Flash Update #16 Please visit our coordination tool here.

The influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad continues

Date: June 13, 2025

The security situation in the Darfur region continues to deteriorate. In El Fasher, North Darfur, clashes between armed groups continue, accompanied by shelling that affects civilian areas, including the Abu Shouk IDP camp. Cases of gender-based violence have also been reported. In the Kordofan region, fighting is intensifying in El Obeid (North Kordofan), artillery fire and drone strikes have caused civilian casualties and damaged a prison and homes. West Kordofan is marked by intercommunal violence and raids.

Displacement trends and violations incurred

This crisis is characterised by an alarming increase in violence, particularly gender-based violence targeting women and girls. Limited access to water, shelter, and food, as well as protection needs, particularly for pregnant women and critically ill children, requires a strengthened humanitarian response. There is an urgent need to improve basic and protection services for these vulnerable populations. Many displaced people from Zamzam remain stranded due to a lack of resources, some having been robbed by agents of armed groups. Following the intense fighting on April 11, 2025, in Zamzam and around El Fasher, more than **79,373** people (**23,348** households) have been forcibly displaced to Chad.

Between May 1 and 31, 2025, **6,186** households (**20,190** individuals) were interviewed at the Ennedi Est, Wadi-Fira, and Ouaddaï border entry points. The majority fled Sudan due to insecurity (58%), with 67% reporting human rights violations during their flight. Nearly half have relatives still stranded in Sudan. Regarding education, 62% of children are out of school. Only 6% of households have birth certificates, and 66% are undocumented. Priority needs relate to access to services, available assistance, and information on their rights.

Overview of the response and challenges

Emergency response activities in Wadi Fira and East Ennedi © UNHCR/Chad

Funding:

Humanitarian needs remain considerable, and UNHCR and its partners are struggling to respond effectively to urgent needs for shelter, water, sanitation, health and food. **The 2025 RRRP for the Sudanese situation is finance at 13%**.

COORDINATION

- The Chadian government and UNHCR continue to coordinate the emergency response. Regular sectoral meetings are organized by the heads of each sector.
- From 11 to 13 June 2025, the UNICEF Representative in Chad, Mr. Luciano Celestini, visited Wadi Fira. He met with local authorities, received a briefing from UNHCR on the humanitarian situation, and visited the Tiné and Iridimi sites. He observed refugee reception procedures, interacted with communities, and reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to water, hygiene, education, and mental health, within the limits of the available resources.
- A coordination meeting was held on June 9 at the UNHCR office, bringing together humanitarian actors present on the site. The aim was to present completed and planned activities, as well as to monitor ongoing interventions.

  This response is being carried out in collaboration with the CNARR, the Chadian Red Cross (CRT), NIRVANA, the ICRC, UNICEF, WHO, SECADEV, LMI, MSF Belgium, WFP, IOM, SVI, WVI, ADES, NRC, KITES, AIRD, and INTERSOS.

