

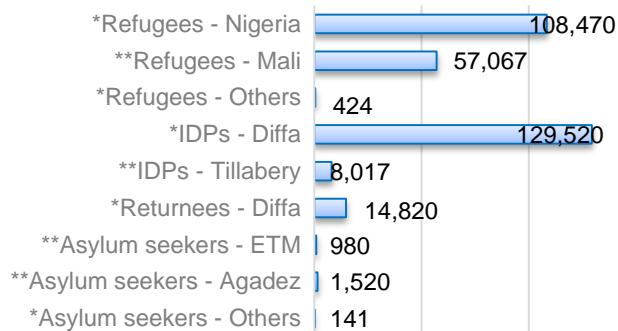
Niger

March 2018



POPULATION OF CONCERN

320,959



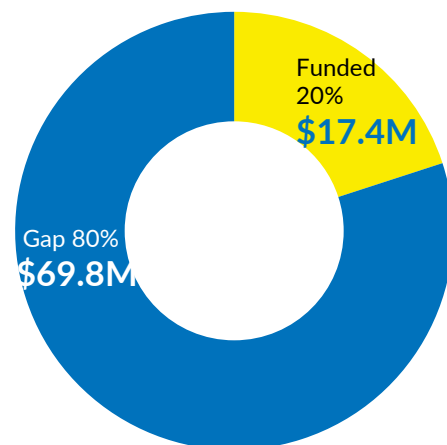
* Government of Niger official figures

** UNHCR figures

FUNDING (AS OF 04 APRIL 2018)

USD \$87.2 M

requested for the Niger Country Operation



KEY FIGURES

1,020

Refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger as part of the ETM from November 2017 – March 2018

1,520

Persons profiled by UNHCR in Agadez seeking asylum

8,017

Persons internally displaced in the Tillabery region



New IDPs arriving in Inates fleeing Timbiga village, Tillabery Region (ANTD)

Operational Context

The month of March illustrates the continuity of the increased complexity in the operational context, and the shift from 3 to 5 key situations. The key situations include:

- 1. The Mali situation:** began in 2012 with the outbreak of conflict in northern Mali. The regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua bordering Mali and hosting the majority of the refugees are increasingly affected by insecurity and terrorism. A State of Emergency was declared last year, and extended for a further 6 months in February 2018. There are currently 57,067 Malian refugees in Niger, as well as over 8,000 IDPs in the region of Tillabéri. UNHCR aims to support the socio-economic integration of these refugees and the closure of the camps by the end of 2019.
- 2. The Nigeria situation:** began in 2013, with the arrival of the first Nigerian refugees across the border. The situation deteriorated with the first attacks in Niger territory in 2015. There are over 250,000 displaced persons in the region (108,470 refugees, 129,015 IDPs and 14,820 returnees – Govt. of Niger, Oct 2017). The majority live in spontaneous sites or with the local population, while UNHCR manages one camp, with 12,194 people.
- 3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** In the Diffa region, the situation is extremely mixed. Efforts are underway to complete biometric registration of all displaced persons, including IDPs, who are often faced with similar protection risks as refugees. However, the IDP situation in Niger has become more complex with increasing insecurity in the region of Tillabéri. In 2018, attacks and insecurity in that area have resulted in the internal displacement of at least 8,017 people for the first time.
- 4. Mixed Migration:** Niger is a major crossroads of migratory movements northwards towards Libya, Algeria and the Mediterranean. These migratory flows constitute mixed migration, including economic migrants and persons in need of international protection. In Agadez, UNHCR works to identify asylum seekers within the migratory flows and works with the government, as well as IOM and NGOs to provide these persons with information and assistance. 1,520 persons, mostly Sudanese, are currently profiled by UNHCR in Agadez, awaiting registration with the government.
- 5. Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM):** This programme aims to provide life-saving assistance and long-term solutions to the most vulnerable refugees trapped in detention in Libya, through evacuation to Niger, which has temporarily extended its asylum space. The aim is to seek durable solutions, including resettlement for these refugees, who are mainly Eritrean, Somali, Ethiopian, Sudanese and South Sudanese. To date, 1,020 people have been evacuated from Libya to Niger. 37 of these refugees have already been resettled to France while an additional 67 are awaiting resettlement to both France and Switzerland in the coming weeks. 2 refugees received humanitarian visas from Switzerland, while 2 unaccompanied children have been reunited with their mother in Sweden, through family reunification. At least 2 more resettlement missions from third countries are expected in the month of April.

