

Refugees and asylum seekers in Agadez

April 2021

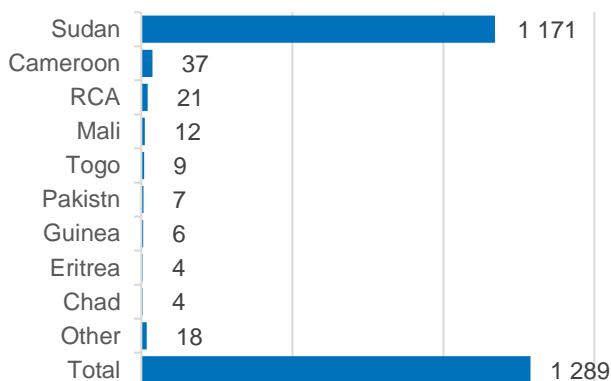
Niger has become **a major hub for mixed movements** northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

UNHCR Niger operation has opened a new office in Agadez in 2017, scaling up its operational capacity to give a response to those in need of international protection within mixed migratory flows.

In response to the complex humanitarian and security situation in Libya, Niger is increasingly turning into an **alternative space for protection**, including for the asylum-seekers and refugees who fail to reach Europe.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of origin



* ProGres biometrically registered refugees as of 28 March 2021

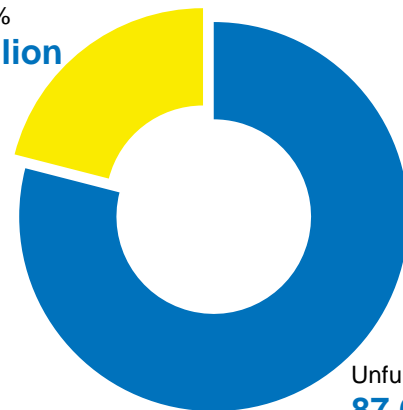
FUNDING (AS OF 30 MARCH 2021)

USD 110.5 million

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 21%

22.9 million



Unfunded 79%

87.6 million

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

19 National Staff

3 International Staff

Offices:

1 Sub Office in Agadez

Awareness session at the Humanitarian Center of Agadez on the complaint management mechanism via the Green Line



Operational Context

Niger is situated in **a geopolitically sensitive area linking the Sahara Desert with the Sahel, and West with Central Africa**. The country has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

Operational Strategy

UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that people in need of international protection have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum. Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in **the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system** and implements **all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region**. Moreover, UNHCR gives assistance to people under its mandate and aims to find durable solutions, such as resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

As of 28 March 2021; UNHCR and its partners has identified and registered **1,289 individuals** in need of international protection. 91% of the population under UNHCR mandate in Agadez are Sudanese nationals. 62% of the entire population have a refugee status obtained in Niger or elsewhere while 38% are asylum seekers; more 71% are men, 15% are women and 21% are children under the age of eighteen.

The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **6 guesthouses in Agadez** when they receive protection response and assistance while the other are hosted in the **Humanitarian Center** built in the outskirt of the city.

UNHCR and its partners provide meals, water, sanitation, health, education and all services for each refugee and asylum seeker living in the guesthouses, the Humanitarian Center, and the most vulnerable living in the host community.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR and its partners conducted 166 awareness-raising sessions on a variety of topics, including peaceful coexistence, complaint management via the Green Line, personal and environmental hygiene, the rules of the Humanitarian Center, and measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. These activities reached 471 people living in the case de passage and the Humanitarian Center.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen a proactive cooperation with the regional authorities in Agadez managing to increase the presence of the competent authorities, notably the General Directorate of Civil Status, Refugees and Migration (DGEC-RM) / Ministry of Interior) responsible for Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- UNHCR, IOM and the Government of Niger have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017 on the identification and referral of persons of concern of information and assistance.

- UNHCR Persons of concern (PoCs) continue to be expelled from Algeria. Among them, 36 persons that fall under its mandate have been taken in charge by UNHCR and 16 of them are still in Agadez where they receive international protection and assistance.
- During the last period (March 2021), 5 new SGBV cases have been identified. Follow-up and referral to Protection and MHPSS Units is constantly assured by the implementing partners.
- During the last month, 31 minors, including two Unaccompanied Children, all new arrivals, received material assistance consisting of three types of kits. The first kit is composed of a blanket, a mat, winter clothes, a basin, a bucket, and a plastic bowl. The second kit includes a toothbrush, toothpaste, a disposable razor, a T-shirt, and a pair of shoes; the third one was composed of a comb and a kettle.

