

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

As of 30 June 2023, Chad hosts 768,138 refugees and 5,400 asylum-seekers. This represents an increase of 52.7 per cent compared to June 2020 and is due to the series of conflicts which occurred between mid-2020 and mid-2023 in the Central African Republic (CAR), Nigeria, Cameroon and Sudan. Between April 2023 and June 2023, 192,473 Sudanese asylum-seekers have arrived in Chad following the conflict that erupted on 15 April 2023 in Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), subsequently spreading to the Darfur region.

In addition to refugees, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has increased by 61 per cent and is currently estimated at 381,289 in the Lake Chad province. This increase in the period 2020-2021 is mainly due to a deterioration in the security situation in the Lake Chad province. Additionally, Chad hosts about 77,650 individuals at risk of statelessness. These are Chadian-origin returnees who have come back from Central African Republic, where they had been settled for several decades.

Despite a difficult security and socio-economic context, Chad has continued to admit on its territory people in need of international protection from the neighboring countries. Furthermore, since mid-April 2023, Chad has witnessed the return of approximately 38,100 Chadian migrants who fled the conflict in Sudan.

KEY POPULATION DATA (as of 30 June 2023)

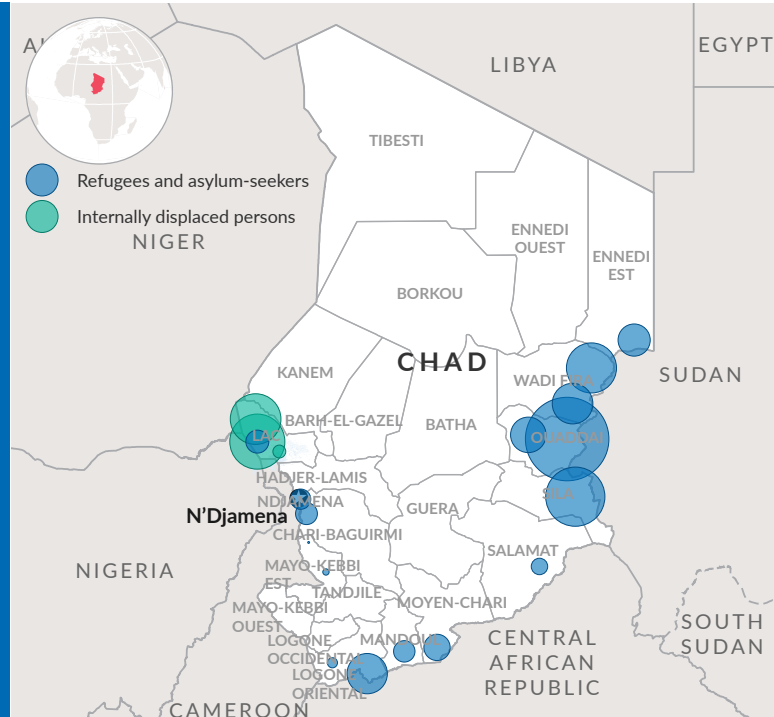
762,738
Refugees

5,400
Asylum-seekers

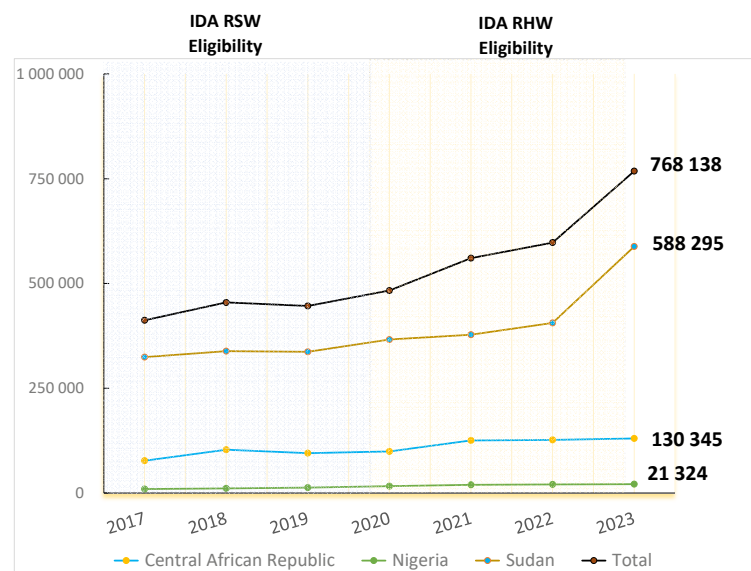
4.52 %
of the country's population
(4,583,907) are refugees and
asylum-seekers.

381,289
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

IDA 18 RSW/IDA 19 WHR
Eligibility: September 2017



Before the inflow from Sudan as of mid-April 2023, there were 22 camps (13 in the East, six in the South, two near N'Djamena and one in the Lake Chad Province), one other camp in the East, and several villages hosting refugees in the South and along the border with Cameroon. The main urban refugee communities are in N'Djamena and Abéché. In May 2023, seven existing camps in the East were expanded, and two new camps were created in the East to accommodate new arrivals from Sudan. As a result, Chad has 24 camps to date, five more than in June 2020. In camps, sites and villages, the refugee population lives alongside host communities, with whom they share limited resources and services.



RPRF Policy Dimensions

(as of 30 June 2023)

1. Host Communities

1.1 Support for communities in refugee-hosting areas

There has been little change since June 2020 in this domain and no specific national fiscal or budget policy is yet in place to provide additional financial transfers to areas most affected by the presence of refugees. Financial contributions for these areas still rely on projects and programs funded by external donors.

