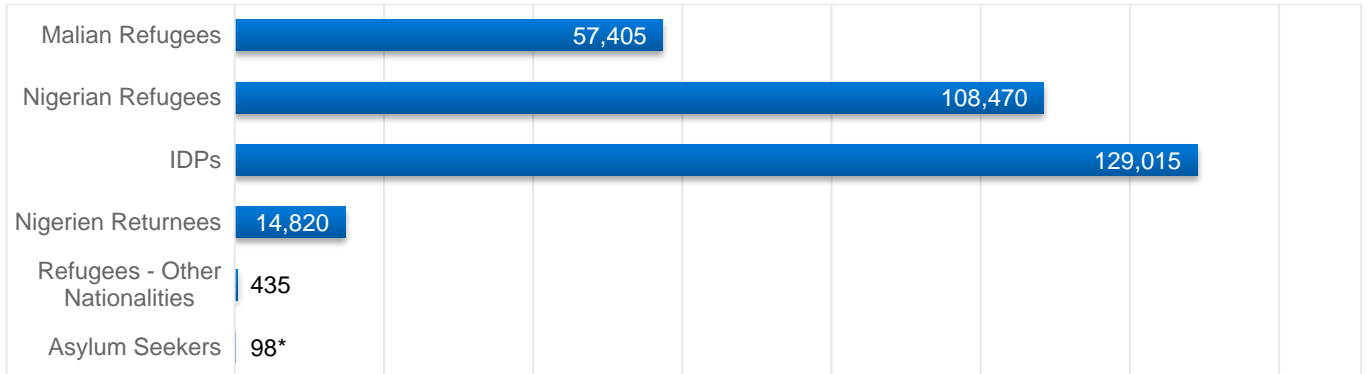


Niger

November 2017

Total of **310,124** Persons of Concern

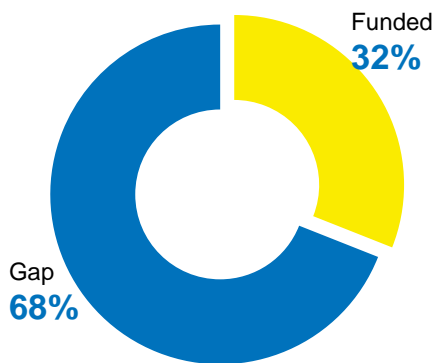


*This is the official figure however does not include those additional potential cases which have been recently referred to the Govt.

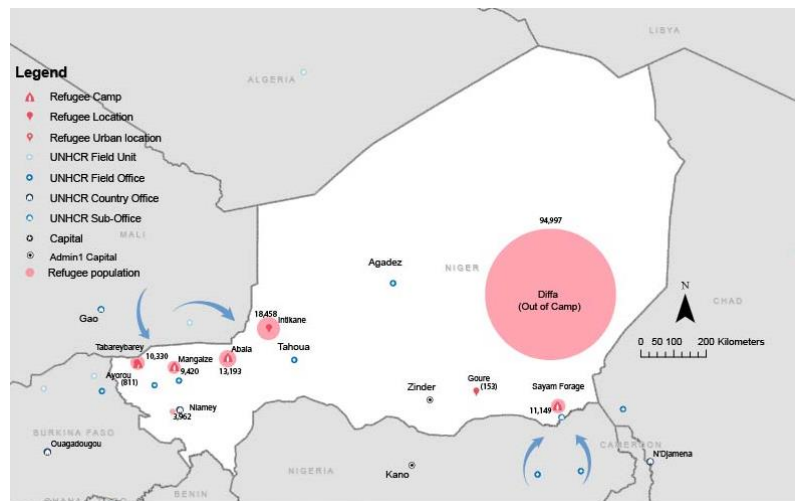
FUNDING (as of 28 November 2017)

USD 85.7 M

requested



Refugee locations



UNHCR Presence

Staff: 125 national, 33 international

Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey; 1 Sub-Office Diffa; 4 Field Offices Abala, Tillabery, Ouallam, Tahoua; 1 Field Unit Agadez

UNHCR Partners

Govt. of Niger, APBE, Adkoul, ACTED / REACH, Care, CISP, COOPI, DRC, Forum Refugies Cosi, Handicap International, IRC, KARKARA, OXFAM, Qatar Red Crescent, Search For Common Ground, SDO, UNAIDS

Context - Background

UNHCR Niger responds to three main situations – the Mali Situation, the Nigeria Situation and the Mixed Migration Situation. Niger has been welcoming refugees from Mali since the outbreak of conflict in 2012, and continues to welcome new arrivals, despite the signature of a Peace Agreement in Algiers in 2015. Insecurity and conflict persist in parts of central and Northern Mali. The majority of Malian refugees are located in 3 camps in the region of Tillabery, others in a refugee hosting area (ZAR) in the region of Tahoua, and the remainder in urban centres in Niamey and Ayorou. There are currently 57,405 Malian refugees registered in Niger.