Security Situation

The security situation in the regions of **Tahoua** and **Tillabéri** in particular has continued to deteriorate. March once again saw serious clashes between extremist groups south of Menaka in Mali. On the 27th of March, Kodjagabeli forest situated 70kms from Makalondi was occupied by terrorists. It was followed by violent clashes between Burkina Faso defence forces and terrorists. The dispersal of elements of terrorist groups in the north-eastern part of Mali impacts on the areas of Niger bordering Mali, with new areas being affected by terrorism and an increase in criminal attacks. Military operations continue in the North of Tillabéri causing access limitations to some areas located close to the Malian border.

Huge internal displacements have occurred (9-18 of March), affecting 7,477 persons in Inates commune alone. The total estimated number of IDPs in the Tillaberi region has increased in one month from 1,540 to 8,017 and is still ongoing.

In the past weeks, the **Diffa** region saw targeted kidnappings and killings of civilians, most likely perpetrated by Boko Haram (BH). Criminal activities to access primary resources (food, water, medications, and equipment) are reported and also remain likely to continue in the Diffa region. Additionally, BH conducted 2 new offensives in Toumour on March 17th and N'Guel Kolo on March 24th, in which 5 civilians lost their lives. These incidents reflect the precarious security situation in the region.

Key Developments & Achievements



PROTECTION

- A protection analysis, the first step towards the humanitarian country team's (HCT) protection strategy has been validated by the ICC and the HCT in March.
- The strategy on protection dialogue between the Protection Cluster and donors has been finalised ([here](#)) and the first meeting held, which was widely appreciated by the Niger donor community.
- The Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, came on an official visit to Niger (19-24 of March) and met with varied stakeholders at national level, as well as Tillaberi and Diffa regions. She also visited IDPs sites in Diffa and met with newly displaced in Tillaberi region region. [Here](#) is the Communiqué link.
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Nigeria situation

- The BIMS biometric registration of the displaced population in the Diffa region continued in March. A total of 193,475 persons have been registered in the region, 77% of the total number of displaced people as indicated by the Niger government (Oct 2017).
- A total of 33 protection incidents were reported during the month of March. In addition, 16 cases of fire have been reported in the communes of Gueskerou, Mainé Soroa, Chetimari and Nguigmi. Evaluations have been carried out and sectorial responses are being delivered, as well as awareness raising campaigns on the causes of fires and means of prevention.
- An analytical note from monitoring protection on population movements to the islands of Lake Chad was published on the 15 of March by the PWG.
- Following the March 22, 2018 attack on the Toumour site by non-state armed groups, a forced movement of 280 households to the Kintchandi site in Gueskerou commune was observed. These are refugees, IDPs and returnees.
- SGBV sensitisation continued to be organised as a priority in the Diffa region. 60 more people from community based protection structures were trained on prevention and response in March.

Mali situation

- Incursions of armed bandits along the border between Niger and Mali continues to be reported.
- The G5 Sahel, and other military exercises, which will be undertaken during the month of April, could create panic among the border population and could cause increased internal displacement.
- The February protection monitoring report in the region of Tillaberi has been published ([here](#)). It should be noted that most of the localities located in the northern band are inaccessible to humanitarian for security reasons with very important protection implications.
- The Age Gender Diversity Monitoring (AGDM) activity was carried out in Intikane ZAR in Tahoua region, as well as the camps in Tillaberi region. This is organised every year by UNHCR and its partners and allows a needs assessment of refugees/host populations, which consists of collecting needs by priorities according to the themes proposed.

IDP situation in Tillabery region

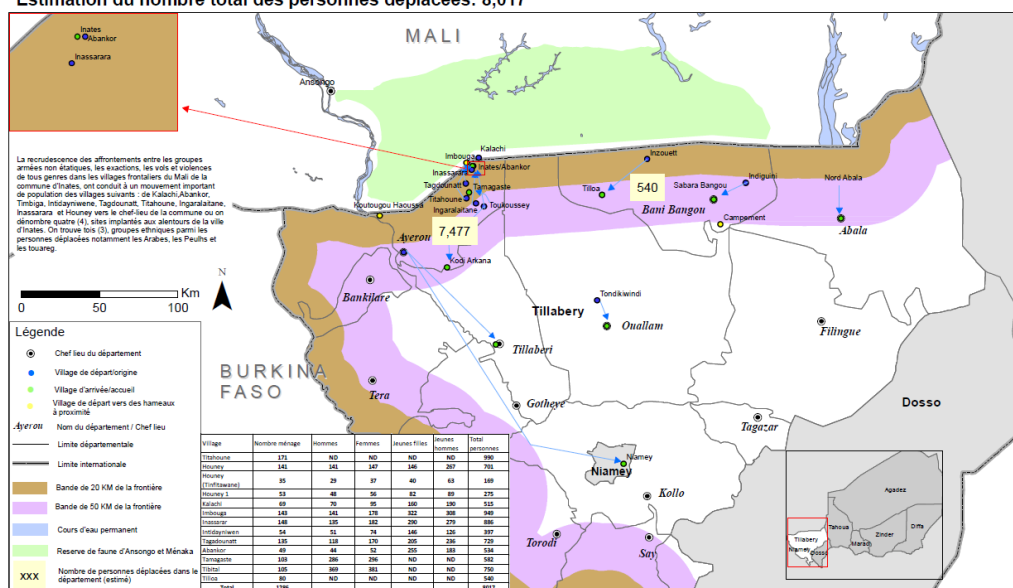
- Massive internal population displacement was reported in the period from the 9-18th March in the Inates commune (Tillabery) concerning 440 households and 7,477 people, while the overall number of IDPs in the region is currently estimated at 8,017.
- A monitoring mission was conducted in Inates from the 16-18th March through ANTD (*Association Nigérienne pour le traitement de la délinquance et la prévention du crime*) and the protection focal points. It was aimed at verifying the population movements underway in the area during the previous days and also making a diagnosis of the protection risks and problems faced by the displaced populations.
- The displaced population settled two kilometers from the city of Inates on four sites divided according to the different ethnic groups. The targeting for assistance has been completed and lifesaving assistance will be distributed in April through a joint collaborative multi sectorial approach.

