

### Security Context

- The month of June and the beginning of July (2<sup>nd</sup>) were marked by two extremely serious attacks in the Diffa region. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2 suicide bombers (females) entered the IDP camp of Kablewa – managed by UNHCR, and detonated the bombs they were carrying, killing themselves, as well as two young IDPs (one female, 1 male), and injuring 11 others, 4 of whom have been evacuated for secondary care in Diffa hospital. This is the first attack against a UNHCR managed camp, as well as the first suicide attack in the region in over 12 months. It resulted in a population movement from the camp to the surrounding areas, which has resulted in heightened tensions between the host and displaced communities, mainly regarding access to resources.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, a group of suspected insurgents attacked the village of N’Galewa, around 10km from Kablewa, where they murdered 9 men, and kidnapped 37 people (24 women and 13 children). These two attacks have drastically changed the security situation in the region.
- UNHCR immediately responded, sending a mission to Kablewa and meeting with the Governor as well as the humanitarian community. Approximately 200 refugees who remained in the camp have requested assistance to be relocated to Sayam Forage camp. This relocation will go ahead in the first week of July. Furthermore, the government has indicated the Kablewa camp will be closed, while an alternative space is being sought.
- Aside from these two incidents, approximately 20 other security incidents were reported, roughly equivalent to the previous month, with 10 incidents of incursions into logistics warehouses for supplies, as well as the theft of vehicles.

### Highlights

- UNHCR held a 4 day celebration (16-20 June) to mark World Refugee Day in both Diffa town and in Sayam Forage refugee camp. Activities included exhibitions, sport competitions, poetry, theatre and music. All authorities and humanitarian actors participated. The national television station ORTN televised a debated focusing on UNHCR activities as well as future perspectives for the next three years, which was translated into local languages.



### Protection

#### Protection Monitoring

- The month of June saw a 47% reduction in the number of reported protection incidents compared to the month of May, with a total of 52 incidents reported. This is probably due to the fasting period, the increasing water level of the Komadougou River, and increased pressure by the security and defence forces against Boko Haram close to the border.
- In response to the various protection incidents, UNHCR and partners aim to strengthen the data collection mechanism for protection incidents with the introduction of smartphones; to update the referrals systems in the various communes; and to strengthen individual case monitoring.

#### Population Movements

- Throughout the month of June, UNHCR assisted a total of 641 refugees (138 households) to voluntarily relocate to the Sayam Forage refugee camp. This brings the total number assisted to voluntarily relocate to the camp in 2017 to 1,530. Voluntary relocations are ongoing, while up to 200 refugees in Kablewa IDP camp will be relocated in the first week of July.
- 3 evaluation missions were carried out to the commune of N’Guigmi following the arrival of approximately 200 new households. They have been identified as Nigeriens who had been living in Chad – including refugee camps, local villages, as well as the Lake Chad islands, who moved back to Niger due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and means of subsistence available in Chad. These vulnerable households are in urgent need of basic humanitarian assistance.

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- In terms of back-and-forth movements to and from Nigeria, 1,678 people reportedly returned to Niger from Damasak, having spent up to two months there. They cited the need to engage in agricultural activities during the winter season as their reason for returning, as well as the suspension of food assistance in Damasak. It is expected that this type of movement will increase.
- Return movements of IDPs to their villages of origin was also reported, including 2,865 people returning to the localities of Galewa and Bosso, mainly departing from sites in the areas of Diffa, Kablewa and Gueskerou. UNHCR will establish a mechanism to evaluate the protection needs of those returning to their villages of origin.

## SGBV : Prevention and Response

- An SGBV evaluation mission was carried out by the GBV Sub-Working Group to N'Guigmi, which highlighted some worrying patterns, including: aggression and drug consumption by young men; exposure of young women to sexual aggression and forced marriage; young girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years practicing survival sex; unwanted pregnancies and a lack of knowledge regarding HIV / AIDS. The Sub-Working Group will strengthen community based SGBV committees, referral pathways, and sensitization efforts, as well as advocating for regular food assistance and income generating activities for the most vulnerable households.
- During the month of June, 5 cases of SGBV were reported, a 50% reduction compared to the month of May. 3 of these were reported in Sayam Forage camp, and 2 in Kablewa camp. All received appropriate support and assistance. Sayam Forage benefitted from 4 women's spaces, while the 2 women's spaces in Kablewa received new materials for activities.
- 5 'confidential boxes' were created for 3 spontaneous sites for the delivery of confidential messages related to sexual abuse and exploitation and are to be installed, once appropriate complaint mechanism SOPs are in place.

## Community Based Protection

- In the month of June, a census of all of the existing community based protection structures was undertaken in the camps and at the spontaneous sites – both for refugees and IDPs. The objective was to update and improve the structures, based on the needs. Training and gradual handover of management responsibilities to community based committees is underway.

