

May 2021

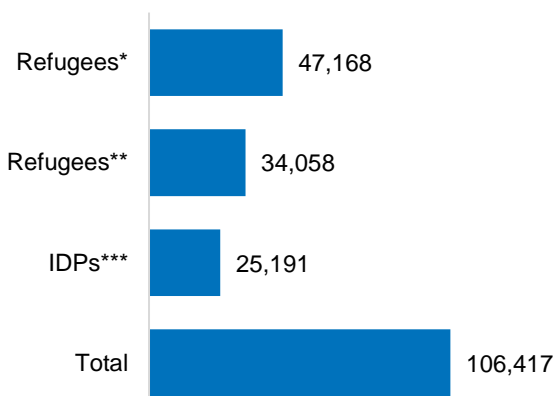
Almost 14,000 Nigerian refugees relocated from opportunity villages away from the border.

Non-state armed groups killings, looting and kidnapping in Nigeria's North-Western States have forced **80,000 people** to flee 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.

The key response is the relocation of refugees in villages of opportunity, away from the border, to ensure their safety. **13,743 refugees have been relocated so far.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN MARADI
(AS OF 1ST MAY 2021)

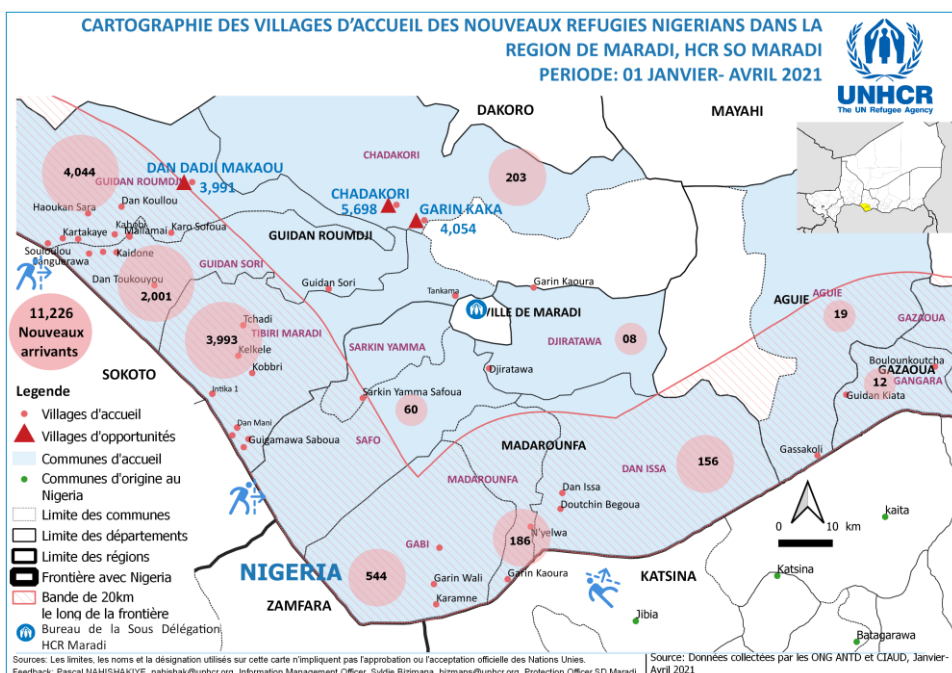
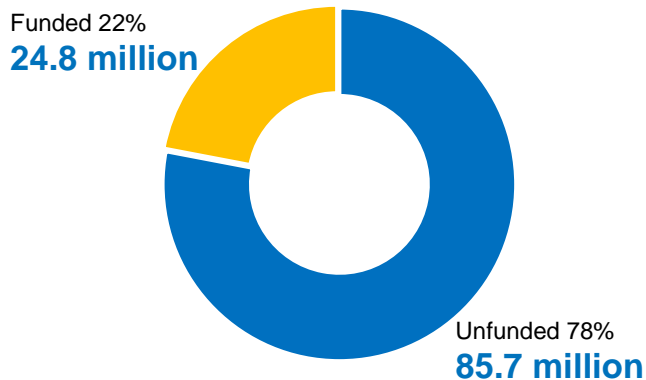


*Biometrically registered refugees
**Non-biometrically registered refugees
***Internally displaced persons

FUNDING (AS OF 4 MAY 2021)

USD 110.5 million

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation



Operational context

For more than two years, non-state armed groups (NSAG) activism has forced 80,000 Nigerians to flee to Maradi region, Niger. In addition, repeated incursions on Nigerien Territory have triggered the internal displacement of some 23,000 people.

