 latrines and 98 showers remains in the camp.
- In Kablewa camp, there exists a gap of 160m3 per day of water, and 238 showers / latrines.
- A WASH response plan to the Hepatitis E epidemic in the region is ongoing in both camps. The main activities undertaken to date include:
  - Hygienic spraying of showers and latrines (54 in Sayam Forage, 64 in Kablewa);
  - Cleaning / sanitation sessions (101 people in Sayam Forage, 214 in Kablewa);

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

- Cleaning of water containers (171 in Sayam Forage, 256 in Kablewa);
- Sensitization (292 people in Sayam Forage, 836 in Kablewa);
- House visits (32 households in Sayam Forage, 48 in Kablewa).
- Additional material is required to finalize the Response plan actions, however, the number of reported cases has not dramatically increased in either camp.

## Recommendations and Unmet Needs – WASH:

- Work with the WASH Working Group partners to define the support required to respond to the needs of the population of the camp of Kablewa.
- Improve the existing water supply system for Kablewa.



## Health

- The numbers of cases of declared Hepatitis E in the region during the month of May increased significantly from 252 at the end of April (with 25 deaths), to 706 at the end of May (with 30 deaths).
- UNHCR are rapidly responding within the camps (See WASH section), while the numbers of cases reported in both camps has not markedly increased. However, additional inputs such as cleaning material is required.
- In terms of epidemiological monitoring, in the camp of Sayam Forage in May, there were 49 reported cases of Hepatitis E, 62 cases of acute malnutrition (24 severe) and no cases of malaria. In Kablewa, there were 50 cases of Hepatitis E, 52 cases of acute malnutrition (15 severe) and 2 cases of malaria. 2,577 consultations were undertaken in Sayam Forage, and 292 in Kablewa in the month of May.
- Throughout the month, 24 patients in Sayam Forage and 14 in Kablewa were evacuated for secondary care.
- As regards to Reproductive Health, 271 women attended prenatal consultations. In Kablewa, 3 tested positive for HIV and are being provided with follow up care. This is a slight increase on the previous month.
- In May in Sayam Forage, 109 children received vaccinations and (penta and measles), while 483 children were vaccinated in Kablewa (penta and measles).
- As regards to nutrition, 162 children are being supported in Sayam Forage camp including 38 new admission to CRENAM and 24 to CRENAS. In Kablewa, 253 children are being supported, including 38 new admissions to CRENAM and 15 to CRENAS. This shows a notable increase on the figure reported in April.

## Recommendations and Unmet Needs – Health:

- Sayam Forge: Strengthen sensitization on signs of Hepatitis E and home births, and increase the provision of electricity to the health centre.
- Kablewa: Strengthen the referral mechanism to the CSI in Kablewa town, accelerate the transformation of the hangar into a proper health post, carry out an exhaustive HIV screening of the entire population of the camp, particularly focusing on pregnant women.

# DIFFA OPERATIONS UPDATE, NIGER: MAY 2017

## Shelter & NFI

- In Sayam Forage camp, 299 emergency shelter kits and NFI kits were distributed to respond to the new arrivals – both spontaneous and those voluntarily relocated. The implementing partner COOPI have delivered 250 new kits for the construction of transitional shelters to Sayam Forage. The beneficiaries are currently being selected and the construction will go ahead in June.
- In Goure, the beginning of the urbanization project is underway. Studies on the land topography as well as land parcels is being completed. This will benefit the long-term Chadian refugees who have been living in Goure since 1992.
- Additionally, a joint mission of the 'Rural Engineers' (Genie Rurale), the University of Diffa and UNHCR was carried out to Sayam Forage, to identify land to be use for livelihoods activities for refugees, including agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing and others to ensure their resilience.
- An evaluation of shelter and NFI needs in the Diffa region is currently underway with the implementing partner REACH.

## Access to Energy

- The distribution of 5,000 additional gas bottles outside of the camps in the Diffa region will go ahead in June. Once completed, this will bring to 25,000 the number of households outside of the camps, who have benefited from the gas distribution intervention. An end of project evaluation will be carried out to measure the impact of the project.
- Inside the camps, in the month of May, recharges were provided to over 450 households. However, as many of the beneficiaries are coming towards the end of the subvention period, it is essential that livelihoods activities are engaged, to enable them to continue to purchase gas, including through the establishment of selling points within the camps.
- In both of the camps, a project to provide solar lamps to the camps is underway. They are currently being installed.

### Recommendations and Unmet Needs – Energy:

- Strengthen the monitoring of the project through the joint monitoring committee who must be reactivated for the second phase of the project.
- Evaluate the exit strategy of the project and ensure sensitization of the population on the benefits of the continued use of gas even after the initial intervention.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- The evaluation of the pilot CCCM Self-Management of spontaneous sites project was evaluated in May. The sites evaluated include Boudouri, Assaga and Kindjandi. The evaluation was supervised by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action. A total of 400 people were interviewed as part of the evaluation. Some key findings include:
  - In all 3 sites, central and sectorial committees exist. Gender, age and special needs were considered during the creation of each of the committees, however the representation of each group in the Central committees remains a challenge.
  - Complaints mechanisms are also operational at all of the sites. The majority of complaints recorded were related to access to food and water and security of the sites. 70% of those surveyed believe the mechanisms work well.

### Recommendations and Unmet Needs – CCCM:

- Strengthen community members capacities on regarding issues of protection and site management.
- Share the code of conduct with committees and with residents at the sites.