

Six months after the Oslo Conference Niger NGOs call for fulfilment of commitments for Diffa

While needs keep increasing in Diffa region

Needs keep increasing in the region, as illustrated by the recent revision of the HRP (addendum July 2017). The estimated number of people in need in 2017 raised from 340 000 to 408 000.

Recent trends have more deeply affected an already extremely vulnerable region. For instance:

- **Acute food insecurity:** FewsNet warns that due to continuous security threats impacting livelihoods (including market regulation), Diffa should face an IPC stage 3 (crisis) until January 2018.
- **Health:** with many health centres still closed, Diffa is highly exposed to epidemics, as illustrated by the recent outbreak of Hepatitis E, which caused the death of more than thirty people and the infection of hundreds of others.
- **Education:** whereas today children have more access to school, the quality of education is dire.
- **Regular large displacement of population.** There has been recently a worrying upsurge in Boko Haram incursions, destabilizing both:
 - o The Diffa region: the most significant example is the suicide bombing attack in Kablewa IDPs camp last June 29, that has led to the transfer of 16 500 IDPs to a new site (to this date, no durable solutions were found for the displaced who used to seek refuge in the camp). N'Galewa was attacked three days later causing the death of nine people and the abduction of 39 women and children.
 - o Neighbouring countries: in July, more than 6,000 people were forced to flee Niger to Chad due to attacks in their villages.

Such violence keeps causing large-scale displacement of people, that can lead to further harm to both displaced populations and host communities. If no action is not taken to reduce the burden of already impoverished host communities, the conflict is likely to be further exacerbated.

Funding remains extremely insufficient and unequal

Despite such statement, Niger suffers from a critical underfunding situation. **Financial response is:**

Extremely insufficient: six months after the Oslo Conference, Diffa is only 18% funded when the pledges made are considered. There is a major insufficiency in terms of allocation by sectors. For instance, in terms of food security, the revised HRP budget has only increased by 0,49% while the needs increase is equivalent to 16,7%. It is also unclear whether or not the pledges made represent 'new' funding or are re-allocations from other existing budgets. Better accountability and transparency of the financing mechanism are required.

Highly unequal between affected countries: during the Oslo conference, it was requested from a number of key actors to ensure a transparent and equitable funds' allocation between all four countries. The current funding disparity demonstrates that this is far from being achieved: in Nigeria, each beneficiary has received more than twice (\$227/beneficiary) compared to Chad (\$110/beneficiary), Niger (\$100/beneficiary), and Cameroon (\$96). The rationale for the relative split of funding between the different countries in the region is also not clear and needs to be clearly and transparently communicated.

And humanitarian access and civil protection limited

Since May 2015, access to parts of eastern Diffa (Bosso) and the southern strip above the Komadougou river remain a major challenge, as well as the islands of Lake Chad where military operations continue to this day.

In addition, a worrying lack of **appropriate protection of civilians and respect of international human rights law is observed.** Cases of forced relocation were reported. For instance, refugees located in the "red zone" were pushed to relocate to Sayam Forage camp. If they refused such relocation, NGOs were not allowed to assist them.

The NGOs signatories to this statement call upon the Government of Niger, donors and the international community to:

1. **to effectively and promptly disburse the funds pledged during the Oslo Conference and to appropriately allocate them**
 - a. by including an emphasis on emergency humanitarian aid to save lives in Diffa. Without humanitarian support, the crisis will only increase and will not allow for sustainable recovery and stabilization;
 - b. by strengthening the continuum of interventions for a more coherent and sustainable response;
2. **to live up to the obligation to protect and assist civilians, in particular in the conduct of hostilities and displacement**
 - a. by facilitating immediate and unimpeded access for principled humanitarian actors to affected populations to conduct assessments and provide life-saving assistance, especially in Bosso and islands of Lake Chad;
 - b. by prioritizing programs that support the protection of civilians and respect of human rights law;
 - c. by stopping forced displacement, as required under Kampala Convention.

