

Niger

April 2022

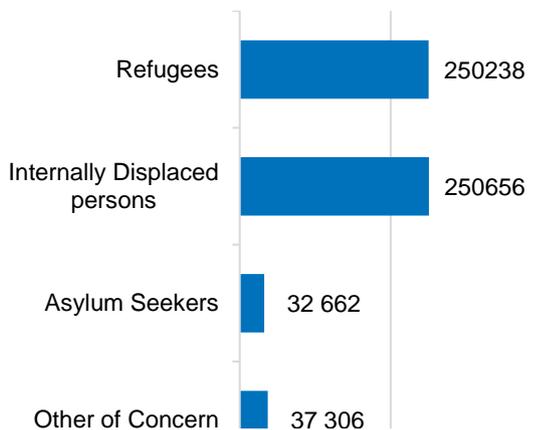
In 2022, a total of **13,706 persons from North-West Nigeria crossed the border into Niger's Maradi region** fleeing insecurity and violence. Registration, need assessments and response is ongoing.

Since the beginning of this year, Niger has witnessed various waves of Malian refugee arriving in **Tillabery region**. Since **January, the number has accumulated to 3,617 persons arriving**.

Furthermore, 10,608 Malians have arrived in various waves to the Tahoua region in Niger. Registration is ongoing.

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 30 APRIL 2022

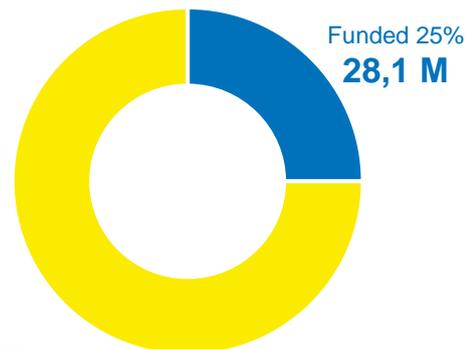
250,656 refugees; **32,662** asylum seekers; **264,257** internally displaced persons and **37,306** other persons of concern live in Niger. The total number of PoCs in Niger stands at **584,881**:



FUNDING AS OF 18 MAY 2022

USD 130,7 M

requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022



Moutari Lawal is a 48-year-old community leader from the village of Chinkida in Katsina state in Nigeria and sought refuge in the village of Douhoun Bara in Maradi, Niger © UNHCR / Younoussa Boubacar Sidde

Operational context

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open and is one of the most welcoming countries in the world**, currently hosting 283,318 refugees and asylum seekers, with 69% coming from Nigeria, 21 % from Mali, 5 % from Burkina Faso, and 5% from other countries. Furthermore, there are more than 300,000 IDPs and Nigerien returnees that have stayed outside the country for more than 10 years and who have recently returned to Niger. UNHCR's work in Niger focuses on the **protection, assistance, and solutions** for persons of concern, with particular attention to women, children and other persons with specific needs guided by a **community-based approach**. UNHCR also supports the Nigerien authorities in the search for **durable solutions** for displaced communities in Niger.

Background & Key Achievements

The Central Sahel Situation (Tillabéri & Tahoua regions)

Tillabéri region

UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy to further integrate Malian refugees** (62,077 as of April 2022) into the country and to find alternatives to camps in the Tillabéri region. With the support of development actors, Malian refugees and host communities have access to land, housing, and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructures are being reinforced. To further strengthen **peaceful co-existence between the different populations**, UNHCR aims to bring the populations together through 'common areas', such as village stores, cattle feeding areas, as well as through various mixed community committees.

During the reporting period, UNHCR renewed 319 damaged identity documents for refugees living in Tillabéri region. In addition, UNHCR and its partners provided 7,248 m³ of water to refugees living in the urbanized sites of Abala and Ouallam, with a ratio of 15 liters/person.



Watermelon production at the Ouallam market garden site / © UNHCR

In March/April, as part of the support provided by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UNHCR organized various activities on access to justice, peaceful coexistence, and in regard to the prevention of statelessness in Abala and Ayorou. The project aims at providing protection and community security for communities living close to the border, in the northern part of the Tillabéri region. The project involves all communities, civil society organisation, authorities, and includes innovative methods, such as theatre, music, lectures, football matches, and community debates. At the end of these events and meetings, **recommendations on maintaining social cohesion, reducing tensions, and improving cohesion within the community** were formulated.

During the reporting period, following violent fighting between the Etat Islamique du Grand Sahara (EIDGS) and the Mouvement pour le Salut de l'Azawad (MSA) in the villages of Ichinana, Azaragane, and Tamalet in the cercle of Andéranboukane in Mali, UNHCR recorded 1,120 households fleeing to Niger, which includes 7,091 Nigerien returnees, 1,827 Malian refugees, 229 former Malian refugees who had benefited from voluntary repatriation, and 1,598 other persons who are still being verified by Nigerien.

