
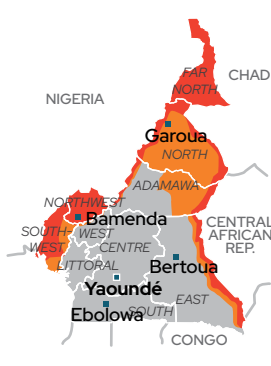
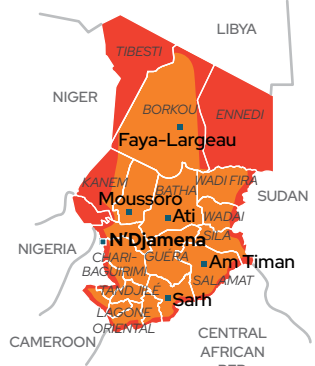




Co-funded by the
Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
of the European Union

STATUS QUO IN RELEVANT COUNTRIES OF DEPARTURE

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
LOGISTICS	COMET FIELD PRESENCE	<p>INTERSOS operates in the site of Hamdallaye (situated in the area of Tillabery) and in the Humanitarian Center of Agadez (in the region of the same name).</p> <p>Forum Réfugiés has an office in Niamey and works in partnership with local organisations in Agadez, Tahoua and Zinder. Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>	Further information sought from UNHCR.	UNHCR has staff in the field and 1 country office in N'Djamena, 4 sub-offices and 7 field offices spread around the country.
SECURITY	GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION	<p>The security situation is volatile and is deteriorating exponentially.</p> <p>Some areas are off limits to expatriates.</p> <p>Desert roads are very risky due to the presence of "road cutters" and groups of drug and arms traffickers.</p> <p>Security conditions in general have deteriorated further in the border areas with Mali, Burkina Faso, and northeast Nigeria.</p> <p>Main security issues both for partners and participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of hostility from local population. Agadez in particular, is one of the cities most affected by the flow of sub-Saharan migrants en route to Europe and, following the implementation of Law 2015-36 of May 26, 2015, people-trafficking is strongly punished. Humanitarian actors are de facto intervening in the area of migration, which used to be a primary source of income for the local population. <p>The population has not been provided with the necessary means for the conversion of economic activities and therefore remains in a state of extreme poverty.</p>	<p>Nine out of ten regions in Cameroon continue to be impacted by three complex, protracted, humanitarian crises caused by continuous violence in the Lake Chad basin and in the North-West and South-West regions, and the presence of over 325,000 refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) in the eastern regions (East, Adamawa and North).</p> <p>Widespread insecurity in the Lake Chad basin area continued to affect the Far North Region in 2021 with attacks against civilians, and state security forces, causing the highest number of casualties since July 2019. Non-state armed groups continue to use improvised explosive devices in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions, primarily targeting military forces but also threatening civilians. The high level of unpunished criminality in these regions leads to a climate of insecurity and violence.</p>	<p>In recent years Chad has faced persistent humanitarian problems due to an increase in security threats in certain parts of its territory and in neighbouring countries, as well as socio-economic, health and climate challenges in a context of political transition. On the 20th April 2021, the president of Chad died.</p> <p>In order ensure a smooth transition a Military Transitional Council was put in place together with a National Transitional Council and a Transitional Government for 18 months.</p> <p>Non-state armed groups are active in the region of Tibesti and in the Lake Chad basin leading to a high level of insecurity and violence. This situation has resulted in the displacement of 457,948 people of which more than 406,000 are IDPs.</p> <p>Moreover, the protracted crises in neighbouring countries, such as Libya, Sudan and CAR, have serious implications for the security situation in the east and south of the country, causing constant and spontaneous movement of people.</p>
		 <p><i>Dangerous areas in red</i></p>	 <p><i>Dangerous areas in red</i></p>	 <p><i>Dangerous areas in red</i></p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
SECURITY	GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of hostility towards humanitarian actors by POC (persons of concern) dissatisfied with services provided. Participants in the COMET programme will be selected from among a group of POC residing in Agadez, who are experiencing long waiting times for their asylum procedure and very few options for relocation to other countries. Therefore, the threat of protests and verbal aggression towards humanitarian workers is high. Risk from armed groups. Staff and participants might be exposed to security threats due to the presence of armed groups in the country. However, to date, refugee camps have not been targeted by these groups. 		
