

June - July 2021

+ 32,000 internally displaced persons relocated to their villages of origins

As of July 31st, the Diffa region hosts **243,148* Nigerian refugees, internally displaced persons, and Nigerian returnees.** More than 80% of them live in **spontaneous settlements.**

In June 2021, Nigerien authorities have committed to facilitate the return of all IDPs. **As of July 31st, 5,987 households of 32,201 persons have returned to their villages of origin.**

The security situation has a negative impact on the economy of the region, **reducing opportunities for both host and forced displaced populations.**

KEY INDICATORS

228,850

Persons of concern registered biometrically in UNHCR database. These include refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and internally displaced persons.

6,547

Households of 31,029 refugees and returnees registered in Sayam Forage Camp as of 31st July 2021.

3,233

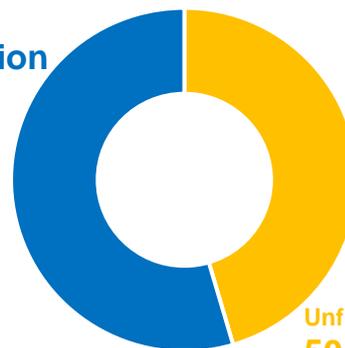
Houses built in Diffa region as of 31st July 2021.

FUNDING (AS OF 17 AUGUST 2021)

USD 110.7 Million

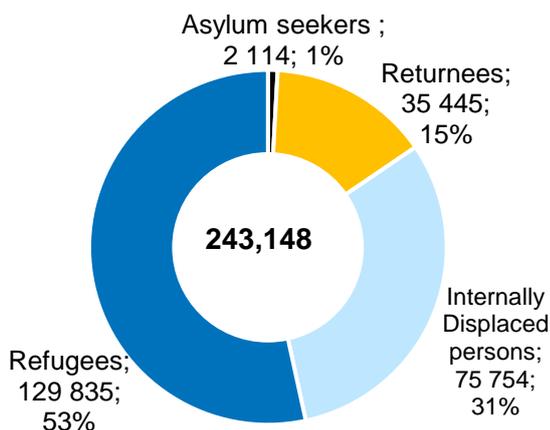
requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 55%
60.46 Million



Unfunded 45%
50.24

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN DIFFA
(GOVERNMENT FIGURES AS OF 31ST JULY 2021)



Nigerian refugee in training at the Diffa Trade Training Centre. © UNHCR

Operational Strategy

- **Ensure institutional resilience** through capacity development and support to the authorities (locally elected and administrative authorities) in the framework of the Niger decentralization process.
- **Strengthen the out of camp policy** around the urbanisation program through sustainable interventions and dynamic partnerships including with the World Bank. Ensure a coordinated and high-quality **protection response** and maintain an **emergency response capacity**.

Operational Context

The Diffa region has been hosting Nigerian refugees fleeing terrorist violence in the northern states of Nigeria since 2013. In the wake of the first attacks on the Niger territory in 2015, the situation has dramatically deteriorated. In May 2015, the Nigerien authorities decided to evacuate the population living in the region of Lake Chad Islands towards an internally displaced camp in Kablewa, which was closed in July 2017 following bombing attack in the camp and recurrent insecurity.

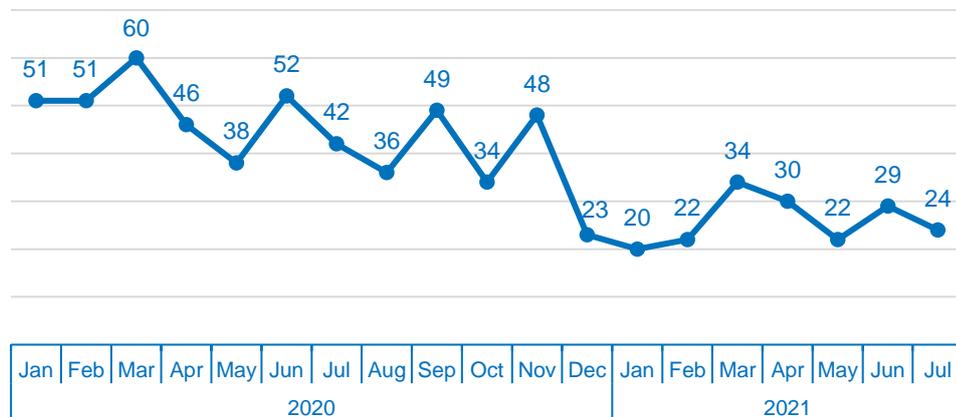
The organized return of IDPs to their villages of origin explains the decrease in the number of IDPs in Diffa. As of June 2021, Nigerien authorities have committed to facilitate the return in villages of origin of all IDPs. **As of July 31; 5,987 households of 32,201 persons have returned in 17 villages of origin, bringing the total number of IDPs in the region to 68,263 households of 243,148 individuals.**

