

RESPONSE PLAN TO THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN ASSAMAKA

MAY 2023



PEOPLE
IN NEED



8K

FUNDS REQUIRED
(USD)



41.8M

FUNDS RECEIVED
(USD)



14M

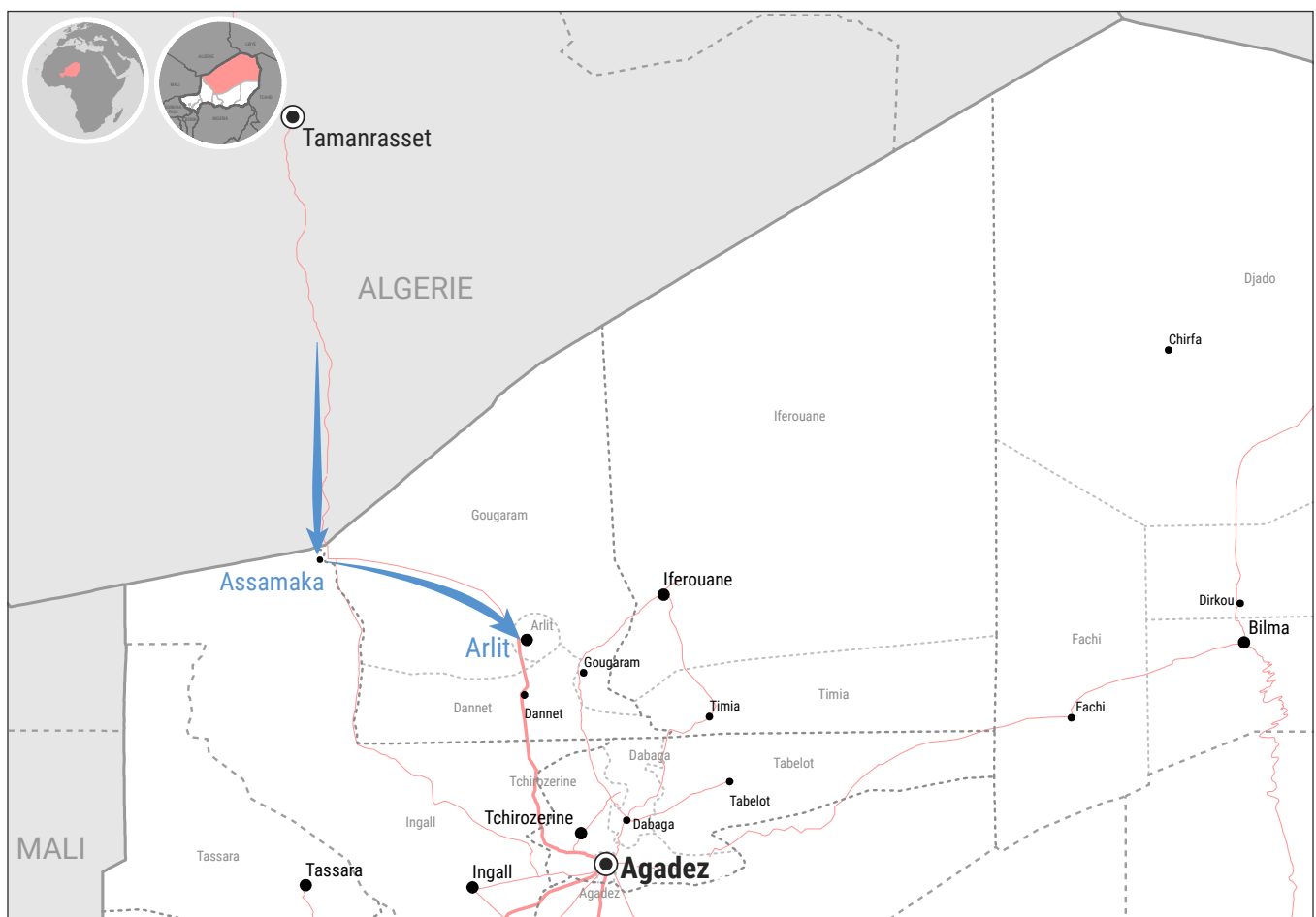
CONTEXT

Between January and April of 2023, approximately 8,000 vulnerable migrants arrived in Assamaka from Algeria. Assamaka, a village (which has a population of approximately 3,000) is located 15 kilometres from the Algerian border in the region of Agadez.

