

UNHCR PROJECT PROPOSALS 2022

Government of Belgium

Total funding EUR 8,000,000

Country	Project title	Belgium's funding	Page
Lebanon	Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to meet the needs of severely vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon.	EUR 2,000,000	2
Syria	Providing access to quality and equitable education to vulnerable children in the Syrian Arab Republic.	EUR 2,000,000	7
Mali	Reinforcing protection and assistance to vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of conflict and climate change in Mali.	EUR 2,000,000	11
Niger	Enhancing refugees, asylum seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions in Niger access to protection services and humanitarian assistance, including emergency response.	EUR 2,000,000	17
Belgium's Total funding		EUR 8,000,000	



Oum ghazi is an elderly Syrian refugee living in an informal settlement in the Bekaa, Lebanon. She relies on UNHCR's cash assistance to support what's left of her family after losing most of them to the war © UNHCR

Project Proposal

Multi-purpose cash assistance to meet the needs of severely vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon

June 2022

Project overview

Project Title	Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to meet the needs of severely vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon
Total Budget	EUR 2,000,000 (USD 2,150,538)*
Implementation Period	The project will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.
Number of Beneficiaries	144,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes	The project will contribute to providing monthly MPCA to 144,000 of the most severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families to help them meet their basic needs such as shelter, food, and medicine.

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)

Country background and operational context

Lebanon remains the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. According to the Government of Lebanon, around 1.5 million refugees are currently residing in the country. The protracted nature of the Syrian refugee situation, coupled with the impact of the economic and financial crisis, and the COVID-19 situation, have cumulatively led to an exponential rise in extreme poverty among refugees, and further eroded the resilience of people to withstand protection risks. As of the end of March 2022, 839,086 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR, in addition to more than 13,600 refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities. The government and people of Lebanon have demonstrated outstanding generosity for many years, despite the heavy economic and social situation the country is currently going through.

The deepening socio-economic crisis continues to undermine the subsistence capacity of already vulnerable refugees and Lebanese. Individuals and families are falling deeper into poverty due to high inflation, rising food prices, and loss of income. The findings of the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) indicate that nine out of ten Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty, pushing them to reduce food consumption, suspend seeking medical care and fall further into debt to cover basic needs.

As the situation prolongs, refugees are increasingly struggling to pay for the basic life essentials including rent, food health care, and successive small amounts are accumulating to become burdens that increase their vulnerabilities. Between October 2019 and June 2021, the cost of food increased by 404 per cent, resulting in worrisome food insecurity levels among Syrian refugee families. As a result of inflation impacting food prices significantly in Lebanon, 49 per cent of Syrian refugee families were food insecure in June 2021. About two-thirds of the families had to limit food portion sizes or reduce the number of meals consumed per day.

UNHCR's Protection monitoring for the first quarter of 2022 also confirmed that refugees struggled to meet their basic needs, with significant gaps in food security, livelihoods, health, and rent persisting. Over half of the respondents reported having lost work and pay. The number of refugees reporting difficulty buying food and those forced to reduce spending on food had grown significantly since the start of 2021. As a result, nearly every refugee participating in the survey was facing food insecurity.

Most refugees continue to resort to harmful coping strategies to survive, such as begging, borrowing money, not sending their children to school, reducing health expenses, or not paying rent. The VASyR indicates that, in 2021, more family members took poorly paid jobs, high-risk jobs, or extra shifts to make the same income the household made in 2020. These coping strategies negatively affect resilience and the capacity to generate income in the future, making refugee families more vulnerable to food insecurity and more dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Project objective

The objective of the project is to support severely and highly vulnerable refugee families who are already struggling to meet their basic needs, cover additional expenses incurred, and reduce resorting to negative coping strategies.

The MPCA is an integral part of UNHCR's comprehensive protection response to refugees in Lebanon. The overall goal of MPCA is to improve the living conditions of vulnerable refugee families and reduce their susceptibility to exploitation and other protection risks such as child labour and survival sex.

UNHCR's MPCA programme also directly contributes to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), Lebanon's HRP to the Syria crisis, with the objective of strengthening the ability of vulnerable households (HH) and individuals, including female headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic survival needs. At the global level, the programme builds on and is aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR's Global Strategic Directions – to protect, respond, include empower and solve – as well as the UN Strategic Framework in Lebanon (UNSDCF 2023-2025) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing to its goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and its goal to end hunger and achieve food security.

Timeframe

This Project will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

UNHCR aims to provide monthly MPCA to 144,000 most severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families in Lebanon to help them meet their essential needs such as shelter, food and medicine. Families are able to withdraw cash from any ATM in Lebanon and afford the goods and services they need most according to their prioritisation without repeatedly travelling to and queuing at distribution points to collect in-kind items.

Functioning markets, technical capacity, adequate banking services, and infrastructure throughout Lebanon allows cash-based assistance to be an effective and efficient modality to meet refugees' basic needs; shelter, food, medicine, clothing, and household items are readily available through the local market and ATMs are easily accessible. Both refugees and UNHCR value the dignity that cash assistance allows. Injecting cash into the local economy may also contribute to attenuating increasing tensions between refugees and local populations by increasing cash flow in local markets. In this context, cash-based assistance serves as a viable and preferred alternative to in-kind assistance.

