

Niger

May 2021

Due to the growing insecurity in **Maradi** region, the number of **internally displaced persons** has raised up sharply and reached **17,262 persons**.

The number of **IDPs in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions** has increased with **47%** over the last 12 months. At least **138,229** persons are internally displaced.

With the support of the EU, UNHCR has constructed **2,936 social houses** for the most vulnerable refugees and Nigeriens in **Diffa region**.

KEY INDICATORS

3,361*

vulnerable persons in detention in Libya have been evacuated to safety in Niger since November 2017.

584,028*

Persons who have fled their home countries or are internally displaced and living in Niger.

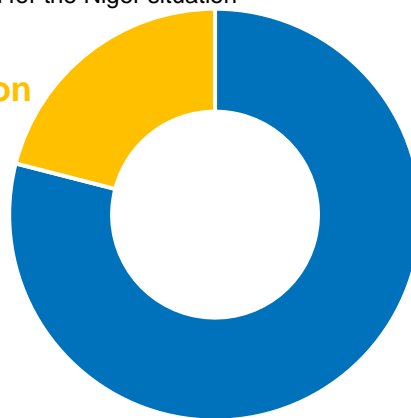
FUNDING (AS OF 4 MAY 2021)

USD 110,5 Million

requested for the Niger situation

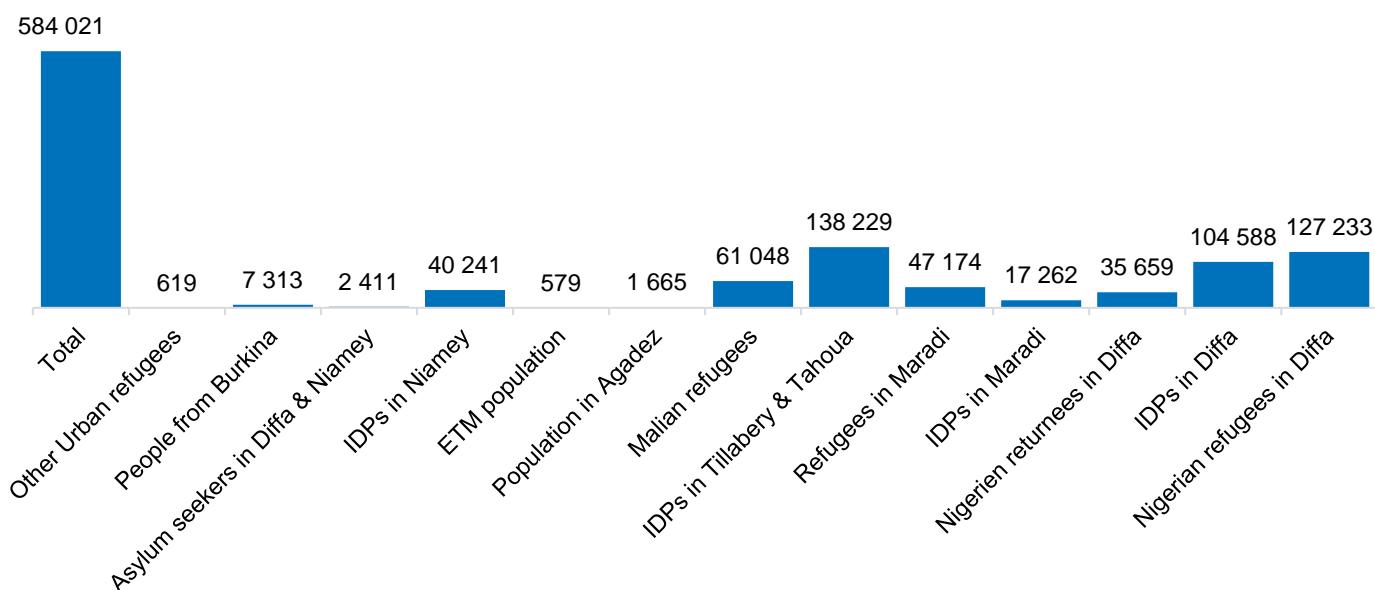
Funded 22%

24,8 Million



Unfunded 78%

85,7 Million



Update on Achievements

The operation is managed by over 390 staff in 8 locations: 1 Representation, the ETM office and the one-stop-shop in Niamey; three Sub-Offices in Agadez, Diffa and Maradi; two Field Offices in Tahoua and Tillabéri, and two Field Units in Abala and Ouallam.