The majority of migrants require assistance from IOM through its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program. The recent influx of expulsions has led to a complex and volatile situation. As of the end of April 2023, nearly 3,600 migrants, not directly eligible for IOM assistance, remain stranded in Assamaka, waiting for AVR assistance to return to their country of origin, many of which are people with specific protection needs. Currently IOM's AVR program can support up to 1,000 individuals at a time and on an average rotation of one month.

As a result of the upswing of the expulsions, the migrant population now far outweighs the local community in the village of Assamaka. Access to basic social infrastructure in this desert area is extremely limited. The large influx of stranded migrants is putting pressure on resources and infrastructure in the area. Migrants as well as the host community members in Assamaka are in urgent need of food, water, hygiene and sanitation mechanisms, child protection, medical and psychosocial support, shelter, and non-food items, including hygiene kits.

The Agadez region of Niger has long been characterized by complex migration flows, the vulnerabilities of migrants entering Niger including victims of trafficking and refugees, which pose a major concern. Since 2015, migration movements in the region have evolved, adapting to the changing legal and geopolitical context. A referral mechanism for the identification of potential asylum seekers has been established between IOM, UNHCR,



and the relevant authorities. Foreign evacuees with protection needs are able to file an asylum application with the government of Niger, facilitated by this referral to UNHCR.

Since 2016, IOM has assisted over 90,000 migrants transiting through the Agadez region with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial care and assisted with their return to their home countries. Of these, 70% of migrants were first assisted in Assamaka, mainly nationals from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In response to the situation in Assamaka, a joint humanitarian response plan has been developed under the umbrella of Niger’s cluster system.

The response plan aims to:

1. Provide an urgent response for 5,000 migrants in distress in the locality of Assamaka.
2. Establish mechanisms for their protection, integration, and facilitate their voluntary return through the IOM AVR program or their application for asylum in Niger.
3. to improve the provision of basic social services in the locality in order to strengthen the capacity of Assamaka, the Ingall district and the Agadez region as a whole to better manage this type of migration situations in the future.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

Persons in need	Targeted persons		Funds Required (USD)		Operational Partners
7,000 ¹ (16,000) ²	5,000 (migrants)	2,000 (community members)	7M (CT) ³	20M (MT - LT) ⁴	5 ⁵

CT : Short-term (6 months / December 2023)

MT : Medium-term (1 year / June 2024)

LT : Long-term (2 years / June 2025)

APPROACH, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PLANNED RESPONSE

The response strategy will be based on three strategic objectives:

- **Strategic Objective 1:** Address the basic and critical needs (physical and psychological) of migrants and persons waiting to access the AVR or Asylum program through multi-sectoral assistance based on the protection needs, safeguarding of their basic rights and the strengthening of a referral mechanism / \$6 million USD; 5,000 people.
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacity of the Assamaka community to absorb and respond to such shocks through the improvement of access to basic social services / \$8 million USD; 2,000 people.

¹ Projection based on the rate of monthly expulsions until the end of the first trimester

² Possible scenario based on the rate of monthly expulsions until the end of the year 2023

³ Short-term interventions: from the second semester of 2023 until 31 December 2023

⁴ Mid-term and long-term interventions: until 31 June 2024 for the short-term and 31 June 2025 for the long-term

⁵ IOM, COOPI, Alarm Phone, CIAUD, MSF Spain, UNHCR

- **Strategic Objective 3:** Identify the needs that are not met by IOM's AVR program and advocate with technical and financial partners to address them.

The following principles will be at the core of the implementation of the proposed interventions, in order to achieve these strategic objectives:

Ownership and synergy of action: Interventions will be carried out under the leadership of the State of Niger and its authorities at the central and decentralised levels, depending on applicability, and will be subject to a coordination mechanism that will be further outlined below.

Multisectoral collaboration: the interventions will take a sectoral (cluster) approach placing protection at the core, the range of vulnerabilities and the need for inclusiveness (and consideration of transversal dimensions) to effectively respond.

The nexus: The situation in Assamaka requires a holistic, integrated response, including counter-trafficking measures and access to asylum in Niger. The link between the planned humanitarian response and the local capacity of the Assamaka area (a highly strategic point in terms of migration flow management for Niger) to independently manage this type of "shock" is critical. IOM, while providing continued humanitarian support will work with the local community to build resilience in line with Niger's development plans⁶.

Multisectoral response

The unmet needs of the response plan amount to approximately 27 million dollars (USD) - This budget reflects all the needs identified (excluding coordination costs) – and not yet covered – by the humanitarian community in Niger.

Cost methodology

Shelter and non-food items, Water, hygiene and sanitation, Food security, Health, and Protection:

The costs of sectoral responses were determined by each cluster following coordination meetings with sectoral partners and based on needs assessments carried out on the situation in Assamaka by the regional authorities of Agadez, IOM and partners.

