

May 2021

+ 9,700 new arrivals in Sayam Forage Camp since January 2021.

The Diffa region hosts **265,696*** **Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons, and Nigerien returnees.** More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements.**

(*Government figures)

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on many roads following **attacks, kidnappings, and the increased use of explosive devices.**

The security situation has a strong negative impact on the economy of the region, **reducing opportunities for both host and displaced populations.**

KEY INDICATORS

228,666

Persons of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database. These include refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and internally displaced persons

6,255

Households of 29,770 refugees and returnees registered in Sayam Forage Camp as of 31st May 2021.

3,036

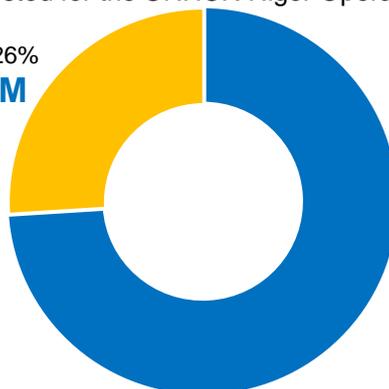
Houses built in Diffa region as of 31st May 2021.

FUNDING (AS OF 1ST JUNE 2021)

USD 110.5 Million

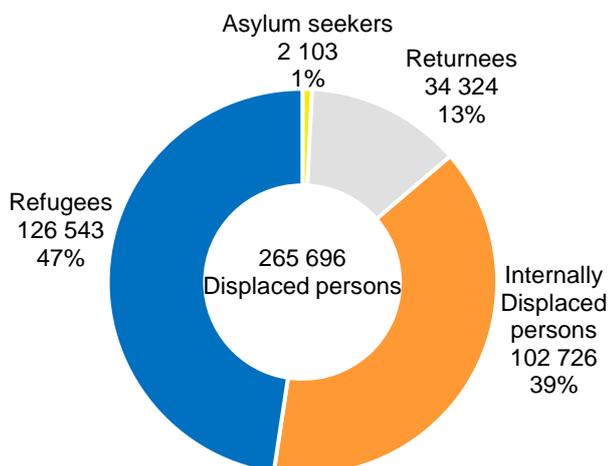
requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 26%
28.17 M



Unfunded 74%
82.33 M

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA
(GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



Operation Strategy

The key pillars of the UNHCR strategy for the Diffa region are:

- **Ensure institutional resilience** through capacity development and support to the authorities (locally elected and administrative authorities) in the framework of the Niger decentralisation process.
- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanisation program through sustainable interventions and dynamic partnerships including with the World Bank. Ensure a coordinated and high-quality **protection response** and maintain an **emergency response capacity**

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

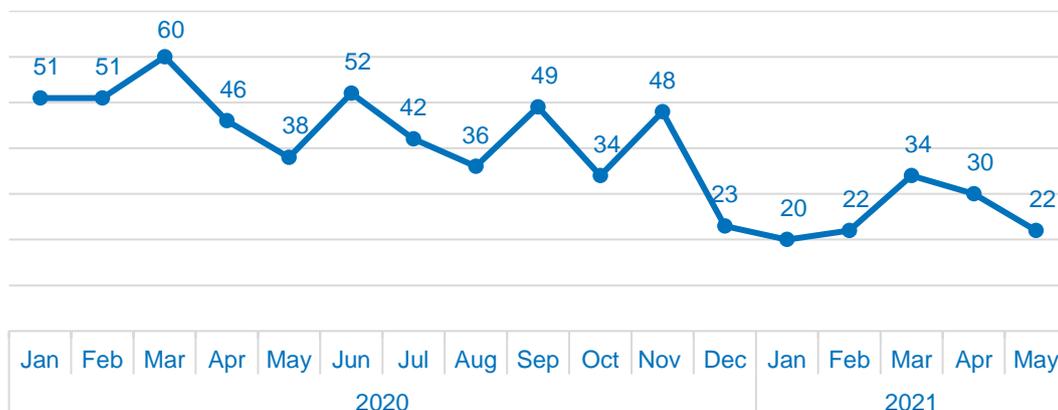
The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on Niger Territory in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the Niger region of the Lake Chad Islands toward an internally displaced camp launched in Kablewa, however this latter has been closed in July 2017 following bombing attack in the camp and recurrent security situation .

