

Niger



POPULATION OF CONCERN

331,619

* Refugees - Nigeria situation	118,868
** Refugees - Mali situation	58,510
* Refugees - Others	378
* IDPs - Diffa	104,288
** IDPs - Tillaberi	19,444
* Returnees - Diffa	25,731
** Asylum Seekers - ETM	1,197
** Asylum Seekers - Agadez	2,094
** Asylum Seekers - Diffa	940
** Asylum Seekers - Others	169

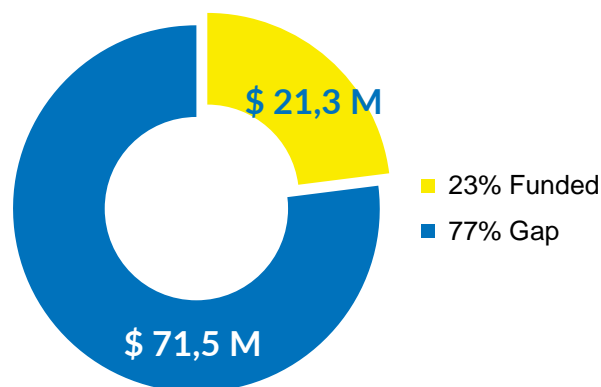
* Government of Niger official figures.

** UNHCR figures.

FUNDING (AS OF JULY 31 2018)

USD 92,8 Million

requested for the Niger Country Operation



KEY INDICATORS

1,536

Refugees evacuated temporarily from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM (Emergency Transit Mechanism) from November 2017 – July 2018

2,094

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum

19,444

Persons internally displaced in the Tillaberi region



Works in progress for the new transit centre in Agadez

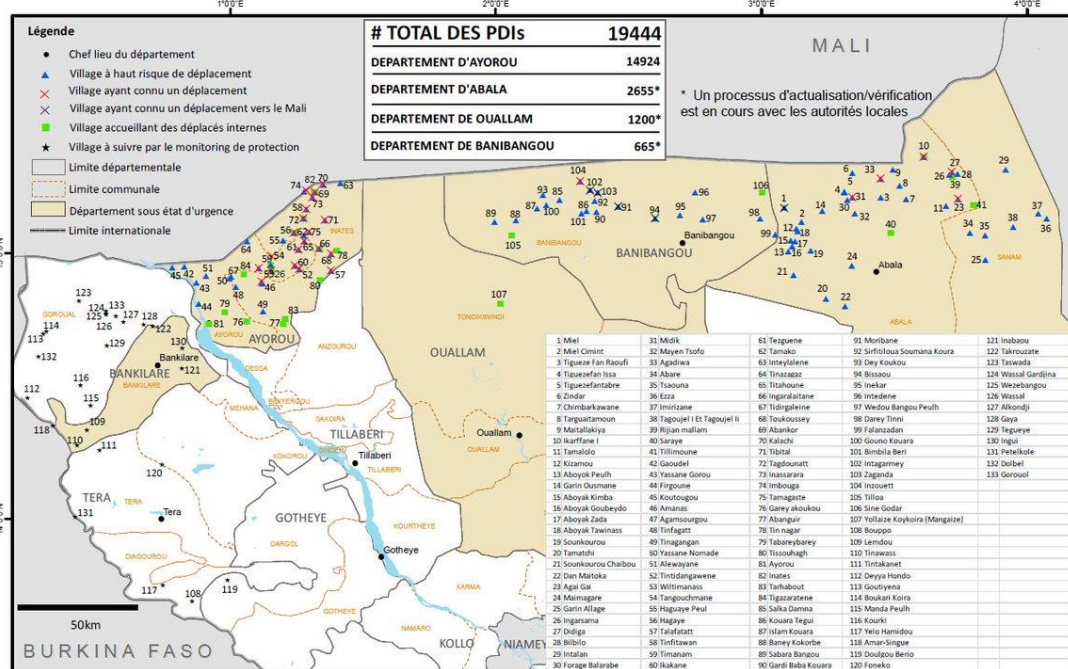
Operational Context

The key situations include:

- 1. The Mali situation:** began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting the majority of the refugees are increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism. A State of Emergency was declared last year, and extended this year. There are currently 58,510 Malian refugees in Niger. UNHCR supports the socio-economic integration of these refugees and the closure of the camps by the end of 2019 through urbanization and other programmes aimed at integration. A regional EU Trust Fund project was recently launched aimed at strengthening the resilience of displaced populations in northern Mali and supporting peaceful coexistence between communities. The Malian presidential elections took place in July. Refugees in Tabareybarey, as well as other camps, and in the urban areas were invited to participate to vote on July 29. The second round will be held on August 12.
- 2. The Nigeria situation:** began in 2013, with the arrival of the first Nigerian refugees across the border fleeing Boko Haram. The situation deteriorated with the first attacks in Niger territory in 2015. There are over 250,000 displaced persons in the region. The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one refugee camp, with 14,130 people (as of 3 July 2018). Another EU Trust Fund project is ongoing in Diffa region, aimed at supporting economic recovery and long term solutions through the construction of durable housing.
- 3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** The displaced population in the Diffa region is extremely mixed, including refugees, IDPs and returnees. Efforts are underway to complete biometric registration of all displaced persons, including IDPs, who often face similar protection risks as refugees. However, the IDP situation in Niger has become more complex with increasing insecurity in the regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua, bordering Mali. In 2018, attacks and insecurity in the area have resulted in the internal displacement of at least 19,444 people (an increase of almost 2,000 people from last month). Protection monitoring, advocacy, capacity building and coordinated efforts with humanitarian actors are ongoing to ensure an adequate response to the situation.

NIGER: VILLAGES SUIVIS DANS LES 5 DEPARTEMENTS SOUS L'ETAT D'URGENCE DANS LA REGION DE TILLABERI

Mise à jour du 3 août 2018 excluant les mouvements secondaires et tertiaires



Les noms et les limites utilisés sur cette carte n'impliquent aucune acceptation ou reconnaissance officielle du Cluster Protection.
Date de création: 7/ 8/ 2018 Source: Monitoring de protection Auteur: Cluster Protection Feedback: Valérie Svobodova, svobodov@unhcr.org Nom du fichier: NER_TILLABERI_ETAT_URGENCE_3_AOUT_2018
Pour plus d'information visitez: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/niger/protection>

4. **Mixed Migration:** Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed migration, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. In Agadez, UNHCR works to identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and works with the government, as well as IOM and NGOs to provide these persons with information and assistance. 2,092 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez. 25% are minors and 224 are unaccompanied or separated children. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of downward movements from Libya and Algeria. On July 4, a Regional Forum on the Asylum Space in the context of Mixed Migration was co-organized in Agadez by the Government and UNHCR, to reaffirm the asylum space for those seeking international protection. Among the recommendations, is the need to strengthen the reception mechanism, under the leadership of the national and local authorities, particularly on a humanitarian level. A new transit centre will be built to accommodate those seeking protection.
5. **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This unique programme aims to provide life-saving protection, assistance and long-term solutions to extremely vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through temporary evacuation to Niger. The aim is to deliver protection and identify durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are mainly Eritrean and Somali. Their profiles mainly include survivors of torture or other forms of violence in the country of origin and/or transit countries (e.g. Libya) and others with compelling protection needs. Many of them are unaccompanied children (222) and women and girls at risk. To date, 1,536 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger and a total of 339 individuals have departed for resettlement from Niger to France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. Other countries offering resettlement places are Belgium, Canada, Germany, Norway the UK, and the USA.

Security Situation

The regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillabéri** continue to be affected by armed groups and inter-ethnic violence. Military operations continue, including the joint operation Barkhane-G5 Sahel, in progress since 20 of May, in the zone of "3 borders" Mali - Burkina Faso - Niger, as well as other military operations such as Operation Dongo. Overall, the main threat in the Tillabéri region remains activism of non-State armed groups, while conflicts between armed groups in the border strip of Niger with Mali have gradually turned into an interethnic cross-border conflict between Tuareg and Peul, resulting in displacement of population in the communes of Inatès, Banibangou, and Abala. Movements of suspected extremists near the border have been reported, as well as incursions in villages by armed extremists threatening the population. An increase in criminal incidents has been registered in Tahoua, while the Kodjoga Beli/Torodi forest bordering Burkina Faso, is reportedly hosting a new base of terrorists.