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)⁷ :

1. Support for migrants under the IOM Migrant Response and Resource Mechanism⁸
2. Assistance to 8,000 migrants (MT) and 10,000 migrants (LT), respectively - in addition to resources already available at the organizational level.
 - Individualised care in transit centres for an average period of 1 month: \$300 / individual
 - Coverage of ground transfer costs (Assamaka - Arlit - Agadez - Niamey): \$150 / individual
 - Coverage of airfare for return to the country of origin: \$1,000 / individual

⁶ As is, IOM will not be able to support migrants beyond the end of the year 2023

⁷ Complementary and linked to strategic objective # 2

⁸ MRRM : Pilot programme which provides an integrated response for migrants through the provision of a complete safety net and assistance for voluntary return

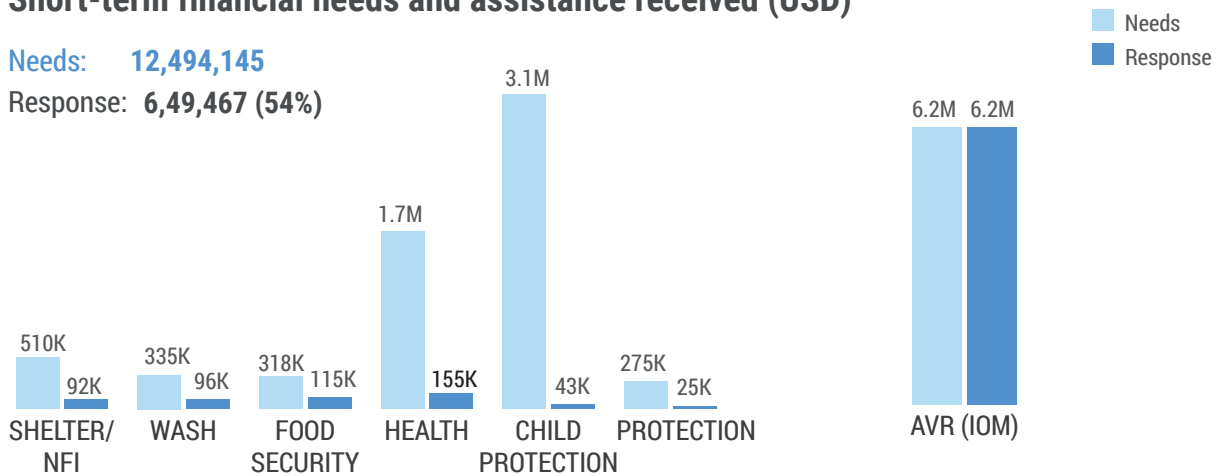
FINANCIAL NEEDS AND RESPONSES

On 10/05/2023

Short-term financial needs and assistance received (USD)

Needs: **12,494,145**

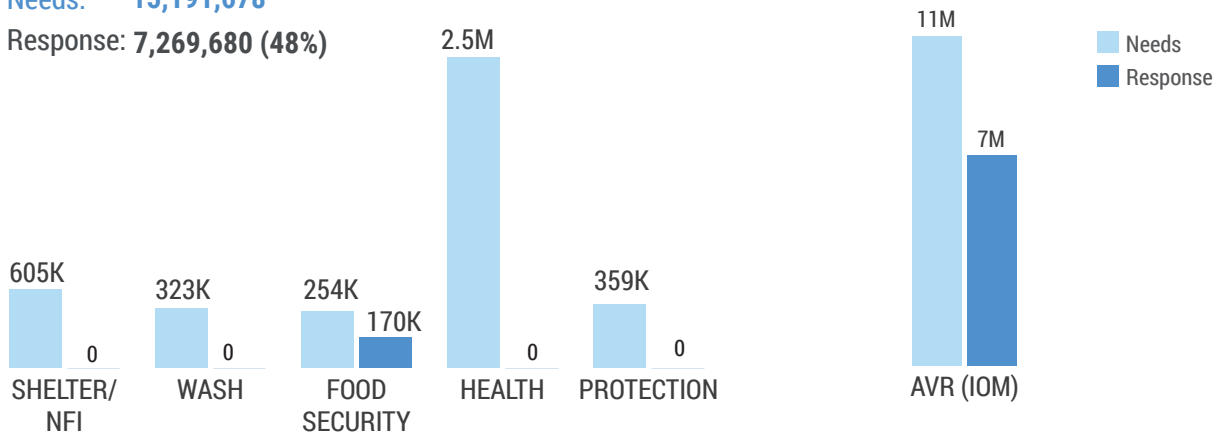
Response: **6,49,467 (54%)**



Medium-term financial needs and assistance received (USD)