SECURITY	SAFER AREAS and MITIGATION STRATEGIES	<p>Safer areas can be found in the major cities: Niamey; Dosso; Tahoua; Agadez; Zinder; Maradi Diffa et Tillabérie.</p> <p>Refugee students tend to study in major cities where universities are generally located and where security is less volatile.</p> <p>MITIGATION STRATEGIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In order to mitigate the risk of hostility towards asylum seekers/refugees, who are assisted by humanitarian actors, and towards humanitarian actors, who use resources intended for the management of legal migration, it is necessary to involve local populations in assistance programs and to collaborate with development partners. This helps to ensure community coexistence and continuity of operations. In order to avoid the risk of hostility by POC, it is necessary to maintain constant communication through various accountability mechanisms and POC representations. Information sessions on the asylum and resettlement procedure, awareness-raising about internal site rules and disciplinary measures are needed in order to keep POCs informed and aware of their rights and responsibilities. Several measures, such as a Security Agency, and different security mechanisms are already in place in both locations in order to reduce possible threat risks. 	<p>Apart from the above regions, other parts of Cameroon remain stable with a reasonable level of security, welcoming many refugees and IPDs from other regions and neighbouring countries.</p>	<p>To mitigate the risks resulting from the highly volatile security situation in a large part of the territory of Chad it would be fundamental to rely on the network which COMET partners active in the field , in particular UNHCR, has already established.</p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
REFERRAL SYSTEM	POTENTIAL PARTNERS TO INVOLVE	<p>Forum Réfugiés (FR) can rely on its partner CIAUD (an international organisation responsible for the best students who have obtained a DAFI scholarship), or the local partner APBE (which manages several refugee camps) for outreach.</p> <p>FR also seeks support from UNHCR Niger (officer responsible for complementary channels and for education).</p> <p>See further below at Outreach System.</p> <p>The sites where INTERSOS operates are served by a number of organizations, such as APBE and COOPI, which are in charge of site management, mental health, NFIs, etc.</p> <p>Moreover, INTERSOS has a good collaboration with the social services of the local authorities. it should therefore be possible to put a referral pathway in place for COMET participants.</p>	<p>FR does not have direct contact with potential participants. However, UNHCR is a reliable partner and INTERSOS have indicated that they have an office in Cameroon.</p> <p>Rather than a specific referral system, the selection process is initiated by a call for applicants by French partner universities.</p> <p>FR, through its office in Niger, distributes the call, provides information to potential candidates and receives applications.</p> <p>It coordinates organisation of selection interviews with the French universities with UNHCR, who in turn help applicants with the application and any administrative issues.</p> <p>FR follows up all pre-departure procedures with the selected students.</p> <p>FR has already experienced the student mobility of a refugee student in Cameroon in collaboration with the local UNHCR office and with the support of the French Embassy in Cameroon.</p>	FR has already engaged many times with the UNHCR office in Chad on student mobility.
	OUTREACH SYSTEM	<p>FR effects outreach via the refugee student association (Association des étudiants réfugiés), a central committee of refugees in Niamey (Comité central des réfugiés),</p> <p>CIAUD (Comité international pour l'aide d'urgence et le développement) who are in direct contact with the students who receive UNHCR scholarships (DAFI).</p> <p>In 2022, FR issued calls for applications by posting in the universities of Agadez, Niamey, Tahoua and Tillabéri.</p> <p>INTEROS is already in charge of protection on both sites, providing child protection, psychosocial support and education services to all resident minors.</p> <p>It is therefore well-placed to communicate details of the programme to the target group.</p>	UN agencies and their local partners.	Via UNHCR.