The region of Diffa in the south east of Niger, in the Lake Chad Basin, has been hosting refugees since 2013, when Boko Haram violence intensified in the North Eastern Regions of Nigeria. In 2015, the conflict in Nigeria crossed the border into Niger, with the first attacks in the Diffa region in February 2015. There are currently over 250,000 displaced persons scattered throughout the region, including 108,470 Nigerian refugees, as well as 129,015 IDPs and 14,820 returnees. UNHCR manages one official camp in the region which hosts less than 12,000 refugees, while the rest choose to remain living in spontaneous sites or amongst the community.

Niger is situated in a geopolitically sensitive area, linking the Sahara desert with the Sahel, and West with Central Africa. The country has developed into a major hub of migratory movements northwards to Algeria, Libya and the shores of the Mediterranean Sea to cross into Europe. With approximately 300,000 people passing through Niger per year (IOM figures 2016), UNHCR estimate that up to 30% of these persons may be potential asylum seekers in need of international protection. UNHCR Niger is working closely with the Government of Niger to improve RSD procedures in country, as well as to identify potential asylum seekers. The aim is to provide protection and durable solutions to the most vulnerable.



Female Malian refugee women display their local products. This year, a Malian refugee won the first prize in the national women's Artisanal Market in Niamey, Niger.

Key Achievements per sector – November 2017

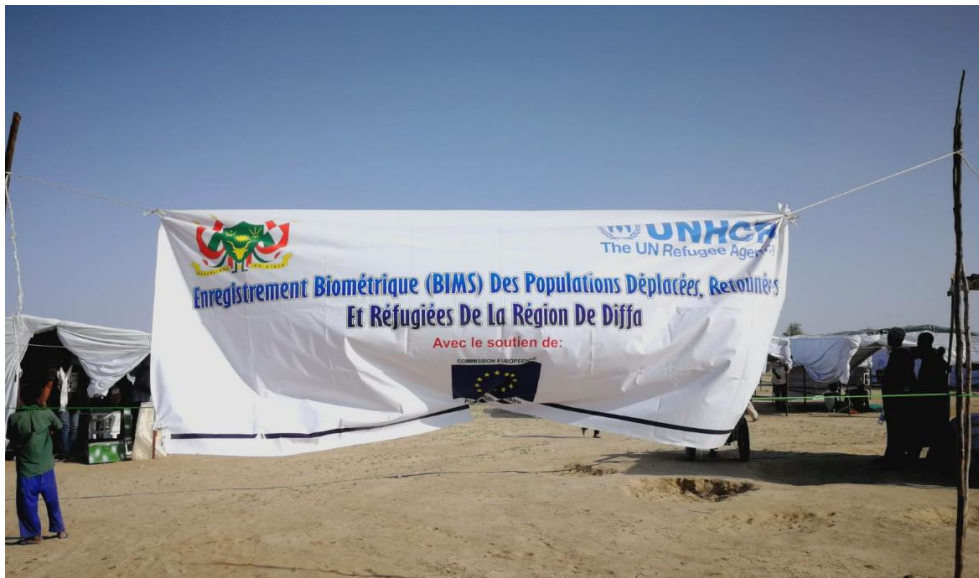
PROTECTION

Nigeria Situation:

- In November, UNHCR supported the partner REACH to complete and end-line survey for the entire Diffa region focused on protection needs, as a follow up to the initial baseline survey completed earlier in the year. The key areas focused on for the purposes of the survey include displacement dynamics, security situation, protection and access to information and to basic services. For more info, click [here](#).
- On the 20th of November, phase 2 of the BIMS registration project was launched in the Diffa region. The implementation team is comprised of three mobile teams working simultaneously in different areas of the region. By the end of November, almost 8,000 displaced persons had been biometrically registered outside of the camps. However this number is expected to increase significantly – the process is ongoing.
- On the 27th of November, CaLP (Cash and Learning Programme) West Africa, facilitated a training on the use of 'cash' as a transversal protection and assistance tool. The training was carried out with the Protection Working Group as well as regional and local authorities, with the objective of examining the possibilities and advantages of the use of cash in the Diffa region.

Mali Situation:

- BIMS registration was completed in Mangaize refugee camp in the region of Tillabery in the month of November. To-date, over 43,000 Malian refugees have been biometrically registered. It is intended to finalize the BIMS process with completion of registration in the remaining camp of Tabareybarey in the next month. This is an essential protection tool in the volatile security context which prevails in the Niger – Mali border area.



