

Niger

May 2022

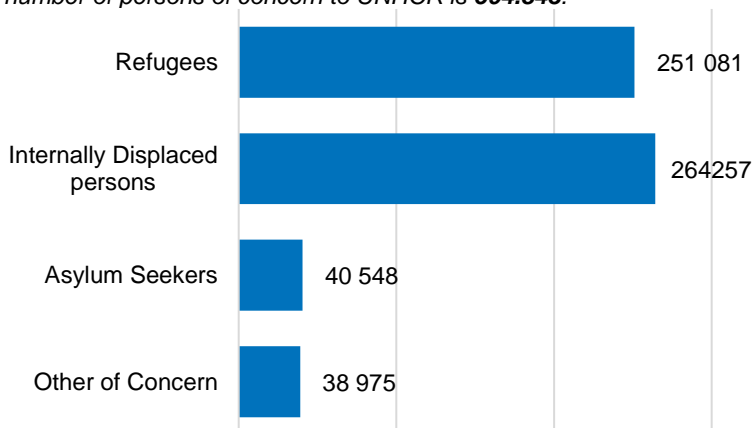
On 3 May, **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres**, accompanied by Niger's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has visited the village of Ouallam, where he met with representatives of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and the host community.

As of the end of May, **Niger is hosting 291,629 refugees and asylum seekers** from Nigeria (69%), Mali (21%), Burkina Faso (5%), and other countries (5%). More than 300,000 people were internally displaced and/or Nigerian returnees.

A center for the National Examination Council (NECO) opened in Diffa, allowing 186 Nigerian students to take their Basic Education Certification Examination (BECE) in the Nigerian curriculum. **This is the first time this exam has been held in Niger since the arrival of the Nigerian refugees.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF 31 MAY

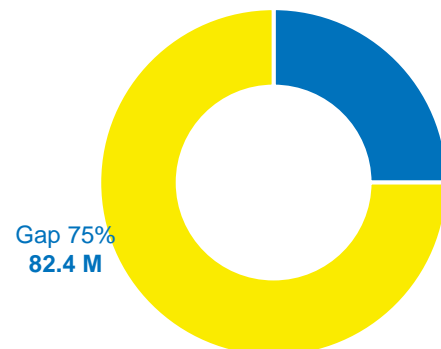
251.081 refugees, **40.548** asylum seekers, **264.257** internally displaced persons, **38.957** other persons of concern. The total number of persons of concern to UNHCR is **594.843**.



FUNDING AS OF 18 MAY 2022

USD 130,7 M

requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2022
Funded 25%
28.1 M



On 19 May, a total of 246 birth certificates were issued and given to refugee and host community children in the city of Diffa. © HCR / Moustapha Djibrilla

Operational context

Despite various conflicts in some of its neighbouring countries, **Niger has always kept its borders open**, and is currently hosting 291,629 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 (who 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 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 and 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.

On 3 May, **UN Secretary-General António Guterres, accompanied by Niger's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Resident Coordinator and Heads of UN agencies in Niger, visited Ouallam**, where he met with refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and the host community. **During his two-day visit**, Guterres called for solidarity with Niger, which is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. He stressed the need to strengthen humanitarian assistance, support for development assistance, particularly in the areas of education, health and job creation to combat terrorism.



António Guterres @antonioguterres · 3 mai

The families I met today in Niger—like millions more in the Sahel—did nothing to cause the climate crisis, conflict, or record food prices.

Yet they suffer some of the most devastating consequences—hunger & displacement.

My appeal to the world today: Don't give up on the Sahel.



For more information on the visit, click [Here](#)

Furthermore in May, UNHCR renewed 69 damaged identity documents for refugees living in the Tillabéri region. Also, 9,963 cubic meters of water were provided to refugees living in the urbanized sites of Abala and Ouallam, with a ratio of 15 liters/person/day. A total of **974 refugees and 1,931 members of the host community** received medical consultations at UNHCR-supported health facilities, and **39 were evacuated to regional health facilities**. A total of 154 women were received for prenatal consultations while 42 births were assisted. Lastly, **UNHCR provided an ambulance to the Ouallam health district** to facilitate medical evacuations of sick refugees, IDPs, and host community members.

Within the framework of the **BMZ/GIZ supported housing and protection project, 1,496 houses, including 949 in Abala, 512 in Ouallam and 35 in Ayorou, have been built.** The allocation committees of the plots and social houses in Ouallam and Abala have carried out physical checks on the occupants of the houses allocated. This exercise makes it possible to have an updated list of the beneficiaries before transmitting them to the town halls for the establishment of the loan deeds.

