

April 2021

**+ 8,500 new arrivals in Sayam Forage Camp during the first quarter of 2021**

The Diffa region hosts **265,696\*** Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons, and Nigerian 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

**228,147**

Persons of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database.

**6,287**

Households of 29,765 individuals were registered in Sayam Forage Camp as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

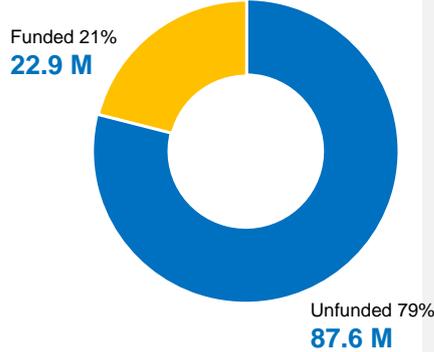
**2,830**

Houses built in Diffa region as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

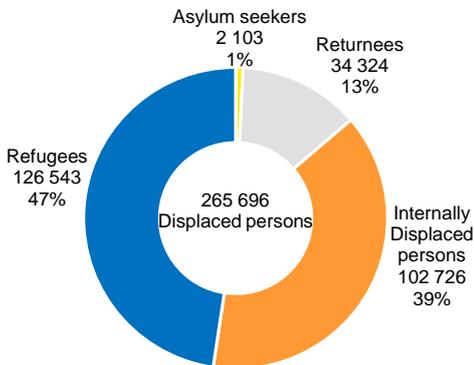
FUNDING (AS OF 30 MARCH 2020)

**USD 110.5 Million**

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation



POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA  
(GOVERNMENT FIGURES)



## 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**

## Update on Achievements

### Operational Context

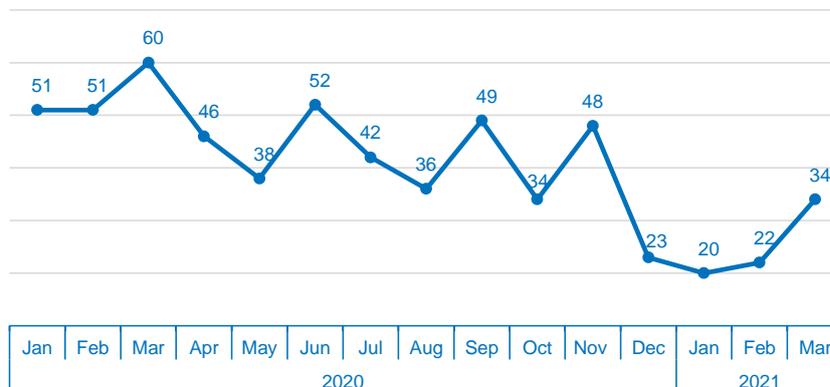
The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on Niger soil in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the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

Since April 2019, movements are restricted on the Gueskerou, Toumour and Bosso roads following the finding of explosive devices, consecutive attacks, and kidnappings.

In March 2021, the security situation deteriorated in the Diffa region due to terrorist activism despite government efforts to stabilize the administrative and security situation, making the humanitarian access to certain areas difficult. Armed groups attacks were recorded in March targeting the Defense and Security Forces (FDS) as well as civilian population.

Forced recruitments of civilians, looting of the army logistics stocks, kidnappings, cattle theft as well as the use of improvised explosive devices against the Defense and Security Forces were also reported.

### Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2020 to March 2021



## Achievements

### Protection response

- In March, UNHCR and other protection actors continued to improve the **coordination mechanism and the quality of the response**, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism. Interviews for resettlement were conducted and profiling was carried out for durable solutions.
- Through protection monitoring system, UNHCR observed a 35% increase in documented protection incidents compared to February 2021. A total of **34 protection incidents were documented in March** compared to 22 in February 2021 affecting 138 people against 85 in February 2021. this increase may be linked to the fact that the terrorists are intensifying their attacks with the withdrawal of water of the komadougou river which marks the border between Niger and Nigeria for 140 km.
- UNHCR has identified 32 new **child protection** cases. 100% of cases have been documented and benefited from psychosocial support. **7 cases were referred to the health center of Diffa** where their needs have been addressed.
- UNHCR with the support of local authorities provided 35 national identity cards to Nigerien returnees who live in the refugee camp of Sayam forage. 20 out of 85 newborns have received birth certificates while the remaining are under process.
- In March, UNHCR has identified and **documented 36 new cases of gender-based violence** in the department of Diffa. They include 13 cases of denial of resources, 12 cases of sex for survival, 5 physical violence, 3 case of sexual assault, 3 physical violence and 1 case of forced marriage. 90% of cases were identified by community structures. **All survivors have benefited from psychosocial support** and have been referred either to health facilities, police and/or justice for other services.
- Awareness raising activities on SGBV topics such as early pregnancy, sexual exploitation and availability of services were conducted by UNHCR at the Sayam forage camp and the sites of Awaridi/Djaboullam, Djori-kolo and the secondary school of Diffa (CEG3), **reaching 520 persons**.
- UNHCR with the support of eight community structures has identified **607 elderly persons in the Sayam forage camp**. The work with community structures helps UNHCR to identify the persons living with specific needs and to assist them adequately.

### Shelter

- The innovative **EU-funded program** on urbanization 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 terrorist group conflict in the region. To date, **2,830 sustainable houses** for the most vulnerable families have been built, while 145 are ongoing; 5,817 jobs were created, 2,564 persons were trained in the construction and in the framework of the project more than 50,263 persons got a better access to water in 5 districts (Assaga, Diffa, Chetimari, Mainé soroa and NGuiguimi).
- In March, **524 secondary school students, including 116 girls** were attending classes in the **five-distance education centers**. The registration process for the official examinations continues with the completion of application forms and the sending of fees to the National Examination Council of Nigeria.

## WASH / COVID-19

- UNHCR and its partners scaled up the production of soap, bleach, and masks, by refugees for distribution in the Sayam Forage camp. Awareness raising activities were conducted and no case were registered. 9,008 persons, including 5,376 women, 1,012 men and 2,620 teenagers were sensitized through door-to-door activities by community relays and in the neighbourhoods and strategic locations on the consequences and behaviours related to acts of vandalism on infrastructure (sanitary and hydraulic), malaria and the prevention measures against the spread of COVID-19.
- 29,765 persons had access to potable water produced by 3 pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp, with an average consumption of 8 litres / person / day. More than 5,000 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion, malaria prevention and the COVID-19 prevention measures sensitizations.
- 2,100 pieces of soap were manufactured by the women trained by UNHCR to strengthen its Covid-19 response at the Sayam Forage camp.

## 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.
- Recurrent flooding of the Komadougou river force refugees to make a secondary displacement toward the Sayam Forage camp.

## Financial Information

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

European Union

### Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger<sup>1</sup>

African Development Bank | Central Emergency Response Fund | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | Germany | Italy | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors | Spain

### Other softly earmarked contributions<sup>2</sup>

Germany 9.2 M | Iceland | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions<sup>3</sup>

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Spain 13.3 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million

Algeria | America | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxemburg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private Donors

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.

## External / Donor Relations

### CONTACTS

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### LINKS

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Field Code Changed