

## The site for the fourth village of opportunity has been identified in Marandi

September 2020

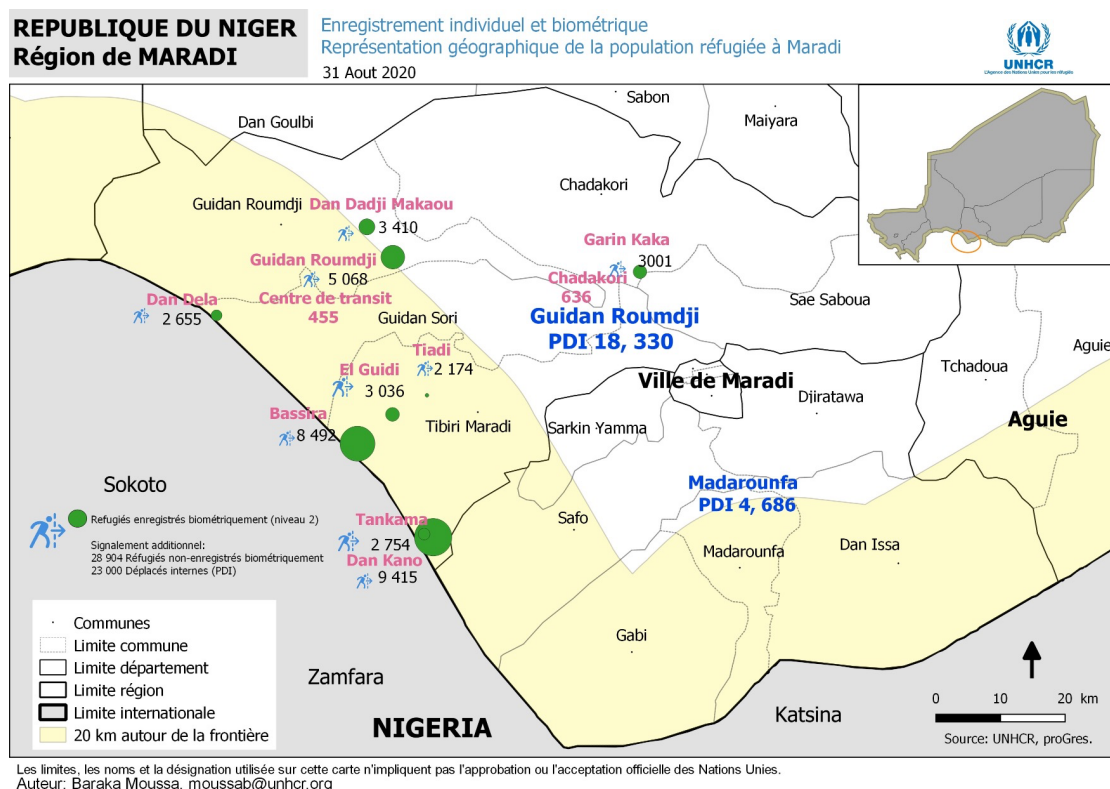
### Context

Since September 2018, non-state armed groups (NSAG) killings, looting and kidnappings in Nigeria's North-Western States have forced tens of thousands of people to seek refuge in Maradi region, Niger. In total 70,000 Nigerian refugees live in the area. In addition, the repeated incursions of NSAG in Niger have triggered the internal displacement of over 23,000 people.

In September 2019, UNHCR opened a sub-office in Maradi to coordinate registration, protection, health, housing, access to WASH services and education. A key feature of the UNHCR response in Maradi is the relocation of refugees in villages of opportunity, away from the border, to ensure their safety and ease the pressure on host communities in the border area. These sites are created nearby existing villages, contributing to the development of rural areas lacking of basic infrastructures. Three villages of opportunity have been created and the site of the fourth one has been identified. For now, a total of 7,966 refugees have been relocated in the existing sites. Maradi region is currently the most affected by the massive floods that hit Niger lately: almost 1,300 refugees have lost their houses.

### Population Statistics

As of 15 September, UNHCR and the government (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) had carried out the biometric registration of 41,538 refugees (10,999 households), 68% of whom are minors, 23% women and 9% men. **In addition, an estimated 29,000 non biometrically registered refugee live in the area.** The number of Internally displaced people (IDPs) has surge since late March, reaching 23,016 people.



## Progress and Achievements



*Remedial courses for host communities and refugee children in the school of Guidan Roudji village*

- A total of 2,641 children, including 1,199 refugees, have attended UNHCR's partner NRC preparation and remedial courses for elementary school. These courses are delivered by 45 teachers in nine villages, including the villages of opportunity of Garin Kaka and Dan Dadji Makaou.

- Following the destructions caused by the floods, 158 refugees moved by themselves from host villages in the border area to the village of opportunity of Garin Kaka. These refugees identified the opportunity villages as a viable solution for their protection needs.

- In the newly open village of opportunity

**of Chadakori**, where the first refugees arrived on 23 July, 35 blocs of showers and latrines have been built during the past month bringing the total to 60.

- In the villages of opportunity of Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka **122 Refugees Housing Units (RHU) have been rebuilt** after strong winds dismantled them in June.
- The Dergue village, in Chadakori commune, has been identified as **the next site for the creation of a village of opportunity**. A piece of land of 40 hectares is located near the existing village which hosts two elementary schools and one middle school. Water adduction infrastructure is insufficient and needs to be upgraded to relocate refugees.
- UNHCR partners CIAUD, ANTD and APBE organized sensitization campaigns on a wide range of topics including **COVID-19 prevention, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**, reaching 14,374 persons of concern and members of host communities.
- **A parliamentary mission visited the opportunity village of Garin Kaka on 19 August** and welcomed the quality of the assistance provided to refugees and the projects to develop their self-reliance.
- **The internal regulations of the opportunity villages** have been adopted by UNHCR, CNE, partners and refugee committees.
- **A car-pooling system to ensure the transportation of partners to opportunity villages** has been put into place. It is operated by the partner AIRD.

## Main Challenges

- **Recent flooding has severely hit the region.** Heavy rains led to massive floods, which affected almost 140,000 people in Maradi region, making it by far the worst hit of the country (40% of the victims). In the villages of the border area 196 huts hosting refugees collapsed after the heavy rains of 5 September: 1273 refugees are in urgent need for emergency shelter, drinkable water, food and non-food items.

- **The security situation remains volatile.** Attacks by criminal groups are still frequent in spite of the deployment of security forces on both sides of the border. Relentless incursions by Nigerian armed groups into Niger pose a serious threat to humanitarian activity. The regional authorities have suspended food distribution in the border area due to security reasons and require the presence of security forces escorts to enter the zone.
- **Financial resources remain insufficient.** In 2020, UNHCR and the other actors responding to the Nigerian refugee situation in Niger require 68 million USD to cover both Diffa and Maradi regions. Concurrent needs in other Nigerian regions strain humanitarian actors' financial resources and hence their capacity to respond.

## External / Donors Relations

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

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### CONTACTS

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**LINKS : [HERE](#)**

### ANNEX

#### Operational presence of humanitarian actors in Maradi: April 2020

	Area	Partners
	Shelter & Infrastructures	NRC, APBE
	Livelihood	APBE
	Pacific coexistence	DRC
	WASH	WORLD VISION
	Formal education	NRC
	Environment	APBE
	Health and mental health	APBE
	Community mobilization	APBE
	Protection (Overall & Children)	CLAUD, ANTD, DRC, SAVE THE CHILDREN, NRC