MPCA is provided through LOUISE¹, the single electronic card platform established in 2016 that brings together UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and NGO partners involved in cash transfer activities in Lebanon. LOUISE, as an inter-organizational platform, oversees the majority of cash-based assistance in Lebanon and provides coordinated and coherent cash-based assistance to Syrian refugees. UNHCR, alongside partners and relevant sectors, uses an econometric formula to predict the expenditure of refugee households as a proxy of socioeconomic vulnerability. The model was first introduced in 2016 and is reviewed and updated every year to ensure that the targeting approach stays relevant, and is adapted to trends in the refugee community. The formula is derived from the VASyR data.

To ensure that assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries and serves its purpose, UNHCR has put in place a robust system of financial control, verification and monitoring. This includes:

- Identity verification during card collection for beneficiaries who are not yet in possession of an ATM card;
- Validation of beneficiary identity prior to uploading for those who received an ATM card before;

¹ Lebanon's One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-Cards.

- Card embossment only after identity checks;
- Bank upload instruction through Secured File Transfer;
- Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) protected by digital signature;
- Post-distribution on monitoring including withdrawal tracking;
- Outcome monitoring reports;
- Focus group discussions, surveys and distribution record tracking.

UNHCR uses iris scans systematically for the validation process for MPCA and is working towards validating all refugees benefiting from MPCA every three months. Validation by iris scan is also used systematically during the regular registration and protection-related activities when refugees approach UNHCR's reception centres. UNHCR also conducts mobile validation using iris scans for refugees who are not able to approach the centres e.g., due to immobility.

Since 2018, UNHCR has also implemented a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) for the cash assistance programme to enhance responsiveness to refugees who have been discontinued from assistance or who were never assisted. The GRM was co-designed by refugees who, themselves, initiated a review process by placing claims through dedicated channels such as UNCHR's call centre, a web link, and reception centres. In 2021/22, 11,000 refugee families were selected to receive MCAP through the GRM. During the targeting and GRM periods, several consultations are held with refugees, such as workshops with Refugee Outreach Volunteers (OVs) and Focus Group Discussions with both assisted and non-assisted refugees. The Call Centre also serves as the main complaint mechanism for refugee families receiving assistance.

Beneficiaries

The generous contribution of the Government of Belgium of EUR 2,000,000 (or USD 2,150,538²) will contribute to providing 4,843 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families (23,730 individuals) out of the targeted 144,000 households (707,827 individuals) with a monthly MPCA of LBP 1,000,000³ per family for a period of 12 months to assist them in meeting their most urgent needs. MPCA recipients will include female-headed households, persons with serious medical conditions, the disabled, women at risk, persons with specific legal or physical protection needs, children at risk, single parents, older persons at risk, unaccompanied/separated children and minor-headed households.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
# Of households (HH) receiving cash grants	0 HH	4,843 HH

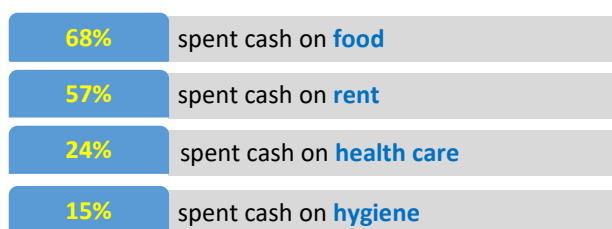
Additionally, outcome monitoring conducted in late 2021 found that families receiving cash assistance were spending the assistance primarily on food, rent and health care. The results also indicated that 79% of beneficiary households reported a significant or moderate improvement in their living conditions, while 80% of households reported a significant or moderate reduction in their financial burden and feelings of stress.

² The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)

³ The amount of cash assistance provided is calculated based on a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). The transfer value might increase throughout the implementation depending on fluctuations in the LBP/USD exchange rate and other factors. UNHCR, as part of the LOUISE system, obtains a preferential exchange rate based on an agreement with the Lebanese central bank. This rate is negotiated weekly and is very close to the black-market rate. As of June 2022, and at the time of writing this proposal, the indicative Exchange Rate was set at 27,000 LBP/USD, resulting in an estimated monthly cost/case for UNHCR of USD 37.

Results and Impact of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Programme (MCAP) in 2021

% Of MCAP expenditure among refugee households (HHs)*



*MCAP Post Distribution & Outcome Monitoring report (PDOM), November 2021

Financial Requirements

The table below recapitulates the contribution requested by the UNHCR Lebanon in relation to the response to the Syria situation.

		UNHCR's overall Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
		USD	USD*	EUR
Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Well-being and basic needs (Cash Assistance)	306,373,341	2,019,284	1,877,934
Sub-total		306,373,341	2,019,284	1,877,934
Support costs 6.5%			131,254	122,066
TOTAL		13,249,625	2,150,538	2,000,000

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)



A student attends an after-school homework class at a UNHCR-supported community centre in Rural Damascus. [UNHCR/O. Kabalan](#)

Project Proposal

*Contribution in support of people of concern to UNHCR
in the Syrian Arab Republic*

June 2022

Project overview

Project Title	Providing access to quality and equitable education to vulnerable children in the Syrian Arab Republic.
Total Budget	EUR 2,000,000 (USD 2,150,538)*
Implementation Period	The projects will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.
Number of Beneficiaries	Approximately 14,500 individuals.
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes	The project will contribute to supporting access to quality, safe and equitable education for children affected by the crisis in Syria.