A total of 2,848 students, including 1,181 in Ouallam (610 girls and 571 boys), 969 in Abala (453 girls and 516 boys), and 698 in Ayorou (360 girls and 338 boys), are attending the three schools in the sites benefiting from the social housing project. In addition, **UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint survey on barriers to education for refugee and IDP children in situations of forced displacement and the host population living in Ouallam.** This survey was conducted among 60 households with school-age children, including 20 refugee households, 20 IDP households, and 20 host households.

Tahoua region

During the reporting period, **3,899 refugee households (20,628 individuals)**, who lived in the former refugee hosting area (ZAR) were located in 26 reception villages in the departments of Tillia and Tassara. In addition, **the Ministry of Humanitarian Action registered 7,966 IDP households, or 52,594 individuals**, in the same area. Since January, **10,608 Malians** have newly arrived in the Tahoua region. A total of **5,361 Nigerian asylum seekers and 3,465 Nigerien returnees** were registered from May 15 to 26 by UNHCR and its partners.

During the reporting period, a total of 2,979 cases of children at risk of protection were identified and documented, including **2,387** asylum seekers and **592** Nigerien returnees. **119** cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were identified and documented, including 93 cases of asylum seekers and 26 of Nigerien returnees. The most recurrent cases are psychological violence (**48 cases, i.e., 40% of the total**), early/forced marriages (**39 cases, i.e., 32%**) and physical aggression (**27 cases, i.e., 22%**). Finally, **784 persons living with specific needs (PBS)**, including **585** asylum seekers, **487** of whom were women, and **199** Nigerien returnees, **174** of whom were women, were identified, documented, and the data collected in Kobo. These PBS represent **11%** of registered new arrivals.

During the reporting period, UNHCR partners received 1,422 people for medical consultations, including 487 Malian refugees, 441 IDPs, and 494 members of the host community. In addition, two critical cases were evacuated to the regional hospital in Tahoua.

Finally, 3,000 people were reached in Tillia, Telemces, Bangui, and other neighboring villages through a series of sensitization sessions conducted by UNHCR and its partners ADKOUL and APBE on the themes of **child protection, the prevention of and fight against gender-based violence, aspects of the protection of people with special needs, and the strengthening of peaceful coexistence.**

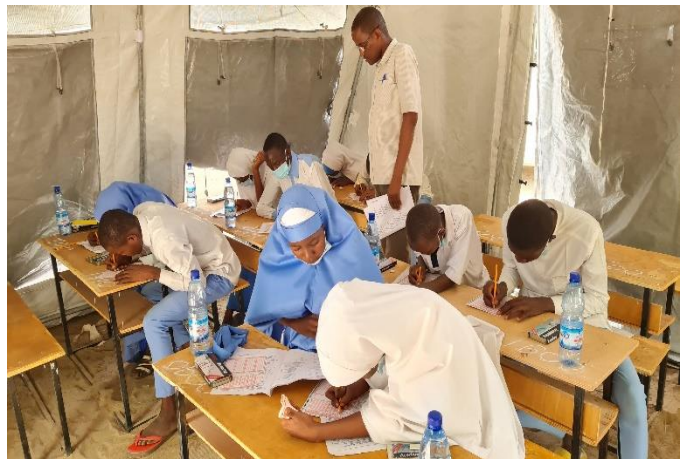
The Lake Chad Situation (Diffa and Maradi regions)

Diffa region

To date, **235,211 forcibly displaced persons live** in the Diffa region (including 129,835 refugees, 67,817 IDPs, 35,445 returnees, and 2,114 asylum seekers). Many of these people had been displaced more than once. Most stay in spontaneous sites or with host communities. The refugee population continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp from Nigeria, but also at other host sites in the Diffa region, seeking better humanitarian assistance and security.

A total of **31,594 persons** live in the Sayam Forage camp, where UNHCR has provided access to potable water for refugees through three pumping stations built at the Sayam Forage camp, water trucking, and water troughs, with an average consumption of 14 liters/person/day.

A special center for the **National Examination Council (NECO)** was opened by UNHCR in May, allowing **186 Nigerian students, including 48 girls, to take their Basic Education Certification Examination (BECE) in the Nigerian curriculum.** This is the first time this exam has been held in Niger since the arrival of the Nigerian refugees.



Nigerian refugee students taking their junior high school exit exams at the Diffa Nigerian Refugee Study Center. UNHCR

More than **4,700 refugees** received medical consultations at the Sayam Forage camp health facility and **62 of them were referred** to regional health facilities. A total of 260 women were received for prenatal consultations while 56 births were assisted in the same health structure.

