

IOM strategic priorities

- (i) Mobility tracking and strengthening coordination
- (ii) Contribute to preparedness and response efforts
- (iii) Ensure access to basic services and commodities
- (iv) Respond to the socio-economic impacts

\$ 9,984,000 Funding requirement



COVID-19 IN NIGER

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Niger closed its borders, including the international airports of Niamey and Zinder, from 19 March onwards. It further banned all gatherings, including prayers, and declared the State of Emergency until July 2020. In Niamey, a curfew is enforced between 9 pm and 5 am, and the city is closed off from the rest of the country to limit the spread of COVID-19 from the capital to the other regions.

A National Preparedness & Response Plan to COVID-19 was adopted on 25 March 2020 by the Nigerien Government and established in consultation with the humanitarian community, **emphasizing the need for the United Nations and its partners to contribute.**

In coordination and partnership with relevant actors at local, national and regional levels, IOM Niger is contributing to the Response Plan to halt further transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including its social and economic impacts. IOM is an active member of the multi-sectoral technical crisis committee “One Health” through the national surveillance commission.

IOM NIGER STRATEGY

IOM’s strategy focuses on the following priorities: strengthen a coordinated response to facilitate safe movement across the country’s borders, address humanitarian needs of stranded migrants who have been impacted by COVID-19, and upscale support to prevent COVID-19 infection among internally displaced people and host communities in conflict-affected areas in Niger. IOM Niger will do its best to respond to the critical needs identified by the Government to prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and host communities through our operational presence and technical capacity across the country.

1. Strengthened support for vulnerable stranded migrants in Niger **\$ 1,350,000**
2. Humanitarian and health management of Point of Entries to prevent and control cross border infections in Niger **\$ 1,400,000**
3. Strengthening preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in regions affected by conflict and displacement **\$ 2,100,000**
4. Holistic support to COVID-19 response, incl. support to WASH facilities, communication campaigns, support to health capacities, community-based reporting and mobility **\$ 5,134,000**

IOM’s RESPONSE

IOM has adapted ongoing programming and operational, migration data, health, protection, border management and emergency teams have been mobilized to provide support to the Government of Niger’s national response.

The Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) programme provides life-saving services to stranded migrants affected by the closure of the borders. IOM’s teams have been working to support authorities at national, regional and local levels to halt the transmission of COVID-19 and to mitigate its impact, mainly by supporting quarantine measures for migrants arriving at Niger’s borders with Libya, Algeria and Burkina Faso. IOM has supported with transport, food, shelter, latrines, showers and handwashing stations, amongst others to operate quarantine sites managed by the Government of Niger. Many migrants are completing their 14 days of quarantine in different sites supported by IOM in Assamaka, Agadez and Niamey.

IOM Niger’s teams of health staff and community mobilizers have upscaled prevention measures in IOM’s 6 transit centres, currently at full capacity, and other types of accommodation, including the strengthening of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) and through raising awareness on COVID-19 in support of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE).

IOM Niger has received the agreement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior to operate a humanitarian corridor to facilitate the voluntary return of stranded migrants from neighbouring countries, while the borders remain closed. IOM is working with Nigerien authorities and diplomatic representatives to facilitate these movements as soon as possible.

IOM’s border management teams work closely with Niger’s immigration and border management officials to ensure safe border management and strengthened capacity in place once the borders open again. IOM’s emergency and community stabilization teams remain active in Niger’s southern regions affected by displacement (Diffa, Tillaberi and Tahoua) to support local authorities with COVID-19 prevention measures.