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)

Country background and operational context

The Syria crisis has now entered its twelfth year with no indications of a resolution. From 2021 to 2022, the number of people needing humanitarian assistance increased from 13.4 million to 14.6 million due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the country. There are some 6.9 million internally displaced people in Syria, including many who have been displaced multiple times.

The crisis in Syria continues to impact the protection and wellbeing of vulnerable children. The deteriorating economic situation has forced an increasing number of families to pull their children out of school to work and support their families, increasing risks faced by children.

A decade of crisis has also had a significant impact on the education sector. Access to education and the quality of such services are severely limited across the country. Many schools have been destroyed or damaged and there is a general shortage of teachers. This situation has resulted in an acute need for additional learning spaces for displaced, returnee and host community children. In areas where schools are available, learning environments tend to be uncondusive due to largescale destruction, overcrowding, lack of school furniture and supplies, and insufficient heating and sanitation facilities.

The 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment estimated that over 7 million children (3-17 years old) need education support in Syria and 18% of children are not attending any form of education. The recent spread of COVID-19 has also created new gaps. School attendance was interrupted during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, leading to school dropouts and setbacks in learning. School dropout exposes children to protection threats such as child labour mainly for boys and early marriage mainly for girls. Meanwhile the limited availability of non-formal education services reduces opportunities for children to return to school.

UNHCR's protection strategy follows a rights and community-based approach. It emphasizes community mobilization and self-reliance to reduce vulnerabilities and protection risks by providing integrated protection services. Services range from legal aid, education, psychosocial support, gender-based violence prevention and response and child protection interventions, in accordance with humanitarian needs.

Project objective

The objective of this project is to increase access of school-age children to formal education. Throughout the implementation of the project's proposed activities displaced, returnee, refugee children, as well as children of host communities will benefit from education support, which in turn will have an important impact on their protection and the prevention of child labour and early marriage among other risks.

Timeframe

The project will start after its approval by the donor for a duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

The project, funded by the generous support of the Government of Belgium, aims to contribute to the education activities provided by UNHCR to vulnerable displaced, returnee, refugee children, as well as children of host communities in Syria. These activities are outlined below.

Accelerated learning programmes

UNHCR provides non-formal education support in the form of remedial and catch-up classes, as well as homework cafés to support returnee, displaced, and refugee children, as well as children of host communities visiting community centres.

- **Catch-up classes:** support children who dropped out of school or had their education interrupted to help them make up for missed classes and facilitate their reintegration back into the public education system.
- **Remedial classes:** provision of learning support to students who are at risk of dropping out of school or are behind their counterparts in school performance and prepare them for mid-year and final exams.
- **Homework cafés:** children attend activities where teachers assist them to do their homework and review their lessons.

Improving access to formal education through school infrastructure improvement

The prolonged crisis created a gap in the education infrastructure, with thousands of schools either damaged or destroyed. UNHCR together with its partners implement basic school infrastructure repairs and improvements to facilitate safe access to formal education. These activities include the repair of partially damaged classrooms and water and sanitation facilities ensuring accessibility to all children, including girls and children with disabilities. These interventions are part of UNHCR's efforts to improve the school protection environment.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
# Of children benefitting from education support.	10,000	14,500

Access to education in Syria has been immensely limited due to the crisis and has increased protection risks for children. The proposed education intervention aims to support children to catch up with the delay in their study and return to school and increase their access to education in line with 2022 HRP's priorities and identified needs.

The proposed education interventions will be implemented through UNHCR partners. UNHCR works in close partnership with national and international partners with whom partnership agreements are signed annually. Partner selection process is structured around selecting the "Best Fit Partner", which means that UNHCR aims to choose the organization that best meets the needs of a project, considering the operating environment"

Furthermore, UNHCR is a member of Education Sector Working Group led by UNICEF. All the education interventions are planned, designed, implemented, and monitored in close coordination with relevant agencies at the sector level in order to ensure complementarity and avoid overlapping/overlooking.

Beneficiaries

The generous contribution from Belgium will contribute to supporting approximately 14,500 vulnerable children across Syria with education activities.