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour and Bosso roads following the finding of explosive devices, consecutive attacks, and kidnappings.

In April 2021, the security situation continued to deteriorate in the Diffa region due to terrorist activism despite government efforts to stabilize the administrative and security situation, making the humanitarian access to certain areas difficult. The number of incidents recorded in April is among the highest of the year 2021.

Forced recruitments of civilians, looting of the army logistics stocks, kidnappings, cattle theft as well as the use of improvised explosive devices against the Defense and Security Forces were also reported.

Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2020 to May 2021



Achievements

Protection response

- Through the protection monitoring system, UNHCR observed a 27% decrease in documented protection incidents compared to April 2021. A total of **22 protection incidents were documented in May** compared to 30 in April 2021 affecting 60 people against 226 in April 2021. This decrease may be linked to the fact that the terrorists are fighting each other and that the Niger army has reinforced its fight against terrorism. However, the population remains worried as the suspected insurgents attack major cities such as Diffa and Mainé Soroa in the Diffa region as well as major Nigerian cities located near the border such as Kanamma, Geidam and Damasack.
- These repeated incursions by non-state armed groups elements have resulted in forced displacements to the village of Gagamari in the commune of Chetimari, the cities of Maine Soroa and Diffa, as well as the Sayam Forage camp. Multiple assessments conducted by decentralized state structures, UNHCR, its partners, and humanitarian actors estimate that between 7,000 and 13,500 people have fled Nigeria during the month of May 2021.



Relocation of new arrival of Nigerian refugee of Damasack from Gagamari to the refugee camp of Sayam Forage © UNHCR / Diori Amadou

- Since 20 April 2021, UNHCR in cooperation with the humanitarian community have developed a multisectoral response plan to urgently address this refugee influx. The plan is twofold: voluntary relocation of newly arrived refugees and assistance to returnees and refugees who wish to stay in host families.
- In May, UNHCR and other protection actors continued to improve the **coordination mechanism and the quality of the response**, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism. UNHCR has conducted interviews for resettlement and profiling.
- During the last month, as part of the statelessness prevention, UNHCR has identified 340 children at risk of statelessness on the sites of Mainé Soroa, Sabon Gari and at the refugee camp of Sayam forage. Beside 22 children refugees living

in Sayam Forage have received their birth certificates, while UNHCR and its partners has submitted more than 1000 requests of civil documentation for Nigerian returnees and newly born refugees to the Court of First Instance of Diffa and N'guiguimi.

- During the month of May UNHCR has identified 29 new **child protection** cases among which 16 in the refugee camp of Sayam Forage. All cases have been documented and benefited from psychosocial support. UNHCR and its partners have also conducted series of awareness raising sessions on child protection related issues, including gender-based violence, family separation and child neglect and exploitation. These activities have reached more than 500 individuals in Mainé-Soroa and the refugee camp of Sayam forage. UNHCR works together with youth clubs to carry out these activities.
- UNHCR with the support of local authorities provided 142 refugee attestation, and 225 refugee identity cards to Nigerian refugees who live in the refugee camp of Sayam forage. 39 other refugees have received the proof of their registration.
- In May, UNHCR has identified and **documented 43 new cases of gender-based violence cases**. These incidents were recorded at the refugee camp of Sayam Forage, the sites of Djori Koulo, Mainé-Soroa, N'Guelmadou Mai, Kindjandi, Awaridi, Arikoukouri, Djori Koulo and in the town of Diffa. They include 23 cases of denial of resources, 10 physical violence, forced and early marriage and psychological violence (4 cases each) and 2 cases of sexual assault. **100% of the cases benefited from psychosocial support and safety plans have been developed for the 10 physical violence survivors while the 2 sexual assault cases were referred to the health centre for medical attention.**
- UNHCR has organised awareness raising activities on SGBV, such as early and forced marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, rape, physical assault and domestic violence, **reaching almost 1000 persons in the refugee camp of Sayam Forage, in the Gandjiri district in Diffa, at the one-stop shop for protection in N'guiguimi.**
- In May, UNHCR and the regional directorate of population of Diffa have identified and assisted **172 living with specific needs** in the Sayam Forage camp non-food items, including jerry cans, mats, blankets, kitchen kits, plastic buckets, and mosquito nets.