Biometric registration of displaced population of the Diffa region – launched in November for the out-of-camp population (UNHCR, I.Abdou)

Mixed Migration Situation:

- In November, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Governments of Niger and Libya, successfully evacuated the first group of 25 refugees from Libya to Niger. This group includes 16 women, 4 children and 5 men. They are accommodated and provided with protection and assistance in Niamey. This is the first of many more evacuations planned in the coming months, which aim to save the lives of the most vulnerable refugees under UNHCR mandate, who have become trapped in desperate conditions in Libya.
- This group were interviewed by the French OFPRA in November. It is hoped that they will be resettled to France before the end of 2017. UNHCR is calling on additional third countries to increase the number of resettlement

—places available. The High Commissioner has called for an additional 40,000 places to respond to the needs in the region.

- In the region of Agadez, UNHCR is expanding its partnership with national and international organizations, to ensure that all of those in need of international protection are identified and referred to the National Commission of Eligibility, and are provided with access to protection and assistance, including psychosocial support. A new partnership to ensure monitoring of population movements along various routes has been finalized. A new international officer has been deployed as full time Head of Office for the Agadez Field Unit.

National

- On the 25th of November, the '16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence' was launched in Niger. Events were held in all regions where UNHCR operates, to spread the message "Leave No One Behind – Unite together to put an end to Gender Based Violence".



UNHCR Niger Representative at the launch event for the 16 Days of Activism campaign to end Gender Based Violence in Niamey, Niger (UNHCR, L. Donovan)



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Mali Situation:

- In November 2017, UNHCR Niger launched a Mobile Money programme for Malian refugees in the camp of Tabareybarey, through a public-private partnership. Mobile money is delivered through multi-purpose cash grants. Refugees can choose how they spend their money and decide for themselves how best to fulfil the basic needs of their families. Cash encourages self-reliance while enabling refugees contribute to the local economy, improving coexistence with the host community. This is an essential component of Niger's 'responsible disengagement' programme.
- In November, SAFEM (*Salon International de l'Artisanat pour la Femme*) held the 10th edition of the women's artisanal market in Niamey. UNHCR has been supporting Malian refugees to continue and improve their artisanal activities since they arrived in Niger. This year, the winner of the first prize in 'vannerie' or traditional weaving, was a Malian refugee. With UNHCR support, Malian artisans have established offices in all of the camps, as well as in Niamey, and have been integrated into all national festivals and programmes by the Niger government.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Nigeria Situation**

- In the Diffa region, UNHCR and the Niger government held a workshop to launch the second phase of the 'Urbanization Project'. This project began in 2015, and to date, has provided legal access to land for over 2,000 households of the most vulnerable population in the region. Phase II, which is funded by the European Union Trust Fund, will see the development of an additional 6,000 land parcels, while 4,000 durable houses will also be constructed. This is a central project in terms of stabilization and solutions, and ensures benefits for the displaced population, as well as enhancing the local economy. It will be implemented over a 3 year project, and goes hand-in-hand with the Governments 'exit strategy' for the Diffa region.

Key Challenges

Mali Situation

The key challenge as regards to the Mali situation is in terms of the security situation. The month of October saw several serious and deadly attacks in the regions bordering with Mali. Major efforts are underway to enhance the security of the camps, and to ensure continued access to persons of concern. Security of staff based in field offices in the region is also a major preoccupation, while discussions on this topic are underway.

In order to ensure the objective of 'responsible disengagement' and closure of the camps by 2019, it is essential that UNHCR and partners obtain adequate funding for structural and longer term investment, ensuring the self-reliance of the refugee population, contributing to peaceful coexistence. UNHCR will also engage in increased protection activities, with the Protection Cluster partners, in the Tillabery region in 2018. Partnerships are currently being finalized.

Nigeria Situation

The unstable security situation in the Diffa region continues to present challenges to the UNHCR team. To ensure the safety of staff, limits on time spent on filed missions have been put in place. Nonetheless, UNHCR continue to maintain access to persons of concern.

The second phase of the BIMS out-of-camp registration of the displaced population in the Diffa region began in November. Thus far it is going well, however challenges remain, which threaten to delay the process. These include in terms of adequate staffing of the widespread registration process, as well as logistical and electrical issues.

Mixed Migration

As noted previously, UNHCR is calling on the international community to provide additional places for resettlement. This includes not only those refugees who are evacuated from Libya, but also other highly vulnerable refugees in Niger. To accommodate the increasing numbers of refugees being evacuated, and while the construction of a durable ETM (Emergency Evacuation Transmit Mechanism) centre is underway, alternative arrangements for accommodation etc. must be found. UNHCR is working closely with the government and various partners to ensure that those arriving from Libya are accommodated in a dignified manner, with access to all basic services and protection. However, for this to continue, it is essential that more governments make spaces available for resettlement.

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