

Maradi area hosts more than 70 000 refugees and 23 000 IDPS

JULY 2020

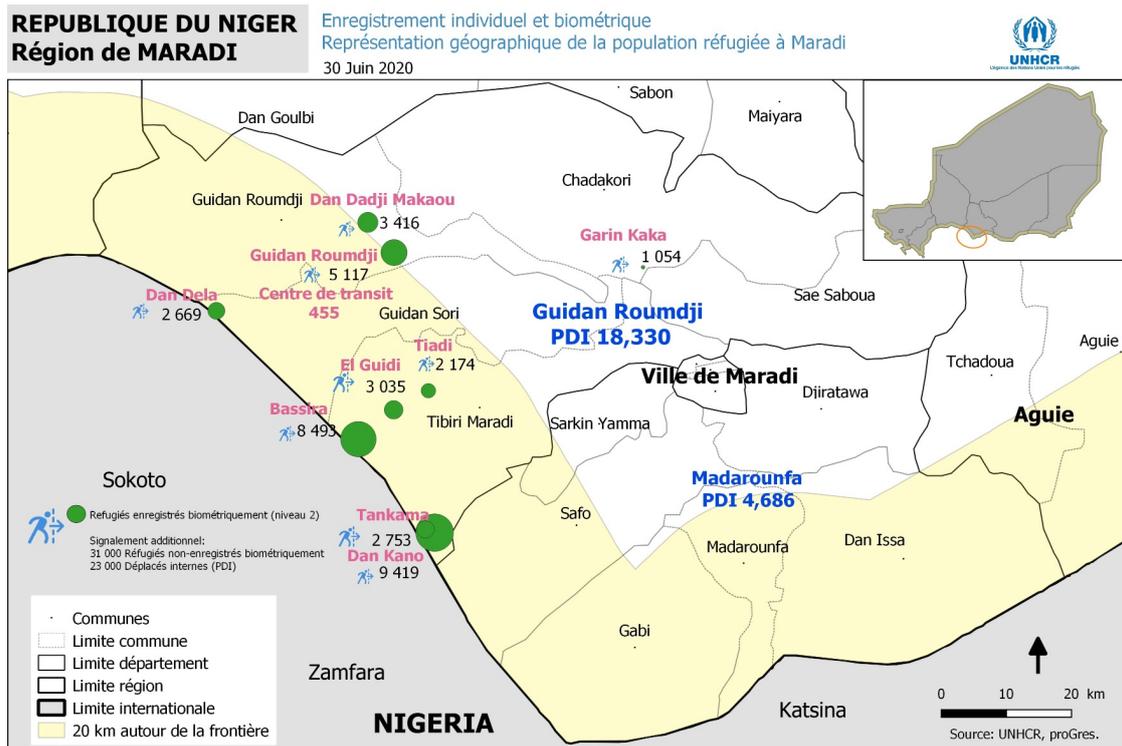
Context

Since September 2018, non-state armed groups (NSAG) killings, looting and kidnappings in Nigeria’s North-Western States has forced tens of thousands of people to seek refuge in Maradi region, Niger. The total number Nigerian refugees in the area now exceeds 70 000. Following the perpetration of a massacre in Sabon Birni area (Sokoto State) on 27 May 2020, UNHCR partners have signalled thousands of new arrivals in June. In addition, repeated incursions of NSAG in Niger have triggered the internal displacement of over 23,000 people. For now, the Covid-19 pandemic situation seems under control with only 11 confirmed cases and four deaths.

In September 2019, UNHCR opened a sub-office in Maradi to coordinate registration, protection, education, health, housing and access to WASH services. A key feature of the UNHCR response in Maradi is the relocation of refugees to villages of opportunity away from the border to ensure their safety and ease the pressure on host populations in the border area. This also contributes to the development of rural areas lacking of basic infrastructures. For now, 6,728 refugees have been relocated and the goal is to reach a total of 15 000 by the end of August.

Population Statistics

As of 9 July, UNHCR and the government (National Eligibility Commission, CNE) had carried out the biometric registration of 40,319 refugees (10,756 households), 67% of whom were minors, 23% women and 10% men. In addition, **the number of refugees who have not been biometrically registered exceed 30,000**. The number of Internally displaced people (IDPs) has surge since late March, reaching 23 016 people.



Progress and Achievements



Nigerian refugees are biometrically and individually registered in the villages of opportunity

- An individual and biometric registration campaign has started in the villages of opportunity on 20 June. As of 9 July, **3,162 refugees have been biometrically registered in Dan Dadji Makaou and Garin Kaka** and the process continues.
- On 9 July, **Niger granted the refugee status prima facie** to all Nigerian people fleeing violence in the Northern States of the Federation. This means these asylum seekers will not have to go through individual applications and that their rights as refugees will be legally secured.
- **The construction of the village of opportunity of Chadakori is drawing to an end:** 113 housing units have been terminated (out of 145) and the water and sanitation works has begun.
- A joint protection monitoring mission lead by UNHCR, the authorities (DREC-M/CNE) and the NGO partner CIAUD has signaled that **7,521 persons of concern (refugees and IDPs) arrived in four villages of Guidan Roundji department**, namely Kartakaye, Garin Alkali, Souloulou et Garin Yahaya. Most of them were coming from the Nigerian border villages of Dan Dela and Dan Sara (Guidan Sori department) and nearby villages on the Nigerian side of the border. They were fleeing after repeated incursions and threats of the NSAG in the area.
- UNHCR partners CIAUD and ANTD organized sensitization campaigns on a wide range of topics including **Covid-19 and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**, reaching 4,423 persons of concern and members of host communities in June.
- In the opportunity village of Dan Dadji Makaou, **75 refugees and members of host community took part in a series of training dedicated to soap making**. In total, 2720 pieces of soap, 324 litres of liquid soap and 300 litres of bleach have been produced. The output should be sold, empowering the community and strengthening its self-reliance.
- **Celebrations for the world refugee day** were held in Garin Kaka village of opportunity on 20 June, including community theatre, dance and a football match between refugees and host community members.

Main Challenges

- **The security situation remains volatile.** Attacks by criminal groups are relentless, as the massacre of Sabon Birni (74 people killed in Sokoto State on 27 May) further demonstrated. In addition, continued incursions by armed groups into Niger have also led to significant internal displacements and pose a threat to humanitarian activity.
- **Financial resources remain insufficient.** In 2020, UNHCR and the other actors responding to the Nigerian refugee's situation in Niger require 68 million USD to cover both Diffa and Maradi Regions. Concurrent needs in other Nigerian regions further strain humanitarian actors' financial resources and hence their capacity to respond.
- **Access to education.** Refugee children have very limited access to education.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2020

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[LINKS : HERE](#)

ANNEX Operational presence of humanitarian actors in Maradi: April 2020

	Area	Partners
	Shelter & Infrastructures	NRC, APBE
	Livelihood	APBE
	Pacific coexistence	DRC
	WASH	WORLD VISION
	Formal education	NRC
	Environment	APBE
	Health and mental health	APBE
	Community mobilization	APBE
	Protection (Overall & Children)	CIAUD, ANTD, DRC, SAVE THE CHILDREN, NRC