PROTECTION

- Between 7 and 13 June 2025, eight interviews conducted in Iridimi and Ouré Cassoni identified seven severe cases of human rights violations, including one gang rape, two cases of arbitrary detention and torture, as well as other violations of civil, political, and socioeconomic rights. The victims, mainly women and a 16-year-old boy, suffered deep trauma related to the conflict or their flight to Chad. This *Amana Wa Salama* project aims to strengthen protection by collecting and documenting human rights violations, identifying vulnerable people, including survivors of gender-based violence and torture, and ensuring their referral to appropriate services.
- Some victims have been referred to psychologists temporarily deployed to Iridimi with the support of UNICEF, IOM, and UNFPA, under the coordination of UNHCR. The needs remain immense given the lack of resources.
- UNICEF/World Vision will work with 200 children with special needs for three months, establishing a child-friendly space and an approach that integrates refugees and host communities. They are already active in Tiné. Discussions will continue to organise interventions and avoid duplication.
- The Iridimi site continues to host refugees, with the situation having remained stable for three weeks. However, access to water, shelter, and food, as well as the protection of pregnant women and sick children, remain top priorities, particularly in protecting them from adverse weather conditions.
- In Ouré Cassoni, child protection is characterized by a high number of children, insufficient staff (particularly at JRS), and the absence of appropriate spaces and activities. Many children are vulnerable, unaccompanied, or traumatised and exposed to increased risks. Priority recommendations include increasing the number of qualified staff, training community workers and volunteers, and creating dedicated spaces for children.
- The response to violence suffered before or during flight remains insufficient. No rape survivor received a PEP kit within 72 hours, leading to serious consequences. In Iridimi, 100% of survivors received psychosocial support, 23% accessed medical care (often untimely), 19% of victims of psychological violence reported their cases, and 75% of relocated survivors received shelter.
- A dedicated listening centre for women victims of gender-based violence is essential in Ouré Cassoni. It would provide a safe space, psychosocial support, referrals to specialized services, and awareness-raising activities to prevent violence and strengthen community protection.
- UNHCR and partners held an information session for new arrivals in the Wadi, presenting the multi-sector emergency response plan and coordination with the five interim governance structures on site.
- Since April 2025, a total of 1,414 separated/unaccompanied children (ENA/ES) and 2,200 children at risk have been identified in Tine and Oure Cassoni. Around 100 of them are being monitored by JRS in Iridimi. Limited access to civil registration and the absence of child-friendly spaces increase their exposure to abuse, exploitation, forced labour, and trafficking. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to forced marriage. Despite awareness-raising, basic needs remain largely unmet.