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
LOGISTICS	REFUGEE DIFFUSION IN THE TERRITORY	<p>Niger is a departure, transit and destination country for people on the move.</p> <p>From January to mid-April 2022, Niger registered more than 36,000 with an average of more than 2,500 new arrivals every week due to the recrudescence of regional crises in neighbouring countries. As of July 2022, Niger has been hosting more than 293,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Nigeria (65%), Mali (21%) and Burkina Faso (5%).</p> <p>New arrivals from Mali are fleeing fighting between the EIGS (Etat Islamique au Grand Sahara) and the MSA (Mouvement pour le Salut de l'Azawad) in the Gao and Menaka regions. Nigerian refugees are fleeing increased looting, expropriation of property, assault and kidnapping by armed bandits in the states of Katsina and Sokoto, in the northwest of their country, while displacement from Burkina Faso is caused by ongoing and spreading insecurity.</p> <p>The great majority of refugees and asylum seekers living in Niger are located in the region of Agadez, Tahoua and in the capital Niamey.</p> <p>53% of refugees are women and girls, also the most vulnerable groups being at risk of physical and sexual assault as they journey to collect wood and to access basic social basic social services.</p> <p>FR's experience is that refugee students are found primarily in major cities.</p> <p>INTERSOS will specifically target asylum seekers and refugees hosted in the sites of Hamdallaye and Agadez.</p>	<p>According to UNHCR, as at 31st December 2021, Cameroon is hosting 474,294 refugees and asylum seekers. 73% are from CAR, 27% are from Nigeria and 1% are from other nationalities. 52% of refugees are women and 55% are children. Refugees and asylum seekers are living closely with host communities in the Adamawa, North, East, Far North, Littoral and Centre regions. CAR refugees are living mostly in the East, Adamawa and North regions while Nigerian refugees are living in the Minawao camp in the Far North.</p> <p>IDPs are mostly living in the Far North, North-West and South West regions. 97% of IDPs find refuge in places within their division of origin, often even in the same district.</p>	<p>Chad hosts 1 million forcibly displaced people, including over 550,000 refugees, mainly from Sudan and the CAR. Since December 2021, humanitarian needs have risen with the influx of refugees from conflicts in the far north of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, and increased displacement within Chad itself.</p> <p>57% of the people on the move are children. Among them the presence of unaccompanied children is high and they are at risk of exploitation by non-state armed groups and as domestic workers.</p> <p>According to the UNHCR Chad, as at July 2022, Chad is hosting more than 580,000 refugees of which the majority are from Sudan, CAR, Cameroon, and Nigeria. Moreover, 4,773 are asylum seekers and more than 381,000 are IDPs of which 171,892 are children.</p> <p>Girls are the biggest group among the IPDs (26%). They are exposed to killings, abductions and all forms of violence, especially by armed groups.</p> <p>The Lake Basin region continues to register new IDPs as a result of sporadic attacks of armed groups on villages with an increase of 16% compared to the situation in 2020.</p> <p>Eastern Chad has been hosting 374,084 Sudanese refugees from Darfur, representing the 76% of all refugees in Chad. A new wave of refugees was registered in the first semester of 2021 in the province of Ouaddai and is hosted in the new Kushaguine Muri refugee camp.</p> <p>At the border with Libya, in the north of the country, the Migration Tracking Mechanism recorded more than 54,000 young migrants in transit towards the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Southern Chad and in particular the provinces of Logone Oriental, Mandoul and Moyen Chari host more than 121,000 refugees and around 90,000 returnees who fled the violence widespread in CAR between 2003, 2014 and 2021.</p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
