

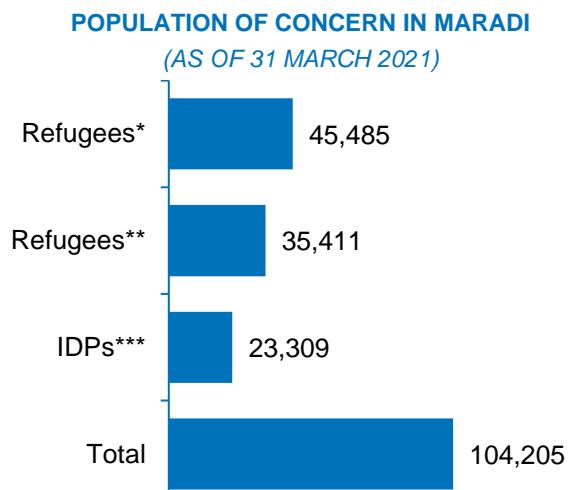
April 2021

## Almost 11,000 Nigerian refugees arrived in Maradi during the first quarter of 2021

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.

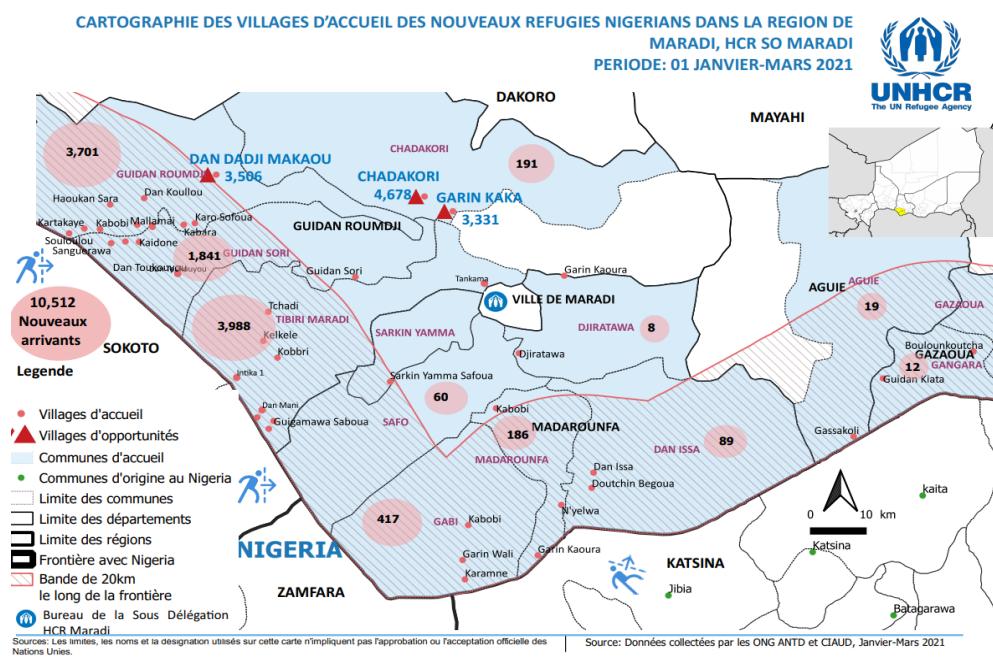
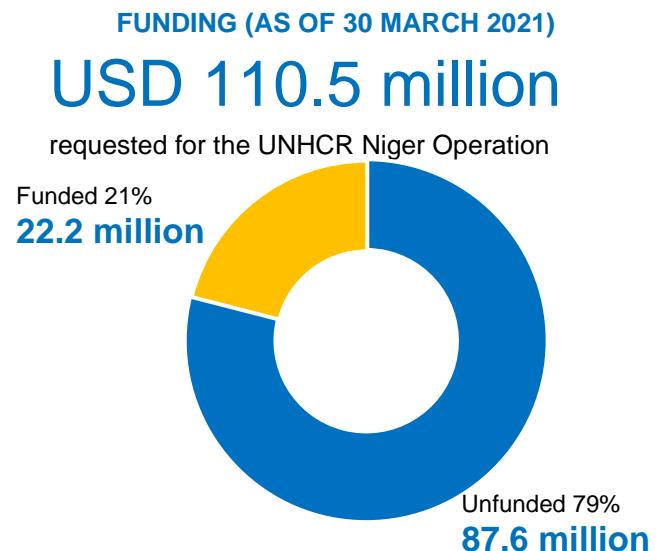
A key feature of the response is the relocation of refugees in villages of opportunity, away from the border, to ensure their safety. **12,500 refugees have been relocated so far.**



\*Biometrically registered refugees

\*\*Non-biometrically registered refugees

\*\*\*Internally displaced persons



## 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 quarter of 2021, the security situation has deteriorated on both sides of the border forcing 11,000 Nigerians to seek refuge in Maradi region and 4,000 Nigerien to flee in their own country.

NSAG attacks in Maradi region has significantly increase. Thus, 28 people were killed, 33 injured and 54 have been kidnapped, and thousands of animals have been stolen by the bandits.

