

# Refugees and asylum seekers in Agadez

May 2021

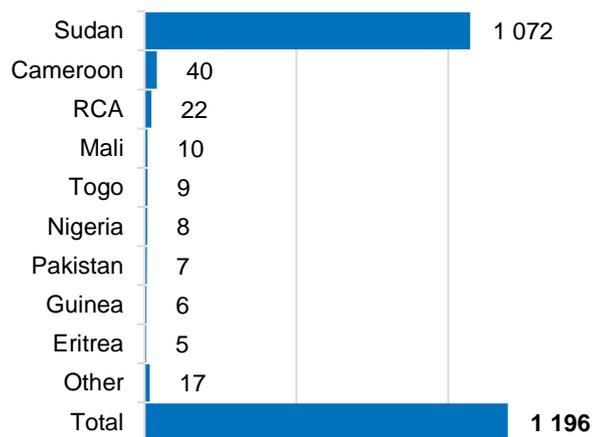
Niger has become **a major hub for mixed movements** northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

**UNHCR Niger operation has opened a new office in Agadez in 2017**, scaling up its operational capacity to give a response to those in need of international protection within mixed migratory flows.

In response to the complex humanitarian and security situation in Libya, Niger is increasingly turning into an **alternative space for protection**, including for the asylum-seekers and refugees who fail to reach Europe.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Countries of origin



\* ProGres biometrically registered refugees as of 7 May 2021

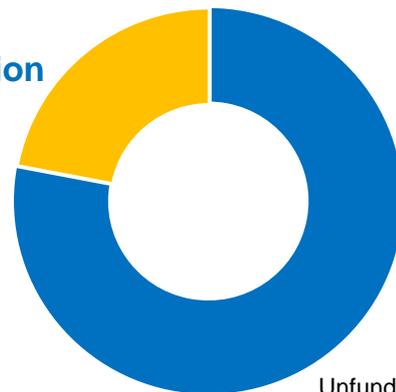
## FUNDING (AS OF 4 MAY 2021)

**USD 110.5 million**

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 22%

**24.8 million**



Unfunded 78%

**85.7 million**

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

19 National Staff  
4 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Sub Office in Agadez

*Construction of 50 semi-permanent houses at the Humanitarian Center of Agadez*



## Operational Context

Niger is situated in a **geopolitically sensitive area linking the Sahara Desert with the Sahel, and West with Central Africa**. The country has become a major hub for mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean while at the same time witnessing an increasing number of people fleeing Libya or being deported from Algeria on Nigerien territory.

## Operational Strategy

UNHCR's main objective is to ensure that people in need of international protection have access to protection, receive assistance and have access to asylum. Therefore, UNHCR Niger invests in **the structural strengthening of the Nigerien asylum system** and implements **all the needed activities to support and assist beneficiaries in the region**. Moreover, UNHCR gives assistance to people under its mandate and aims to find durable solutions, such as resettlement, local integration, or voluntary return to the country of origin if the security conditions allow. Complementary legal pathways, such as family reunification, study visa or humanitarian evacuations are also examined.

As of 7 May 2021; UNHCR and its partners has identified and biometrically registered **1,196 individuals** in need of international protection. 90% of the population under UNHCR mandate in Agadez are Sudanese nationals. 56% of the entire population have a refugee status obtained in Niger or elsewhere while 44% are asylum seekers; 66% are men, 9% are women and 25% are children under the age of eighteen.

The most vulnerable are currently hosted in **6 guesthouses in Agadez** when they receive protection response and assistance while the other are hosted in the **Humanitarian Center** built in the outskirt of the city.

UNHCR and its partners provide meals, water, sanitation, health, education and all services for each refugee and asylum seeker living in the guesthouses, the Humanitarian Center, and the most vulnerable living in the host community.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR and its partner APBE conducted 147 awareness-raising sessions on a variety of topics, including peaceful coexistence, personal and environmental hygiene, the rules of the Humanitarian Center, and measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. These activities reached 377 individuals living in the guesthouses and the Humanitarian Center.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen a proactive cooperation with the regional authorities in Agadez managing to increase the presence of the competent authorities, notably the General Directorate of Civil Status, Refugees and Migration (DGEC-RM) / Ministry of Interior) responsible for Refugee Status Determination (RSD).
- UNHCR, IOM and the Government of Niger have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017 on the identification and referral of persons of concern of information and assistance.