During the first semester of 2021, the security situation has deteriorated on both sides of the border forcing 11,226 Nigerians to seek refuge in Maradi region and 6,555 Nigerien to flee in their own country.

NSAG attacks in Maradi region has significantly increased since the beginning of the year. Thus, 33 people were killed, 44 injured and 59 have been kidnapped, and thousands of animals have been stolen by the bandits.

A new case of COVID-19 has been documented in the Maradi region in April. Since the beginning of the pandemics, the region has registered 67 cases and 9 deaths.

Operational strategy

UNHCR response in Maradi focuses on the relocation of refugees away from the border to ensure their security and ease the pressure on host communities. Refugee sites have been built nearby rural villages. Services such as water adduction, health and education are provided to both refugees and host communities. As of 30th April, the three “villages of opportunity” were hosting a total of 13,743 refugees of 3,120 households.

Population statistics

As of 30th April, UNHCR and the government of Niger (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) carried out the **biometric registration of 47,168 Nigerian refugees** (12,294 households), 69% of whom are minors, 23% women and 8% men. **In addition, an estimated 34,058 non-biometrically registered refugee live in the area.** The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has significantly surge since late March 2020. Enrolment stopped in September 2020. Since then, UNHCR partners have reported new arrivals bringing the **estimated total of IDPs to nearly 25,191 individuals.**

Main activities

Protection

- In April, UNHCR has **relocated 1,255 refugees** to three “villages of opportunity”. In total, **13,743 refugees are hosted** in the three villages of opportunity. These include 5,698 refugees in Chadakori; 4,054 in Garin Kaka and 3,991 in Dan Dadjji Makaou.

- UNHCR partners CIAUD and APBE led **sensitization campaigns on a wide range of topics including** COVID-19 and malaria prevention, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), reaching more than 33,000 persons of concern and members of host communities.
- A total of **117 persons with specific needs**, including people living with disabilities, separated children and single elders have been identified and referred to partners for care and support.
- In April, UNHCR and its partners has identified **25 cases of SGBV**. The survivors have benefitted from psychosocial support and referral to appropriate services. Awareness raising on SGBV issues and on available services in the three villages of opportunity were conducted.
- More than 2,500 kids benefited from psychosocial support in the child friendly spaces in the three villages of opportunity in Maradi. In addition, 13 teenagers' groups, constituted of 286 persons, have been set up in these villages. The group members were trained on child protection cross-cutting thematic, on communication skills, leadership and HIV/AIDS in the aim to sensitize their peers.
- Students of the Catholic Mission School of Maradi collected various household items such as soap, body lotion, clothes, shoes, and various food items for the refugee children of Garin Kaka. This action was part of the "day of solidarity" which is part of a long-standing tradition of this school and aims to instil in the children a sense of solidarity and compassion. UNHCR supported this initiative which is part of its efforts to raise awareness on peaceful coexistence.



A Nigerian refugee student at Garin Kaka receiving a kit offered by a student of the Catholic Mission School of Maradi as part of their effort to support their peers © UNHCR.

Health

- UNHCR partner APBE carried out 2,409 medical consultations in the villages of opportunity, reaching 67% of refugees and 33% of the host community members.
- UNHCR has initiated a mobile clinic with the support of the Guidan Roundji Health District. The objective of this activity, which covers 6 days every month, is to provide health care to refugees and host populations living in tightly populated host villages. In April, more than 3,000 people were received for curative care and reproductive health services. 22 of them were put under observation while 4 were referred to the hospital in Maradi for secondary and tertiary care.

Shelters

- The construction of 121 houses in banco (out of 266 scheduled) were finalized in the Dan Dadji Makaou village of opportunity.
- The construction of three medical centers and 6 classrooms in durable materials are at the final stage of completion in the three villages of opportunity.

Main challenges

- **The security situation has sharply deteriorated.** The attacks and violence of NSAG have increased since the beginning of the year. This poses a serious threat to humanitarian activities. Regional authorities have extended measures requiring military escorts for all humanitarian movements.
- **Financial resources remain scarce.** Since the onset of the crisis, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors responding to the situation in Maradi face a lack of financial resources. Simultaneous needs in other Nigerien regions strain humanitarian actors' financial resources and hence their capacity to respond to the crisis.

External / Donors Relations

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

CERF | Italy

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

African Development Bank | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | 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

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Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Spain 21.5 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 10.8 million

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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.

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