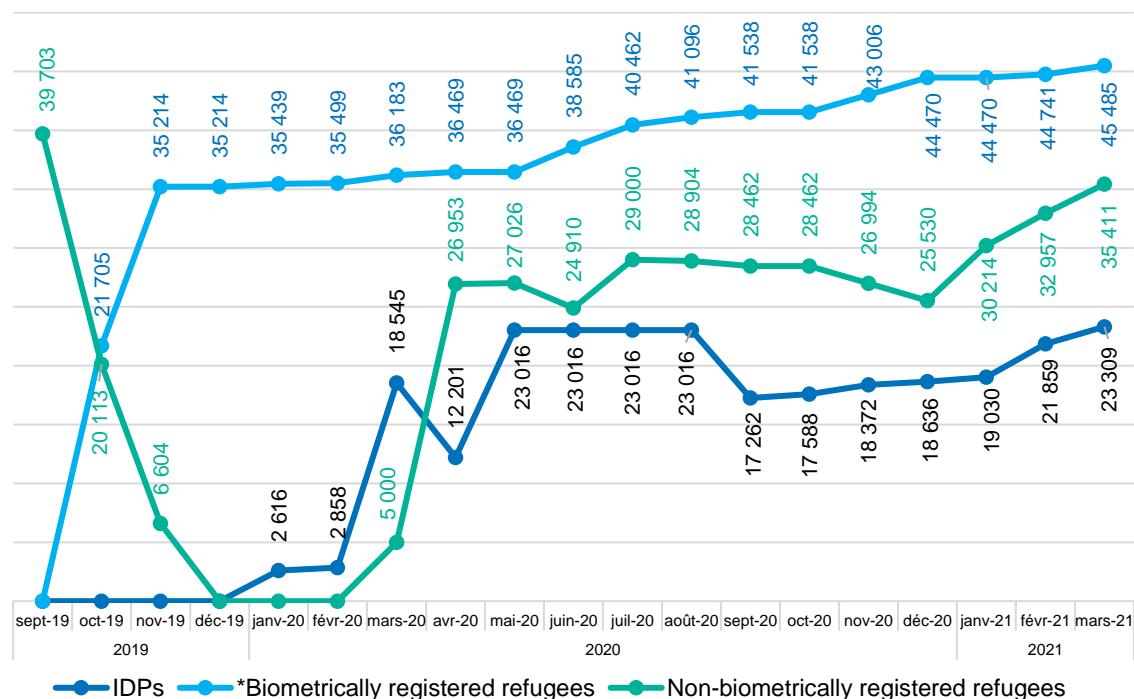
Two new cases of COVID-19 have been documented in the Maradi region. Since the beginning of the pandemics, the region has registered 66 cases and eight deaths.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> March, three "villages of opportunity" hosted a total of 12,488 refugees.

## Population statistics

**Persons of concern in Maradi region since September 2019**



As of 31<sup>st</sup> March, UNHCR and the government of Niger (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) carried out the **biometric registration of 45,485 Nigerian refugees** (11,923 households), 68% of whom are minors, 23% women and 9% men. **In addition, an estimated 35,411 non-biometrically registered refugee live in the area.** The number of Internally displaced people (IDPs) has surge since late March 2020.

## Main activities

### Protection

- In March, UNHCR has **relocated 973 refugees** to the Chadakori village of opportunity. In total, **12,488 refugees are hosted** in the three villages of opportunity: 5,651 in Chadakori, 3,506 in Dan Dadji Makaou and 3,331 in Garin Kaka.
- UNHCR partners CIAUD, ANTD 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 25,209 persons of concern and members of host communities.
- A total of **185 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.
- UNHCR, thanks to the CERF, has proceeded to the donation of **cash grant to 1000 persons living with specific needs** and the victims of the flooding that affected the region during the last rainy season. They received each **USD 50**.
- In March, UNHCR and its partners has identified **9 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.

### Health

- UNHCR partner APBE carried out 3,403 medical consultations in the villages of opportunity, reaching 68% of refugees and 32% of the host community members. 216 cases of malaria were diagnosed and treated, 15 pregnant women were assisted for the delivery and 9 patients were transferred to secondary medical centres.

### Shelters

- The construction of 35 houses in banco (out of 266 scheduled) were finalized in the Dan Dadji Makaou village of opportunity.
- The construction of the three medical centers and 6 classrooms in durable materials are at the final stage of completion in the villages of opportunity.
- UNHCR rehabilitated 43 semi transitional shelters at Chadakori.

## 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. The regional authorities require all humanitarian actors, the presence of security forces escorts to enter the border area.
- **Financial resources remain insufficient.** Since the onset of the crisis, UNHCR and the other actors responding to the situation in Maradi face a lack of financial resources. Concurrent needs in other Nigerien regions strain humanitarian actors' financial resources and hence their capacity to respond.

## 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 Niger<sup>1</sup>

African Development Bank | Central Emergency Response Fund | European Union | Education Cannot Wait | Germany | Italy | Monaco | Spain

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

Germany 9.2 M | Iceland | Private donors

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

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

Algeria | America | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Qatar | 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.

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