

August 2021

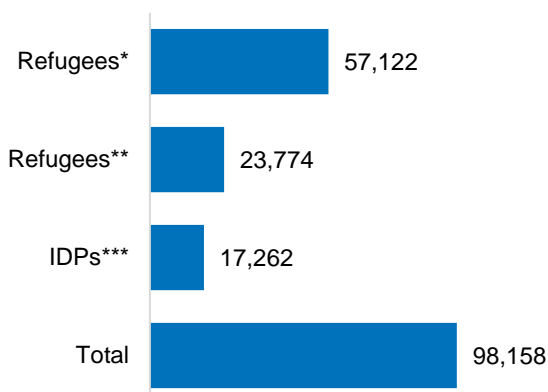
+ 10,000 new arrivals seeking asylum settled in 3 villages of the department of Guidan Roumdji during the first week of August 2021

Non-state armed groups killings, looting and kidnapping in Nigeria's North-Western States have forced more than **80,000 people** to flee in Maradi region, Niger, over the past two years.

In September 2019, **UNHCR opened a sub-office in Maradi** to coordinate, assistance provision, including registration, protection, health, housing, access to WASH services and education.

The key UNHCR's response is the relocation of refugees in villages of opportunity, away from the border, to ensure their safety. **17,041 refugees have been relocated so far.**

POPULATION OF CONCERN IN MARADI (AS OF 21ST JUNE 2021)



*Biometrically registered refugees

**Non-biometrically registered refugees

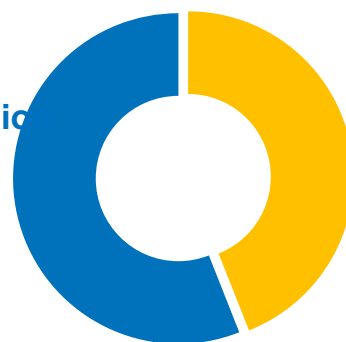
***Internally displaced persons

FUNDING (AS OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2021)