Education

- UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS continues to implement education activities to support refugees, hence sessions on reading and writing, calculations are conducted on a daily basis. Most of the children hosted in the guesthouses in Agadez, once finalized transitional classes to learn French, are registered in the public education system fully integrating the host population.
- Moreover, the implementing partners INTERSOS and COOPI continues to provide unformal education and assistance to the minors hosted within the Humanitarian Center, which are still not schooled, including minors under the age of 6. They have provided several sessions of introduction to mathematics, reading, drawing, motricity and sport activities, etc. In March 2021, COOPI organized 36 classes for the benefit of 98 persons.

Health & Mental Health

- The implementing partner COOPI provides weekly sessions on clinical, mental health and psychosocial support to all PoCs in need. Additionally, one UNHCR staff based in Agadez specialized in MHPSS and Health's oversees the activities. During the month of march, the partner COOPI organized 50 sessions of art and therapy activities for 125 people; 10 musical and dance activities for 98 people and 224 sessions of playful, recreational and cultural activities (card games, checkers, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.) for 220 people.
- UNHCR Niger provides first and second medical assistance to all PoCs hosted in Agadez through the partnership with APBE. Medical consultations, medical referrals to public health structures, sensitization sessions on COVID-19 and malaria preventive measures, family planning and general hygiene methods are provided on a regular basis. In March, APBE conducted 1,368 medical consultations. 84% of those consulted were refugees, among whom 59 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and the Mother and Child Health Center in Agadez.
- UNHCR organized mass and individual sensitization sessions in compliance with medical prescriptions, malaria prevention, family planning, food hygiene, and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 at the Humanitarian Center, the transit huts, and the health center of the district of Toudou in Agadez. These activities have reached 1,250 refugees and community members, including 555 women, 525 men, 122 boys and 48 girls.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR Niger in Agadez provides PoCs within the Humanitarian Center as well as in the guesthouses with 3 meals per day. Specific dietary needs are taken in charge and followed-up by the implementing partners COOPI and APBE.
- During the month of March 2021, UNHCR, through its partners, has provided necessary meals for the entire PoC population (1,289 individuals), namely an average number of 3,867 meals per day.

Water, Sanitation, Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR has constructed a Humanitarian Center built several kilometers outside of Agadez. This facility was equipped with over 330 refugee housing units, WASH and latrines system, community spaces and offices for staff working on the site. Due to a massive fire occurred last January 2020, the 80% of housing units has been destroyed or damaged. UNHCR has immediately reacted relocating all the vulnerable households within 6 guesthouses in the city of Agadez in order to start the construction of new durable and semi-permanent structures and a permanent water pipeline supply.
- A Water Tracking system is in place in the Humanitarian Center providing 30 m3 every day.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continues to work on the implementation of the new Food Strategy within the Humanitarian Center, in order to reinforce self-reliance through CBI (cash-based Intervention).
- UNHCR has reestablished several refugee engagement committees, such as Child Protection and Site Pacific Coexistence, within the Humanitarian Center as well as others have been established within the guesthouses in Agadez.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR Niger promotes access to solutions (asylum, readmission, repatriation, regularization of stay) for the different groups identified in the mixed movements. UNHCR Niger guarantee the follow-up of all cases of PoCs proposed for Resettlement or other Complementary Pathways in third countries: Preparation of files, eligibility procedures, request of laissez-passer to the Government for PoCs on departure, transfer to Niamey pre-departure, medical screening procedures, etc.

External / Donor Relations

Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Agadez
Italy | RDPP NA |

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

African Development Bank | Central Emergency Response Fund | European Union | Education cannot wait | Germany | Italy | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors | Spain

Other softly earmarked contributions²

United States of America 12.2 million | Germany 9.2 million | Iceland | Malta | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions³

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

Algeria | America | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxemburg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private Donors

1. Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
2. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Niger. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
3. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



CONTACTS

Ms. Valeria Dell'Aquila, Associate Reporting Officer (Inter-Agency),
dellaqui@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 20 75 20 64/65, Cell. +227 92 18 58 32

Moustapha Djibrilla, Communication / Public Information Associate,
djibrill@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 09 61 41, Cell +227 80 09 61 41

LINKS: OPERATIONAL PORTAL - UNHCR COUNTRY OPERATION PAGE – TWITTER