

August 2021

+ 40,000 internally displaced persons relocated to their villages of origins

As of 31st August, the Diffa region hosts **235,211* Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons, and Nigerian returnees**. More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements**.

In June 2021, Nigerien authorities have committed to facilitate the return of all IDPs. **As of 31st August; 7,376 households of 40,138 persons have returned to their villages of origin.**

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

KEY INDICATORS

228,850

Persons of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database. These include refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and internally displaced persons.

6,547

Households of 31,029 refugees and returnees registered in Sayam Forage Camp as of 31st August 2021.

3,266

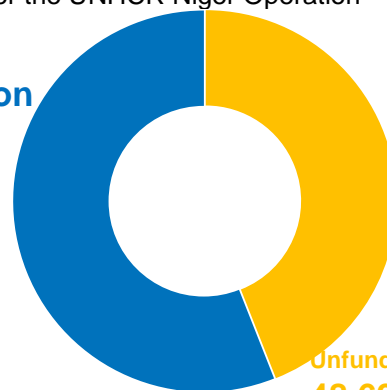
Houses built in Diffa region as of 31st August 2021.

FUNDING (AS OF 7 AUGUST 2021)

USD 110.7 Million

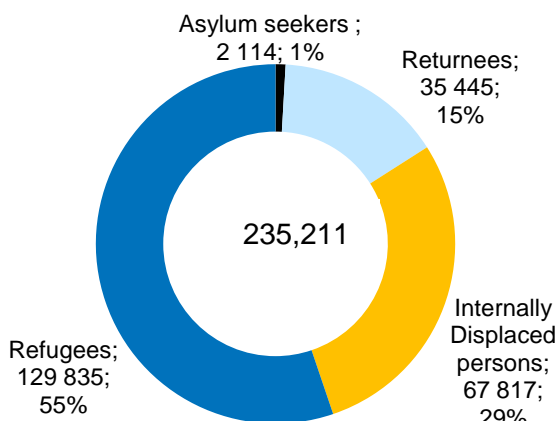
requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 56%
62.01 Million



Unfunded 44%
48.69 Million

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA
(GOVERNMENT FIGURES AS OF 31ST AUGUST 2021)



Nigerian refugee in training at the Diffa Trade Training Centre. © UNHCR

Operational Strategy

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 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**.

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 the Niger territory in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the Nigerien authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the region of Lake Chad Islands towards an internally displaced camp in Kablewa, which was closed in July 2017 following bombing attack in the camp and recurrent insecurity.

The organized return of IDPs to their villages of origin explains the decrease in the number of IDPs in Diffa. On 20th June 2021, Nigerien authorities have committed to facilitate the return in villages of origin of all IDPs. **As of 31st August; 7,376 households of 40,138 persons have returned in 24 villages of origin, decreasing the total number of IDPs in the region to 22,197 households of 67,817 individuals.**

The regional committee for the return of IDPs, composed of united nations agencies, local and international NGO's, supports the government initiative by providing transportation for people and their belongings, assisting them with food (cereals, legumes, oil, sugar, salt) and non-food items (shelter, tarps, mosquito nets, mats, blankets, etc.).

The security situation continued to be characterized by attacks against military positions, kidnappings against ransom, and targeted killings. Insurgent movements are regularly reported in Niger and Nigerian Territory, in border areas of the vicinity of the Nigerien's communes of Gueskerou, Diffa, Chetimari and Maine-Soroa.

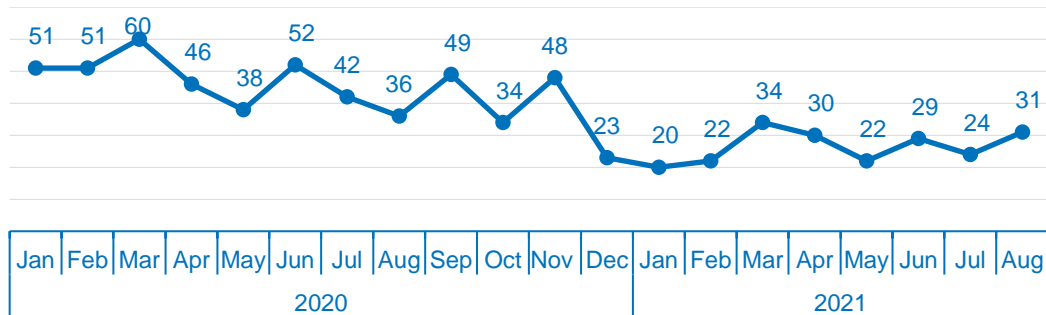
Update on Achievements

Protection situation

As of August 31st, the Sayam Forage Camp was hosting a population of **31,029 persons, including 26,689 refugees: 4,136 Nigerien returnees and 204 asylum seekers.** Refugees are mainly originating from Damasak and Geidam in Nigeria. Compared to July 2021, the number of persons registered in Sayam Forage camp has decreased by 167 households of 637 individuals due to the inactivation in the data base of 44 households of 105 individuals.