Tillabery: Mouvements internes des populations signalés dans la région

(Mise à jour du 26 mars 2018)



Estimation du nombre total des personnes déplacées: 8,017



Mixed Migration situation

- In the region of Agadez, 1,520 asylum seekers have been biometrically registered by UNHCR (as of 23rd of March). The registration exercise reveals that 90% of these people are Sudanese, mainly from Darfur.
- UNHCR met with Médecins Du Monde (MDM) Belgique on the 21st of March to discuss health and hygiene issues of the Sudanese people in the "hébergement solidaire"; a meeting with UNICEF was also held on the 20th to address specific children's needs and problems.
- The "hébergement solidaire" is a site which has been set up by UNHCR and partners to facilitate to the basic humanitarian needs of those seeking asylum, including food, shelter, hygiene and healthcare. The most vulnerable asylum seekers are accommodated in UNHCR 'case de passage' or guesthouses in Agadez.
- A protection team meeting was held on the 22nd involving all actors in this complex situation to develop a common advocacy message towards the authorities regarding the status of these Sudanese.
- UNHCR Niger and Chad are still working to provide appropriate solutions to those refugees already registered in refugee camps in Chad.
- 340 persons were deported from Algeria to Niger in March. There were no Nigeriens amongst them. According to the Regional Council of Agadez, the total number of individuals deported between December 2016 and March 2018 amounts to more than 5,867 individuals.
- UNHCR is deeply concerned about reports of indiscriminate deportations of foreign nationals from Algeria in unsafe and undignified conditions and without due process.

Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM)

- The resettlement of refugees evacuated from Libya to Niger is part of UNHCR's overall resettlement programme. Refugees who were already present in Niger and deemed to require resettlement as a solution, are also included in the programme.
- No new evacuation flights from Lybia were organised in March, while the flights have been put on pause, awaiting the departure of refugees for resettlement to third countries. It is hoped that they will recommence in April.
- In March, 12 new refugees were resettled in France, bringing the total number to 37, while an additional 67 are awaiting resettlement to both France and Switzerland in April. 2 refugees received humanitarian visas from Switzerland, while 2 unaccompanied children have been reunited with their mother in Sweden, through family reunification.
- UNHCR has received a total of 2,483 resettlement pledges for refugees in Niger from 2018 – 2019 from the following countries: France, Switzerland, Sweden, UK, Netherlands, Finland and Germany.
- However, just 53 places for unaccompanied minors have been pledged. This is a major challenge, while unaccompanied children are amongst the most vulnerable group present in Niger.



EDUCATION

Nigeria situation

- Community mobilization for access of refugee and displaced children to school was carried out through 4 awareness campaigns by the student council of the Bosso commune in the Diffa region.
- To facilitate access to clean drinking water for students, over 1.200 water flasks were provided to the two primary schools of the Sayam Forage camp.
- Capacity building training for teachers on the detection of distress signs and the development of a protection case report card and its provision to schools for monitoring was carried out in the month of March.
- Efforts to improve the operationalization of the e-learning platform as part of the Distance Education Programme to ensure the maintenance of educational services in distance education centers were made, in response to one of NECO's recommendations on Learning Center standards and procedures.

Mali Situation

- The February protection monitoring report highlights the education issues to be solved with the support of the Education Working Group, which has listed priority action points.
- In the Intikane ZAR, kits were donated to the Child Friendly Space at the school and a sport kit at the Telemces College, in line with the UNHCR / Regional Directorate for Secondary Education partnership.



