

Niger

October 2021

Due to the growing insecurity in **Maradi** region, the number of **internally displaced persons** has increased drastically and reached **15,910 persons, as of end of October**.

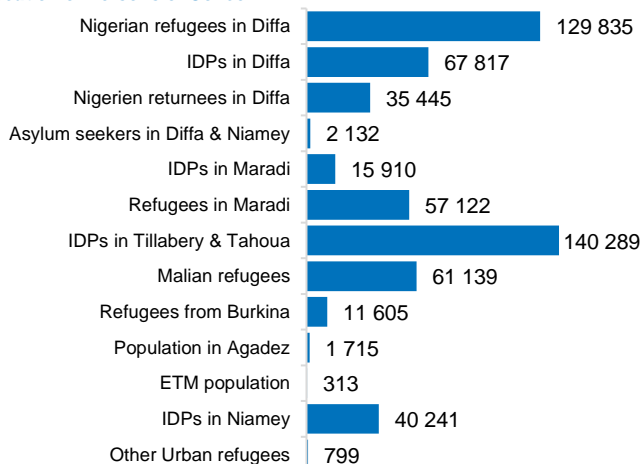
The number of **IDPs in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions** has **increased by 53%** over the last 12 months. At least **140,289** persons are internally displaced in that area.

172 persons were evacuated early in November from Libya after more than a year of interruption of humanitarian evacuation flights.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

249,585 refugees, **35,445** returnees and **3,470** asylum seekers in Niger.
264,257 are internally displaced persons. **11,605** other persons of concern

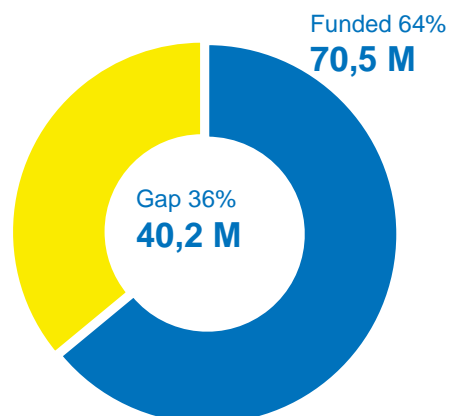
Location of Persons of Concern



FUNDING AS OF 1ST NOVEMBER 2021

USD 110,7 M

requested for UNHCR Niger operation in 2021



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 197 National Staff
- 72 International Staff
- 56 Affiliated workforce

Offices:

- 1 Country Office in Niamey
- 3 Sub-Offices in Agadez, Diffa and Maradi
- 2 Field Offices in Tillabéri and Tahoua
- 2 Field Units in Abala and Ouallam



A group of internally displaced persons in Tahoua region © UNHCR / Boubacar Younoussa Siddo

Main Activities

Protection

- **Refugees** – UNHCR continues to carry out protection activities in Niger, such as, registration and documentation; identification and support to individuals with specific needs; protection of vulnerable individuals and groups against gender-based violence (GBV), sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA); child protection, including identification and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children.
- UNHCR also continues to provide multi-sectorial assistance to refugee and host communities, such as access to education, healthcare services, clean water, and sanitation facilities. Lastly, UNHCR continues to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- In October, UNHCR has **relocated 3,833 households of 17,041 individuals** to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three “**villages of opportunity**” in Maradi region. These include 7,520 refugees in Chadakori: 5,193 in Dan Dadji Makaou and 4,328 in Garin Kaka.
- **Internally displaced people** - Direct interventions are undertaken with local and national authorities to ensure internally displaced people (IDPs) are safe in the sites where they have settled and have access to essential services.
- **Returnees** - Voluntary, safe, and dignified return is a priority for the Government of Niger and is supported by UNHCR and the humanitarian community.
- **UNHCR continues to conduct Protection monitoring across the country**, especially in the border areas, and follows up with adequate and effective protection responses.
- UNHCR continues to implement activities to prevent **statelessness** through identification and by supporting the Government of Niger to reform and strengthen the civil registration system, such as birth registration.

Education

- UNHCR supports the integration of refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and internally displaced children into the national education system. UNHCR’s **education policy is aligned with the 2017-2021 Government of Niger’s economic and social development plan**.
- As most schools lack resources to accommodate the large number of displaced children, UNHCR is working with its partners and communities to promote a safe and conducive learning environment. Hereby, UNHCR **is upgrading school infrastructure in areas of displacement**, notably by rehabilitating and constructing classrooms, latrines, and water points, and by equipping classrooms with stationery and office supplies.
- UNHCR continues to **support five e-learning centres in Diffa region**, which provide Nigerian students the opportunity to continue their studies following the Nigerian curricula. UNHCR organises the transportation of the students to Kano in Nigeria for examination purposes.

- UNHCR's Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative programme, known as DAFI, has been implemented in Niger for several years and is the primary channel for tertiary education. **The DAFI programme enables young refugees to complete their bachelor's degree in** universities in Niger as well as in private institutes. Undergraduate refugee students are provided with scholarships that cover tuition fees, study materials, transportation, and other allowances.

Health

- The Government of Niger has included refugees in the National Health Response Plan and its COVID-19 vaccination program. Together with the Ministry of Health, UNHCR has set in place various measures, such as the expansion of quarantine facilities, health screening procedures, the strengthening of surveillance and contact tracing, as well as community engagement and awareness raising **to respond and to further prevent the virus from spreading.**
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, UNHCR, together with its health partners, continues to support access to primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare services for refugees in the Sayam forage camp and urban areas, through direct assistance or through referral mechanisms.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR ensures that refugees and host communities **have access to safe drinking water and sanitation** without discrimination. UNHCR's main achievements are community mechanisms (Water Management Committees) that manage the WASH infrastructure, and the inclusion of WASH services for PoC into the national system.
- While UNHCR constructs and rehabilitates water points (from water towers and wells to natural water sources), the Water Management Committees provide maintenance and conduct repairs, and promote good hygiene practices.
- Lastly, UNHCR constructs emergency latrines and showers and rehabilitates existing water sources.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR Niger distributes material such as shelter and core relief items - blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, shelter kits - to cover the basic needs of vulnerable refugee and IDP families, as well as Nigerien returnees. UNHCR and its partners also assist women and girls with dignity kits.
- With the support of the **EU Trust Fund and GIZ**, as well as development partners such as the **World Bank and ILO**, Malian refugees and their host communities have access to land, housing, and livelihood opportunities, while national health, education and water infrastructures are being reinforced.
- The innovative **EU-funded program** on urbanization ensures **legal access to land for social housing for refugees** and vulnerable host households, while **revitalising the local economy**, which has been deeply affected by conflict in the region.

Camp Management

- UNHCR Niger through its partners is managing a refugee camp in Diffa region which hosts 30,000 Nigerian refugees.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- To reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance, and to improve self-reliance and support solutions, refugees and IDPs are provided with skills, entrepreneurial training, and support to set up their own businesses and livelihoods.
- UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a **joint strategy** to close refugee camps in the Tillabéri region and to support the socio-economic integration of **61,320 Malian refugees** into the country.

Durable Solutions

- 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**. Moreover, UNHCR 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 explored.
- UNHCR Niger promotes access to solutions (asylum, readmission, repatriation, regularization of stay) for the different groups identified in the mixed movements.

Logistics

- UNHCR has a fleet of vehicles to ensure that assistance to refugees is delivered in due time. To increase its efficiency and a presence in the field, UNHCR provides vehicles to its implementing partners. Stocks and supplies are also positioned in warehouses across the country.

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