Financial requirements

		UNHCR's overall Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
		USD	USD*	EUR
Empowering communities and achieving gender equality	Education	8,085,587	2,019,284	1,877,934
Sub-total (project direct cost)			2,019,284	1,877,934
Support costs 6.5%			131,254	122,066
TOTAL			2,150,538	2,000,000

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)



Nigerien refugee children in front of their shelter in Ménaka, March 2022 © UNHCR/ M. Diallo

Project Proposal

Contribution in support of people of concern to UNHCR in Mali

June 2022

Project overview

Project Title	Reinforcing protection and assistance to vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of conflict and climate change in Mali
Total Budget	EUR 2,000,000 (USD 2,150,538)*
Implementation Period	The projects will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.
Number of Beneficiaries	1,500 households of refugees and 3,000 households of vulnerable internal displaced persons (HH IDPs), for an estimated total of 7,500 and 15,000 persons respectively.
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes	The project will contribute to the reinforcement of the protection environment in Mali through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration and documentation - Prevention and response to gender-based violence - Basic needs/Multipurpose assistance - Shelter assistance

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)

Country background and operational context

Mali is a West African country which is part of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Since 2012, Mali has been the target of jihadist attacks, along with communal conflicts.

Since the dire situation related to internal conflicts, climate change and terrorism in the bordering countries, Mali witnesses a continuous influx of people fleeing their countries to seek protection, as well as internal displacement due to the continuous jihadist attacks and deterioration of the climatic situation in many villages within its territory. Currently, Mali is hosting 47,804 refugees and asylum seekers coming from different Sahelian countries, especially Niger and Burkina Faso.

In Mali, increased clashes between armed groups in the tri-border area (Liptako Gourma), bordering Burkina Faso and Niger, as well as the escalation of insecurity in the centre of the country spreading widely to the south (Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast), continue to cause and increase further forced displacement. Protection monitoring reports highlight cases of killing, maiming, assault, arbitrary arrest, recruitment by non-state armed groups, and gender-based violence (GBV), including forced marriage and sexual violence.

In addition, extortion of property, theft of livestock, and destruction of agricultural space deprive people of their livelihoods. Regular attacks on public infrastructure such as schools, health centres, bridges, and roads limit humanitarian access and the provision of basic services.

As a result of continued insecurity in Mali, internal displacement continues to grow reaching a total of more than 370,548 IDPs in April 2022. Despite the situation, 84,527 Malian returnees came back to their place of origin still experiencing difficult living conditions and facing several challenges for better socio-economic reintegration.

In a context of persistent socio-economic and political crisis, also marked by the economic sanctions imposed on the country by West African sub-regional organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the already difficult humanitarian and protection situation and has contributed to the increase in GBV and economic difficulties.

UNHCR aims to strengthen the protection environment in conflict-affected regions hosting displaced populations in Mali and will work with its partners to reinforce interventions to cover the identification

and registration of refugees, to cover the basic needs of these populations and to strengthen the support to GBV survivors.

The UNHCR and partners interventions, such as protection response and multipurpose assistance in supporting the displaced persons, are part of the 2022 Mali Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for strategic coordination on the assistance of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and also host communities.

Project objective

The project aims at supporting vulnerable displaced persons (refugees and internally displaced persons) through the reinforcement of the protection environment in the North and the Centre of Mali.

The expected results are:

Result 1 – UNHCR will reinforce protection response through registration for refugees in the areas covered by the intervention and strengthening Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response.

Result 2 – Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will have improved access to humanitarian assistance through providing multipurpose and shelter assistance.

Timeframe

The Project will start after its approval by the donor for a duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

Attaining favorable protection Environments

Registration and documentation

While the region continues to witness the degradation of the security situation (particularly in Burkina Faso and Niger), Mali faces a continuous flow of forced displacement within its borders. UNHCR will continue to reinforce joint registration and verification activities with its governmental partner, the National Commission in Charge of Refugees (CNCR), through:

- **Ensuring level 2 and biometric registration of refugees.** UNHCR will continue its partnership with the Government to ensure registration and access to documentation for all asylum seekers and refugees hosted in refugee sites (Anderamboukane, Ishinane, Inekar, Agzragane and Tamalat). Registration is conducted by specialised staff through a protection interview, which will determine if the person can apply for international protection (refugee status). Those beneficiaries eligible for the refugee status will receive a refugee certificate, which protects them against refoulement, allows access to rights and basic assistance, and facilitates freedom of movement in Mali.
- **Capacity building for CNCR agents on registration and refugee status determination.** Agents from the government entity and UNHCR partner CNCR will continue to be trained to ensure the quality and integrity of the registration process and the confidential treatment of sensitive data.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Percentage of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	65%	85%

In the area of registration, beneficiaries of this contribution will be Nigerian and Burkinabe refugees. The total is 63,890 refugees, 41,529 are registered. With the generous contribution from Belgium, UNHCR has planned to address the needs of at least 12,778 refugees which will bring registered Nigerian and Burkinabe refugees from 65% to 85%.

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

The increase of protection incidents due to the situation in the country and related to gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major priority in Mali, in alignment with UNHCR Strategic Directions for 2022-2026. UNHCR will continue to reinforce the protection response toward its beneficiaries, mobilizing roving service teams composed of a social worker, a health care worker and a psychosocial assistant which will offer medical, psychosocial, and legal support in three localities, in Kayes (North-West), Koro (in central Mopti region, and Anderamboukane (northern Menaka region), not covered by these holistic services. UNHCR and its partners will also continue to distribute essential Non-food items (NFIs) to GBV survivors, such as hygiene kits and baby kits. UNHCR and partners will also provide support to GBV survivors through several activities which will enhance-economic integration and self-empowerment.

