

A new village of opportunity has been created in Maradi

August 2020

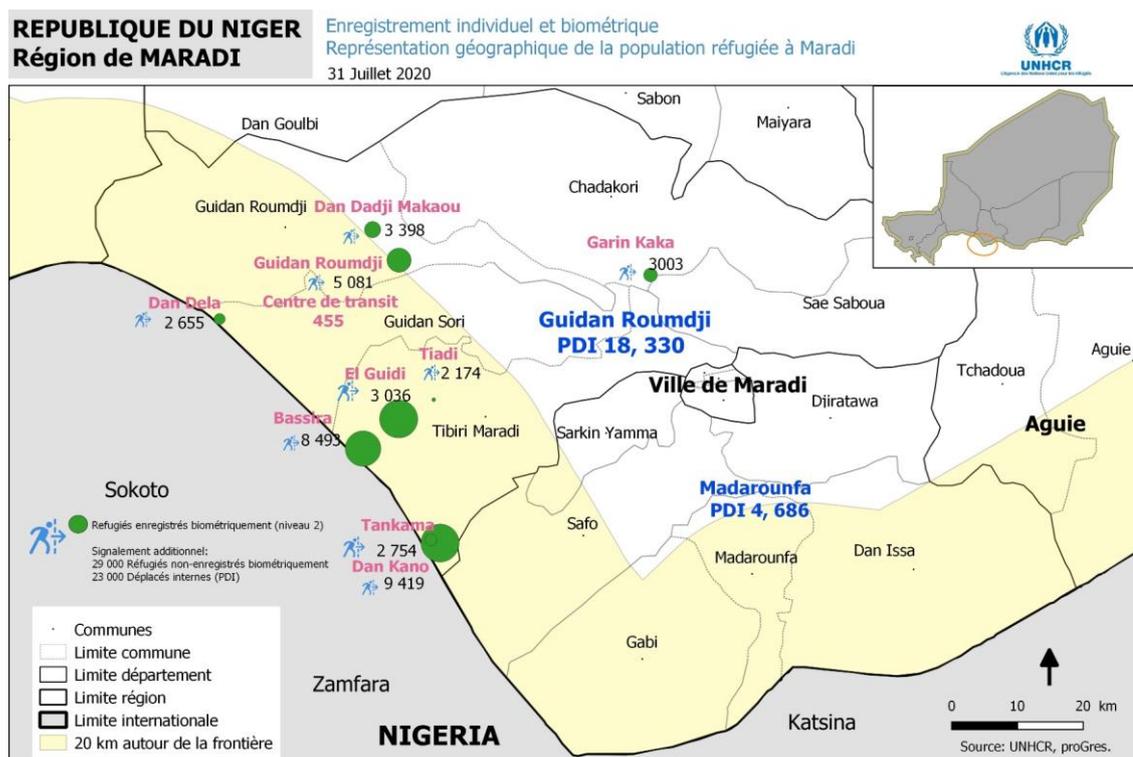
Context

Since September 2018, non-state armed groups (NSAG) killings, looting and kidnappings in Nigeria’s North-Western States have forced tens of thousands of people to seek refuge in Maradi region, Niger. The total number of Nigerian refugees in the area now exceeds 70,000. In addition, repeated incursions of NSAG in Niger have triggered the internal displacement of over 23,000 people.

In September 2019, UNHCR opened a sub-office in Maradi to coordinate registration, protection, health, housing, access to WASH services and education. A key feature of the UNHCR response in Maradi is the relocation of refugees to villages of opportunity away from the border to ensure their safety and ease the pressure on host communities in the border area. These sites are created nearby existing villages, contributing to the development of rural areas lacking of basic infrastructures. In addition to the three existing sites, a fourth one, named Chadakori has opened on 23 July. For now, a total of 7,486 refugees have been relocated in the four sites.

Population Statistics

As of 15 August, UNHCR and the government (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) had carried out the biometric registration of 40,464 refugees (10,776 households), 68% of whom were minors, 23% women and 9% men. **The number of refugees who have not been biometrically registered exceed 29,000. Following the new Arrêté No 00571 of 09 July 2020 granting refugee status on prima facies basis a registration and refugees identification**



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documents issuance is ongoing. The number of Internally displaced people (IDPs) has surge since late March, reaching 23 016 people.