In the **Diffa** region in July, the security situation continues to be marked by repeated attacks by the Boko Haram (BH) armed group against military sites, like the Blabrime base assaulted on July 1 and the Barwa post (20 km North of Bosso) attacked on the night of July 19-20. These attacks confirm the rise in the level of the terrorist threat, which have resulted in deaths among the Nigerien Defence and Security Forces (FDS) personnel and civilians, as well as in repeated incursions into villages.

Tensions are also observed in the **Agadez** region. While the situation, with new arrivals of Sudanese in recent months and with ongoing deportations from Algeria is still fragile, it is slowly stabilizing in terms of peaceful coexistence. However there has been an increase in road armed attacks.

On July 15, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has declared a cholera epidemic in the **Maradi** region, having detected several cases in the commune of Madarounfa. To support the Government of Niger (GoN), WHO has given medicines and medical equipment to the MoH to the value of around 40,000 US\$.

Key Developments & Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The July 2018 Protection Cluster Bulletin is published [here](#).
- The July 2018 Protection Monitoring Report on Tillaberi is available [here](#).
- The National Action Plan developed during a meeting in Diffa on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20) is available [here](#).
- On 11 July the second “**Protection Dialogue**” meeting between Protection Cluster members and technical and financial partners took place in Niamey.

Nigeria situation

- In the context of the **BIMS biometric registration project** in Diffa:
 - On July 3 the Government of Niger (GoN) published the new official figures of the displaced population in the region (see cover page);
 - On July 31, a UNHCR/DREC-RM workshop (Regional Directorate of Civil Status, Migration and Refugees) of Diffa was held as part of the collaborative partnership between the two institutions. Registration was at the centre of the discussion.
- A total of 21 Child Protection sensitization activities have been conducted in Kabléwa, Garin Wanzam, Kintchiandi, and Sayam Forage, involving 988 persons (170 men, 290 boys, 241 women, and 287 girls) from both the displaced and host community. Additionally, 22 SGBV sensitization sessions were also held, benefitting 787 people.

Mali situation

- In July, the main protection activities ongoing in Tahoua were protection monitoring involving all partners, and the biometric registration of the pending households.
- In Intikane, a mission to identify and profile cases to be submitted for resettlement took place and the database was updated accordingly.

IDP situation

- The Protection Cluster in Niger, in collaboration with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), developed a training module on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to be included as part of the training for Nigerien Defence and Security Forces (FDS). This project, prepared as a “training of trainers” module, aims at supporting the FDS elements in Niger with capacity strengthening under the leadership of Belgian forces, in collaboration with Canada, the United States and Germany.
- On July 6, a meeting of the Accountability Task Force was held in Diffa. The mapping of protection committees and the accountability action plan for the region have been updated.
- The global coordinator (for SGBV and CP) of the Child Survivor Initiative came on mission to Niger and visited Diffa and Niamey, in order to improve the access and the quality of care for children and SGBV survivors.
- In the Diffa region following the attacks of non-state armed groups in the Chetimari and Nguigmi areas, which resulted in a movement of the population, joint missions have been conducted to evaluate the protection needs of the newly displaced. In Chetimari, 45 households have been registered so far, but movements are still being detected. In NGuigmi 365 newly displaced households have been reported, with a total of about 1,500 people. Among these newly displaced, 53 individuals have specific needs.
- On July 16-18, a Protection Cluster mission went to Tahoua to better analyse the insecurity and the related measures in place, and its impact on the population from a protection point of view.

Mixed Migration situation

- In Agadez, work continues to follow up on the deported cases from Algeria: in July 1,830 persons have been deported. So far, the total number from January 2018 is 15,463 – of which 7,858 are Nigerien.
- SGBV committees have been created in the 7 host sites of Agadez and capacity building sessions for the members have been planned to take place next month.
- The involvement of refugee leaders in community management and resolution of community problems has been observed. An example of this is the collaboration in the works at the “*hébergement solidaire*” on July 25.

