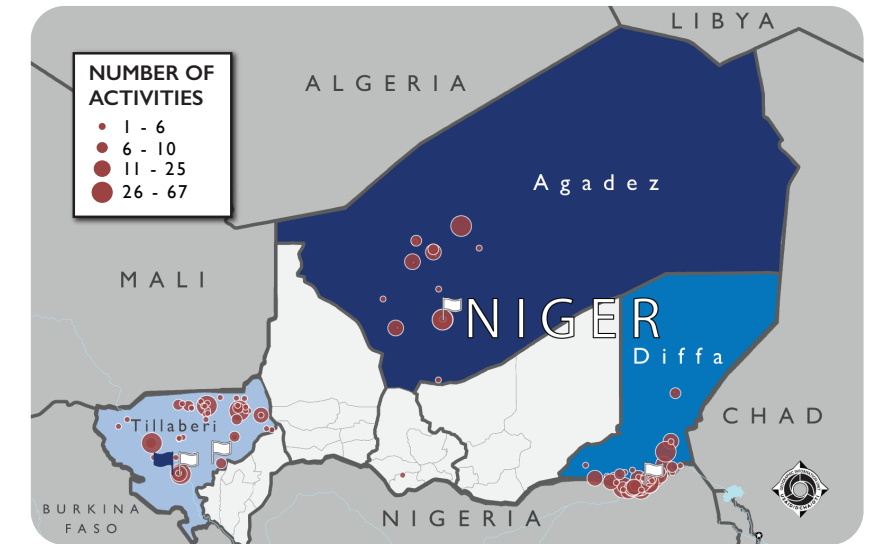


NIGER COMMUNITY COHESION INITIATIVE (NCCI)

OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES PROGRAM

Strengthening the ability of Niger to deny the influence of violent extremism via locally driven efforts.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

NCCI provides economic relief for individuals suffering from the state-of-emergency restrictions and creates space for dialogue between youth and authorities to decrease their frustrations and reduce risks of further Boko Haram (BH) recruitment.

Awareness-raising caravans and rehabilitation of service delivery infrastructures (boreholes, clinics, roads) draws authorities and communities closer together. People feel listened to and welcome increased engagement by government officials.

Following the BH attacks in Bosso, NCCI supports local leaders from Diffa region to create the Nalewa Mada network ('We search for peace' in Kanuri), a network of 312 community leaders engaged to counter BH messaging and recruitment dynamics in their communities.

NCCI organizes a reconciliation forum between Fulani and Zerma communities to address increasing tensions following attacks in Banibangou. 24 leaders from both ethnic communities create the Naanay network (Network of Trust) to prevent inter-community conflicts.

The Nalewa Mada network conducts an information caravan on the government's amnesty and reintegration program for surrendered BH members, to inform and better involve concerned communities in the process.

AGADEZ

DIFFA

TILLABERI

93 activities for \$2.2M

143 activities for \$3.1M

51 activities for \$1.6M

STRATEGIC PROGRAM RESPONSE

September 2014

NCCI launches work in Niger to build social cohesion and strengthen resistance to domestic and regional threats to stability

January 2015

January 2016

A regional forum for peace and security in Banibangou marks beginning of programming in Tillaberi

January 2017

In Agadez, NCCI shifts its focus toward youth, aiming to engage and build youth leaders as agents of change in their communities

January 2018

In light of the increasing number of attacks in western Tillaberi region, NCCI expands its programming area to include Ouallam commune

KEY SITUATIONAL EVENTS

2014

Niger's Diffa region receives thousands of Nigerian refugees and returned Nigeriens fleeing Boko Haram (BH) violence in Nigeria.

2014

Violent extremism organization (VEO) recruitment in Diffa marked by hundreds of youth joining BH in Nigeria.

2014

In Agadez region, the mining sector is reduced and thousands of workers become unemployed.

2015

Following first BH attack in Niger, Bosso in February, Niger declares state of emergency for Diffa region, imposing movement restrictions and prohibiting activities essential to local economy.

2015

In March, BH pledges allegiance to ISIS, calling itself ISIS-West Africa.

2015

Intensified BH attacks in Diffa, including several high-casualty attacks on military bases in the Lake Chad area, leading Niger authorities to order people to evacuate the Lake Chad islands in May.

2016

During large-scale attacks in Bosso and Toumour in June, BH holds territory in Niger for the first time. The multinational task force intensifies military operations in Lake Chad area including deployment of Chadian troops to Niger.

2016

Niger and international community start to crack down on illegal migration and smuggling.

2016

Fraction of BH: Abu Musab al-Barnawi replaces Abubakar Shekau as leader of ISIS-West Africa. Shekau continues to lead a separate group of followers.

2016

Attack on military position in Banibangou in November involving Fulani increases suspicion of the Fulani community.

2017

Following the declaration of an amnesty policy for BH defectors by the Niger government, 160 BH members surrender in 2017. Insecurity with incursions, kidnappings and attacks on security forces in Diffa continues.

2017

In March, Ansar Dine, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb et Al-Mourabitoune join forces in Jamaat Nosrat al-Islam wal-Mouslimin, the official branch of al-Qaeda in Mali.

2017

Frequent attacks on military and security forces in Tillaberi region by VEOs operating from Mali lead to declaration of state of emergency in northern Tillaberi region, restricting movement and closing certain markets.

2017

In July, Niger launches military operation Dongo in northern Tillaberi. In November, the new G5 Sahel regional force launches military operations in border area of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.