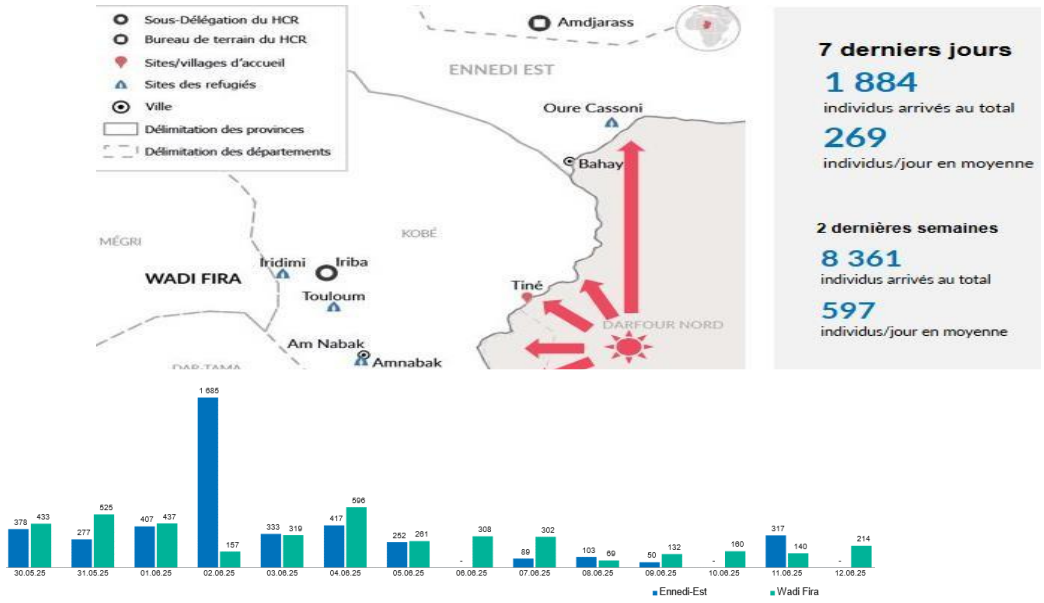
HEALTH/NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- As part of a national capacity and vulnerability study conducted by the Government of Chad and the CNARR, with technical support from UN agencies, data collection began on 28 May 2025, at the Ouré Cassoni site and surrounding villages. It involves 155 households and will last for a maximum of 14 days. It also includes the newly arrived refugees.
- The ADES-run health centre in Iridimi, which serves approximately 42,000 Sudanese old caseload refugees, 25,000 Sudanese new arrivals, and the host community, is overwhelmed. Staff and medicine supplies are insufficient, limiting access to care, particularly for new arrivals.
- In Oure Cassoni, the health situation remains critical: no medical facilities are available, and the ambulance is broken down, endangering vulnerable people. It is recommended that a mobile clinic be quickly deployed and that the ambulance be repaired or replaced.
- MSF Belgium mission in Ouré Cassoni aims to implement a range of humanitarian activities for refugees from the Wadi site. It focuses on health and nutrition, with vaccinations, medical screening, and primary care for new arrivals.
- As part of the emergency response to Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est, 8 of the 14 planned psychologists are currently deployed: two by IOM and six by UNICEF. The remaining six will be deployed shortly by UNFPA (2) and UNICEF (4). Psychologists are already working in Iridimi and Tiné to provide psychological first aid. Nearly 300 people have been attended to and referred to health, protection, child protection and GBV services. A mapping of services and actors is underway, and deployment is planned to Tiné, Amdjarass and Guéréda. The developed site of Iridimi faces serious health problems due to the lack of drinking water and sanitation facilities. There is an urgent need to improve access to water, sanitation and preventive measures to improve health on the site.
- The local population of Iriba, through the Youth Association, distributed food and clothing to 1,200 households out of 2,300 kits intended to support the new arrivals.
- 300 vulnerable households were assisted with food by Qatar Charity, in coordination with the CNARR (millet, oil, rice, sugar).
- The local community of Iriba, through the youth association, supported 2,300 vulnerable households among the new arrivals with food and non-food items (flour, millet, sugar, rice, oil, macaroni, clothing).
- On June 9, Mr. Alhadj Abdeldjabar Ali, a Sudanese national, on behalf of his organisation *Albasma Al Beeiya*, donated food (flour, rice, sugar, beans, macaroni, millet, and 20 cows) to the newly arrived Sudanese. This gesture of solidarity illustrates the positive impact of individual initiatives in the context of a humanitarian crisis.

SHELTER / WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION AND ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS (EH&S)

- The water supply in Iridimi is inadequate, with only 3 liters per person per day, well below the humanitarian standard of 15 l/p/d. No functional latrines have been constructed yet, resulting in open defecation and an unsanitary environment. Construction of 250 latrines is underway.
- Of the 2,000 planned family shelters, 1,351 have been built and occupied, as well as 26 community sheds.
- In Oure Cassoni, the national NGO *Sans Abris* deployed a water tank and began distributing water to new arrivals. This initiative is helping to alleviate the water shortage identified in the humanitarian response.
- The Oure Cassoni refugee site is saturated, and new arrivals are struggling to find shelter in the face of the difficult climatic conditions.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with its partner ABAMUS, provided water storage equipment to strengthen response capacities in Oure Cassoni.
- The *Emergency Response Room* (ERR), a Sudanese NGO established in April 2023 in Khartoum, coordinates humanitarian aid in Sudan and Darfur with support from the UN and NGOs. It operates in the areas of food, health, transport, WASH, and shelter. In Tine (Sudan/Chad), ERR supports asylum seekers by distributing meals, drinking water, and providing transportation assistance. In Iridimi, an emergency water distribution program was carried out from 28 May to 8 June 2025, with a tanker truck making two rotations per day, but was slowed by a lack of containers.

RELOCATION

- As of 12 June, **27,510** refugees have been relocated from Tine to Iridimi, and **18,505** are awaiting relocation.

The map illustrates the main entry points for Sudanese refugees into Chad, highlighting displacement trends and the most affected areas.