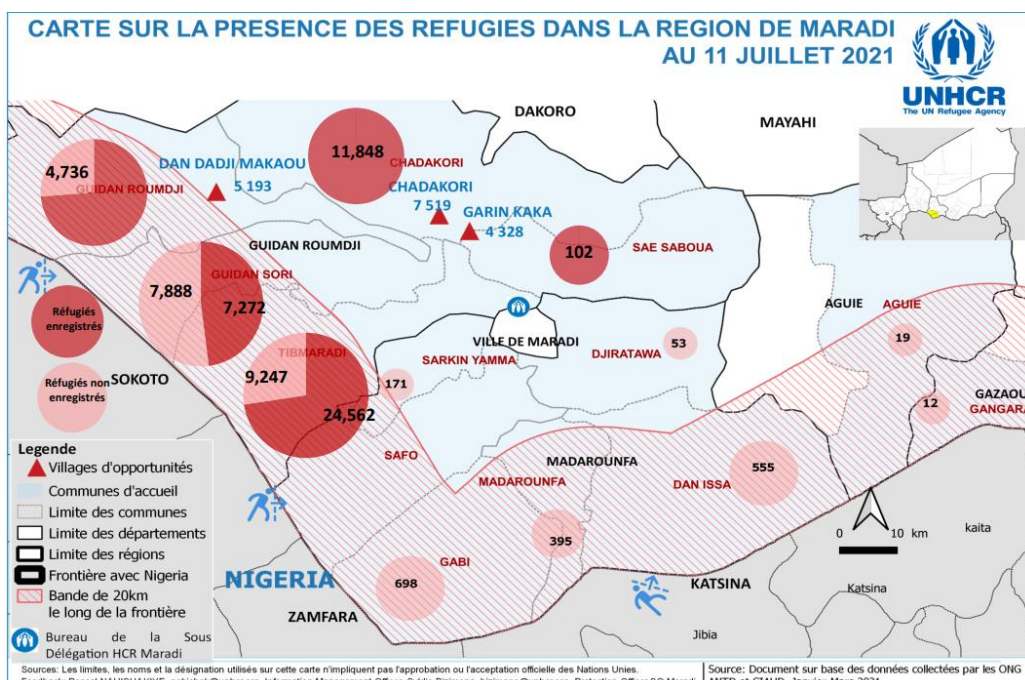
USD 110.7 million

requested for the UNHCR Niger Operation

Funded 56%
62.01 Million



Unfunded 44%
48.69



Operational context and strategy

For more than two years, non-state armed groups (NSAG) activism in Nigeria northwest states has forced more than 80,000 Nigerians to flee to Maradi region in Niger. In addition, repeated intrusions of armed bandits, on Nigerian territory have triggered the internal displacement of some 26,000 people.

Threats of organized crime in Niger villages, bordering the states of Zamfara, Sokoto, and Katsina in north western Nigeria characterize the security context in Maradi region. Armed criminal gangs operate regularly on both sides of the border mainly targeting farmers and breeders and kidnapping for ransom. Security measures have been strengthened along the border with the deployment since January 2021 of **the military operation 'farota bouchi'** in the departments of Guidan Roumdji and Madaroumfa in the southwest of the region. However, regular incursions have resulted in deaths and gunshot injuries of both civilians and the defense and security forces during pursuits and caused population movements.

UNHCR response in Maradi focuses on the relocation of refugees away from the border to ensure their security and ease the pressure on host communities. Refugee sites have been built nearby rural villages. Services such as water adduction, health, education and protection assistance are provided to both refugees and host communities.

The operational context is also marked by an ongoing cholera outbreak affecting Niger's Maradi region has left with 30 people dead as of end August with 1690 cumulated number of infected cases. The epidemic spread rapidly, and the number of confirmed cases had increased. Starting with August regional authorities suspended registration relocation and general food distribution for refugee and host communities in host villages leading to a severe deterioration of the socio-economic situation for all population groups. Refugees and host community who were already struggling to cover their daily costs have become even more vulnerable

Population statistics and displacement

As of 31st August, UNHCR supported the Government of Niger (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) to **biometrically register 57,122 Nigerian refugees** (14,575 households), 69% of whom are minors, 23% women and 8% men. **In addition, an estimated 23,774 non-biometrically registered refugee live in the area.** The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has significantly increased since March 2020. Nigerian authorities have enrolled 17,262 individuals (2,185 households) before their registration was stopped in September 2020). Since then, UNHCR partners have reported new arrivals bringing the **estimated total of IDPs to nearly 26,000 individuals.**

Following the massive arrivals of asylum seekers from Nigeria in the villages of Batchaka Kourni, Kataré Moussa, and Alfourtouk in the department Guidan Roumdji; UNHCR, its implementing partner CIAUD, and the regional authorities conducted assessment missions. **Local dignitaries of these villages announced that more than 10,000 Nigerians citizens settled mainly in the above-mentioned villages.**

A multi-sectoral assessment is underway in these villages, but the protection needs remain enormous because the arrival of these people puts intense pressure on the already insufficient resources of the host community. As refugees face more and more difficulties meeting their basic needs in a safe and dignified manner, many have had no choice but to resort to harmful coping strategies to survive. The urgent needs are shelter, food, water, hygiene and sanitation, psychosocial and health care, education of children, awareness raising on the prevention of water-borne diseases, especially cholera, which is already rampant in the region, but also prevention measures against the spread of COVID-19.

Refugees continued also to move back and forth to Nigeria. **In August 2021; 2,735 refugees returned from Nigeria, while 2,243 returned to their villages in Nigeria.**

Another **3,928 refugees made secondary movements in Niger and 63 Internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to their villages of origin.** All these movements were motivated by security reasons, the suspension and/or delay of food distribution in host villages and “villages of opportunity”, and the lack of livelihoods and opportunities. This may also be linked to the search for small jobs, especially field work in the surrounding villages.

