A new relocation campaign started in Maradi

November 2020

Non-state armed groups killings, looting and kidnappings in Nigeria’s North-Western States have forced 70,000 people to take refuge in Maradi region, Niger over the past two years. In September 2019, UNHCR opened a sub-office in Maradi to coordinate, assistance provision, including registration, protection, health, housing, access to WASH services and education. A key feature of the response is the relocation of refugees in villages of opportunity, away from the border, to ensure their safety. For now, 8,000 have been relocated.

Operational context

Since September 2018, non-state armed groups (NSAG) activities have forced 70,000 Nigerians to flee to Maradi region, Niger. In addition, their repeated incursions on Nigerien soil have triggered the internal displacement of over 17,262 people.

Operational strategy

UNHCR response in Maradi focuses on the relocation of refugees away from the border to ensure their safety and ease the pressure on host communities in the border strip. Refugee sites have been built nearby rural villages. Services such as water adduction, health and education are provided to both refugees and host communities. For now, three villages of opportunity host a total of 8,515 refugees and 4,000 more should be relocated by the end of the year. A fourth site has been identified and will open soon.
Population statistics

As of 06 November, UNHCR and the government (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) carried out the biometric registration of 41,538 Nigerian refugees (10,999 households), 68% of whom are minors, 23% women and 9% men. **In addition, an estimated 28,500 non-biometrically registered refugee live in the area.** The number of Internally displaced people (IDPs) has surge since late March, reaching an estimated 23,016 people. The enlistment campaign conducted by the Nigerien authorities over the last months gives a figure of 17 262 IDPs in October 2020.

People of concern in Maradi region over the past year

![Graph showing the population statistics over the past year](image)

** Biometrically registered refugees
* Non-registered refugees

Main activities

**Protection**

- A new relocation campaign has begun on 28 October. **The goal is to relocate 4,400 refugees**, currently living in 11 host villages of the border strip, to the village of opportunity of Chadakori by the end of December. As of 6 November, 994 refugees arrived in Chadakori.
- 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 13,901 persons of concern and members of host communities.
- A total of **106 persons with specific needs**, including disabilities, single parents, lone elders have been identified and referenced to partners for care and support.
- A child friendly space has been built in the village of opportunity of Garin Kaka and the partner Save the Children started animating it.
- UNHCR’s partner CIAUD **gave two trainings on international protection** to administrative authorities and traditional leaders in Maradi and in Madarounfa.
Health

- In the villages of opportunity, the partner APBE carried out 3,854 consultations (53% host community members and 47% refugees), diagnosed and treated 1,666 malaria cases, assisted 16 women to give birth and transferred 16 patients to secondary medical centers.
- In the host villages, located in the border area, the partner ALIMA BEFEN carried out 5,294 consultations (71% host community members and 29% refugees) and vaccinated 227 children and 139 pregnant women.

Shelters

- A total of 142 emergency shelter have been built to host refugees relocated in Chadakori.
- In the village of opportunity of Dan Dadji Makaou, 34 refugees housing units (RHUs), which were dismantled by a storm in June have been rebuilt.

WASH

- The partner World Vision International completed the construction of the drinking water supply system of the village of opportunity of Chadakori, supplying to both refugees and the host community’s school and municipality.

Main challenges

- **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 resumed food distribution in the border area but still 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 Nigerien regions strain humanitarian actors’ financial resources and hence their capacity to respond.
External / Donors Relations

FUNDING OF THE NIGERIAN SITUATION (DIFFA AND MARADI)
USD 32,74 million

Funded 38%
12,12 million

Unfunded 62%
20,62 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020
Japan (1,200,000 $) | Italy (1,102,535.83 $) | UN Central Emergency Response Fund (2,117,826 $) | United States of America

CONTACTS
Mr. Selim MEDDEB, Associate Reporting Officer (Niamey), meddeba@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 87

LINKS : HERE

ANNEX
Operational presence of humanitarian actors in Maradi: April 2020

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