Shelter

- The innovative **EU-funded program** on urbanization simultaneously 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 the terrorist group conflict in the region. To date, **3,036 sustainable houses** for the most vulnerable families have been built, while 433 are ongoing; 5,817 jobs were created, 2,564 persons were trained in the construction and in the framework of the project, more than 50,263 persons got a better access to water in 5 districts (Assaga, Diffa, Chetimari, Mainé soroa and N'Guiguimi).
- UNHCR and its partner APBE distributed **273 emergency shelter kits and non-food items** to 273 households of 1125 people relocated from Chetimari to Sayam Bore camp. In addition UNHCR and its partner AIRD have installed 12 temporary sheds with 4 blocks of emergency latrines in the community space to promote adequate hygiene conditions among the relocated refugees.

Health

- UNHCR and its partner APBE received **3,192 individuals for medical consultations**, among which 38 cases with critical conditions have been referred to the regional hospital of Diffa.

- Within the framework of the COVAX mechanism, UNHCR carried out the **immunization against Covid-19 of 2470 Nigerian refugees and returnees aged 18 years or older living in Sayam Forage camp.**



Immunization against covid-19 under the covax mechanism at the refugee camp of Sayam Forage © UNHCR / Ramatou Issa Abdoulaye

Education

- 536 students are attending classes in the five-distance learning schools. Sports activities were organized at the centers in Kablewa and Diffa through soccer matches between refugee children and local community secondary schools' students in both locations. These activities brought together more than 500 displaced and host country students.
- The registration process for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the Senior Secondary School Examination (SSCE) have been completed, and the exact date of the exams has been set for 31st May to 15th June 2021 for the BECE; and 5th July 5 to 16th August 2021 for the SSCE. UNHCR will provide transportation and care for the 250 students to enable them to take part in the exams which will take place in Kano, Nigeria. Specifically, 150 students will attend the BECE examination and 100 will attend the SSCE.
- UNHCR has identified 13 refugee children (12 boys and 01 girl) among the refugees that fled Damasack in Nigeria and relocated from Chetimari camp in Sayam Forage refugee camp. They will integrate the classes of SS3, JS2 and JS.
- 60 students (35 girls and 25 boys) benefited of school kits in the two schools of Sayam Forage Camp. UNHCR has also provided both schools with boxes of educational books, chalk packages, notebooks, pens and pencils to the teachers. In addition; 4,369 students (2,169 boys and 2,200 girls) benefited from school snacks to ensure their well-being at school.

- Finally, UNHCR and its partners organized 4 awareness sessions on the importance of keeping children in school and on personal hygiene for the benefit of 624 refugees residing in Sayam Forage camp.

WASH

- 29,770 persons had access to potable water produced by three pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp, with an average consumption of 11 litres / person / day. More than 5,786 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion, malaria prevention and the COVID-19 prevention measures sensitizations.
- UNHCR has installed three new bladders in the extension side of the camp. Among the three bladders one has a capacity of 10,000 liters and the other have a capacity of 5,000 liter each.
- The partner APBE has built 14 community latrine-shower blocks of 2 cabins each in order to promote hygiene and sanitation following the new arrivals registered in Sayam Forage camp since the beginning of the year which amount to more than 9,700 people.

Main Challenges

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped. Structural but costly infrastructural investments in irrigation, water supply and electricity are required to enable the population to develop income generating activities.
- The Niger public services are highly dependent on humanitarian actors, which creates a risk of a sharp deterioration in living conditions for the population in case of a funding shortfall.
- Irregular access for humanitarian actors due to the security situation and military operation.
- A worsening security situation generates new major displacements and secondary movements; possible movements of Nigerian refugees back towards Nigeria might also occur.
- Recurrent flooding of the Komadougou river force refugees to make a secondary displacement toward the Sayam Forage camp.

Financial Information

Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Diffa

European Union

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

African Development Bank | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Italy | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors

Other softly earmarked contributions²

United States of America 12.2 million | Germany 9.2 million | Canada 8.5 million
Iceland | Malta | Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions³

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Spain 28.3 million | Germany 26 million | France 20 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 14.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Japan 10.9 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxemburg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | 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.

External / Donor Relations

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