The government's priorities remain focused on: (i) Defence and security, peace, social cohesion and national reconciliation; (ii) Good governance and the rule of Law; and (iii) Return to constitutional order. In practice, regarding transfers from central to local level, the Government of Chad continues to allocate twenty percent of its budget to security, excluding other social sectors, amid ongoing challenges from conflicts in neighboring countries, and economic and climatic crises.

As of 30 June 2023, only 1.6 per cent of Chad's population is covered by the social protection framework, and the country spends 0.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product on social protection (excluding health and education expenses). After a lengthy process, the document for the new National Social Protection Strategy (SNPS) 2022-2026 has been finalized and is awaiting validation and signature by the transitional government. The new SNPS spanning four years aims to gradually establish a comprehensive, effective and efficient social protection system that addresses financial needs, livelihood security, risk management, vulnerability reduction and access to basic social services for all individuals residing in Chad, including refugees.

1.2 Social cohesion

On 27 June 2023, Chad's National Transitional Council (CNT) officially adopted the proposed new Constitution. This Constitution aims to restore constitutional order and conclude the transition initiated after the passing of former President Idriss Déby on 19 April 2021. Drawing from the 1996 Constitution, the document incorporates recommendations from the national dialogue. Notably, the reinstatement of institutions such as the Senate, the High Court of Justice and the Supreme Court occurs, preserving the decentralized unitary state. Half of the cross-cutting recommendations from the Sovereign National Inclusive Dialogue (DNIS) concentrate on fostering social cohesion. The primary focus of the Post-DNIS Transition Specifications' initial strategic axis revolves around Defence, Security, Peace, Social Cohesion and National Reconciliation. Consequently, the Ministry of National Reconciliation and Social Cohesion has been established.

As part of the RESILAC project funded by the European Union (EU) and [the French Development Agency \(AFD\), the capitalization report on the implementation of social cohesion activities in the Lake Chad basin \(2022\)](#) recommended strengthening social cohesion at various levels (community members, groups, institutions) and adopting a cross-cutting approach coupled with economic recovery and institutional support activities.

During the covered period, a National Development Plan spanning 2022-2026 has been prepared, to supplant the National Development Plan document (2019-2021) which has lapsed, but it has not been adopted. The updated plan maintains provisions for establishing consensual mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. This involves reinforcing the legal framework to foster trust between communities and security forces, facilitating socio-security dialogue, promoting peaceful coexistence and fostering respect for differences.

Even though the [Law 021-PR-2019 on legal aid and judicial assistance](#) was enacted in 2019, its implementation has been stalled due to the absence of an implementing Decree. Chad is planning to commit to adopting this Decree at the 2023 December Global Forum on Refugees.

Furthermore, it is also important to note that the new asylum legislation enacted during the prescribed period has also incorporated a few provisions to promote peaceful coexistence including through securing the right of refugees and asylum-seekers to access State legal aid services to prevent and/or resolve conflict.

Given that the refugee population is up to three or four times larger than the local population in certain areas hosting refugees, mainly in Eastern Chad, there is an increased risk of tensions due to already limited resources. Nevertheless, on a broader scale and across the entire territory, refugees continue to peacefully coexist with the local population, facilitated by strong ethnic and cultural bonds, along with shared common traditions. Mixed committees, comprising both refugees and members of the host community, remain active in all refugee camps and sites. Their objective is to promote peaceful coexistence and proactively address conflicts. Women continue to play a crucial role in conveying messages of peace and social cohesion, contributing significantly to dispute resolution efforts.

1.3 Environmental management

There has been no significant change in national environmental protection and resource management policies. The existing policies continue to lack clarity concerning their application to refugees and/or host communities.

The floods in 2022 had adverse effects in 18 out of the 23 provinces, including Lac, Mayo Kebbi Est, Mayo Kebbi Ouest, Logone Occidentale, Logone Orientale, Tandjilé and Mandoul. These consequences resulted in the loss of agricultural land and livestock, and heightened risks to food security. In October 2022, authorities responded by declaring a state of emergency and offering financial assistance to affected individuals, including refugees hosted in these rural areas, to meet their shelter and essential needs. Specific sites were identified to temporarily accommodate the displaced individuals irrespective of their status.

1.4 Preparedness for refugee inflows

The National Commission for the Reception, Reintegration of Refugees and Repatriates (Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés, CNARR) remains the national institutional body to respond to new refugee inflows. The four-year strategy of CNARR (2019-2023), which includes mobilization provisions in case of emergencies, continues to be applied. The CNARR continues to work with UNHCR and other United Nations organizations to support and guide its response to refugee inflows, particularly in cases of emergency.

In response to the recent arrival from Sudan from mid-April 2023 to the present, humanitarian agencies acted swiftly to support the government's request. They coordinated a comprehensive, multisectoral humanitarian response on the ground under the Refugee Coordination Model previously used during the inflow of refugees from Cameroon and Central African Republic. This involved establishing sectoral groups to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach. While development actors were not directly engaged in formulating and financing emergency plans, they received regular updates on the implemented responses by CNARR and UNHCR.

2. Regulatory Environment and Governance

2.1 Normative framework

Chad, already a state party to the [1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol](#), and the [1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa](#), enacted a new asylum Law on 31 December 2020 ([Loi No. 027/PR/2020 Portant Asile en République du Tchad](#)).