While direct assistance to GBV survivors remains essential, UNHCR will continue to promote and sensitize the community through prevention and risk mitigation initiatives which will focus on building the capacities of the refugees and local communities to fight against GBV through the direct support to local associations and other community-based protection structures in order to implement relevant initiatives on GBV related matters. UNHCR and its partners will also continue to reinforce sensitization sessions and radio campaigns.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Proportion of GBV survivors with access to health services	60%	85%

Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments

Basic needs/Multipurpose assistance

UNHCR remains the responsible humanitarian agency to assist and ensure access to protection and direct assistance to refugees while these are not ensured by the hosting country and/or other humanitarian actors. This is the case in Mali, where most refugees completely rely on UNHCR assistance to cover their basic needs, including food, NFIs, education and health. For refugees (from Burkina Faso and Niger) located in Gao, Mopti, Tombouctou and Menaka UNHCR operation in Mali has been using cash transfer to aid cover their basic needs.

This assistance is provided, mostly to vulnerable refugee households, through a multipurpose cash package, valued approximately 117 USD per month per household, in order to enable them to cover their basic needs in terms of food, non-food, health and education with dignity, freedom of choice, and flexibility of spending.

The latest post distribution surveys (PDMs) carried out in Sept 2021 showed that between 37 and 100% of cash beneficiaries indicate an improvement in their life following the receipt of assistance. Despite UNHCR's efforts to provide for these needs, the analysis of recent PDMs (post-distribution monitoring) shows the persistence of gaps for basic needs and the importance to continue this assistance to support these vulnerable populations to build self-reliance and the possibility of better durable solutions.

As of 31 December 2021, 6,900 households (refugee and IDPs combined) have been assisted. For 2022, it was planned for additional 4,600 to be reached, which would bring the total number of assisted families to 11,500 families. The contribution by Belgium will cover the needs of 3,000 families.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Percentage of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance	60%	86%

Shelter/NFIs

The effects of conflicts and climate change are boosting the degradation of living conditions for all those populations already living in fragile and precarious environments. These aggravating factors - as well as shifted wind regimes, seasonal disruption and air masses movement, waterways removal, numerous vector-borne diseases, malaria, and rural exodus – contribute to trigger first and secondary internal forced displacement of people largely affected by heavy rains, subsurface water levels increase, and storms more and more violent and recurrent.

As forcibly displaced populations in Central Sahel increasingly settle in urban areas, among host communities where resources are already scarce, access to land and shelter are both an acute need and a vital protection function. Vulnerabilities among forced and climate-induced displaced persons alter their lifestyles mainly dependent on agriculture, fishing and pastoral activities. The lack of these livelihood opportunities often lead to irreversibly, shifting toward harmful coping mechanisms. Moreover, women, separated and orphan children, and disabled persons of concern, are the most affected by this situation and the most at risk of GBV, forced eviction, HIV and psychological traumas.

UNHCR will reinforce the assistance to these vulnerable beneficiaries through shelter interventions, such as construction kits or cash-based assistance to purchase building materials. This assistance will allow refugees and IPDs to better integrate into local communities and to promote pacific coexistence. As Shelter Cluster lead, UNHCR continue to strengthen the coordination of these activities with the other humanitarian and development actors in the field so to ensure a cohesive and inclusive response.

Access to emergency or permanent housing solutions for vulnerable displaced persons remains a priority in the planned interventions. Emergency shelters will continue to be provided to vulnerable beneficiaries who lost their homes and belongings. Providing these household with their own shelter will also support the local community, which generously welcomed these vulnerable people at their arrival, but also suffered the restriction and difficulties to share their own spaces with other people in need, often increasing the risk of sanitary, health and economic issues. Where possible, UNHCR will continue to provide persons in protracted forced displaced situations with permanent shelters made of Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks (ISSB).

Meanwhile, this proposal aims to green shelter response by orienting and reinforcing existing capacities toward outcomes that highly empower the use, selection, valorizing and recycling of local materials. The initiative intends to reduce its environmental footprint by following and embedding the Comprehensive Refugee Framework and UNHCR consolidated guidance established by its Division of Resilience and Solutions and the Global Shelter Cluster Commitment.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Percentage of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing	60%	85%

Concerning shelter, last year 3,610 families were supported. In 2022, it is planned to assist 2,390 people, which would bring the number of families supported in shelters to 6,000 families. The requested funds will cover the needs of 1,500 families.

The generous funding from Belgium would support UNHCR in Mali to provide much-needed support to vulnerable displaced populations in the prioritized areas of registration, GBV response, direct assistance and shelter/NFI interventions.

