

Security Context

- On the 2nd of July, a group of suspected insurgents attacked the village of N'Gelewa, around 10km from Kablewa, where they murdered 9 men, and kidnapped 37 people (24 women and 13 children).
- A total of 12 other incidents were reported throughout the month including: 5 arrests of suspected members of the insurgent group and the robbery of 2million naira from a trader.
- The 6 other incidents were carried out by suspected members of the insurgent group, including the murder of 5 people and the burning of houses in Dagaya, the robbery of a herd of 200 livestock and the murder of a herder in Nuigmi, the torture and robbery of the population of the village on Ngarwa on the 21st of July, and the kidnapping of a Nigerian refugee who was later released for ransom in Elhadji Mainari. In addition to these incident, firearms were discovered in the commune of Maine Soroa.
- Due to this climate of insecurity, on the 18th of July, the FDS carried out a widespread security operation to secure public spaces including the bus station and the market. Almost 300 people were arrested due to a lack of identity documentation.
- However the FDS themselves also pose a risk in terms of collateral damage. It is reported that 14 people were accidentally killed in June, while two more were accidentally killed by missiles on the 25th of July.
- This resurgence of criminal acts hinders the re-establishment of income generating activities in the region.

Protection

Protection Monitoring

- The insecure situation in the Diffa region has resulted in the displacement of at least 7,000 people (1,377 households) across the border to the Baga Sola region in Chad. UNHCR Niger and Chad are working together closely to respond to the situation, to identify and profile the new arrivals, and to implicate the national authorities.
- The number of protection incidents increased from 52 in June to 77 in July. 28 arrests were reported in Kablewa, Maine Soroa, Bosso and N'Guigmi, as well as 11 robberies and 7 cases of physical aggressions amongst the population in Gueskerou, as well as 13 cases of SGBV which were reported.
- Additionally, 6 cases of intercommunal tension were reported between host, refugee and IDP populations over access to water and illegal occupation of agricultural land, as well as ethnic stigmatization in the commune of N'Guigmi.
- The communes most affected by incidents include Kablewa, Gueskerou and Maine Soroa.

Protection Coordination

- Following the increasing number of attacks and protection incidents since the month of June, the humanitarian community carried out a multisectoral evaluation of the new site identified by the authorities to replace Kablewa IDP camp, as well as at various sites on the RN1. These have shown a worrying situation, in particular for PWSN. The protection risks have increased, including exploitation SGBV, family separation for children and lack of access to humanitarian assistance. For the newly displaced population of Kablewa, the risk of stigmatization by the host population is high, as they fear infiltration of members of the insurgent group. In response, the protection working group prepared an Advocacy Note for the authorities, donors, and partners regarding the dangers faced by this population.
- In July, the PWG / REACH/ UNHCR 'Protection Baseline Evaluation' for the Diffa region was published (available at: <http://diffa-forced-displacement.info/>). Additionally, based on the results, 22 individual factsheets were created.
- 2 maps created with the support of REACH showing the protection intervention and presence of actors, have been updated, based on the 6W matrix.
- The PWG have updated a document of harmonised key protection messages. For the month of July, the key messages focus on peaceful coexistence, prevention of fires and SGBV.
- SOPs on information sharing amongst the members of the PWG were signed in Diffa in July.

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Population Movements

- The population of the camp of Kablewa (over 16,000) fled following the June attack. Similarly the population of Ngelewa also fled following the attack on the 2nd of June. Most of these displaced population are currently in spontaneous sites close to Kablewa and in the commune of N'Guigmi.
- Arrivals from Kangarwa, Nigeria: 190 households of 894 Peulh individuals, and 18 Arab households.
- Arrivals from Chad: 350 households arrived at Balle, Djakimeya and Tchoungoua coming from Tchoukou Talia, Baga Sola and Dar es Salam camp in Chad.
- Departures to Nigeria: Just approximately 50 households returned to Nigeria, mainly due to insecurity and threat.
- Departures to Chad: A total of 1,337 households of left for Baga Sola in Chad in the month of July.

SGBV : Prevention and Response

- In the month of July, 13 cases of SGBV were reported (1 case of rape, 4 of psychological violence, 1 denial of resources, 4 of physical aggression, 1 of sexual aggression and 1 child marriage). 6 survivors received kits, while 3 received legal assistance.
- In terms of prevention, an evaluation of the risk of the practice of survival sex was carried out in the zone of N'Guigmi by the SGBV Sub WG. 3 WG meetings were held in July in order to finalize the validation of the SOPs for SGV, the Plan of Action and the Capacity Development Strategy for SGBV actors in the Diffa region.

Community Based Protection

- During the month of July, the Protection section carried out internal consultations regarding the establishment of SOPs for the identification, referral and monitoring of the support provided to persons with specific needs (PWSN) in Sayam Forage camp. The SOPs include direction on responsibilities of various actors, including the community, in an approach to seek community based solutions for PWSN.

Statelessness

- During the period in review, 2,728 children at risk were identified, including 1,340 girls and 1,388 boys in the camp. Additionally 227 birth certs were distributed to 113 girls and 114 boys in Sayam Forage.
- Mobile court sessions were organised in the commune of Maine Soroa which enabled the distribution of 180 birth certificates (98 girls and 82 boys) at the Tam site.

Resettlement:

- UNHCR, with partners IRC and APBE carried out an identification of persons in need of resettlement, with the aim of presenting their files for the resettlement panel. Existing cases were monitored and files updated. 8 cases were discussed between the Diffa and Niamey offices, and will be decided upon in the coming weeks.