 **EDUCATION**

Nigeria situation

- 59 out of 63 Nigerian refugee students in Diffa region enrolled for the BECE (Basic Education Certificate Examination) participated in the final exams in Kano, Nigeria in July. 57 have been directly admitted to secondary school and 2 have been admitted to the October session.

Mali situation

- The NGO Adkoul have repaired the classrooms of the school in the Refugee Hosting Area of Intikane in the region of Tahoua that were severely damaged by the strong winds.

 **HEALTH**

Mali situation

- In Abala, in support of the 2,178 children under 5 years old living in the camp, medical equipment against malaria was distributed, while a total of 480 people (of which 350 were women) participated in 8 informative sessions on health.

 **WATER AND SANITATION**

Mixed Migration situation

- In Agadez the persons of concern have been actively involved in the works done by the APBE NGO to improve the sanitary environment of the “*hébergement solidaire*” hosting Sudanese asylum seekers. Moreover, sanitary equipment was made available to them to help them maintaining the site clean.

 **SHELTER AND NFIS**

Nigeria situation

- In the context of the **EU Trust Fund Urbanization project**, activities continued in July in Diffa:
 - 77 young refugees, IDPs, and locals (of which 13 girls) have been identified and trained to assemble the Refugees House Units (RHUs). So far they have built more than 400 RHUs;
 - 45 young people, trained in brick making, are continuing their activities regularly.
 - The team of workers will be increased, including beneficiaries. This will help providing employment to the youth, as well as entrepreneurship and diversification of income sources at the local level.

Mali situation

- On July 31, in the Tillaberi region, UNHCR and the authorities have inaugurated and handed over 205 housing units in the urbanized site of Ayorou, in partnership with Plan Niger.

Mixed Migration situation

- On July 9, the installation of the RHUs began in Agadez, on the site of the new transit centre.
- The preparatory work for the well drilling on the above-mentioned site started on July 19, followed by the construction of the blocks for kitchens and latrines, in line with the new site plan.



Inauguration of the housing units in Ayorou.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

Nigeria situation

- The UNHCR partner NGO CDR, have conducted the following activities during the month of July as regards to protection of the environment in the Diffa region:
 - Fixation of 10 h of dunes (mechanical fixation) in Sayam;
 - Grass seeding of 40 h of fixed dunes in Maine Soroa;
 - Identification of two sites for Assisted Natural Regeneration in Sayam and Maine Soroa;
 - Realization of 3 sorting sheds and 3 dumps in Sayam, Guidan Kadji and Garin Dogo.
 - Promotion of awareness among the refugees on the benefits of gas and other sources of energy than wood.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Nigeria situation

- In the communes of Maine Soroa and Chetimari, in the Diffa region, the NGO APBE has given 3 goats (2 females and one male to each family unit, for a total of 315 animals) to 105 vulnerable households. They also identified projects for the 50 young people selected for the professional training that will take place in August 2018.
- In the Sayam Forage camp the agro-pastoral activities continue with the aim of enhancing the self-reliance of refugees. All 52 fish ponds are ready, with 26 already with fish present. The 250 hectares that the authorities of Chetimari gave to UNHCR in 2017 are ready for the 2018 winter season – seeds selected are those of millet, beans, cowpea and sorrel.

Mali situation

- In Intikane, 30 women have been identified to receive the following work equipment: 15 sewing machines, 15 machines for knitting, tables and benches as a means of income generation. Another 78 households have received small ruminants to care for (a total of 234 animals) – mainly goats.
- On July 25-27, a training on goat feeding was organised in the Malian refugee camp in Abala for 100 vulnerable refugee women. While on July 11, 182 goats and sheep were distributed to 182 refugees.
- Several cash distributions took place during the month of July, in particular:

- On July 19, 268 individuals of 42 different households, who asked to be voluntary repatriated have received cash to facilitate their return to the country of origin (Mali);
- On July 31, UNHCR and ASUSU have launched the cash distribution, financed by the Spanish Cooperation, to support refugees in their daily needs (see pictures below). 1,516 refugees received cash for a total of 16,354,000 CFAC (around 28,000 US\$). Unfortunately, due to security concerns, the distribution has been suspended and should be resumed in August.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- More than 700 refugees evacuated from Libya and temporarily living in Niamey, have received psychosocial support and have participated in different recreational and socio-cultural activities, such as taekwondo, soccer, theatre, Hip Hop, sewing and art classes.