Operational Context

Prevention and response to the **global COVID-19 pandemic** is key today. While UNHCR continues to deliver aid, the organization has set up a strategy which focuses on increased coordination with the Government and other stakeholders. Prevention is paramount and carried out through communication campaigns, distribution of hygiene kits to the Government and refugees and site planning. UNHCR has donated tons of medical supplies and equipment to the Government of Niger, including Refugee Housing Units (RHU) to isolate confirmed cases. An important scale up of medical and WASH (Water Hygiene Sanitation) staff is ongoing. An estimated **5,992,023 USD** will be needed this year to continue and scale up measures in UNHCR's field operations to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and prevent further spread.

The Sahel Situation began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in **northern Mali**. UNHCR and the Government of Niger have developed a joint strategy to close the camps in the Tillabéri region and to support the socioeconomic integration of **61,048 Malian refugees** into the country. 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 deteriorating security situation has caused the **internal displacement of 138,229 persons** in the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. Protection monitoring, especially in the border areas, and an adequate protection response for identified cases is ongoing. Due to rising insecurity in these areas, at least 6,534 Nigeriens, mainly women and children fled to Mali. Most of them are settled in the Cercle of Anderamboukane and Menaka.

The presence of armed groups in **Burkina Faso** has triggered the cross-border displacement of at least **7,313 persons**. Armed incursions into Niger from Burkina Faso's armed groups have also caused internal displacement. These persons are

stuck in inaccessible areas near the border. Their exact number is expected to be higher. This situation is set to continue over the next months.

The Nigeria Situation began in 2013, with the arrival in the region of Diffa of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees who had been settled in Nigeria for decades. The situation has become increasingly mixed following attacks on Nigerien territory since 2015. To date, there are almost 269,589 displaced persons in the region (including **127,233 refugees, 104,588 IDPs, 35,659 returnees and 2,109 asylum seekers**). Many of them are in secondary movement. The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages the Sayam Forage refugee camp, with over 25,117 people. UNHCR is strongly engaged in development-oriented interventions. The Government of Niger, UNHCR, NGO partners and the World Bank foster economic recovery and long-term solutions through urbanization and the construction of durable housing.

The Maradi region witnessed an influx of refugees since May 2019, fleeing gruesome killings, rape, kidnappings for ransom and pillaging of property by armed groups in North Western Nigeria. To respond to the new emergency, UNHCR opened a field office and deployed a team. UNHCR and partners are relocating refugees to “opportunity villages” away from the border to ensure their safety and ease pressure on the host population. In cooperation with the Government and with the support of the humanitarian and development community, UNHCR improves Infrastructure and access to basic services while giving an emergency response. To date, **UNHCR has biometrically registered 47,174 refugees**. Moreover, the number of IDPs is on the rise as security deteriorates sharply in the border region. Currently, Maradi region registers **17,262 IDPs**.

As of 30th April 2021, **3,361 persons have been evacuated to Niger** through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)**; 579 are still in Niamey while 2,853 have already left Niger, and 237 departures are pending.

Niger is a **major crossroads of migratory movements** northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean region. These migratory flows constitute mixed movements, including economic migrants as well as persons in need of international protection. **1,665 asylum seekers and refugees**, mostly Sudanese, are based in Agadez since 2018. The most vulnerable (about 100 people) are housed in guesthouses in the city of Agadez. The Government of Niger, UNHCR, IOM and NGO partners identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and provide these persons with information and assistance. The situation has become more complex, with the addition of mixed movements leaving Libya and Algeria.

CONTACTS

Ms. Marlies CARDOEN, External Relations Officer, cardoen@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 49 (*Sahel, Diffa*)

Ms. Gloria Ramazani, Associate External Relations Officer, ramazang@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 80 06 81 83 (*ETM, Diffa, Maradi*)

Ms. Valeria DELL'AQUILA, Associate Reporting Officer (Inter-Agency), dellaqui@unhcr.org, Tel: +227 92 18 58 32 (*COVID-19 response plan, Mixed Movements*)

Mr. Jean-Sébastien JOSSET, Associate Communications Officer, josset@unhcr.org, Tel : +227 90 76 69 77 (*Press*)

LINKS

[UNHCR operation page - Twitter](#)