

# Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

## NIGER

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement  
Figures analysis



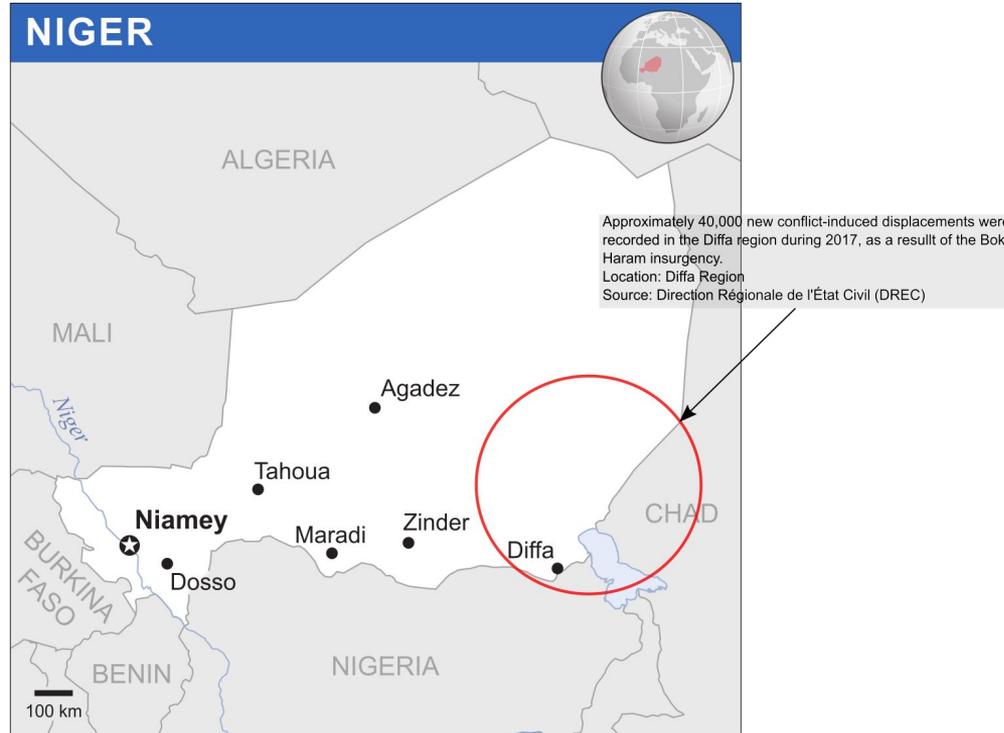
## NIGER - Contextual update

<b>Stock:</b>	144,000
<b>New displacements:</b>	40,000
<b>Returns:</b>	N/A
<b>Provisional solutions:</b>	N/A

In common with the other Lake Chad Basin countries, Niger has been severely affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, particularly its southern region of Diffa where a state of emergency has been in place since early 2015. The security situation improved somewhat in 2017, but Boko Haram still carried out a number of attacks in June and July and the number of kidnappings increased.

There was also spillover from the crisis in Mali in 2017, which affected Burkina Faso as well as Niger. The three countries signed an agreement in January 2017 to form a counter-terrorism force, the Sahel G5, to fight armed groups operating in their border regions. Three other regions of Niger were placed under state of emergency in late 2017, including Tillabéry and Tahoua, where a series of attacks led to deaths of members of the armed forces and US military personnel. Some UN agencies and international NGOs have also started to relocate their staff from these regions.

# NIGER - New displacements in 2017



Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Nov 2011.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

# NIGER - Stock: 1 44,000 IDPs

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017*



## **Sources and methodologies**

As in previous years, the only data on IDPs came from the *Direction Régionale de l'État Civil* (DREC), a government entity whose information is based on reports by local community leaders and government representatives in Diffa. We also used other ad-hoc reports of displacement events, based on periodic UNICEF and UNHCR reports.

## **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

DREC's data is limited to Diffa, which itself is not entirely covered because insecurity meant many of the worst-affected areas were inaccessible. Assessments are also conducted only rarely and do not allow for a comprehensive analysis, and the government figures include caseloads of returnees excluded from the estimated total number of IDPs but who can be considered still to be displaced because they are unable or unlikely to have achieved a full return or durable solution.

## **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

We used the sum of the total number of IDPs as reported by DREC and the number of people identified as returnees, which refers to people who have crossed the border back into Niger but who our partners in the field confirm remained in a situation of displacement.

## **Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year**

Our figure is a relatively small increase on last year's, but given the methodological challenges of data collection it is very likely still to be an underestimate that does not reflect the worsening situation in regions other than Diffa, where security improved somewhat.

# NIGER - New displacements: 40,000

*This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year*



## **Sources and methodologies**

Our estimate is based on DREC data and periodic reports by UN agencies of major displacement events in Diffa.

## **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

We have low confidence in our estimate, because of the geographical and methodological limitations of the data collection processes.

## **IDMC figure, methodology and rationale**

We used a combination of positive variations between stock figures, as reported by DREC - thought to be a significant underestimate - and ad-hoc reports on displacement events. UNICEF and UNHCR reported on two major attacks on villages and camps that together caused the displacement of around 32,000 people in June and July. There is sufficient confidence in the data on these attacks, but confidence in the DREC figures is very low.

## **Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year**

This figure is significantly lower than last year's, mainly because of methodological considerations, given the very sporadic data collection and reporting by DREC, which conducted many more assessments in 2016. Last year's figure was also based on the sum of positive variations between DREC reports. Improvements in the security situation in 2017 also contributed to the lower figure.

## NIGER - Returns: N/A

*This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence*



We were unable to identify any returns, given the lack of consistent, frequent and methodologically sound data.

## NIGER - Provisional solutions: N/A

*This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution*



### **Challenges in accounting for returns**

The only reported returns in Niger in 2017 refer to caseloads of nationals who had previously left the country. Given that our sources report that they returned to a life of internal displacement, we added them to our stock figure rather than categorising them as provisional solutions.