UNHCR and its partner *Au secours des Oubliés* (SDO) conducted two sensitization caravans on the prevention of statelessness in IDP sites in the urbanized sites of Diffa, Djorikoulo, and Awaridi, as well as in the sites of Kameroune, Dileram, Djoulari, and Klakoumana in the commune of N'Guiguimi. These activities reached 2,600 people. In addition, a birth registration network composed of 10 women was set up in the Dileram neighborhood of N'Guiguimi. 57 births were registered at the Sayam forage camp registration center. Finally, 246 substitute birth certificates were distributed to children aged 0 to 6 years in the urbanized area of Diffa.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and partner APBE distributed 300 non-food item kits to new arrivals. 32 emergency shelters were constructed in the camp by refugees and 43 emergency shelter kits were distributed. Nine of these shelters were allocated to people with special needs who were also assisted with non-food items.

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 Nigerian 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 with the objective of ransom.



Women engaging in livelihood activities at the Chadakori village of opportunities in Maradi. © HCR/ Gloria Ramazani

The overall strategic direction of **UNHCR's response in Maradi is to relocate refugee communities away from the border to ensure their safety**, while at the same time, easing the pressure from the host communities. Subsequently, sites have been built in nearby rural villages and services were reinforced for both, the refugee - as well as the host communities, such as access to water, health services, education, and protection assistance.

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. But recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice.

As of May 30, 2022, 1,800 households of approximately 13,706 Nigerian refugees had crossed the border from Nigeria to seek refuge in Maradi. 90% of the new arrivals were from Chindhinda in Jibia Township, Katsina State, and a few from Batsari Township, Zamfara State, Nigeria. These movements were prompted by the withdrawal of the Defense and Security Forces (DSF) from the Chindhinda position, followed by actions of non-state armed groups (looting, extortion of property, threats, assault, kidnapping, ransom demands, etc.). Level 1 registration is underway. 1,068 households of 5,329 Nigerian refugees are already registered. At the end of the exercise, the statistics collected will be submitted to the reception and registration committees for validation.

During the period under review, **2,289 children (1,113 girls and 1,176 boys), benefited from psychosocial support and socio-recreational activities** in the Child Friendly Spaces. A total of 2,009 children, including 856 refugees and 1,153 children from the host community, were reached through



awareness sessions on child protection issues such as early/forced marriage, school attendance and personal hygiene in the villages of Garin Kaka, Guidan Roundji, Tankama and Tiadi.

Registration of a Nigerian family that arrived in Niger in May 2022 in the department of Madarounfa
 © UNHCR/ Gloria Ramazani

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.

In May, UNHCR facilitated the provision of primary and secondary health care to all persons of concern living in Agadez through its partner APBE. In May, APBE conducted 1,374 medical consultations; 90% of those consulted were refugees, and 44 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and the mother and child health center in Agadez. APBE also **provided reproductive health services and malnutrition management services for children.**



High-level mission from the Italian Government visiting Agadez in May © HCR/Protogene Ndwanaye

In addition, a total of 28 awareness sessions reaching 214 persons were conducted by APBE in Agadez, focusing on peaceful coexistence, the importance of community structures, and the dangers of drug-use. UNHCR and COOPI also organized 301 **recreational and cultural activities** (music, dance, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.) reaching 1,156 people. Lastly, INTERSOS provided psychosocial support to 1,099 children.

Hamdallaye

As of 31 May 2022, **4,467 persons have been resettled from Niger to third countries** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**; these include 3,278 evacuees from Libya and 1,187 refugees registered in Niger. Among the **3,710 persons evacuated from Libya** to Niger since November 2017, a total of **442 evacuees** are still in Niamey including 132 refugees pending departures and 167 interviews/decisions pending by third countries. During the month of May, UNHCR's health care implementation partner, APBE, **received 447 individuals for consultations in Hamdallaye and in the guest houses in Niamey**. 340 medical prescriptions, 42 examination forms and 24 consultation forms were issued. Of these cases, 13 were treated in the guest houses.

Urban refugees (Niamey)

As of 31 May 2022, Niamey hosts a total of **4,522 refugees and 774 asylum-seekers**. 89% (4,010) 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.

A total of 454 complaints were received in May through the Niamey one-stop shop's telephone line, including 425 complaints from Niamey, 27 from Agadez, one from Ayorou, and one from Hamdallaye. Most of the complaints are related to the renewal of expired refugee certificates, making appointments for the reimbursement of prescriptions and medical procedures, requesting information on the asylum application procedure, and following up on requests for food aid and lodging, among others.

A UNHCR protection team and partner APBE visited the Niamey prison to provide non-food items and medicine to nine incarcerated refugees, providing T-shirts, pants, shoes. The detainees spoke about their conditions of detention, citing overcrowding and cramped cells, discrimination because of their status, difficulty accessing health services, and the slow processing of their legal cases. In terms of needs, they requested the assistance of a lawyer and the distribution of cash.

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.