Tahoua region

As of 30 April 2022; the population of the former Refugee Hosting Area (ZAR) accounts to **3,874 refugee households of 20,626 individuals** and have been traced in 26 opportunity villages in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. Besides, the **Ministry of Humanitarian Action has registered 5,559 IDPs households of 40,416 persons** in the same area. Since January, **10,608 Malians have arrived in various waves in Tahoua region**. Since the closure of the ZAR in June 2021, UNHCR protection teams have conducted remote protection monitoring activities, including the tracking of population movements.



Protection monitoring session in the Tahoua region / © UNHCR

In March/April, a total of 10,608 Malians arrived in Tahoua region since the beginning of the year, mostly in March 2022, and 6,579 Nigerien refugees recently arrived from northern Nigeria. Meanwhile, refugees and host communities have expressed the **need for potable water, health, education, hygiene and sanitation, shelter, and water/food for their livestock**. The population in the region also face food insecurity due to poor harvests, the rise of prices of basic needs items, and due to insecurity.

Consequently, UNHCR has distributed emergency shelter kits consisting of 12 pillars, 33 traditional mats, a roll of wire, a roll of rope, a corrugated iron door, two windows, and 50 tarpaulins to 1,316 households of 9,212 recently arrived Malian refugees in Egarek, Tillia Department.

Lastly, UNHCR supported local authorities in issuing more than 600 supplementary birth certificates for children of mixed communities.

The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

Diffa region

To date, there are almost **250,590 forcibly displaced persons residing** in the Diffa region (including **130,023 refugees, 81,464 IDPs, 35,491 returnees and 3,612 asylum seekers**), [see map](#). Many of them have been displaced twice or multiple times already. Most of the persons live in spontaneous settlements or sites or together with the host communities. Sayam Forage, the only actual camp in Diffa, hosts more than **31,392 people**, and is managed by UNHCR.

The refugee population continues to arrive to Sayam Forage camp not only from Nigeria, but also from other reception sites in the Diffa region in search of better humanitarian assistance and security. Indeed, 72 new households of 2 people were received at the camp's transit centre during the second half of march, making **a monthly total of 105 households of 444 individuals. 31,392 persons** had access to potable water produced by three pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp and trough water tracking, with an average consumption of 13,6 liters / person / day.

In March, **2,756 refugees received** medical consultations at the Sayam Forage Camp health facility and **14 of them were evacuated** to regional hospital health structures. A total of 215 women have been received for prenatal consultations while 28 births have been assisted at the same health facility.

UNHCR and partners have **identified and referred 333 children at risk of statelessness** at the Sayam Forage refugee camp and **225 at the IDP site of Awaridi** on the outskirts of the city of Diffa. In addition, 200 birth certificates were submitted to the Diffa high court. Finally, 124 births were declared and registered at the declaration centre of Sayam Forage camp. During the month of March 2022, UNHCR renewed 45 altered and/or torn refugee identity documents. 40 refugee attestations and five refugee identity cards were printed and issued.

Maradi region

For more than two years, conflict in north-western Nigeria **has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians** to flee to the Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits on the Nigerien territory have triggered internal displacement of around 26,000 people. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border mainly targeting farmers and breeders and conduct kidnapping.

For security reasons, UNHCR has **relocated 3,972 households of 17,713 individuals** far away from their first entry points to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. Thus, UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three **"villages of opportunity"**. These include 1,809 households of 7,919 refugees in Chadakori; 1,185 households of 5,434 in Dan Dadji Makaou and 978 households of 4,360 in Garin Kaka.



With a small group of other volunteers, Souleymane takes care of a collective vegetable garden in the opportunity village of Chadakori in **#Maradi** 🇳🇮. "We lack water to irrigate everything, but the few crops that grow help us a lot in difficult times."

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



For more stories from Maradi, click [here](#):

As of 15 April, a total of 1,800 households of approximately 13,706 Nigerian refugees crossed the border from Nigeria to seek refuge in Maradi. 90% of the new arrivals were from Chindhinda in Jibia local government of Katsina State, and a few from Batsari local government of Zamfara State, Nigeria. These movements were prompted by the withdrawal of the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) from the Chindhinda position, followed by the actions of non-state armed groups (looting, extortion of property, threats, assault, kidnapping, ransom demands, etc.).

In regard to livelihoods, in April, the 'Anfani' group of Chadakori produced and sold 125 mats and the 'Alfourma' group of Garin Kaka produced and sold 127 litres of peanut oil and 7,620 pieces of peanut cake.



Despite the trauma experienced in Nigeria, AI is smiling again at the 'village of opportunity' in Chadakori, where UNHCR offers assistance and protection / © UNHCR / Photographer: Romain Pichon-Sintes

Mixed movements situation (Agadez)

Niger 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 to Niger. **These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection.** UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that the latter 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 assists 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.

