UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

# EASTERN CHAD

18 march 2026

## SUDANESE SITUATION – FLASH UPDATES #48

## Key numbers

**1, 517, 616**
Refugees and asylum seekers in Chad as of February 8th 2026[1]

**918,465**
New Sudanese refugee arrivals from April 2023 –17th March 2026[2]

**14,835**
New Sudanese refugees registered since January 2026

## Funding

**$701.4 M** requested for the Sudanese Emergency Interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan - Jan- Dec 2025 - **35%** of funding received

### Update on Refugee Movements

#### Increase in drone attacks and cross-border incidents

The week under review was marked by drone attacks attributed to Sudanese paramilitary groups (FSR/RSF) in the towns of Adikong (Sudan), on the border with Adré, and Tiné (Chad), even as the borders with Chad remain officially closed.

On the afternoon of March 18, 2026, a drone attack attributed to the FSR took place in a neighborhood of the city of Tiné (Chad). According to a government statement, the toll stands at 17 deaths and several injuries (all Chadians). The victims had gathered on private property for a funeral. Read **here**

On March 12, 2026, drones struck the Sudanese town of Adikong, near Adré, causing casualties and significant property damage. Initial reports indicate 30 people were seriously affected, including 9 deaths and 21 injuries. Among the injured were 7 Chadians, including 4 women, 6 unaccompanied children, and 8 adult Sudanese refugees. The attack primarily targeted the Adikong market, particularly fuel and goods stockpiles. This marks the third drone attack on this city since December 2025.

Fighting in North Darfur resumed on March 16, 2026, particularly in Tiné, Sudan, on the border with the Tiné-Chad corridor, and led to direct incursions into Chad. The RSF briefly took control of the neighboring Sudanese town before being pushed back, but the clashes spread to Chadian military posts. These developments significantly increase the risk of disruption to humanitarian corridors.

The Chadian government's decision to close the borders with neighboring Sudan on February 23, 2026, for security reasons remains in effect. Despite this closure, people fleeing the violence are still allowed to enter Chad. Other asylum seekers, due to fighting in Sudan, are taking alternative routes slightly further away from the initial corridors. No cases of refoulement have been reported. Humanitarian activities at border crossings continue.

#### The Chadian government calls for a military response and declares a state of maximum alert

Following the drone attack in Tiné, the President of the Republic of Chad convened a Defense and Security Council. Three decisions were made during the meeting:

- Complete and effective closure of the 1,300 km of shared border between Chad and Sudan,
- Immediate dispatch of a government mission to Tiné to assess the situation,
- Authorization for the Chadian army to automatically retaliate against any attack originating from Sudan, whether by the regular army or the FSR.



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## Trends in cross-border movements to Chad

Since April 2025, UNHCR in Chad, in collaboration with the CNARR and the Chadian authorities, has dealt with three major influxes of refugees following fighting in Darfur: the attack on Zam-Zam (April 2025), the fall of El Fasher (October 2025), and the fighting in Tiné (February 2026). Since late October 2025, following the attacks on El Fasher, 35,237 new refugees (14,014 families) have been registered along Chad's eastern border. Of these, 14,835 people arrived in 2026, and 2,587 people (1,085 families) arrived in the last three weeks following the fighting in Tiné, Sudan. Arrivals are mainly distributed across four corridors:

- **Ennedi-East / Oure-Cassoni**: 18,077 individuals (51%, 7,003 families)
- **Wadi Fira / Tiné** : 11,626 individuals (33%, 4,759 families)
- **Ouaddaï / Adré–Adikong**: 4,200 individuals (12%, 1,996 families)
- **Sila / Ademour**: 1,334 individuals (4%, 256 families).

Between March 11 and 17, 2026, Chad recorded 448 new arrivals, representing 185 families, a 50% decrease in arrivals compared to the previous week. This decline in arrivals is partly due to difficulties related to detour routes and barricades erected by militias, which have a direct impact on access to asylum. Furthermore, the weekly average over the past four weeks is 789 people.

The new arrivals come mainly from El-Fasher, Zam-Zam Kebkabia, Kutum; Umbaru, Abgamra, Nyala; Kornoi, Tewila, Nil, Birmaza, and Kourbia, and belong predominantly to the Manawi, Toundjour, and Zaghawa ethnic groups. This week, a notable feature of the arrivals' profile is that 64% are men.

## Relocation from border areas and responses from humanitarian actors

The relocation of refugees from border areas to established sites remains the primary protection activity for UNHCR and the Government of Chad. Although a structured plan is in place, this activity faces significant resource constraints.

