

3,419 jobs created with the support of EUTF

November 2020

The Diffa region hosts **265,696*** **Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons and Nigerien returnees.** More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements.**

(*Government figures)

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on many roads following **attacks, kidnappings and the increased use of explosive devices.**

The security situation has a strong negative impact on the economy of the region, **reducing opportunities for both host and displaced populations.**

KEY INDICATORS

225,118

Number of people of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database.

6,144

Individuals were registered in Sayam Forage Camp these past three months following a secondary displacement

2,106

As of 15 October 2020, houses have been built in Diffa region, 55% of the final target.

FUNDING (AS OF 22 OCTOBER)

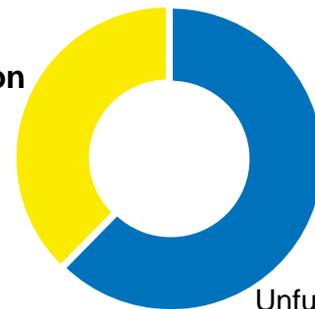
USD 32,74 million

requested for the Nigeria situation in Niger (Diffa and Maradi regions)

Funded

38%

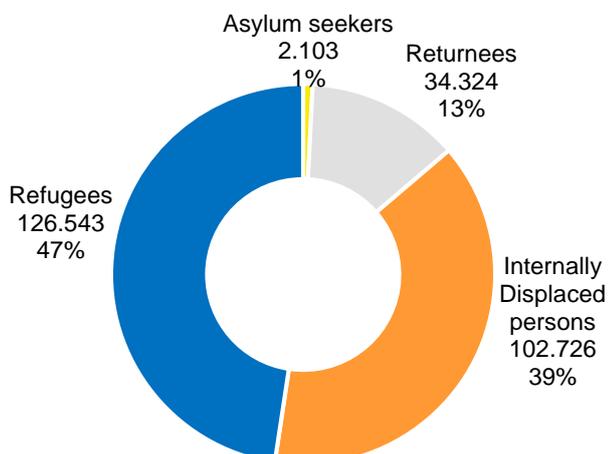
12,12 million



Unfunded
62%

20,62 million

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA (GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

Population movements and security situation

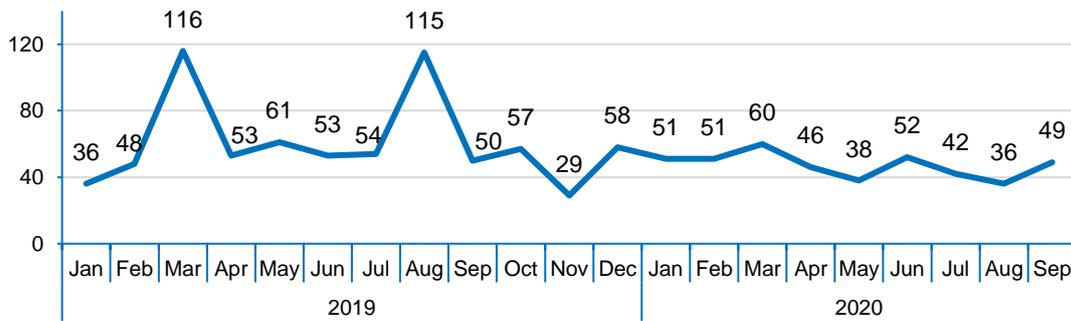
The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on Niger soil in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the Niger region of the Lake Chad Islands.

Following the first attacks in the Diffa region, the population on the move has become increasingly mixed. The majority of the displaced are settled in more than **140 spontaneous sites, villages and towns** along the one main road of the region, the **Route Nationale 1**. At the request of the authorities, UNHCR has established two camps: the refugee camp of Sayam Forage and the IDP camp of Kablewa. The latter was closed by the Government in June 2017 after a suicide bomb attack.

The security situation has serious negative effects on the economy of the region, reducing the absorption capacity of the host population and the capacity of the displaced population to support itself. The population of the fertile areas (Lake Chad, Komadougou river) have been displaced, the pastoral routes have been destroyed, and cross-border exchange and trade (seasonal migration, trade of goods) are deeply affected. Despite a significant increase in humanitarian interventions, the needs are still high. Basic services and infrastructure (water, health, and education), which were already weak before the crisis, are under a mounting pressure and highly dependent on humanitarian actors. Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour, Bosso roads following the discovery of explosive devices, successive attacks and kidnappings. The border with Nigeria has been closed in August 2019 which increases the price of essential goods for population. In 2020, attacks against the population including kidnappings, the trademark of Boko Haram, continue as threats towards humanitarian workers.

A total of 15 protection incidents (attacks on liberty, integrity, SGBV, theft, ...) were reported in the region, compared to 49 for the previous month, while 40 victims were recorded against 84 in September. This increase may be linked to the impossibility for the army to reach certain localities, including the Lake Chad islands because of the deterioration of roads due to the rainy season and the rise of insecurity in the N'Guigmi department, which was considered as a haven of peace in the Diffa region.

Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2019 to Sep 2020



Population Statistics

The latest figures published by the government on September 30th, 2020 estimate the number of displaced persons in the Diffa region at **265,696** out of which 225,118 are registered in UNHCR’s database. Out of the total population, 79% are women and children.

Since January 2020, more than 3,600 refugees from Chad and Nigeria have crossed the Lake Chad island and have found safety in Kindjandi and Toumour, where UNHCR provides an emergency response. The city of Diffa currently hosts more than 23,000 displaced persons.