UNHCR's protection monitoring teams have reported **31 protection incidents** during the reporting period, among which 15 cases of kidnapping, 6 cases of murder, 3 cases of physical assault, 4 cases of extortion of property, arbitrary arrest, rape, and fire (1 case each). These incidents occurred in the communes of Gueskerou (12), Diffa (6), N'Guigmi (6), Bosso (4), Kablewa (2), and Toumour (1). The incidents resulted in 131 casualties, including 75 IDPs, 43 members of the host community, 9 refugees, and 4 migrants. The various perpetrators were non-state armed groups (26), the civilian population (3), natural phenomena (1), and the Defense and Security Forces (1).

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



Protection response

In August, 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. UNHCR has conducted interviews for resettlement and profiling.

Local authorities with the support of UNHCR provided **7 refugee attestations, and 5 refugee identity cards** to Nigerian refugees whose documents were expired or lost, as well as to new arrivals in the refugee camp of Sayam forage.

In August 2021, for civil documentation purposes, UNHCR has submitted 200 declaratory judgments to the High court of Diffa and 100 birth certificate requests essentially registered in the Sayam Forage camp to the city hall of Chetimari.

UNHCR afterward **collected and delivered 372 birth certificates based on the declaratory judgment** to beneficiaries living in the sites of Boudouri, Guidan Kadji and Tounda Wada.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners have identified **21 new child protection cases** affecting 14 refugees and 9 internally displaced persons in the sites of Djori Koulo, Sabon, Gari, and the cities of Mainé-Soroa, N'guiguimi as well as the Sayam Forage camp. All cases have been documented and benefited from psychosocial support. Awareness raising sessions were conducted on child protection related issues, including gender-based violence, family separation, child neglect, and exploitation, reaching 291 individuals in Mainé-Soroa Mainé Soroa, Sabon Gari, Garin Wanzam, Djori Kollo, Madouri, Guidan Kadji, Foulatari and the Sayam forage refugee camp.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners have identified and documented **59 new cases of gender-based violence**, including 32 cases of denial of resources and opportunities, 15 cases of physical assault, 7 cases of psychological violence, 4 cases of sexual assault and 1 case of rape. The survivors include 45 refugees, 7 host community members, 6 IDPs and 1 returnee. These incidents were recorded at the sites of Djori Kolo, Sabon Garin, Nguigmi, Garin Wanzam, Sayam Forage camp, and in the towns of Mainé-Soroa, N'Guigmi, and Diffa. **100% of documented cases benefited from psychosocial support** and the cases requiring specific care have been referred to partners. 36 cases documented and followed up by the regional directorate for women empowerment and child protection (DRPE); including 10 refugees, 17 IDPs and 9 members of the host community, received goat assistance following referral to the partner DICKO.

Awareness raising activities were conducted on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) issues such as early and forced marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, rape, physical assault, and domestic violence, **reaching some 486 persons** in the Sayam Forage refugee camp and in the sites of Garin Dolé, Guidan Kadji, Sabon Gari, Madouri, Garin Wanzam, Foulatari as well as the towns of Mainé-Soroa, N'guiguimi and Diffa.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its implementing partners identified and documented **79 persons living with specific needs** in Diffa region including 38 persons living with physical disabilities living on the site of Madiane in the commune of Chetimari.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

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, **3,266 sustainable houses** for the most vulnerable families have been built, while 523 are under construction; 5,817 jobs were created, 2,564 persons were trained in the construction, and more than 50,263 persons got a better access to water in 5 districts (Assaga, Diffa, Chetimari, Mainé-soroa and N'guiguimi).

In response to damages caused by a tornado that hit Sayam Forage camp in July, UNHCR distributed **emergency shelters to 1,000 affected households** recently relocated or those who were living in the area. UNHCR assisted **337 households in Sayam Forage camp with construction kits** (plastic sheeting, square tubes, doors, and windows) to support the beneficiaries to reinforce their houses in banco during the rainy season. Some other 390 households have been assisted with non-food items.

Health

3,226 persons benefited from medical consultations, among which 56 cases with critical conditions were referred to the regional hospital of Diffa.

592 people including 377 living in the Sayam Forage refugee camp and 90 in the Djori Koulo benefitted from specialized medical consultation in physiotherapy, ophthalmology, and otorhinolaryngology.

WASH

31,029 persons had access to potable water produced by three pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp and trough water tracking, with an average consumption of 10 litres / person / day.

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 Niger¹

African Development Bank Group | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | France | European Union | Germany | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors

Other softly earmarked contributions²

Germany 47.4 million | **United States of America** 33 million | **Private donors Australia** 6.2 million | **Canada** 5.6 million | **Private donors Germany** 4.4 million | **Japan** 2.9 million | **France** 2.8 million

Holy See | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Norway | Spain | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions³

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Private donors Spain** 55.7 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 28.5 million | **United Kingdom** 28.4 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 20.7 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 14 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | 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

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