



## SECURITY SITUATION

The security situation has continued to deteriorate and the State of Emergency, declared since 2015, is still ongoing. Although there is a timid economic recovery, repeated suicide attacks, assaults, and incursions perpetrated by Boko Haram since the month of March have resulted in secondary movements of tens of thousands of people within the region. Boko Haram and affiliated armed groups are increasingly turning to kidnappings for ransom in Diffa region, notably in villages bordering the Komadougou river, the islands or the axes leading to markets. Kidnappings of women and girls are more and more recurrent. Additional and secondary displacement due to this heightened risk of kidnapping has been observed.

UNHCR is working with the Government of Niger on a voluntary relocation plan for up to 10,000 persons, to the camp of Sayam Forage. UNHCR is also supporting the Government to seek alternative solutions for the remainder of the newly displaced population.

## 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 decentralization process;
- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanization 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.**

## MAIN MILESTONES

- **Capacity development and support to the government:** UNHCR engage in substantial efforts to strengthen the capacity of the authorities, not only in the management of the crisis but also for recovery/development interventions.
- **Urbanization program:** 7 communes with high density of population are benefitting from an Urbanization program. It provides a structural response in terms of legal access to land. In 2017, UNHCR, with the support of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), scaled up the intervention, and aim to provide 6,000 land parcels, and to construct 4,000 "social houses" for the most vulnerable.
- **Introduction of Gas:** Through a win-win partnership with the Niger private sector, UNHCR introduced gas for domestic energy throughout the Diffa region (220,000 beneficiaries). After Niamey, the region of Diffa is now the second in Niger in terms of gas consumption. Impacts on household economy, environment, and protection are high.
- **Distance Education Centres:** UNHCR established a Distance Education Programme for Nigerian secondary school students in 2015 allowing young refugees to follow the official Nigeria curriculum while they are in Niger and complete their official Nigerian secondary school exams.
- **Protection response:** Significant improvement in the coordination of protection actors and in the quality of the response, including an important involvement of the community and establishment of effective referral mechanism.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped; **structural and expensive 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**, with a risk of a sharp deterioration in the living conditions of the population in case of a funding shortfall;
- Risk of **irregular humanitarian access** 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.

### CONTACTS

**Mr. Benoit MORENO**, External Relations Officer, [morenob@unhcr.org](mailto:morenob@unhcr.org), Tel: +227 92 19 24 17  
**Mrs. Marlies CARDOEN**, Associate External Relations Officer, [cardoen@unhcr.org](mailto:cardoen@unhcr.org), Tel: +227 80 06 81 51  
**Mrs. Laurence BRON**, Associate Reporting Officer, [bronl@unhcr.org](mailto:bronl@unhcr.org), Tel: +227 80 09 71 63