Despite a historically enabling environment for refugees and other forcibly displaced in Chad, the lack of a specific refugee legal framework has been a longstanding issue. The new 2020 asylum Law contributed to addressing this vacuum and enhances the existing national institutional framework for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers assumed by CNARR, as established by the [2011 Decree establishing the National Commission for the Reception, Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees](#) ([Décret n°839/PR/PM/MAT/2011, CNARR](#)). This latter remains in force given the role played by CNARR to supervise the refugee management in the country. The new asylum Law clarifies the principles applicable to refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure their protection and provides a legal basis for their civil and socio-economic rights, including freedom of movement, access to justice, the right to work, healthcare, education and land. Additionally, the new asylum Law grants refugees the same rights as Chadian citizens regarding education, healthcare and social protection. It also provides for the recognition of the refugee identity card as a residence permit.

On 25 April 2023, in the midst of significant arrivals from Sudan, the Transition President promulgated [Decree No. 0648/PT/PM/MATDBG/2023](#) implementing the asylum Law ([Decret d'application de la loi d'asile n°0648/PT/PM/MATDBG/2023 portant modalités d'application de la loi du 31 décembre 2020](#)). This 2023 Decree establishes the measures to operationalize the provisions of the 2020 asylum Law. Henceforth, the combined set of legal instruments, comprising the 2020 asylum Law and the 2023 Decree, is referred to as the asylum legislation.

The 2023 Decree outlines the procedures for reception and registering asylum-seekers arriving in Chad. It details the individualized refugee status determination (RSD) procedure, covering interview modalities, RSD assessments, and final adjudication by the Sub Eligibility Commission. Additionally, the Decree introduces an accelerated RSD procedure for specific groups, including unaccompanied and separated children, victims of torture and gender-based violence, and vulnerable asylum-seekers. It also addresses prima facie refugee recognition for mass influxes due to violence or unrest, or for groups of asylum-seekers with similar characteristics. The Decree includes appeal procedures for first instance rejected asylum-seekers which is dealt with by a Sub-Commission of Appeal stipulating that the decisions taken by this body are reasoned and endorsed by an order taken by the Minister in charge of territorial administration. The same Decree also indicates that decisions of the Appeals Sub-Commission are subject to appeal before the administrative chamber of the Supreme Court. The Decree also outlines the processes for exclusion, cessation, revocation and cancellation of refugee status. Additionally, the Decree outlines the specific legal and judicial assistance that asylum-seekers and refugees can benefit from in the national asylum procedure, but also for the any other matters/conflict.

Consistent with the recent legislation consolidating past practices, CNARR, through its Eligibility Sub Commission, remains the primary authority for asylum at first instance. Over the past three years, CNARR has employed prima facie refugee recognition during the registration phase for asylum-seekers from Central African Republic hosted in the South of Chad, those from Nigeria hosted in the Western Chad, and equally for those fleeing Sudan, including for non-Chadian persons forcibly displaced since the outbreak of 15 April 2023. Other asylum-seekers have undergone an individualized RSD procedure handled by CNARR. While there have been some enhancements in asylum legislation, notably with the recent promulgation of the 2023 Decree aiming to improve the efficiency of individualized RSD procedures, implementation challenges persist. Issues include permanent rotation of CNARR staff, inadequate training for CNARR eligibility officers in interview techniques, legal assessments and the use of country-of-origin information. Non-compliance with first-instance asylum processing delays stipulated in the asylum legislation is also observed. Despite

the introduction of accelerated procedures in the 2023 Decree, some asylum-seekers with vulnerabilities wait for a first-instance asylum decision for several months. It is crucial to note that asylum-seekers do not have the same rights as recognized refugees, limiting their socio-economic integration. Additionally, the budget of CNARR remains mostly funded by UNHCR.

The asylum legislation, available in French and Arabic, is not well-known among some local administrative authorities and host communities. Despite ongoing information sessions and capacity development conducted by CNARR with UNHCR support, the impact is constrained by high personnel turnover in central and provincial administrations. CNARR, supported by UNHCR, has launched a campaign to disseminate information about the new refugee Law. Additional efforts are essential for effective dissemination, especially in remote areas hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly with the recent release of the 2023 Decree implementing the 2020 Asylum Law.

Furthermore, on 1 June 2023, the Transitional National Council also enacted [Law No. 012/PT/2023](#) relating to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in the Republic of Chad. This Law establishes the legal framework to assist internally displaced persons, serving as a guiding, preventive and assistance tool for both the state and other relevant actors in addressing internal displacement.

This has resulted in instances of arbitrary arrests and detentions of refugees and asylum-seekers.

2.2 Security of legal status

The new asylum legislation establishes predictable legal arrangements for the stay of refugees and asylum-seekers in Chad. Article 31 of the [2020 Law](#) mandates the issuance of a refugee ID card by the competent authority. This card serves as both an authorization to stay in Chad and a residency permit, allowing freedom of movement for refugees within the conditions specified by Law. The second paragraph of Article 14 of the 2020 asylum Law stipulates that an asylum-seeker certificate is valid for six months and equivalent to an authorization to stay in Chad, is issued by CNARR and renewed until the Eligibility Sub Commission takes a decision on his/her refugee status.