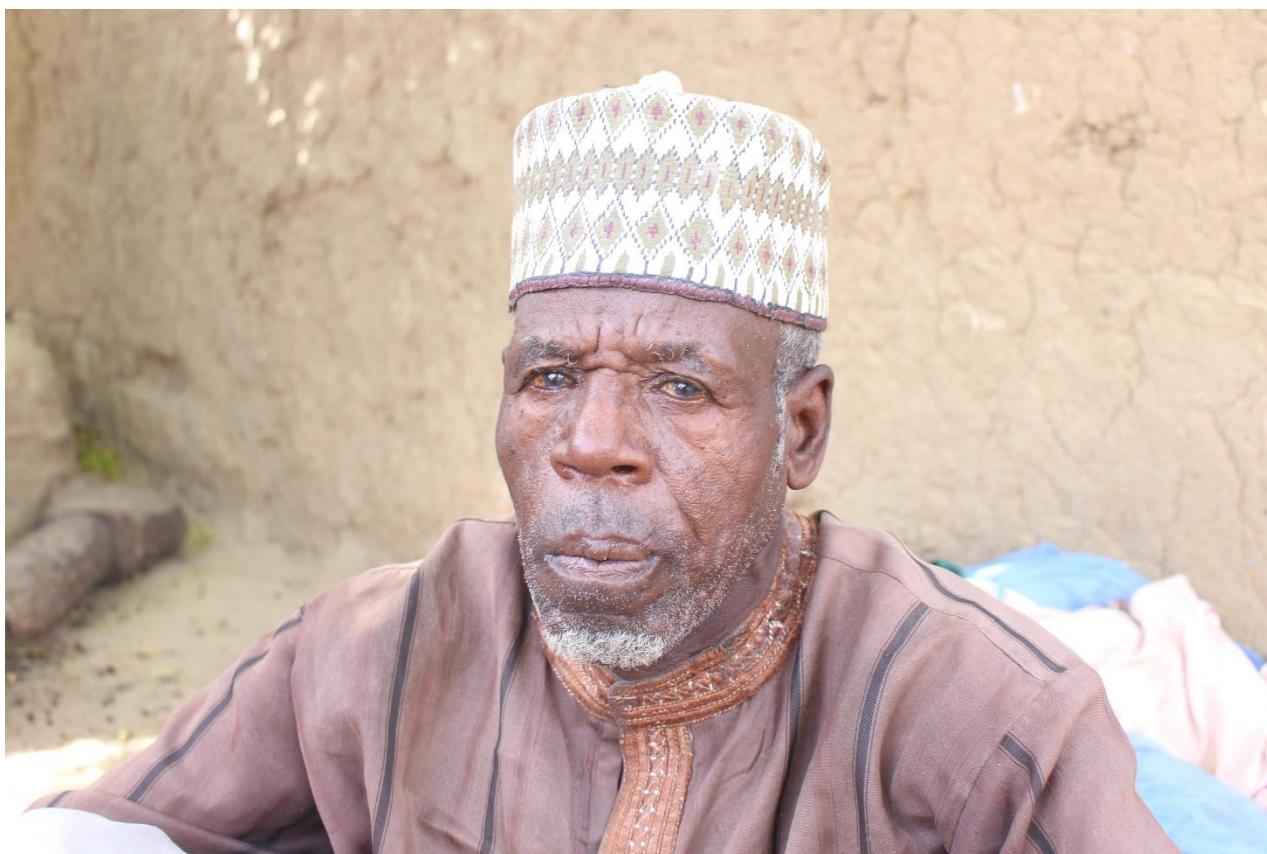
Beneficiaries

1,500 refugees' households and 3,000 vulnerable internal displaced persons (IDPs) households will benefit of the interventions funded by Belgium Government. This results in an estimated total of 7,500 and 15,000 persons respectively. Additionally, around 450 households from the host community will also benefit from the intervention. As internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees often settle in the same areas, UNHCR bases its response on needs rather than status, and ensures that vulnerable host populations are supported, thus mitigating the risks of communal tensions. Vulnerable groups – including persons living with disabilities, displaced populations, GBV survivors, women and girls at risk – will be prioritized.

Financial requirements

		UNHCR's overall Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
		USD	USD*	EUR
Attaining a Favorable Protection Environment	Registration	5,526,923	731,183	680,000
	Protection (GBV)			
Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Basic needs/Multipurpose assistance	7,722,702	924,731	860,000
	Shelter/ NFIs			
Support to staffing and coordination			363,370	337,934
Sub-total			2,019,284	1,877,934
Support costs 6.5%			131,254	122,066
TOTAL			2,150,538	2,000,000

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)



Nigerian refugee fleeing rise of insurgency caused by armed bandit and seeking refuge in Bangui a village in the Department of Madoua in Tahoua region (Niger) - 2021 ©UNHCR/Boubacar Younoussa Siddo

Project Proposal

Contribution in support of people of concern to UNHCR in Niger

June 2022

Project overview

Project Title	Enhancing refugees, asylum seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions in Niger access to protection services and humanitarian assistance, including emergency response.
Total Budget	EUR 2,000,000 (USD 2,150,538)*
Implementation Period	The projects will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.
Number of Beneficiaries	The interventions will target primarily 410,242 displaced persons (202,136 refugees and asylum seekers, and 208,106 IDPs), in the Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions of Niger. Host communities in the refugee-hosting areas will also benefit from the humanitarian assistance, for instance, education, as secondary beneficiaries.
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes	The project will contribute to the protection response for refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers, and host communities in the Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions of Niger through border monitoring and immediate assistance, including access to water and sanitation facilities, education, and core relief items.