LOGISTICS	INTERNAL MOVEMENT	<p>Almost 350,000 people are displaced within Niger. Over the years, the region of Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéri and Tahoua have recorded the highest number of internal displacement due to security threats and natural hazards.</p> <p>A majority of forcibly displaced people, both refugees and IDPs, report lacking national ID documents. This has consequences for accessing basic services, above all the in region of Maradi and Tillabéri. Movement itself is reasonably straightforward. Refugee documents allow refugees to move within the country without administrative authorization. However, a number of steps must be taken at country level in order to have authorization for transporting POCs out of the sites.</p>	<p>Almost 2 million people are displaced within Cameroon. Cases of arrests and convictions of CAR asylum seekers on the grounds of irregular immigration have been recorded. The issuance of documents for refugees by Cameroonian authorities is not yet effective despite an agreement signed in March 2019 between UNHCR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNHCR continues to issue refugee protection documents. In addition, some law enforcement agents and private sector actors are reluctant to consider UNHCR -issued documents as an ID, limiting the refugees freedom of movement and access to services.</p>	<p>The number of IDPs in Chad has grown considerably in the last years. Despite the frequency of attacks against civilians has decreased, in 2021 nearly 17,000 people fled the Lac Province as a form of prevention from potential attacks. Moreover, seasonal rains and floods caused extensive damage to homes, disrupted people's livelihoods and triggered around 24,000 disaster displacements in 2021.</p> <p>Chad adopted its first asylum law on December 2020. The law ensures refugees and asylum seekers protection, freedom of movement, the right to work and access to healthcare, education and justice.</p>
	FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS AND PDO	<p>UNHCR facility.</p> <p>Child-friendly spaces available on both sites to carry out group activities, and session rooms for individual interviews.</p>	<p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>	<p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>
	VIRTUAL / IN PERSON INTERVIEWS	<p>Potentially possible (if devices and connection available) at the INTERSOS facility in Niamey.</p>	<p>In 2021 online selection interviews by the university took place in UNHCR's Cameroon office. FR then organized AN ONLINE 2-hour pre-departure orientation workshop, again using UNHCR's office in Cameroon (no candidate from Chad having been selected). Thus, online interviews can easily be conducted with in collaboration with UNHCR. Going forward, FR personnel could travel to Cameroon to deliver PDO in person. If not, online pre-departure activities could be implemented as in 2021.</p>	<p>In 2021 online selection interviews by the university took place in UNHCR's Chad office, although noone was ultimately selected from Chad. Thus, online interviews can easily be conducted with in collaboration with UNHCR. Going forward, FR personnel could travel to Chad to deliver PDO in person. If not, online pre-departure activities can be implemented, as was the case for Chad in 2021.</p>
HUMAN RESOURCES	STAFF	<p>FR: 1 person (with specific expertise on Child Protection).</p> <p>INTERSOS: 14 staff in Niamey and 10 in Agadez (Protection -child protection, gbv, pss- In particular: Case managers, Protection Officers, Community)</p> <p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>	<p>FR - None, but project officer in Niger can travel to Chad or Cameroon.</p>	<p>FR - None, but project officer in Niger can travel to Chad or Cameroon.</p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
CONNECTIVITY	INTERNET ACCESS	Available in big cities (through mobile phone).	With UNHCR office support.	With UNHCR office support.
	FACILITIES WITH INTERNET CONNECTION	Wifi available at INTERSOS office.	Further information sought from UNHCR.	Further information sought from UNHCR.
VISA AND SECURITY CHECKS	PRESENCE OF PARTNERS' CONSULAR SERVICES	<p>France: embassy and consulate in Niamey.</p> <p>Italy: embassy in Niamey does not issue visas. The competent Italian embassy issuing visas is in Abidjan (Ivory Coast).</p> <p>Germany: Not yet confirmed.</p> <p>Netherlands: Not yet confirmed.</p> <p>Spain: embassy in Niamey.</p> <p>In addition, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) works in Cameroon on bilateral assistance for humanitarian and emergency aid, mostly in Niamey, Tillaberi, Maradi and Tahoua.</p>	<p>France: embassy in Yaoundé, consulate in Douala</p> <p>Italy: embassy in Yaoundé, consulate in Douala.</p> <p>In addition, the Italian Agency for International cooperation in Sudan has responsibility for Cameroon.</p> <p>Germany: embassy in Yaoundé.</p> <p>In addition, GIZ, the German Agency for international Cooperation, is operating in Cameroon.</p> <p>Netherlands: honorary consulate in Douala; embassy in Benin (Cotonou) also responsible for Cameroon.</p> <p>Spain: embassy in Yaoundé.</p>	<p>France: embassy in N'Djamena</p> <p>Italy: consulate in N'Djamena, otherwise refer to Italian embassy in Cameroon.</p> <p>In addition, the Italian Agency for International cooperation in Sudan has responsibility for Chad.</p> <p>Germany: embassy in N'Djamena.</p> <p>In addition, GIZ, the German Agency for international Cooperation, is operating in Chad.</p> <p>Netherlands: honorary consulate in Douala; embassy in Benin (Cotonou) also responsible for Cameroon.</p> <p>Spain: consulate in N'Djamena, otherwise refer to Spanish embassy in Cameroon.</p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
	PREVIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS	<p>French authorities have previously implemented CPs from Niger in the form of FR university corridors pilot projects.</p> <p>Italian authorities have previously implemented CPs from Niger in the form of humanitarian corridors implemented by Caritas and the 'Pagella In Tasca' study program for minors implemented by INTERSOS. A further CP, the Unicore project, is in the pipeline.</p> <p>Italy is already implementing the "Pagella In Tasca" project and arrangements have been made for conventional travel document to be sent to the Italian embassy in Abidjan for study visas to be issued.</p> <p>Spanish authority in Niger, never implemented c.p. before but issued "visa of limited territorial validity" in the past years.</p> <p>FCCD has a direct communication channel with AECID with a view to evaluate the possibilities of creating a new complementary pathway, negotiate with Spanish authorities and facilitate the identification, matching, operations and logistics procedures.</p> <p>Moreover, the Framework Agreement for Cooperation between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Niger, also established in its bases the need to work together on the protection of human rights and the most vulnerable social groups.</p> <p>Further information sought from J&P and from EKvW in respect of Netherlands and Germany.</p>	<p>French authorities implemented a university corridor in 2021 with FR.</p> <p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>	<p>The Government of Chad is working with the Government of France to assign scholarships in higher education for refugees. 4 Scholarships for Master Degrees were granted for two -year Master in 2018/2020 and 5 for 2019/2021.</p>
	AUTHORITIES EQUIPPED WITH NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY		<p>French authorities are equipped.</p> <p>Italian diplomatic service relies on an agency for issuing visas.</p> <p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>	<p>Further information sought from UNHCR.</p>
EXIT AUTHORISATION	TYPE OF FORMAL AUTHORISATION NEEDED	<p>Refugees need a conventional travel document (titre de voyage conventionnel) that serves as a passport for travel.</p> <p>According to Niger legislation a formal authorisation from the national authorities is not needed for a refugee/registered asylum seeker to leave. For some pathways, e.g. "Pagella In Tasca", a Convention travel document is needed in order to apply for the student visa.</p>	<p>Confirmed for student mobility: "titre de voyage conventionnel" (TVC) and student visa</p>	<p>Confirmed for student mobility: "titre de voyage conventionnel" (TVC) and student visa</p>

		NIGER	CAMEROON	CHAD
FLIGHTS	PRIVATE FLIGHT	Open Arms has previously flown from Niger.	No prior Open Arms flights	No prior Open Arms flights.
HEALTH AND COVID	COVID TEST	CERMES Niger provides Covid tests for travellers at a cost of CFA 30. The national health system provides PCR tests at a cost of around EUR 30. UNHCR took care of PCR test for one student going to France in 2022.	A negative PCR test is mandatory to leave the country only if the country of destination requires it UNHCR took care of PCR test for three students going to France in 2022.	UNHCR took care of PCR test for three students going to France in 2022. Further information sought from UNHCR.
	PRE DEPARTURE HEALTH CHECK-UP	Available in private clinics.	Further information sought from UNHCR.	Further information sought from UNHCR.

List of sources

- <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2022>
- https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/tcd_str_hno2022_11032022.pdf
- https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/31012021_ner_hno_2021.pdf
- <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ner>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/press/2022/5/62727f1c4/niger-faces-refugee-influx-as-violence-increases-in-neighbouring-states.html>
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-2022-humanitarian-response-plan>
- <https://reporting.unhcr.org/ukraine-situation/the-price-forcibly-displaced-could-pay>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/chad/document/tchad-aper%C3%A7u-des-besoins-humanitaires-2022-hno-2022>
- <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/chad>
- <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/chad>
- https://ambyaounde.esteri.it/ambasciata_yaounde/it/informazioni_e_servizi/visti/