The first residents arriving in the new site of Chadakori

Progress and Achievements

- On 23 July a **first group of 505 refugees has arrived in the new village of opportunity of Chadakori.** A second group arrived on 29 July, bringing the total population of the site to 630. A borehole was drilled to bring water to the site, 25 blocs of showers and latrines have been built and 75 more will follow. The health as well as the multisectoral protection assistance is also in place.

The site is planned to host a total of 10000 refugees to reach its maximum capacity.

- UNHCR's education partner NRC has begun preparation courses to enter elementary school for refugee and host community children in nine villages, including the villages of opportunity of Garin Kaka and Dan Dadji Makaou. A total of **45 teachers deliver courses to hundreds of children were recruited.** The first evaluation of the attendance, conducted in August, was positive.
- UNHCR partners CIAUD, and ANTD organized sensitization campaigns on a wide range of topics including **COVID-19 prevention, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV),** reaching 6,394 persons of concern and members of host communities.
- In the village of opportunity of Dan Dadji Makaou **53 Refugees Housing Units (RHU) have been rebuilt** after strong **winds** dismantled them in June. In Garin Kaka, 36 showers and latrines blocs have been built.
- On 3 August, as part of the celebration of the Tree Festival which marks the independence of Niger, UNHCR's partner **APBE planted 800 moringa trees tin the village of opportunity of Garin Kaka.** This will offer not only nutritional benefits but also a nicer environment and help cut the winds which caused recurrent damages to the site.
- **A training on international protection in the context of mixed migrations** has been delivered to the officers of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST), which is in charge of border control and migration. It included a focus on the protection of children at risk.
- **UNHCR Deputy Representative handed over the rehabilitated premises** of the Compagnie Mobile de Controle des Frontieres (CMCF), the border patrol unit of Tibiri Maradi, to the National Director of the DST.
- **UNHCR provided training to officers of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Institut National de la Statistiques (INS)** on the technical tools needed for the registration of the IDPs.
- **A high-level mission led** by the Directors of National Refugee Eligibility Commission (CNE) and SG of the Humanitarian Ministry visited refugee host villages of Dan Kano, Maouille and IDPs in the village of Sarkin Yama.
- The **regional refugee coordination meeting** was held during the month and a Protocol **aiming to enhance** the response coordination mechanisms was signed between UNHCR and the Maradi region

Main Challenges

- The security situation remains volatile.** Attacks by criminal groups are still frequent in spite of the deployment of security forces on both sides of the border. Several arm shipments coming from the north and going to criminal groups in North-West Nigeria have been intercepted by the police. In addition, continued incursions by armed groups into Niger pose a serious threat to humanitarian activity. The regional authorities have suspended food distribution in the border area (Dan Kano and Tan Kama villages) due to security reasons.
- Financial resources remain insufficient.** In 2020, UNHCR and the other actors responding to the Nigerian refugee situation in Niger require 68 million USD to cover both Diffa and Maradi Regions. Concurrent needs in other Nigerien regions strain humanitarian actors' financial resources and hence their capacity to respond.
- Massive flooding hinders movement in the region.** Heavy rains lead to massive flooding, which affected almost 50,000 people in Maradi region: 12 have been killed and 5,399 houses have collapsed. This is the worst destruction caused by the rainy season in the past five years.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

Japan (1,200,000 \$) | Italy (1,102,535.83 \$) | UN Central Emergency Response Fund (2,117,826 \$) | United States of America

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LINKS : [HERE](#)

ANNEX

Operational presence of humanitarian actors in Maradi: April 2020

	Area	Partners
	Shelter & Infrastructures	NRC, APBE
	Livelihood	APBE
	Pacific coexistence	DRC
	WASH	WORLD VISION
	Formal education	NRC
	Environment	APBE
	Health and mental health	APBE
	Community mobilization	APBE
	Protection (Overall & Children)	CIAUD, ANTD, DRC, SAVE THE