Furthermore, Article 65 of the [2023 Decree](#) specifies that refugees or asylum-seekers with a (provisional) residence permit have the right to reside and move within the Chadian territory, like Chadian nationals. This legislation aligns with previous practices, and there has been no change in the duration and legality of stay for refugees and asylum-seekers in Chad. In practice, renewals of asylum-seekers' certificates and refugee identity cards by the authorities continue without difficulty. Over 80 per cent of consulted asylum-seekers in 2021 reported no difficulties with the renewal of their asylum-seeker certificates.

Article 36 of the 2020 Asylum Law guarantees protection against refoulement. The 2023 Decree also details specific provisions to ensure effective respect to the non-refoulement principles including Articles 51, 52 and 53. The Law also outlines legal provisions for cessation clauses, cancellation and revocation of refugee status, adhering to international refugee law standards. Over the past three years, there has been no documented case of refoulement involving a refugee or asylum-seeker, nor has there been any reported case of the unlawful termination of refugee status. Despite over half of arriving asylum-seekers lacking identity or civil registry documentation, there have been no issues reported regarding their admission to the territory.

2.3 Institutional framework for refugee management and coordination

According to Article 38 of the [2020 Asylum Law](#), the institutional framework for the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees remains defined by [Decret n°839/PR/PM/MAT/2011](#), which establishes CNARR. In essence, the introduction of the new asylum legislation in Chad has not altered the institutional framework for asylum. This legal reform has codified existing practices and brought clarity to the implementation of Decree No. 11-839, which outlines the creation, organization and responsibilities of CNARR.

In practice, CNARR, which still operates under the Ministry of Public Security, Territorial Administration and Local Governance (MSPARGL), remains responsible for coordinating the implementation of legal provisions

related to refugees. CNARR continues to be responsible for coordinating the protection of refugees. Its tasks include safeguarding the well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, managing issues related to them (such as identification and registration, document issuance and camp administration), and maintaining communication with relevant ministries. These ministries encompass Foreign Affairs, Security, Defence, Justice, Finance, Social Affairs, Human Rights, Economy, Education, Health and Water. CNARR also provides advice to the MSPARGL on sustainable solutions. Challenges faced by CNARR in coordinating efforts among various stakeholders and donors persist, mainly due to a shortage of stable, qualified human resources and limited financial capacity. In these circumstances and as specified by Article 55 of the [2023 Decree](#), UNHCR continues to support CNARR for the refugee response coordination using the established refugee coordination model. Coordination meetings with external partners are jointly chaired by the government counterpart (CNARR or prefect) and UNHCR. CNARR maintains a presence in all refugee camps and most refugee hosting areas.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education continues to collect data on refugee and asylum-seekers students for the education management information system. The same applies with the Ministry of Health; data on refugee and asylum-seekers are included in the national health information system. The government is working on releasing breakdowns of pupils by legal status (nationals and refugees). Additionally, the Government continues to work to include refugees in the national civil registry database. However, the technical and financial prerequisites for this are not yet in place. Furthermore, UNHCR has long been advocating for refugees and asylum-seekers to be included in the future national population and household census, and there is now apparent agreement from the government on this principle.

The established mechanisms in refugee camps and in N'Djamena to ensure substantial refugee participation at local levels remain functional. This includes elected committees representing refugees, along with separate committees for men, women and children/young individuals. Sectoral committees such as those for livelihoods, child protection, education and healthcare are also still active. Additionally, inclusive and mixed committees of leaders or sectoral representatives in refugee hosting villages continue to facilitate interaction between members of both communities, addressing both general and specific issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when physical access to refugees became difficult due to government restrictions, alternative communication methods (e.g. posters, banners, radio announcements, phone calls and SMS), and mobile protection teams, were utilized by CNARR to stay in touch with refugee communities.

2.4 Access to civil registration and documentation

The new asylum legislation - specifically Article 31 of the [2020 Law](#) and Article 73 of the [2023 Decree](#) - provides for the issuance of refugee identity cards by the competent national authority. It outlines that the refugee identity card is valid for five years, renewable and is issued for each refugee of 18 years old and above. Despite this new asylum legislation, UNHCR continues to give substantial support to the Refugee Government counterpart, CNARR, including by issuing individual refugee cards to adults, family refugee attestations and household ration cards. There have been no changes in the documentation process for adult refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, UNHCR continues to support CNARR to issue asylum-seeker certificates valid for six months and their renewal.

During the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Chad committed, among other things, to issuing biometric Refugee Identity Cards and Machine-Readable Refugee Convention Travel Documents (MRCTDs) to meet international standards. A study by the National Agency for Secure Documents (Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés, ANATS), the only competent authority for issuing biometric identity and travel documents, outlined a technical proposal released in March 2023 for the project's implementation, but financial resources are currently lacking to operationalize this pledge. As of 30 June 2023, no biometric identity card neither CTD has been delivered by the competent national authorities (ANATS) to refugees.

The 2023 Decree specifies that CNARR and UNHCR collaboratively handle the reception and pre-registration of new arrivals at the international border, following the completion of police formalities. The pre-registration specifically pertains to situations involving arrivals in groups. In practice, the entire registration of newly arrived asylum-seekers remains jointly conducted by CNARR and UNHCR. This involves collecting all the

biometric and individual data of asylum-seekers in the UNHCR-managed refugee management database, ensuring that this process remains distinct from the registration of an asylum application carried out strictly by CNARR.