## Statelessness

- Particular efforts were made in the month of June for the delivery of birth certificates in rural areas. UNHCR and partners are working with community based protection committees to identify in particular children who were born in Niger since the beginning of the crisis in 2013. In June, 600 children in the sites of Guidan Kadji and Tam received a declaratory judgement for birth certificates, while 100 birth certificates were delivered.

## Durable Solutions

- In line with ongoing actions to seek durable solutions for Chadian refugees in the area of Goure, sensitization sessions were held with the community in June to explain the concept and process of naturalization. Actions are also ongoing to provide durable shelter solutions to these refugees.

## Registration and Documentation

- At the end of June, the population of Sayam Forage camp had increased to 11,416 people, including 10,796 refugees and 620 returnees. This includes over 600 new arrivals throughout the month.
- Discussions are underway regarding the roll out of a Biometric Registration exercise for the displaced population of the Diffa region. It is hoped that this joint action will go ahead in the coming weeks.



## Health

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- The number of cases of Hepatitis E reported in the Diffa region has increased from 706 at the end of May to 1,113 at the end of June, with 4 more deaths, bringing the total number of deaths to 34, however no new cases were reported in either of the two camps. Prevention and sensitization efforts are ongoing. 100% of the population of Sayam Forage camp have access to basic health care, however just 60% of those IDPs in Kablewa camp have access to health care in the local CSI, due

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to lack of capacity of the centre to respond to both the host and displaced population. Outside of the camps, access to health care is challenging, particularly at sites where no health partner is operating.

## Education

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- Following the return of 72 junior cycle secondary school Nigerian refugee students from Kano, where they completed their end of year state exams, a second group of senior secondary students have departed and are currently sitting their exams. They will complete their exams by the end of July and return to Niger. Last year, a total of 69 students undertook the trip to Kano, supported by UNHCR. This year, the figure has increased to 163. UNHCR with its partner COOPI are currently finalizing an action plan for the official accreditation of 2 Distance Examination centres in the Diffa region by NECO, to facilitate the end of year exams for 2018, however certain required standards have not yet been met (e.g. 24% female enrolment rate).
- Increased demand for places within the Distance Education centres has been reported, while the new centre at Sayam Forage has been almost completed (95%) and will be operational for September.
- An evaluation of the schools in both camps revealed a high level of absences of school aged children. This can be explained due to population movements (new arrivals, back and forth movements), lack of capacity to respond to the needs of all potential students, and lack of adequate sensitization and literacy amongst parents. Major efforts are required to improve enrolment and attendance rates for the 2017 – 2018 school year. An additional 6 teachers are required for Sayam Forage camp.

## WASH

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- In Sayam Forage camp, due to the population increase, the numbers of litres of water available per person per day has reduced for 16 in May to 12 in June. Efforts are being made to improve this in line with SPHERE standards, including the beginning of works to transform the existing pumping station in the village into a hybrid station (solar and thermal energy), and to establish a new hybrid pumping station in the camp.
- In Kablewa camp, the current amount of water available per person per day has declined to just 4, which is far below the emergency standards. Reflection is ongoing regarding appropriate measures due to the announcement by the government of their intentions to close the camp. An essential requirement of any new site chosen will be the presence of a viable water source for the population.
- Outside of the camps, a decline in the quality of latrines has been reported, with many already full. Urgent action must be taken by the WASH Working Group to minimize the risk of spreading of Hepatitis E.
- In the site of Goudoumaria, UNHCR officially handed over the water system to the authorities, along with management of the site. A document was signed between both parties. The site, which was initially intended as a transit site, will now be used by the government to house those ex-combatants of Boko Haram who have surrendered.

## Shelter & NFI

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- In the camp of Sayam Forage, 300 (60%) of a total of 500 transitional shelters planned for 2017 have been constructed, and are housing families in the camp. However, due to the new arrivals in the camp it is possible that additional transitional shelters will be required.
- A shelter evaluation in N'Guigmi and N'Gagam Baroua has revealed that 300 households in N'Guigmi and 1,189 households in N'Gagam Baroua require emergency shelter assistance. Planning is ongoing for an emergency distribution with the Shelter / NFI Working Group. In fact, following a joint evaluation mission on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June the Working Group are developing SOPs to guide the coordination of the response in the region.

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## Access to Energy

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- The distribution of an additional 5,000 gas bottles in the Diffa region (outside of the camps) began in June, with 500 households provided with gas bottles in the commune of Maine Soroa. This will be finalized in the coming months, and an in-depth evaluation launched into the impact of the overall gas intervention.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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- Following the evaluation of the pilot phase of the CCCM Self-Management project in May, a joint mission was carried out in June, between the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Conflict Management and UNHCR, to several newly identified sites. The next phase of the project (due to commence in early July) was presented to the populations, who all expressed interest and desire to improve the situation of self-management at the sites.