Durable Solutions

- In response to needs identified at the site in Goure hosting Chadian refugees (Zinder region) awaiting naturalization, a mission was undertaken to identify appropriate services in July. The capacities of local health centres were evaluated. Information was collected regarding education needs, in order to provide adequate scholarship support, while transitional shelters were delivered. Local professional training centres were visited during the mission.

Legal Assistance

- In the month of July, The Diffa Office signed a tripartite agreement between UNHCR, the Governorate of Diffa and the Court of Highest Instance in Diffa, to improve access of refugees and IDPs to justice services in the region, and to strengthen capacities of state and humanitarian actors in relation to criminal and civil procedures in place in Niger.
- Following the signature of the Agreement, a training workshop financed by UNHCR was organised in the Diffa court from 24 – 29 of July, for members of the National Agency for Judicial and Legal Assistance (ANAJJ), legal clerks and social workers, on legal assistance for vulnerable groups in the Diffa region. The training was delivered by Judges, and enabled a better understanding of all elements of criminal and civil procedures.
- UNHCR presented the mandate of the organisation, the persons of concern to the organisation and the rights and responsibilities, in collaboration with the justice services.
- The Protection unit continued regular prison visits to identify persons relevant to the UNHCR mandate and to offer them assistance. 2 people were freed in July. Additionally, hygiene kits were provided to female refugees and IDPs in the Diffa prison.

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Child Protection

- In July, a needs evaluation in terms of risks of exploitation and abuse of children following recent population movements was completed in the sites of Kindjandi and Garin Wanzam, where children are highly exposed to risk of exploitation and abuse during the collection of wood and water. Many cases of child marriage were recorded. The results of the evaluation will inform a plan of action to be developed for children and parents to strengthen child protection.

Registration and Documentation

- During the month of July, a total of 436 new arrivals were registered in Sayam Forage camp. This is a reduction from the number registered in June (600). This brings the total population of the camp to 11,940 – including 11,224 Nigerian refugees, 659 returnees and 59 persons of other nationalities.



Health & Nutrition

- The number of cases of Hepatitis E reported in the Diffa region has increased further from 1,113 at the end of June to 1,469 at the end of July, with a total of 38 deaths reported, and thus a lethality rate of 2.58%. Additionally, 2 cases of meningitis and 25 cases of measles were also reported during the month of July. In the camp of Sayam Forage, 22 cases were reported, showing a significant regression of 33%. This brings the total number of suspect cases reported in the camp since January to 112.
- The global mortality rate between January and July is 0.26% in Sayam Forage.
- In terms of reproductive health, 62 pregnant women had prenatal consultations for the first time. All were screened for HIV and provided with mineral supplements. 20 assisted births were carried out, and 5 emergency births evacuated to Diffa.
- A total of 259 children were vaccinated as part of the expanded vaccination campaign. 34 were vaccinated against measles.
- 248 children were provided with nutritional support through the nutrition programme, and 103 recovered fully. However, it has been noted that some refugees are selling nutrition rations, which means children must remain in the programme for longer. This is being addressed.



Education

- The construction of 3 additional classrooms for the new Distance Education centre in Sayam Forage has been completed. They will be officially opened in August.



WASH

- The quantity of water available per person (based on the latest population statistics – including those not yet registered in the transit centre), has dropped to 10l/p/d, well below the required standard. The gap is theoretically 112m3 per day. This is due to lower consumption due to the season, but also the absence of up to 200 households from the camp. No long waiting periods at water points have been reported. Works on water provision systems in the camp and local village are progressing well.
- As regards to sanitation and hygiene facilities, the gap has reduced from 260 to 200, with the construction of 60/100 family latrines by ACTED. It has been recommended that refugees are involved in this construction process. The gap for showers is just 63. Mass sensitization on good hygiene practices was carried out in the camp, benefitting 2,574 people (1,340 women, 1,012 men and 222 children).

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Shelter & NFI

- In the camp of Sayam Forage, 175 emergency shelter kits were distributed for new arrivals in July. Outside of the camp, 400 households in Guidan Kadji (Maine Soroa) were provided with shelters, including the blind community in the town. Distribution of an additional 1,000 emergency shelters was ongoing in N'Gagam Baroua at the end of July.
- 500 transitional shelters are now available in the camp. The remainder will be constructed in August. 15 transitional shelters were provided to Chadian refugees in Goure, while awaiting the construction of durable housing. 10 more are currently being prepared.
- In the communes of Toumour and Diffa, the work on the 'lotissement' of 50 hectares for 1,000 households and 100 hectares for 2,000 households is at the phase of the production of communal plans, with the partner CISP.
- The construction of a base for the staff working in Sayam Forage has begun.
- The REACH evaluation on Shelter and Needs Assessment was completed and presented to the Working Group in July. In addition to the evaluation, 5 maps and a database were also created. All are available on the REACH Resources Niger page.

Access to Energy

- In the month of July, 1,250 new gas bottles were distributed in the communes of Maine Soroa and Goudoumaria. This is of a total of 5,000 to be distributed in the next month.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- Following the security incident at Kablewa camp in June, the technical team for site management project participated in the field evaluation missions (MSAs, PWG mission etc.). The camp of Kablewa, as well as the other sites on the Diffa – Gueskerou axis (Kindjandi, Garin Wanzam and Garin Dogo) were evaluated to understand the population movement patterns.
- To launch the next phase of the project, a capacity development workshop was held for the personnel of the NGOs involved, from the 18 – 20 July where 18 individuals participated.