Main activities

Protection

For security reasons and to cope with the sphere standards, UNHCR has **relocated 3,833 households of 17,041 individuals** far away from their first entry points to safe and to secured villages where protection services are available. Thus, UNHCR has relocated Nigerian refugees to three “villages of opportunity”. These include 7,520 refugees in Chadakori: 5,193 in Dan Dadji Makaou and 4,328 in Garin Kaka. But recent regional authority measure suspended the relocation process until further notice .

244 persons with specific needs, including people living with disabilities, women head of households, and single elders, and persons living critical health conditions have been identified, documented, and referred to partners (APBE, BEFEN/ALIMA, DRC, COOPI, SCI) for care and assistance.

Implementing partners APBE, CIAUD, and DRC conducted several sensitization sessions on protection issues and care services available, peaceful coexistence: water, hygiene, and sanitation, and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and cholera among other topics in 15 host villages sites and three “villages of opportunity” of Chadakori, Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka. **These sensitizations reached 49,125 people from the host community, refugees and IDPs.** These people include 24,688 women, 21,515 men and 2,922 adolescents.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners have identified and documented **17 new cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** including 7 cases of emotional abuse 5 cases of physical assault and 5 cases of denial of resource or opportunity. The survivors have benefitted from psychosocial support and referral to appropriate services. Awareness raising on SGBV issues and on available services in the three villages of opportunity were conducted.

Protection risks are increasing in this environment as more families are increasingly vulnerable to exploitation. Findings elicited through protection monitoring during the period confirms this trend towards greater impoverishment and shows that the impacts of the situation and the mentioned measure are likely to increase the struggle of refugees in the coming months.

Wash

17,041 persons had access to potable water produced by three pumping stations built by UNHCR in the three villages of opportunity, with an average consumption of more than 10 liters / person / day. UNHCR and its partners has reached, more than 3,500 with sensitization on hygiene, sanitation promotion, cholera prevention and the COVID-19 prevention measures sensitizations.

Moreover, to promote community participation, the water and sanitation committees of the ‘villages of opportunity’ have been trained on cleaning and disinfection to promote latrine maintenance and prevent adequately the spread of the rampant cholera epidemics.

Health

Since the beginning of August, a cholera epidemic has been declared in the health district of Madarounfa, Guidan Roumdji and the city of Maradi. As of September 4th, the region had recorded **2,030 cases and 39 deaths**; the cure rate was 91.87% and the case fatality rate was 1.92%. No people under UNHCR's mandate have been affected by the epidemic, but UNHCR and its partners are intensifying awareness-raising on preventive measures and the available care services of potential cases.

On August 26, 2021; UNHCR provided support to the Government of Niger through the 'one Health' regional committee in charge of containing the epidemic in the three health districts. UNHCR's support includes 4 Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) for the isolation of cases in the health centres of Djirataoua and the town of Maradi, as well as medical supplies and medicines and disinfection product.

4,378 individuals benefitted from medical consultations during the reporting period. 184 cases with critical conditions have been hospitalized in the health centres built in the three villages of opportunity while 21 most critical cases have been referred to the regional hospital of Maradi.

253 Nigerian refugees aged 18 and over were vaccinated against the COVID-19 in the three villages of opportunity.

Natural resources

Like other regions of Niger, Maradi celebrated on Tuesday, August 3, 2021; the 61st Independence Day of Niger coupled with the 47th edition of the national festival of tree plantation established in 1975 by the highest authorities of the country. The theme chosen this year is "Let's value the moringa to improve local economy". Thus, UNHCR implementing partners made available to each of the three 'villages of opportunity' 445 seedlings including 100 moringas, 15 mango trees and 340 other seedlings to fight against desertification and address challenges related to climate change.

Shelters



220 houses made of banco (out of 266 scheduled) were built and finalized in the three 'village of opportunity'.

UNHCR has **rehabilitated 52 emergency shelters** in the three opportunity villages, bringing the total number of shelters rehabilitated since the start of the rainy season in May to 351.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17117