Needs: **15,191,678**

Response: **7,269,680 (48%)**



Long-term financial needs and assistance received (USD)

Needs: **14,086,273**

Response: **-**



ACRONYMS






AVR - Assistance for Voluntary Return

IOM - International Organization for Migration

SHELTER/NFI - Shelter and Non-Food Items

WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Financial needs by sector (USD)

SECTOR	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM	LONG	POSITIONED
	6 MONTHS	TERM 12 MONTHS	TERM 24 MONTHS	
 Shelter/ non-food items	510k	605k	-	COOPI, UNFPA
 Water, sanitation and hygiene	335.3k	323.1k	102.2k	COOPI, UNICEF
 Food Security	318.1k	254.5k	-	COOPI, WFP
 Health	1.7M	2.5M	-	MSF, WHO
 General Protection, Child Protection	3.4M	359k	134k	UNICEF-DRPE, ADENA, MDM BELGIUM, CIAUD, UNHCR, CONAFE, NGO ODI
AVR - IOM	6.2M	11.1M	13.8M	IOM

ASSAMAKA, AGADEZ, NIGER

Arrivals of migrants, 2023.

Credit : IOM



COORDINATION AND MONITORING

Coordination Budget	Partners Positioned (12)
To be determined	IOM, CIAUD, UNHCR, COOPI, UNICEF, WFP, RECOSOC-CARE, KARKARA, APBE, MDM BELGIUM, HED TAMAT, Red-Cross

In order to ensure a coordinated, inclusive response that promotes long-term solutions, the State of Niger, with the support of the humanitarian community, intends to establish a coordination platform to guide the interventions of the various stakeholders:

National level: Under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, the State of Niger has taken steps to respond to the situation by promoting the coordination of local actors - including the development of this plan - with the support of the United Nations system, through its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Regional level: The Governorate officially assigned the role of coordinating actions to the Regional Committee for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises (CRP/PGCCA) with the Regional Permanent Secretary / Regional Directorate for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises (SPR / DRPGCCA) as a focal point. The authorities of the department and the district of Ingall will also be involved. All intervention planning will be coordinated through this committee, in which the UN and local partners will participate. In addition to this committee, a regional technical group on migration will be established to address the migration challenges in the region.

Local level: A consultation framework - between actors present in Assamaka – has already been set up to coordinate operations in the field. It held its first meeting on May 1, 2023.

ASSAMAKA, AGADEZ, NIGER

Migrants, 2023.

Credit : IOM



CONSEQUENCES IF WE DON'T RESPOND (KEY MESSAGES)

Shelter and non-food items: More than 3,600 migrants (and more depending on future expulsions) in vulnerable situations will not have access to safe and dignified shelter that meets the norms and standards that allow them to regain a minimum of privacy, cope with bad weather/shocks, and reduce their vulnerability.

Water, sanitation and hygiene: Access to drinking water in Assamaka remains a challenge. Only three boreholes supply the entire village and are currently not functional. In addition, the locality faces a deficit of latrines and sanitation. Thousands of people are forced to defecate in the open, which has serious health consequences and risks of epidemics. Latrines and showers are also not gender-segregated and age- or diversity-appropriate, putting women, children, and people with disabilities at risk, including of gender-based violence.

Health: Assamaka has only one integrated health centre (CSI), which is occupied by migrants and is in danger of collapsing in some places, and the hygiene situation is increasingly concerning. The risk of cholera and malaria epidemics, among other diseases, especially with the upcoming wet season, is very high for both migrants and the host population.

Food security: an unfunded response would put the lives of thousands of migrants, including women, children, and the elderly at risk. This situation could intensify conflict between migrants and host community members and exacerbate criminal activities.

Protection: Assamaka will continue to be overcrowded. Migrants, trafficked persons, and host populations will not have safe spaces and the needs of the most vulnerable, including those with disabilities, and those requiring medical or psychosocial support will not be met. Migrants and community members will also be at increased risk of gender-based violence. There is a high risk that migrants may return to migration routes with the support of smugglers.

Assisted Voluntary Return to Country of Origin: Migrants must be admitted to the IOM transit centre in Assamaka in order to enter the AVR program. The program is only funded to operate until the end of the year. If the program does not receive additional funding by the end of October 2023, IOM will no longer be able to provide assistance and thousands of migrants will likely be forced to settle in Assamaka.