The contribution 💰 received from @UNCERF in 2021 has enabled @UNHCRNiger to conduct 50 #protectionmonitoring missions & the training of protection committees in 4 regions within #Niger 🇳🇬. More than 2,100 people benefited including 1,480 separated and unaccompanied children 🙏🙏

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



For more information on the visit, click [Here](#)

Special thanks to donors who contributed to UNHCR Niger operation in 2022

African Development Bank Group | Austria | CERF | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Italy | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | Sweden | United States of America | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors

And thanks to donors who gave flexible funding to UNHCR globally in 2022

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland | Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

CONTACT:

Bettina Schulte, External Relations Officer, schulte@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 82 80 39 04
Jean-Sébastien Josset, Communications Officer, josset@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 90 76 69 77

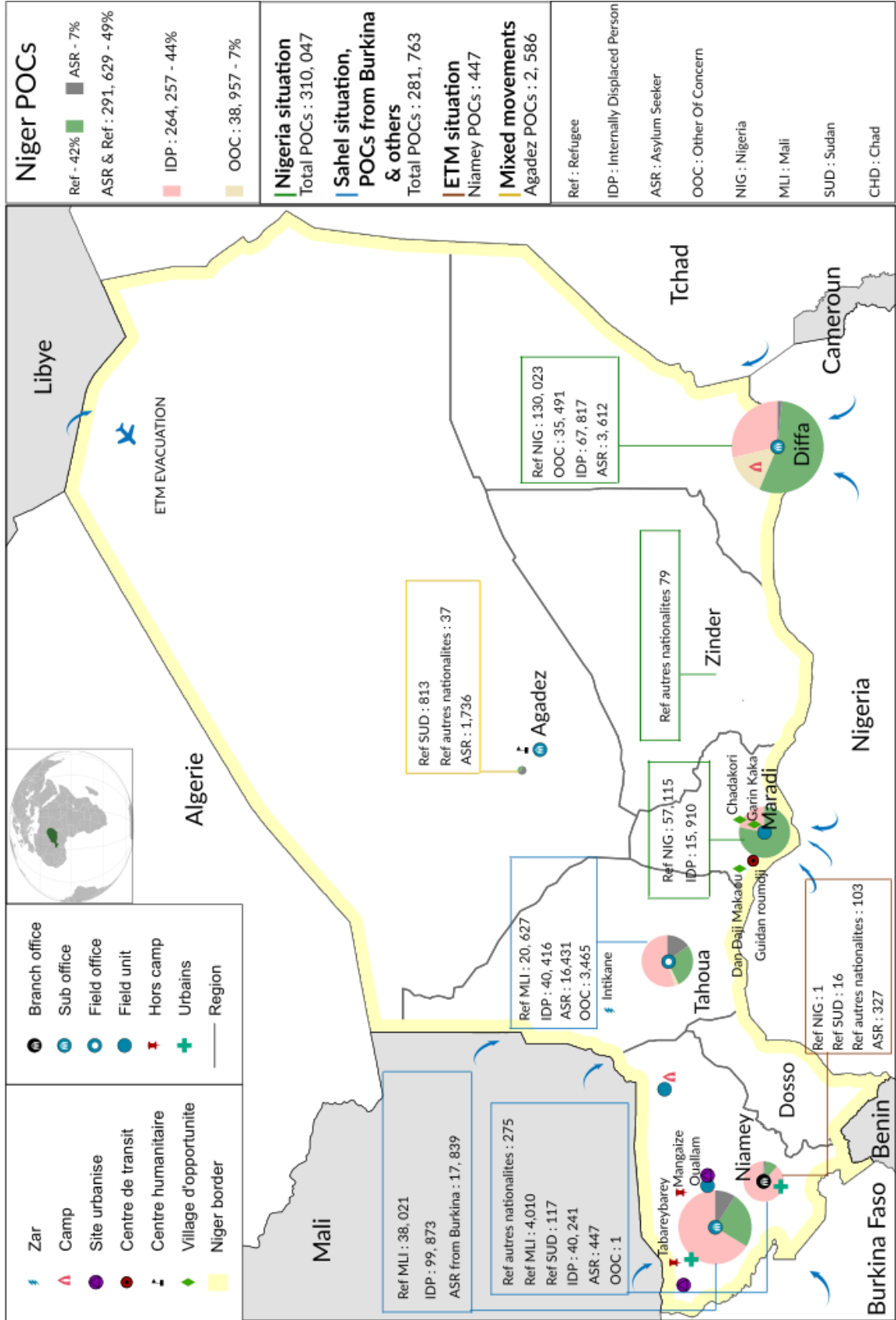
LINKS: [UNHCR Niger Operation Page - Twitter](#)

594,843

Persons of concern in Niger

31 - Mai - 2022

UNHCR | Niger Population of concern



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