With the support of IOM, NGO partners and the Government of Niger, UNHCR identifies asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide them with adequate information and tailored assistance. As of 30th April 2022, UNHCR and its partners have identified and biometrically registered **2,534 individuals** in need of international protection. The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **five guesthouses in Agadez** where they benefit from a protection response and assistance, while the others are hosted in the **Humanitarian Centre** built in the outskirts of the city.

On May 25, a young Sudanese man was killed inside the Agadez Humanitarian Centre during scuffles between a group of refugees and police officers. This tragic event, which deeply affects the UNHCR teams, occurred in the early morning. Gendarmerie officers were violently attacked by refugees at the Humanitarian Centre as they came to identify and arrest a Sudanese refugee wanted for killing the livestock of a local farmer. The group of individuals opposed the arrest of the young man by throwing stones at the gendarmerie vehicle and its occupants. The latter, surrounded, were forced to fire warning shots to disperse the crowd.

Once the gendarmes had withdrawn, the demonstrators moved towards the permanent security post at the entrance to the Centre and stormed it with stones. The fifteen or so elements of the security forces felt threatened and used tear gas. A group of individuals then set fire to the security forces tarpaulin roof and the office of a partner working on the site. The young man who died during the scuffle is not the man who was wanted by the police. An investigation is underway, the findings of which will determine the cause of death.

In March and April, UNHCR and its partner APBE conducted 59 awareness-raising sessions reaching 892 individuals on peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, community coexistence within the Humanitarian Center, and on Covid-19. UNHCR and COOPI also organized 99 **recreational and cultural activities** (music, dance, card games, checkers, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.). These activities reached 1,837 people. In addition, INTERSOS provided psycho-social support to **3,537 individuals** including 2,300 boys and 1,273 girls **through 61 psychosocial sessions**.

UNHCR has provided first and secondary health care to all refugees and asylum seekers hosted in Agadez through the partnership with APBE. In March 2022, APBE conducted 2,689 medical consultations; 88% of those consulted were refugees, among which 91 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and 19 to the mother and Child Health Center of Agadez. APBE also provides **reproductive health services and malnutrition management services for children**.

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

Hamdallaye

As of 31st March 2022, **4,701 persons have been resettled from Niger to third countries** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**; these include 3,334 evacuees from Libya and 1,367 refugees registered in Niger. Among the **3,710 persons evacuated from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, **461 evacuees** are still in Niamey including 86 refugees pending departures and 167 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

UNHCR's partner, APBE, **received 499 individuals for consultations in Hamdallaye and in the guest houses in Niamey**. 396 medical prescriptions, 61 examination forms and 15 consultation forms were issued. Of these cases, eight were hospitalized and 57 were treated in the guest houses.

Urban refugees and asylum seekers (Niamey)

As of 31st March 2022, Niamey hosts a total of **4,377 refugees and 425 asylum-seekers**. 91% (3,986) of refugees in Niamey are from Mali. Under Nigerien law, Malians who are victims of the armed conflict in northern Mali are **recognized on a prima facie basis** while other nationalities undergo the regular governmental procedure of refugee status determination (RSD).

The urban setting of Niamey prompted UNHCR to bring together the partners involved in the implementation of interventions aimed at the protection and assistance of urban refugees and asylum seekers in one physical structure, called the **Guichet Unique (One-Stop-Shop)**. The latter has the advantage of reducing costs and allows for an integrated approach, as well as better coordination of the interventions of the different partners. At the same time, UNHCR and partners regularly conduct home visits and monitors the well-being of beneficiaries in the five communes of Niamey.

UNHCR manages several temporary housing facilities in cooperation with implementing partners organizations to ensure adequate protection for persons with specific vulnerabilities. To ensure inclusivity and accountability, UNHCR and the Government of Niger regularly cooperates and **supports the Central Refugee Committee of Niamey**, comprised of refugee leaders from various communities.

44 complaints were received through the Niamey one-stop-shop hotline, including 209 complaints from Niamey, 11 from Agadez, and 2 from Ouallam. Most of the complaints are related to taking appointments for the reimbursement of prescriptions and medical acts, requesting information on the asylum application procedure, following up on applications for food assistance and shelter, and following up on applications for income-generating activities, among others.

Working in partnership

UNHCR is leading the Protection Cluster in Niger, which – together with all Protection partners – steers and coordinates the protection actors' interventions, to ensure a coherent protection response in the country. The Cluster also shares information amongst all relevant partners, bridges identified gaps, and ensures the strategic direction of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNHCR interventions aim to move towards economic integration and social inclusion of displaced communities. This approach is fully endorsed by the Government of Niger and is aligned with the **Global Compact for Refugee (GCR) and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus** and is at the core of the joint GoN and **UNHCR's out of camp vision**. UNHCR aims at strengthening relationships with **private sector actors as they are a crucial actor for boosting economic growth** and job creation; as well as at engaging with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media. The office also works with other government bodies, national and international implementing and operational partners. Lastly, UNHCR Niger works closely with the National Commission for Eligibility (CNE) to ensure adequate international protection and delivery of multisectoral assistance to its persons of concern.