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)

Country Background and Operational Context

Niger continues to face unprecedented humanitarian challenges resulting from years of volatility, conflict and growing militia activity in the neighboring countries, such as Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. Thousands of persons are forced to flee armed groups' attacks in their villages, violence and several violations of their human rights in order to seek refuge in Niger, particularly at the borders with the regions of Tillaberi, Maradi, Diffa and Tahoua where the increase of military operations continue to cause forced international and internal displacement.

As of April 2022, UNHCR Niger operation estimated 584,881 displaced persons. Out of the total number, 410,242 persons (202,136 refugees and asylum seekers, and 208,106 IDPs), corresponding to 70 percent of the total population, were hosted in Tillaberi (36,886 refugees and 99,873 IDPs), Tahoua (20,629 refugees 11,070 asylum seekers and 40,416 IDPs) and Diffa (129,942 refugees, 3,612 asylum seekers, and 67,817 IDPs).

Since January 2022, close to 30,000 Malians and Nigerians have fled to Niger. At the end of April 2022, the number of refugees and IDPs in Tillaberi and Tahoua was 201,371. These new arrivals are integrating the already existing flow of displaced persons in the Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions arrived in the previous years.

In Diffa region, border-crossing with Nigeria and movements in the Gueskerou, Toumour, and Bosso roads remain restricted since 2019. The limitation of formal economic exchanges with Nigeria has resulted in a continuous increase in the price of essential goods for the population, which has been furtherly aggravated by COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021 and the recrudescence of armed groups' attacks perpetrated even in the center of Diffa city in 2021. Attacks against the population – including the trademark use of kidnappings – continue to threaten populations and humanitarian workers. At the end of April 2022, the Diffa region hosted 236,862 Nigerian refugees, IDPs, and Nigerien returnees, over 80 percent of whom live in spontaneous settlements. The local authorities in the region continue to advocate for the return of the IDPs to their areas of origin. UNHCR, through the humanitarian country team, will support the Government of Niger in creating an environment where conditions for return in safety and dignity are met and returning IDPs can reintegrate in their areas of origin.

In Tahoua, after the Intikane's Refugee Reception Area (ZAR) closure in June 2021, UNHCR has continued to implement its "out-of-camp strategy", supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs to be integrated into 26 host villages along with the host communities in Tillia, Madaoua, and Tissara departments. The socioeconomic integration of people of concern was facilitated by both communities' shared culture and language.

The protracted situation of instability and the continuous flow of arrivals have increased the socio-economic deterioration of these regions resulting in an increase of poverty and extreme need of basic need's support among the displaced persons and their host communities. Such needs include access to protection services, health, food, water, sanitation, education, etc. UNHCR and partners continue to strengthen their support to the local authorities to assist the affected population by setting up facilities necessary to support the identified needs, such as conducting protection monitoring for identification of protection incidents, identification and assisting persons with specific needs, organization of registration and documentation exercises, provision of humanitarian assistance, including core relief items, ensuring access to water, food, sanitation, and health services.

UNHCR Niger operation continues to build on the achievements of previous years, notably the out-of-camp policy, the inclusion of refugees in national services, community-based protection, and protection monitoring to strengthen its collaboration with government authorities and partnerships with NGOs and UN agencies in providing support with respect to human rights and humanitarian standards. The UNHCR and partners interventions, such as protection services, and assistance, in supporting the displaced persons are part of the 2022 Niger Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for strategic coordination of the assistance.

Project objective

The project has the purpose of supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs in Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions in Niger to attain favorable protection environments through border monitoring and realize their basic rights in safe environments with regular to humanitarian assistance, i.e., core relief items, an adequate quantity of water and sanitation, and access to education.

The expected results are:

Result 1 - Refugees and asylum seekers will have improved access to the asylum system in Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions through enhanced systematic border monitoring.

Result 2 – Refugees, asylum seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will have improved access to humanitarian assistance through providing core relief items, availability of an adequate quantity of water, development of sanitation facilities, and supporting their access to education.

Timeframe

The project proposal covers an implementation period of 12 months from the date of the agreement's signature.

Beneficiaries

The interventions will target primarily 410,242 displaced persons (202,136 refugees and asylum seekers, and 208,106 IDPs), in the Tillaberi (Abala, Ayourou and Ouallam departments), Tahoua (Tillia, Madaoua, and Tassara departments), and Diffa (Diffa, N'guiguimi, Bosso, Maine Sorea, and Goudoumaria departments) regions of Niger.

Identification of the entire target of beneficiaries will be done mainly through protection monitoring activities and vulnerability screening conducted directly at the community level and referrals from other humanitarian actors.

Activities

With the generous support of the Government of Belgium, UNHCR and partners will ensure that refugees and asylum seekers have access to international protection through border monitoring in the regions of Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa, enhance the provision of humanitarian assistance, including water and sanitation, education, and core relief items for UNHCR's persons of concern (PoCs) in Sayam Forage camp (Diffa), and within the refugee hosting areas of Ouallam, Ayourou, Abala (Tillaberi), and Tilia, Madaoua, and Tassara (Tahoua).