The security situation continued to be characterized by attacks against military positions, kidnappings against ransom, and targeted killings. Insurgent movements are regularly reported in Niger and Nigerian Territory, in border areas of the vicinity of the Nigerien's communes of Gueskerou, Diffa, Chetimari and Maine-Soroa.

Update on Achievements

Protection situation

- As of July 31st, the Sayam Forage Camp was hosting a population of **31,026 persons, including 26,686 refugees: 4,136 Nigerien returnees and 204 asylum seekers**. Refugees are mainly originating from Damasak and Geidam in Nigeria. As of, the Sayam Forage camp's population **was** UNHCR and its partners also facilitated the relocation of 177 households of 863 Nigerian refugees from Chétimari following recent attacks in Damasak.
- UNHCR's protection monitoring teams have reported **51 protection incidents** during the reporting period, among which 18 cases of kidnapping, 10 cases of murder, 9 cases of physical assault, 5 cases of extortion of property, 5 cases of arbitrary arrest, 2 cases of hijacking and a case of forced /early marriage.
- From May to June 2021, a significant population movement was reported in the localities of Djagada, Kiméra, Kournakam, Bileya and Brimana in the communes of N'guimi and Kablewa. the Regional Directorate of Civil Status, Refugees and Migration (DGEC-RM) / Ministry of Interior) responsible for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) have identified and documented **664 households of 3,367 individuals** from Kouttou, Tchassala, Larry and Toumour. These will be included in forced displaced population to facilitate them access to protection and assistance.

Evolution of Protection incidents in the Diffa region from Jan 2020 to Jul 2021


- Following a population movement reported in the commune of N'guigmi from Chad, nigerien local authorities conducted a registration mission to determine their legal status in order to initiate their registration. **A total of 120 households of 312 persons** were identified and registered into the ProGres database while awaiting for the biometric registration.

Protection response

- In July, UNHCR and other protection actors continued to improve the **coordination mechanism and the quality of the response**, through an improved involvement of the community and the creation of a more effective referral mechanism. UNHCR has conducted interviews for resettlement and profiling.
- Local authorities with the support of UNHCR provided **247 refugee attestations, and 252 refugee identity cards** to Nigerian refugees whose documents were expired or lost, as well as to new arrivals in the refugee camp of Sayam forage. **157 other refugees have received the proof of their registration**.
- From June to July 2021, for civil documentation purposes, UNHCR submitted 6,917 declaratory judgments to the High court of Diffa and to the courts of N'guigmi and Mainé-Soroa. UNHCR afterward collected and delivered 2,218 birth certificates based on the declaratory judgment to beneficiaries living in the sites of Charré, N'Guelmadou Mai, Charré, Djori Koulo, Awaridi, Dilléram, N'guigmi, Diffa neighborhoods, and Sayam Forage camp.
- In June, local authorities with the support of UNHCR delivered 193 birth certificates to 92 girls and 101 boys residing at Sayam Forage camp. UNHCR and its partners continue to raise awareness on civil documentation (declaration of births and other civil acts) as prevention of risks of statelessness.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners have identified **42 new child protection cases** affecting 29 refugees, 9 internally displaced persons, 1 returnee and 3 kids from the host community in the sites of Djori Koulo, Grain Wanzam, Sabon, Gari, and the cities of Mainé-Soroa, Diffa, N'guigmi and the Sayam Forage camp. All cases have been documented and benefited from psychosocial support. Awareness raising sessions were conducted on child protection related issues, including gender-based violence, family separation, child neglect, and exploitation, reaching 600 individuals in Mainé-Soroa and the Sayam forage refugee camp.
- **73 new gender-based violence cases** were identified and documented during the reporting period at the refugee camp of Sayam Forage, and in 10 other sites. **100% of documented cases benefited from psychosocial** support and the cases requiring specific care have been referred to partners.
- Awareness raising activities were conducted on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) issues such as early and forced marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, rape, physical assault, and domestic violence, **reaching some 1,000 persons** in the Sayam Forage refugee camp and other in the sites of Djori