Achievements

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 decentralisation process;
- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanisation 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

Protection response

- **Protection monitoring / Project 21:** From 21 to 24 September, UNHCR has trained its NGO partners staffs dedicated to protection monitoring on data collection, protection and coordination. This frames in an ECHO-funded project to set up a harmonized regional-wide protection monitoring system in the sub-region and to bring evidence-based understanding of the protection environment, risks and needs. This allows protection actors to align protection interventions, to conduct regional advocacy, and to better coordinate protection activities.
- **Child protection:** 161 children member of child protection committees have been trained on child the right of children and the sexual gender-based violence.
- Outreach actions have touched 1,986 individuals through their awareness raising activities on topics related to COVID-19, child protection and SGBV. As a result, 161 persons have been referred to the *National Eligibility Commission* to determine their refugee status.
- **SGBV:** 13 incidents have been reported during the month of September, all cases were female and have been documented. The incidents reported were rape, physical assault, denial of resources and psychological violence. 466 individuals have been reached out toward SGBV awareness raising session all over the region.
- **Persons with specific needs:** 30 young persons with physical disabilities from N'Guigmi, Kindjandi and Mainé Soroa have been trained on cell phones repair by the FAFPCA (Fond d'Appui à la Formation Professionnelle Continue et d'Apprentissage) in N'Guiguimi. The partner ANDDH has identified 36 persons with specific needs, 3 elderly persons have benefited of elderly. In the camp of Sayam Forage 375 persons with specifics needs have benefited ophthalmology and physiotherapy consultations. The specialist has made some prescription which will be given to the patient in the upcoming days.
- 5 Nigerian refugees have been **resettled** to Canada.

- **Urbanisation program:** This innovative EU-funded program simultaneously ensures legal access to land for social housing for refugees and vulnerable host households, while revitalising the local economy which has been deeply affected by the Boko Haram conflict in the region. To date, 2,106 sustainable houses for the most vulnerable families have already been built, while 237 are ongoing, 3,419 jobs were created, 2,490 persons were trained in the construction and more than 36,900 persons got a better access to water in 3 districts (Diffa, Assaga and Chetimari).
- **Livelihood Activities:** With the University of Diffa and partner APBE, UNHCR has set up an agricultural center inside the Sayam Forage refugee camp. So far, 125 refugees, returned and host families have been trained and practice market gardening and fish farming activities. Extraction kits have been donated to groups in Sayam Forage to increase their revenues.
- **Combating desertification and protecting the environment:** Refugees and host populations are actively taking part in the protection of the environment. Partner CDR has proceeded to the donation of waste management materials for the benefit of the sites of Assaga and Kindjandi. Hence 2 seated carts, 2 donkeys, collection outfits (gowns) and gloves have been given to beneficiaries of each site. As part of the energy project a baseline survey has been conducted by UNHCR and its partner CDR at the site of Assaga and the camp of Sayam Forage. The 15 hectares dedicated for tree planting on the site of Garin Wanzam have been fenced.
- **Prevention and response to the COVID-19 pandemic:** In partnership with the NGO APBE and “Bien-être de la Femme Rurale”, 60 women have been trained and equipped to produce and commercialize soap since 2017. As part of the national COVID-19 response, refugees scaled up the production and soap are distributed within the Sayam Forage camp. Through this activity, each woman earns 15,000 FCFA per month. UNHCR carried out mass awareness raising campaigns, set-up hand washing facilities in all refugee hosting areas and donated medical supplies and equipment to the local authorities. To isolate and treat COVID-19 patients of the whole region, UNHCR rehabilitated a building identified by health authorities. Epidemiological surveillance of coronavirus disease continues at the health center level is ongoing.
- **Distance Education Centres:** UNHCR established with partner COOPI a Distance Education Programme for Nigerian junior and senior secondary school students in 2015 allowing young refugees to follow the official Nigeria curriculum while they are in Niger and take their exams. 5 education centers have been equipped in Diffa, Bosso, Kablewa, Maine Soroa and Sayam Forage camp where students take online lessons with latest technology followed by 39 teachers and 5 tutors. Since 2016, 332 youth (281 boys, 51 girls) have been registered for the exams with 64% of success. 548 students are currently enrolled in the 5 education centers in accordance with the Nigerian curriculum. 60 students among which 10 girls, went to Kano in Nigeria to attend the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) for Senior Secondary 3 conducted by National Examination Council which started on 5th October and will end on 18 November 2020.
- **Education:** 95 children among the new comers in the camp of Sayam Forage have been registered for primary school which resumes on 15 October 2020. Furthermore, many awareness raising sessions on registration of children to school and education have been

conducted in the whole region and more than 5 000 persons have been reached. 20,000 bricks have been transported to the camp of Sayam for construction work of classrooms and latrine block.

- **WASH:** At the Sayam Forage camp, a volume of 4881 m3 of water was produced by the 3 pumping stations, which represent about 8.81 litres / person / day for a population of 20,499. With the support of CERF, 3 standpipes with 2 taps have been finalized. Moreover, 90 family latrines out of 100 planned were built for households of people with specific needs and 20 blocks of community latrine with double cabins were also built.

Main Challenges

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped. Structural but costly 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, which creates a risk of a sharp deterioration in living conditions for the population in case of a funding shortfall;
- Irregular access for humanitarian actors 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.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Japan | ERF | EU Trust Fund | ECHO | France | Luxembourg

External / Donor Relations

CONTACTS

Laurence Bron, Associate Reporting Officer

bronl@unhcr.org , Tel: +227 80 09 71 63, Cell +227 80 09 71 63

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