Article 31 of the 2020 Law and Article 73 of the 2023 Decree outline that refugees are entitled by the competent authorities to be issued with civil status documents including birth certificates, death certificates and marriage certificates on par with nationals. Furthermore, the specific legal framework on civil status documents consists of the National Civil Status Code and [Law No. 008/PR/2013](#) of 10 May 2013, governing civil status organizations in the Republic of Chad. Under Decree No. 660/PR/PM/MATSP/2015, establishing the modalities of application of the Law of 10 May 2013, all births in Chad are subject to a mandatory registration requirement. In line with this universal principle of civil registration, all foreigners, including refugees and asylum-seekers to whom vital events have occurred in Chad, are allowed to benefit from civil registry services on par with nationals. Additionally, [Ordinance No. 002/PR/2020](#) on the organization of civil status in the Republic of Chad has extended the registration delay for births to three months.

Despite the improved legal framework and the free issuance of birth certificates within the stipulated period, challenges in physically accessing civil registration centres, along with a persistent lack of awareness regarding legal obligations surrounding births, contribute to the overall low rates of birth registration in Chad.

It is worth noting that there has been an increase in the birth registration rate from 15 per cent in 2020 to 26 per cent in 2023. The strategic partnership between UNHCR and government agencies responsible for issuing birth certificates, specifically the Directorate of Political Affairs and Civil Status (APEC until 2020) and ANATS since 2021, has facilitated the issuance of birth certificates to over 150,000 refugee children and children from host communities in refugee hosting areas.

2.5 Justice and security

The government of Chad continues to ensure the security of refugees and asylum-seekers through the Humanitarian Workers and Refugee Detachment (DPHR). Generally, refugees are not more exposed to existing violence and crime. According to protection data collected through [Project 21](#) ('regional protection monitoring') approximately 15 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers claim to have been victims of physical assault, but it is noteworthy that these cases occurred in the country of origin at the time of fleeing.

While rape and child marriage remain prohibited by Law, other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) are insufficiently covered by existing Laws and policies to protect the Chadian and refugee populations. The national policy to respond to GBV, in effect since 2011, applies in refugee camps and refugee hosting villages but faces challenges due to limited resources (human and logistic) to fully implement this policy. The referral mechanism for refugee victims for medical, legal and psychosocial support remains in place but its effectiveness depends on the human and financial resources available in the relevant hosting areas.

The new asylum legislation provides a robust legal framework for guaranteeing access to justice for refugees and asylum-seekers. This includes outlining specific provisions regarding legal assistance and judicial assistance to permit access to justice, legal representation and enforcement of ruling. It is important to consider this framework in conjunction with [Law 021-PR-2019 on legal aid and judicial assistance](#), which was enacted in 2019, though not fully operational in absence of an implementing decree. Article 27 of the [2020 Asylum Law](#) recognizes the refugee right to access Chadian Courts. The same provision also provides for treatment regarding access to judicial assistance on par with nationals and exempts refugees from providing a financial deposit to Courts (caution judicatum solvi) applicable to ordinary foreigners.

Article 65 of the [2023 Decree](#) further outlines that refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy access to Court on par with nationals. Additionally, the 2023 Decree outlines the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees to access judicial assistance and legal assistance in the conditions outlined by the law. A specific legal provision of the 2023 Decree also details the different modalities composing legal aid accessible to refugees and asylum-seekers

which aims at preventing conflict, enabling resolution and improving the understanding of law and justice.

In practice, the availability of judicial services, including Court, remains scarce or too distant from refugee hosting areas, including camps. The nascent state legal aid services remain constrained in scale and scope, further exacerbated by the lack of implementation. In addressing the legal and justice needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, despite the support provided by UNHCR and its partners for legal aid services, the predominant option remains traditional arrangements made under the auspices of local and traditional authorities.

3. Economic Opportunities

3.1 Freedom of movement

In addition to the constitutional guarantee of freedom of movement, Article 21 of the [Asylum Law](#) confirms that refugees and asylum-seekers in possession of their identification documents enjoy the right to circulate and to reside in Chad in the same conditions as nationals. Furthermore, Article 73 of the [2023 Decree](#) outlines that the refugee identity card allows the free movement of refugees in the conditions specified by the law. Additionally, Article 61 of the 2023 Decree specifically addressing local integration of refugees recognizes, as part of the prerequisite to achieve self-reliance, among others, the freedom of movement and the right to settle in places favourable to their self-reliance.

However, regarding asylum-seekers, it is important to note that Article 20 of the 2020 Law, incorporating the principle of non-penalization for illegal entry, specifies in its second paragraph that the movement of asylum-seekers is restricted only if necessary and as long as their refugee status is not determined or until they have been admitted to another host country.

Refugees and asylum seekers continue to have access to a free travel permit issued by CNARR (sauf-conduits). This document specifies the intended destination and the duration of absence from the camp.

While refugees and asylum-seekers have the right to reside in Chad, as enshrined in Article 21 of the law, and there are no legislative restrictions on their choice of residence, multisectoral assistance is only provided by UNHCR and its partners in camps. Consequently, this assistance remains a decisive factor in refugees' decision to stay in the camps. Refugees with the financial means to support themselves or engaged in economic activities outside the camps are free to choose their place of residence in Chad.

3.2 Right to work and rights at work

Article 28 of the [Asylum law](#) in the Republic of Chad grants refugees the most favourable treatment afforded under similar circumstances to foreign nationals regarding the pursuit of gainful employment, whether salaried, non-salaried and/or self-employed. The same provision pursues that refugees shall be exempted from certain restrictive measures imposed by the prevailing regulations on the employment of foreigners. Additionally, Article 70 of the 2023 Decree stipulates that a refugee legally residing in Chad enjoys the same rights and standards of treatment as foreign nationals. Article 61 of the [2023 Decree](#) specifically addressing local integration also guarantees the refugee right to access salaried or non-salaried employment to reach self-reliance.