Pleased to welcome 🇩🇪 German Foreign Minister @ABaerbock to #Ouallam where she met with @Refugees from #Mali and Nigeriens who are impacted by #climatechange yet who also contribute to #climateaction by cultivating land, harvesting vegetables, and ensuring peaceful co-existence.

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



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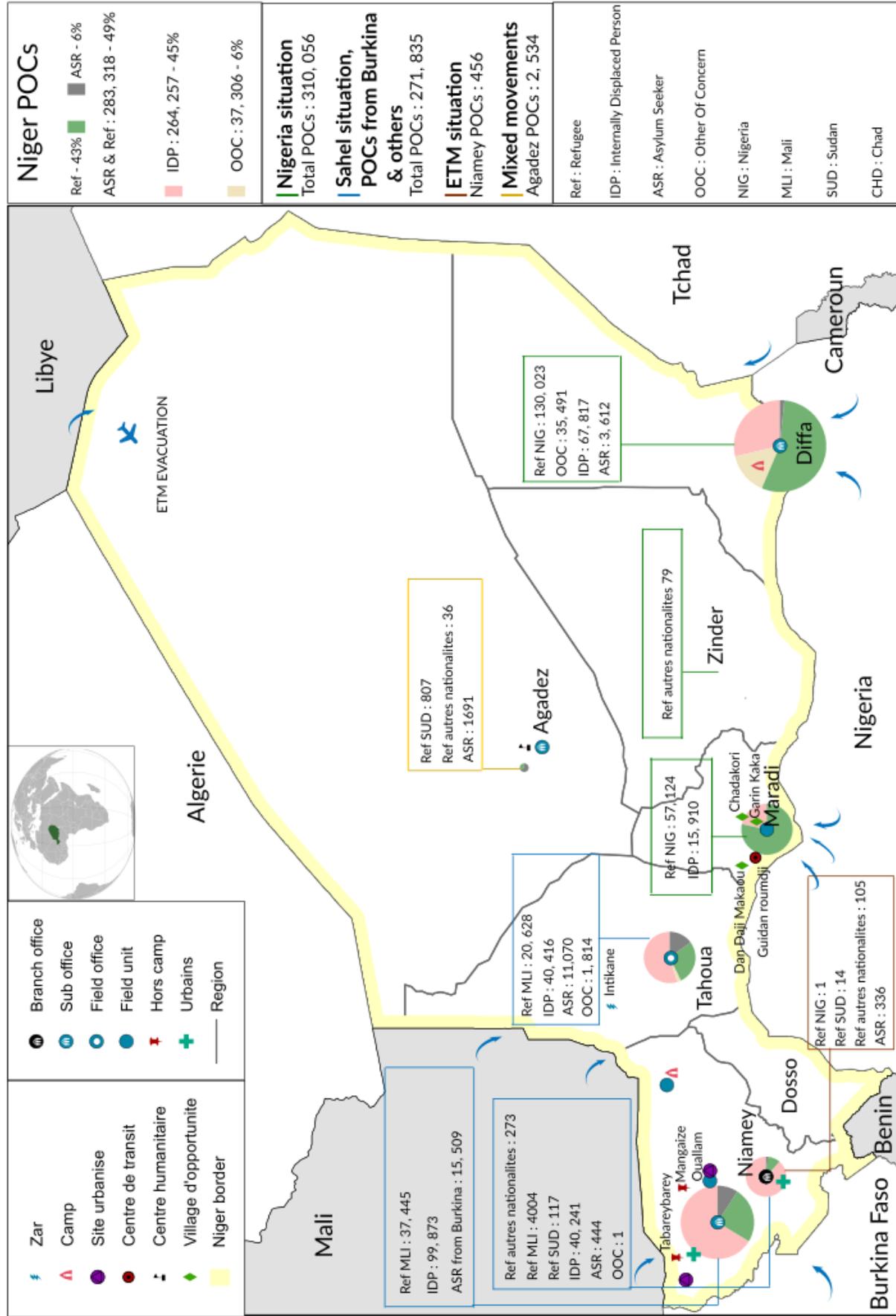
- Ms. Bettina Schulte, External Relations Officer, schulte@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 82 80 39 04

LINKS: UNHCR Niger Operation Page - Twitter

584,881
Persons of concern in Niger

30 - Avr - 2022

UNHCR | Niger Population of concern



Source : UNHCR Niger; Contacts : dipanda@unhcr.org; cherih@unhcr.org