- UNHCR Persons of concern (PoCs) continue to be expelled from Algeria. Among them, 36 persons that fall under its mandate have been taken in charge by UNHCR and 16 of them are still in Agadez where they receive international protection and assistance.
- In May 2021, UNHCR and its partners have identified 20 new cases of SGBV, including 12 cases of rape and 8 cases of sexual assault. 100% of cases have received psychosocial support and have been referred for medical and legal assistance.
- UNHCR partners has conducted 8 sensitization sessions on SGBV related issues which reached 104 individuals including 74 women and 30 men. The themes discussed focus on rape, its consequences, and the availability of the post-exposure prophylaxis, referral mechanism, services available in term of psychosocial, legal, and medical assistance.
- The partner APBE has proceeded to a distribution of dignity kits for the benefit all child-bearing age women and girls that live in the Humanitarian Center and the 6 guesthouses of Agadez.
- As of 23 April 2021; 702 persons living with specific needs have been identified during registration and protection monitoring activities. 64 PoCs have received food assistance based on their vulnerabilities while 33 newborns and babies have received nursing milk.
- 228 minors including 82 girls and 146 boys have received material assistance consisting of two types of kits. The first kit is composed of a toothbrush, toothpaste, a disposable razor, a T-shirt, a pair of shoes and panties; the second kit is composed of a kettle, a bar of soap, a comb, underwear for the girls and a box of ointment.

### Education

- UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS continue the implementation of education activities to support refugees, hence sessions on reading, writing and calculations are conducted daily. Most of the children hosted in the guesthouses in Agadez, once finalized transitional classes to learn French, are registered in the public education system fully integrating the host population.
- Moreover, the implementing partners INTERSOS and COOPI continue to provide unformal education and assistance to the minors hosted within the Humanitarian Center, which are still not schooled, including minors under the age of 6. They have provided several sessions of introduction to mathematics, reading, drawing, motricity and sport activities, etc. In May 2021, COOPI organized 38 classes for the benefit of 136 persons while INTERSOS reached 1,492 individuals through 86 psychosocial sessions.

### Health & Mental Health

- The implementing partner COOPI provides weekly sessions on clinical, mental health and psychosocial support to all PoCs in need. Additionally, one UNHCR staff based in Agadez specialized in MHPSS and Health's oversees the activities. During the month of May, the partner COOPI organized 29 sessions of art and therapy activities for 94 persons; 16 musical and dance activities for 135 persons and 143 sessions of playful, recreational and cultural activities (card games, checkers, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, etc.) for 192 people.

- UNHCR Niger provides first and second medical assistance to all PoCs hosted in Agadez through the partnership with APBE. Medical consultations, medical referrals to public health structures, sensitization sessions on Covid-19 and malaria preventive measures, family planning and general hygiene methods are provided on a regular basis. In May, APBE conducted 1,533 medical consultations; 81% of those consulted were refugees, among which 44 serious cases were referred to the regional hospital and 6 to the Mother and Child Health Center of Agadez.
- UNHCR organized mass and individual sensitization sessions in compliance with medical prescriptions, malaria prevention, family planning, food hygiene, and prevention of the spread of Covid-19 at the Humanitarian Center, the transit huts, and the health center of the district of Toudou in Agadez. Thus 1,304 persons have been reached out through sensitization efforts on the topics mentioned above.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR Niger in Agadez provides PoCs within the Humanitarian Center as well as in the guesthouses with 3 meals per day. Specific dietary needs are taken in charge and followed-up by the implementing partners COOPI and APBE.
- During the month of May 2021, UNHCR, through its partners, has provided necessary meals for the entire PoCs population (1,196 individuals), namely an average number of 3,588 meals per day.

### Water, Sanitation, Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR has constructed a Humanitarian Center built several kilometers outside of the city of Agadez. This facility was equipped with over 330 refugee housing units (RHU), WASH and latrines system, community spaces and offices for staff working on the site. Due to a massive fire occurred in January 2020, the 80% of refugee housing units has been destroyed or damaged. UNHCR has immediately reacted by relocating all the vulnerable households within 6 guesthouses in the city of Agadez in order to start the construction of new durable and semi-permanent structures and a permanent water pipeline supply.
- During the month of May 13 RHU has been installed and the construction of 29 semi-permanent houses in banco, out of the first 50, has started at the Humanitarian Center.
- During the month of May, UNHCR population of concern in Agadez faces many difficulties related to water shortage due to the hot season and the increased need of water. Hence UNHCR and its implementing partner APBE has proceeded to the installation of water tanks in the guesthouses 1, 2 and 4 and the work for the extension of water network in the Humanitarian Center is ongoing.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR continues to work on the implementation of the new Food Strategy within the Humanitarian Center, in order to reinforce self-reliance through CBI (cash-based Intervention).
- UNHCR has reestablished several refugee engagement committees, such as Child Protection and Site Pacific Coexistence, within the Humanitarian Center as well as others have been established within the guesthouses in Agadez.

### Durable Solutions

- UNHCR Niger promotes access to solutions (asylum, readmission, repatriation, regularization of stay) for the different groups identified in the mixed movements.

UNHCR Niger guarantee the follow-up of all cases of PoCs proposed for Resettlement or other Complementary Pathways in third countries: Preparation of files, eligibility procedures, request of laissez-passer to the Government for PoCs on departure, transfer to Niamey pre-departure, medical screening procedures, etc.

## External / Donor Relations

**Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Agadez**  
Italy | RDPP NA |

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

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 contributions<sup>2</sup>**

United States of America 12.2 million | Germany 9.2 million | Canada 8.5 million | Iceland | Malta | Norway | Private donors

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

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.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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