Attaining a Favorable Protection Environment

Border monitoring

Since the deterioration of the security situation along all borders of the Central Sahel and Lac Chad Basin areas (namely borders between Niger and Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso), UNHCR will continue to implement its strategy to strengthen the protection response and border monitoring for PoCs fleeing to or within the borders of Niger. This activity - which includes collecting, verifying, and analyzing information to identify human rights violations and protection risks encountered by refugees, IDPs and other affected populations, including advocacy, referral, and provision of multisectoral assistance – remains paramount to discover and prevent arbitrary detention due to lack of documentation, child abuse, gender-based violence, limited access to protection services and socio-economic assistance, etc.

UNHCR and implementing partners will continue to ensure their presence or monitoring activities at the borders and within the communities and villages affected by the forced movements to reinforce surveillance and ensure identification of persons under UNHCR's mandate as well as reinforce capacities among the existing focal points at the community level on the new developments related to the security situation in the affected areas.

The activity is also complementary to the "Project 21" regional protection monitoring system, which will contribute to the harmonization of protection monitoring across countries and actors in the Central Sahel region (Niger, Mali, Chad and Burkina Faso), leading to a standard set of protection data and a joint analysis of protection trends that enable enhanced advocacy at different levels.

Indicator				Target		
	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa
Number of border monitoring visits conducted and recorded	2	2	2	3	3	3

Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments

Provision of Basic Domestic Items (CRIs)

UNHCR will continue to ensure provision of basic Core Relief items (CRIs) to beneficiaries in Tahoua region, including sanitary materials, through a cash-based assistance program to respond to their immediate basic needs. While UNHCR continues to advocate for an holistic access of its beneficiaries to adequate assistance by the humanitarian and/or national socio-services, the intervention will provide assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries in order to ensure their dignity and well-being and avoid that local communities already affected by lack of resources and a difficult economic situation to be overcharged by the presence of UNHCR's beneficiaries toward them.

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Percentage of households whose needs for basic and domestic items are met	45	100

Provision of adequate potable water and sanitation facilities

The environmental situation in the concerned regions is challenged by constant climate change issues, drastic or deserting environments, and droughts affecting the population's access to water, sanitation, food, farming activities for livelihood, etc.

UNHCR and its partners have in the past invested in improving access to water and sanitation for displaced persons but monitoring activities and continuous arrivals of new beneficiaries is showing the need of constant maintenance and increase of assistance. In 2022, UNHCR will continue to improve the services to ensure the provision of potable water and sanitation facilities. The activities will include the construction and/or expansion of water systems, building community and household sanitary facilities, managing community waste (including solid waste), and promote energy-saving practices, the use of alternative/renewable energy, and meeting the humanitarian standards in Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Diffa regions, benefiting local populations.

Indicator	Baseline			Target		
	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa
Number of liters of water per person per day	2.1	2.1	9.5	20	20	18
Percentage of households with access drop-hole latrine	45	45	63.1	80	80	65

Supporting Access to Primary Education

Despite considerable efforts by the Government of Niger and the Humanitarian Community, the country continues to have an extremely fragile public education system. Due to the traumatizing experience of fleeing their homes, many refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs children are forced to give up on their education. Despite this difficult situation, 58,726 refugee children in Niger had access to primary education in 2021 through various supports, in particular, the construction of school infrastructure, the provision of school, didactic and pedagogical materials, capacity building for teachers and protection in the school environment.

Access to education within the public education system will remain a priority to UNHCR in all areas of intervention and will continue to be implemented through support to remedial classes and/ or catch up program, support to continuous capacity building of public education teacher on the management of multigrade classes, other pedagogical topics as well as psychological care of children affected by crises, organization of sensitization campaigns on school enrolment and retention, etc., especially for the primary education. The target is to assist 68,726 refugee children along with host communities to access primary education in 2022, which is an increase of 3% among refugees compared to last year's number. Additionally, educational material kits will continue to be distributed to children and to public schools to strengthen the quality of education for all children attending public schools.

UNHCR and its partners will also continue activities to strengthen community awareness about the importance of education for their children. In addition, they will align their activities with the regional education emergency plan in place in Tillaberi region by targeting regrouping center hosting refugee children. UNHCR will continue to advocate for the inclusion of refugee students in the school feeding program organized by WFP as an initiative to increase school enrolment, retention, and good nutrition.

Indicator				Target		
	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa	Tillaberi	Tahoua	Diffa
Number of primary school-aged children enrolled in primary education	9,972	10,312	38,442	11,772	12,012	44,942

Financial Requirements

		UNHCR's overall Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
		USD	USD*	EUR
Attaining a Favorable Protection Environment	Border monitoring	200,000	166,295	154,655
Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Provision of Basic Domestic Items (CRIs)	11,965,778	1,852,989	1,723,280
	Provision of adequate potable water and sanitation facilities			
	Supporting Access to Primary Education			
Sub-total			2,019,284	1,877,934
Support costs 6.5%			131,254	122,066
TOTAL			2,150,538	2,000,000

* The exchange rate used is 0.930 (UN rate June 2022)