Despite the enactment of new asylum legislation, potential inconsistencies may persist with other labor-related legislation that remain in force or have not been amended in the country. This lack of alignment could create hesitancy among prospective employers when considering the hiring of refugees.

For instance, [Decree No. 96-189 PR/MFPT of 15 April 1996](#), and Decree No. 1793/PR/PM/MECDT/2015 of 24 August 2015, which address mandatory reporting of hiring, job offers and personnel in companies, as well as business-related procedures, are still applicable.

In accordance with Article 28 of the 2020 Asylum Law, the restrictions on the employment of foreigners, including the prerequisite of obtaining a work permit, should be considered not applicable to refugees. However, Decree No. 96-189 PR/MFPT, still requiring approval from the National Office for Employment Protection (ONAPE) for the employment of foreigners, remains silent on refugees. In addition, the decree stipulates that, before submission to ONAPE, contracts for foreigners must receive endorsement from immigration authorities. It is unclear whether refugees should be exempted from this endorsement from Immigration Department.

Furthermore, Article 11 of the 1996 Decree, which prohibits hiring foreigners for non-specialized jobs, may still apply for refugees. Companies hiring foreigners are still obligated to pay fees ranging from FCFA 100,000 to FCFA 250,000, and it is unclear whether these fees will also apply to refugees. The 2023 Asylum Decree has not clarified the type of exemption of restrictive measures for foreigner employment that should benefit to refugees.

UNHCR supports CNARR in the popularization of the asylum law and its implementing decree, including towards ONAPE with the aim to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would lift the challenges met by refugees while accessing the job market including in the private sector.

In the private sector, practical experience shows that some employers still hire refugees without the approval of ONAPE and may treat them less favorably in terms of wages and social benefits. There has been no legislative or policy change regarding child labor.

There is no reliable data on the percentage of refugees employed in the formal sector.

Many refugees work in the informal sector, but data on this is equally unavailable. Most refugees engage in independent work, particularly in agriculture, which remains the backbone of the Chadian economy. However, agricultural value chains are very weak in the country, affecting both refugees and host populations. The main constraints, even more pronounced for women, relate to difficulties in accessing agricultural land, infrastructure, agricultural inputs such as certified inputs, and financial services.

While Article 28 of the Asylum Law permits refugees also to engage in self-employment, the lack of legally recognized refugee identity cards is likely to remain a major obstacle to meeting administrative requirements to open a business and pay the necessary tax.

Information on the number of refugees owning businesses is also lacking.

3.3 Land, housing, and property rights

Article 24 of the [Asylum Law](#) accords refugees a treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, concerning the acquisition of movable or immovable property, lease contracts and other associated rights. Article 67 of the [2023 Decree](#) adds that refugees lawfully staying in the country shall have the same treatment as foreigners in general concerning that right. Article 29 of the Asylum Law also accords refugees lawfully staying in Chad treatment as favourable as possible concerning housing which falls under national legislation, or which is submitted to public control, and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances. Article 71 of the 2023 Decree specifies that refugees lawfully staying in Chad should be accorded the same treatment as foreigners in general regarding housing subject to the laws and regulations in force. Key to note is that Article 61 of the 2023 Decree, specifically addressing local integration as a durable solution, specifies that the Government prioritizes refugees' right to access land and secure allocated land to achieve self-reliance.

Land ownership remains a complex issue in the absence of a codified land law, and the general regime of land ownership, encompassing both formal and traditional rights, has not undergone any changes in the past three years. Customary and Islamic laws continue to govern access to and control of land and natural resources in urban and rural areas. While these customary systems vary considerably across the

country, most Chadians traditionally obtain land through the family or lineage, following the principle of first occupancy and, for women, through marriage.

In practice, refugees have access to agricultural land through sharecropping, loans or leases.

It is important to note that before the enactment of the new asylum legislation and in the absence of clear rules, refugees theoretically had the right to purchase land. However, this was challenging due to the prevalence of the traditional ownership system, their inability to produce financial documents and other administrative obstacles.

In practical terms, refugees continue to encounter greater challenges than nationals in accessing large, fertile land parcels due to their distance from the camps. When engaging in sharecropping agreements (*métayage*), refugees are required to share a portion of the harvest with the landowner or pay rent for these lands, which can sometimes amount to 50,000 FCFA per hectare per year.

This contrasts with the government's promotion of free land access which apply to all people involved in agriculture. The current arrangements have led to a seasonal migration of refugees from the camps to fields located in cantons up to 50 or 70 km away, where they establish temporary settlements. These sharecropping agreements offer the advantage of fostering close relationships between refugees, landowners and entire villages, because refugees set up tents with their families throughout the growing season. Furthermore, refugees often do not receive documents confirming their right to sustained access to the land used. Between 2020 and 2023, approximately 15,000 hectares of agricultural land have been made available to refugees in Chad for exploitation purposes, under written or verbal agreements lasting from one to three years.

In the current Ministry of Social Affairs, there is still no housing assistance program for vulnerable Chadian nationals. Furthermore, the temporary support system for relocating populations affected by floods in the capital, primarily backed by the humanitarian actors, does not extend its coverage to refugees.