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Nigeria situation

- As part of a programme to combat HIV / AIDS in the Diffa region, 464 people were sensitized in March in the Sayam Forage camp. Additionally, 129 women who visited the health centre for prenatal consultations were also all screened for HIV / AIDS. To date in the camp, 34 people who tested positive for HIV are receiving treatment.

Mali situation

- In Intikane ZAR, the support continues to the local Integrated Health Centre in terms of kits for pregnant women, to encourage assisted births rather than home births, as well as through the donation of a new ambulance and the rehabilitation of hospital and nutrition hangars.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Nigeria situation**

- In the context of the Urbanization project, the multifunctional center for the production of bricks is being built, while the recruitment of trainers under the supervision of the Mayor and local leaders was carried out during this period. The goal is for communities to benefit from this transfer of technology for the use of the Hydraform machine that will facilitate the production of bricks for the construction of social houses for the benefit of displaced populations.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Nigeria situation**

- The authorization of the Société de Patrimoine des Eaux du Niger (SPEN) for the construction of 12 public water points and the extension of the drinking water distribution networks of the - Société d'Exploitation des Eaux du Niger (SEEN) were granted for the urbanized sites of Diffa and Nguigmi.

Key Challenges**Mali situation**

- The key challenge as regards to the Mali situation is the increasing insecurity, armed attacks and subsequent restrictions on movement, including humanitarian actors. To the 31 of March, over 10,000 persons have been internally displaced. The insecurity and internal displacement risks will be even higher in April in light of the upcoming military movements and the absence of a protection strategy within the G5 Sahel. The Protection Cluster is strongly advocating for the inclusion of this strategy.

Nigeria situation

- The key challenge which will be faced in the region of Diffa for the coming months is the renewed military actions of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), code named Amni Farkhat, aimed at eradicating Boko Haram. This military operation involves countries in Lake Chad Basin including Niger and Nigeria. This will affect population movements, and could possibly bring new refugees to Niger.

IDP situation

- Regarding the deterioration of the security situation in the Tillaberi region, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on IDPs to Niger, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, recommends the establishment of a multidisciplinary team, which can support the Government, and provide technical assistance, so as to ensure an adequate response to the displacement situation prevailing in that area. Currently, the emergency is severely underfunded.

Mixed Migration

- In the Agadez region, 90% of the asylum seekers are Sudanese; UNHCR has finished the BIMS registration for 1,520 people. The main challenge now is to work with the Government to enable these people to seek asylum in Niger, or to find other adequate solutions. Many of them have specific needs that must be addressed (children, disabilities, single parents, etc.).

Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism

- As regards to those refugees evacuated from Libya, the key challenge identified is in terms of improving the fluidity of the process of departures for resettlement.
- The situation for refugees under 18 should be prioritised by resettlement countries as there have been very few pledges for the resettlement of unaccompanied children.
- The lack of information for these unaccompanied children results in their growing anxiety while waiting in Niger.
- The recrudescence of incidents in the guesthouses reflect the impatience of the PoCs facing the heaviness of the resettlement process.

UNHCR Presence in Niger

Staff: 150 national, 120*international

Offices: 1 Head Office Niamey, 2 Sub-Offices Diffa and Agadez; 2 Field Offices Tillaberi and Tahoua; 2 Field Unites Abala and Ouallam

**this includes international consultants and affiliate workforce*

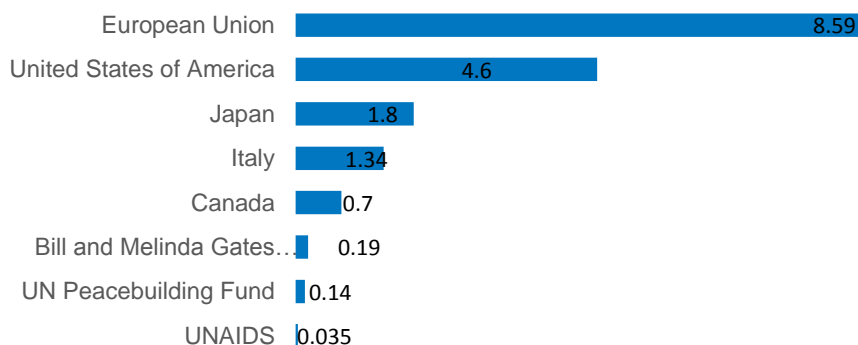
Partners

Govt. of Niger, ACTED/REACH, Adkoul, APBE, Care, CISP, COOPI, DRC, Forum Refugie Cosi, HI, IRC, KARKARA, OXFAM, QRC, SFCG, SDO, UNAIDS

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 17.4 million**,

Funding received (in million USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

United States of America (124 M) | Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Priv Donors Spain (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Italy (11 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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