Koulo, Awaridi, N'Guel Madou Mai, as well as the towns of Mainé-Soroa, N'guiguimi and Diffa.

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its implementing partners identified and documented **92 persons living with specific needs** in Diffa region including the refugee camp of Sayam Forage.
- UNHCR distributed non-food kits constituted of clothes, shoes, lamps and soap to 25 persons living with specific needs relocated to Sayam Forage camp. **Shelter**
- The innovative **EU-funded program** on urbanization simultaneously ensures **legal access to land for social housing for refugees** and vulnerable host households, while **revitalising the local economy** which has been deeply affected by the terrorist group conflict in the region. To date, **3,233 sustainable houses** for the most vulnerable families have been built, while 523 are under construction; 5,817 jobs were created, 2,564 persons were trained in the construction, and more than 50,263 persons got a better access to water in 5 districts (Assaga, Diffa, Chetimari, Mainé-soroa and N'guiguimi).
- In response to damages caused by a tornado that hit Sayam Forage camp during the rain of July 5, UNHCR distributed **emergency shelters to 540 affected households** recently relocated or those who were living in the area. UNHCR assisted **239 households in Sayam Forage camp with construction kits** (plastic sheeting, square tubes, doors, and windows) to support the beneficiaries to reinforce their houses in banco during the rainy season.

Health

- **4,259 persons benefited from medical consultations**, among which 60 cases with critical conditions were referred to the regional hospital of Diffa.
- **2,470 Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees** aged 18 years or older received the COVID-19 vaccine in Sayam Forage camp.

Education

- As of 30 June, 545 Nigerians refugees students 108 girls including were attending secondary school education in the five e-classes in the region.

WASH

- 31,026 persons had access to potable water produced by three pumping stations built by UNHCR at the Sayam Forage camp, with an average consumption of 12 litres / person / day. More than 6,000 individuals were reached out on hygiene, sanitation promotion, malaria prevention and the COVID-19 prevention measures sensitizations.

Main Challenges

- The hosting areas are generally poorly equipped. Structural but costly infrastructural investments in irrigation, water supply and electricity are required to enable the population to develop income generating activities.
- The Niger public services are highly dependent on humanitarian actors, which creates a risk of a sharp deterioration in living conditions for the population in case of a funding shortfall.
- Irregular access for humanitarian actors due to the security situation and military operation.
- A worsening security situation generates new major displacements and secondary movements; possible movements of Nigerian refugees back towards Nigeria might also occur.
- Recurrent flooding of the Komadougou river force refugees to make a secondary displacement toward the Sayam Forage camp.

Financial Information

Special thanks to the donors who have participated to UNHCR's response in Diffa

European Union

Donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response in Niger¹

African Development Bank Group | Canada | Education Cannot Wait | France | European Union | Germany | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Spain | United States of America | Other Private Donors

Other softly earmarked contributions²

United States of America 33 million | Germany 17.7 million | Private donors Austria 6.2 million | Canada 5.6 million | Private donors Germany 3.1 million | Japan 2.9 million | France 2.8 million

Holy See | Iceland | Luxemburg | Malta | Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions³

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 49.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Private donors Japan 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Private donors Italy 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.6 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

1. Contributions to Niger are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
2. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Niger. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
3. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

External / Donor Relations

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