3.4 Financial and administrative services

The newly enacted asylum legislation does not include a specific legal provision governing access to financial services nor access to administrative documents and certifications, including recognition of educational attainments received outside of the national system. However, within the context of local integration and self-reliance, Article 61 of the [2023 Decree](#) outlines that the Government of Chad prioritizes actions for refugees, among others, to access credits, microcredits and subsidies, as well as to obtain the recognition of documents issued by competent authorities.

In practice, access to these financial services is still hindered by the type of identification documents issued by CNARR and UNHCR to refugees. The refugee identity cards, not issued by the national competent authority, ANATS, is often considered an unofficial document in most cases. Efforts to expand the legally recognized documentation through the provision of biometric identification and a national identification number by ANATS for refugees would be the solution to these recurring challenges. Other practical challenges persist for refugees in accessing credit, stemming from their inability to meet the financial guarantees and the perception that they pose a high risk profile as borrowers. Some refugees, mainly living in the South of Chad continue to ably access bank accounts, mainly saving accounts, based on the prior recognition of their identity cards by certain financial institutions.

Mobile network operators still accept refugee identity cards issued by CNARR as valid proof of identity. Refugees without an identity card must still be vouched for by those who possess one to enable SIM card registration. Through their phone numbers, refugees have access to payment and money transfer facilities offered by telecommunications operators. Asylum-seekers still do not have the right to acquire a SIM card with the asylum-seeker certificate.

In practical terms, a formal State led system for recognizing foreign diplomas of refugees and foreigners does exist through an authentication mechanism led by the National Office for Higher Education Examinations and Competitions (Office National des Examens et Concours du Supérieur - ONECS). Regarding driving licenses, only Chadian driving licenses can be obtained through ANATS after fulfilling ANATS requirements.

4. Access to National Public Services

The new asylum legislation guarantees the right to health, education, public assistance and public relief for refugees and asylum-seekers in possession of their individual documentation on par with nationals of Chad.

4.1 Education

Article 21 of the [2020 Asylum Law](#) specifies that every refugee or asylum-seeker in possession of individual documentation enjoys the right to education and vocational training under the same conditions as nationals. The same is reiterated by Article 65 of the [2023 Decree](#). Despite not explicitly mentioning asylum-seekers in its wording, Article 32 of the 2020 Law and Article 75 of the 2023 Decree should be interpreted in the spirit of Article 21 of the law and Article 65 of the Decree that asylum-seekers are equally entitled to the same treatment as nationals regarding education.

The government of Chad has committed to providing refugees with access to quality education by integrating them into the national education system. This integration allows all refugees and asylum-seekers to enrol in primary, secondary, and higher education institutions, follow the Chadian curriculum, and obtain recognized diplomas. The process of integrating refugees into the national education system has seen significant progress since 27 November 2020, including the adoption of the ten-year refugee education strategy by the government. In line with this, since 2018, the government has recognized and integrated 94 schools in camps and reception sites into the national system and opened seven examination centres in camps to ensure that all students can take national exams under proper conditions.

During the 2022-2023 school year, a total of 105,295 refugee children were enrolled in schools. This number includes 7,520 in pre-primary, 75,205 in primary, 24,999 in secondary, and 571 in higher education and vocational training. The gross enrolment rates for refugees were as follows: 71 per cent in primary, 28 per cent in secondary, and less than 1 per cent in tertiary education. Refugee enrolment rates at the primary and tertiary levels remain below those of national students (71 per cent and 1 per cent compared to 91 per cent and 3 per cent respectively), while they are higher than those of national students at the secondary level (28 per cent compared to 22 per cent).

Chad continues to have a government-led system to support the integration of refugee children coming from a different education system (Nigerian and Sudanese refugees) but funded by UNHCR. Local education authorities organize placement tests and catch-up classes before integrating refugee children into the most appropriate Chadian school year according to their level, age and other criteria. With new arrivals from Sudan since April 2023, Sudanese refugee children have been integrated into the existing programme with ongoing recruitment of new teachers in the main refugee hosting areas.

4.2 Health care

Article 21 of the [Asylum Law](#) stipulates that every refugee or asylum seeker is entitled to the right to health under the same conditions as nationals.

During the prescribed period, Chad has developed a new [National Health Development Plan for 2022-2030](#), aiming to establish an integrated, efficient, resilient, and person-centered health system. This plan includes refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring their access to public health services on an equal basis with nationals. Refugees and asylum-seekers are also incorporated into national, provincial, and departmental

health planning documents.

The 2019 agreement between the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Ministry of Health, regarding the progressive integration of camp health centres into the national health system, has facilitated the inclusion of all camp health centres in the national system, with the assignment of a healthcare worker to each of these centres, who is included on the Government payroll. The remaining personnel are still supported by UNHCR through its partners. This support from UNHCR remains necessary because access to quality Government led healthcare is still limited due to a shortage of healthcare professionals, medication, health infrastructure, and equipment, as well as high costs.

In 2023, the national utilization rate was 0.31 new consultations per inhabitant per year, while in the camps, it stood at 1.2 new consultations per refugee per year. This indicates that healthcare access is more favourable in the camps than host populations. The disparity can be attributed partially to improved geographical access in the camps, but more significantly, it is driven by financial factors. Notably, healthcare is provided free of charge in refugee camps, whereas state facilities require fees for healthcare services. For refugees living outside the camps, UNHCR, through its health partner, has signed agreements with state health centers for free access, with costs covered by partners under UNHCR's budget.