Cash distribution, financed by the Spanish Cooperation, to support refugees in Abala.

Key Challenges

The beginning of the rainy season, along with strong winds, is creating difficulties across the country, damaging properties and worsening the living situation of the most vulnerable, refugees included.

Mali situation

- The increasing insecurity, due mostly to armed attacks and ethnic tensions, continues to pose the biggest challenge in the area of the country bordering Mali and Burkina Faso. The main consequence is the increasing number of the displaced population and the associated protection risks.

Nigeria situation

- In the Diffa region, in addition to the threat posed by terrorism, the level of criminality is increasing. In particular, killings and kidnapping to solve disputes and/or demanding ransom are becoming more and more common, spreading tension and fear among the local community.

IDP situation

- The new emergency of 20 000 IDPs is seriously underfunded, with only 1 % of protection needs being covered.

Mixed Migration

- In the Agadez region, UNHCR must continue strengthening cross border coordination in order to support refugees coming from the bordering countries.
- After the Regional Forum on the Asylum Space, on July 4, it is important to follow up with all key partners, in order to implement the conclusions and recommendations.

Emergency Transit Mechanism

- With regards to the evacuations from Libya, one of the main challenges remains to improve the fluidity of the process of departures for resettlement, in order to free more refugees from the Libyan detention centres and welcome them in Niger.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: a total of 324 national and international staff (*this includes consultants and affiliate workforce*)

Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey, 2 Sub-Offices Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices Tillaberi and Tahoua; 2 Field Unites Abala and Ouallam

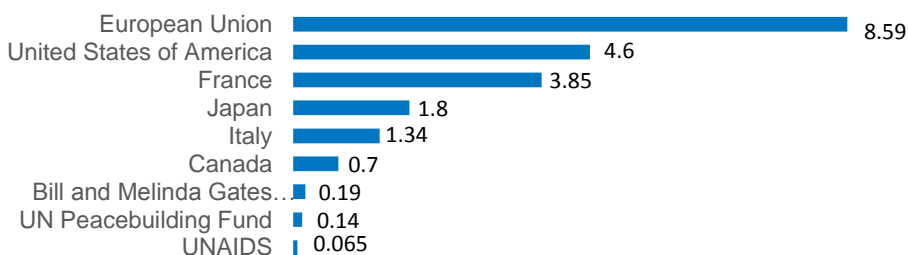
Partners

Govt. of Niger, ACTED/REACH, ADES, Adkoul, APBE, Care, CDR, CIAUD, CISP, COOPI, DRC, Forum Réfugié Cosi, FRC, GVD, HI, IRC, SFCG, SDO, UNAIDS

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US \$ 21.3 m.**

Funding received (in million USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of earmarked contributions

United States of America (60.5 M) | Germany (7.6 M) | Priv Donors Australia (6.2 M) | Canada (3.3 M) | Italy | Norway | Sweden | Private Donors

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked contributions

Sweden (98.2 M) | Norway (42.5 M) | Netherlands (39.1 M) | Priv Donors Spain (37.8 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Denmark (25.5 M) | Priv Donors Rep of Korea (15.8 M) | Switzerland (15.2 M) | France (14 M) | Italy (11 M) | Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

CONTACTS

Giulia Raffaelli, Associate External Relations Officer

raffaell@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 51

Mathilde Corre, Associate Reporting Officer

corre@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 58 96

Louise Donovan, Associate Public Information Officer

donovan@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 34 73

Benoit Moreno, External Relations Officer

morenob@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 19 24 17