Sexual and reproductive healthcare is integrated into the package of services offered in refugee camps covered by UNHCR and partners' budget. As of June 2023, the rate of assisted childbirth was 91% in the refugee camps.

Moreover, Chad developed a national strategic plan for the progressive implementation of universal health coverage from 2017 to 2019, starting with vulnerable populations. Eventually, it should cover all individuals residing in Chad, including refugees. However, the implementation of this plan was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of June 2023, its implementation was not yet effective.

4.3 Social protection

State social protection programmes are guaranteed to refugees and asylum-seekers under Article 21 of the [2020 Asylum Law](#). Article 33 of the Law specifies that refugees and asylum-seekers are entitled to the same treatment as nationals regarding assistance and public relief. Article 77 of the [2023 Decree](#) reiterates the same.

The 2016-2020 National Social Protection Strategy (SNPS) faced implementation challenges. Subsequently, a new SNPS for 2022-2026, developed with support from UNICEF, the World Bank, UNFPA, WFP and FAO, is now awaiting validation and government approval. This strategy, distinct from its predecessor, prioritizes addressing financial and livelihood security for the most vulnerable, managing risks, reducing vulnerability and ensuring access to basic social services for all residents in Chad, including refugees. Notably, it aligns with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The forthcoming strategy will be accompanied by a priority action plan.

School feeding programs are largely implemented by the World Food Programme, reaching a total of 13,000 refugees in 14 schools in the provinces of Lake Chad and Logone Oriental.

The Unified Social Registry (RSU), launched in 2019, has made limited progress in capacity, governance and financing, despite continuous support from WFP and NGOs.

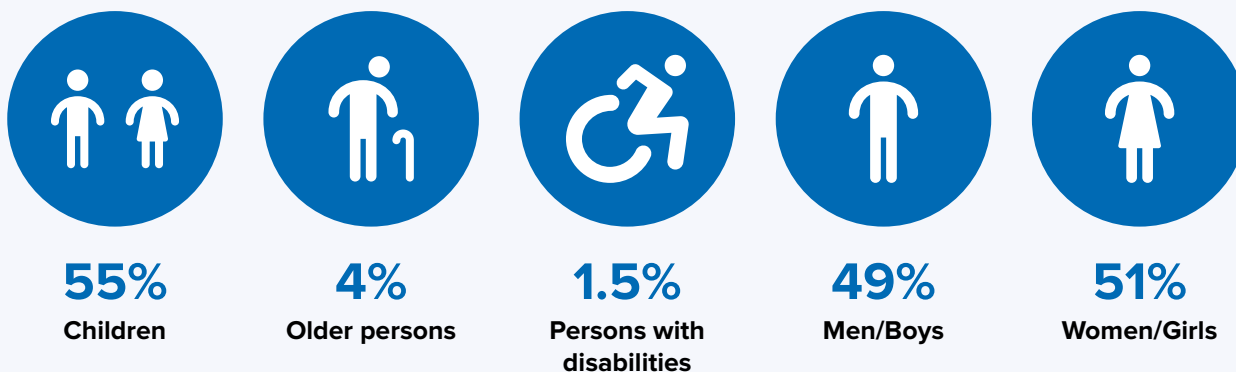
4.4 Protection for vulnerable groups

In practical terms, the national protection system for the most vulnerable has not undergone any changes and the measures in place to support victims of human trafficking are still insufficient. This holds true for victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and at-risk children. The national protection services aimed at these vulnerable groups continue to be underdeveloped and underfunded.

5. Cross Sectors

Characteristics of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in total refugee population

as of 30 June 2023



5.1 Gender

Gender considerations can generally be enhanced in many sub-dimensions of overall policies, with the most relevant being the national institutional framework for the management and coordination of refugees. Additionally, the limited participation of refugee women in advisory committees often results in inadequate consideration of the concerns and needs of women and girls. This hinders their inclusion in national plans and programs.

The most consequential policy sub-dimensions in terms of socioeconomic development remain therefore as follows:

- a. **Justice and Security:** Challenges remain in preventing and responding to gender-based violence.
- b. **Land, Housing, and Property:** Refugees in general still face difficulties in accessing and owning land.
- c. **Education:** Limited access to education for refugee girls, particularly due to high dropout rates. In the 2022-2023 school year, girls' enrolment rates were 47 per cent in primary, 17 per cent in middle school and only 6 per cent in high school nationwide. The drop in middle and high school attendance is linked to socio-cultural pressures, leading to issues like child marriages, early marriages, child labour.
- d. **Healthcare:** Insufficient prioritization of the specific needs of women and girls, including refugee women and girls. Maternal and reproductive health services remain underdeveloped in some areas, struggling to be fully effective due to a lack of material and financial support.

5.2 Social inclusion

The most significant differences or restrictions in terms of socio-economic development affecting refugees with particular characteristics are:

- a. **Access to biometric identity cards and unique identifier number:** The continued lack of access to legally recognized identity cards for refugees issued by the competent authority in Chad, ANATS, and national identification numbers, challenges their inclusion into national system and limits their socio-economic integration in the country.
- b. **Access to civil registry civil status documents:** The low percentage of registered births, due to significant deficiencies in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system in Chad, especially in rural areas, exposes refugees born in Chad to the risk of statelessness.

- c. **Land:** Access to land for sustainable agricultural activities, which is crucial for fostering refugee's self-reliance remains challenging.