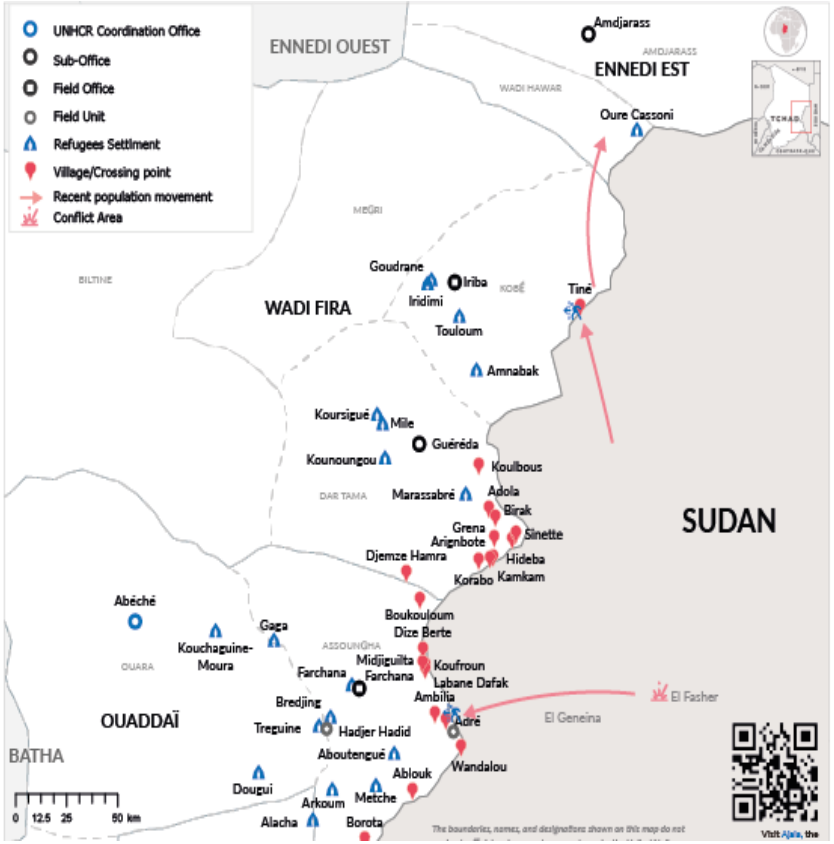
In the Ouaddaï region, relocation has resumed from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine Moura and Dougui. On March 10, 2026, a convoy departed from Adré for the Dougui site to relocate 85 households, comprising 186 refugees, including 61 individuals with special needs. They were settled in 50 family tents that had already been set up. Meanwhile, shelters are currently being built in Kouchaguine Moura to facilitate relocation in the coming weeks. In Wadi-Fira, shelter construction has resumed at the Marassabré site. To date, 1,083 frames have been erected, 250 shelters have already been covered with tarps, and 833 are awaiting tarping.

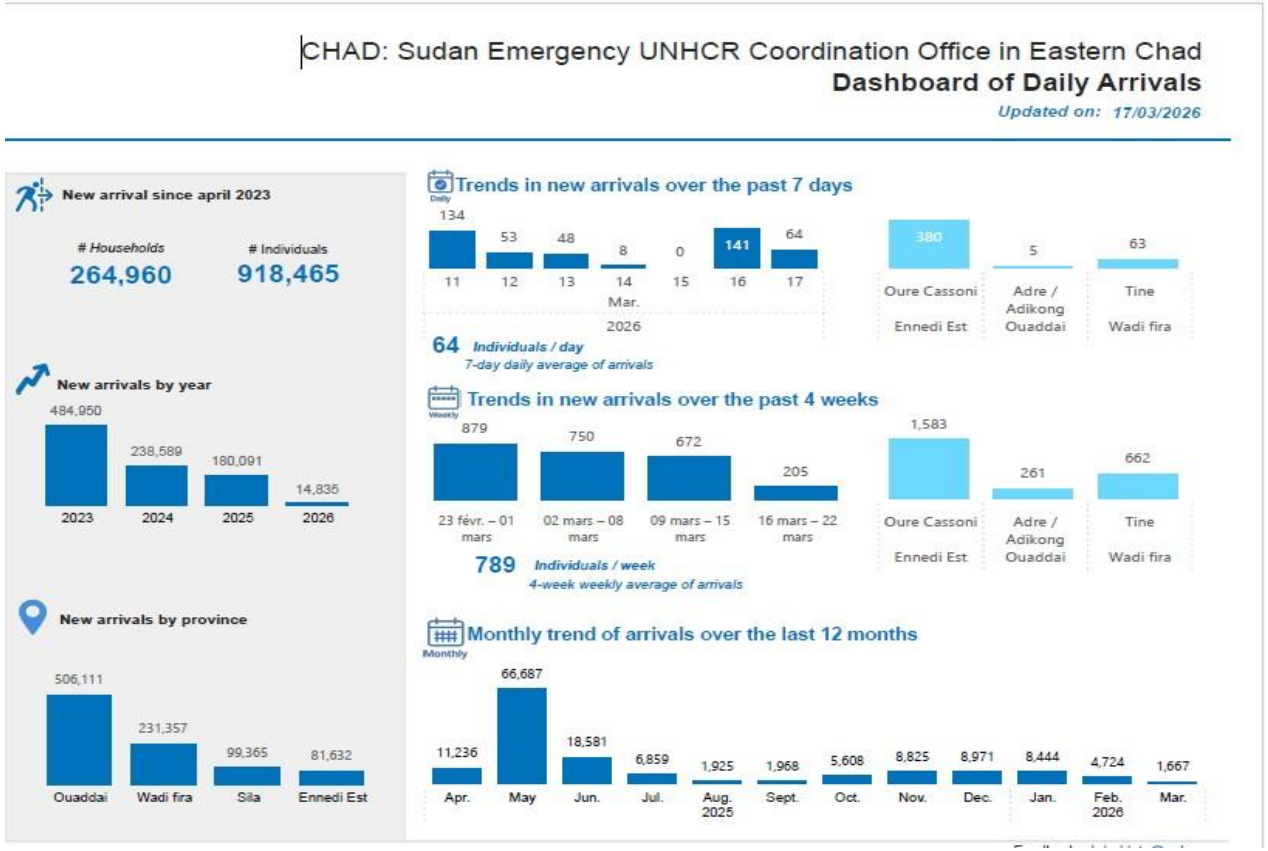
To date, the informal settlement in Adré is hosting 61,408 households, or 233,999 pre-registered individuals, who are also awaiting relocation to developed sites. In Wadi-Fira, 1,345 people from 462 families are awaiting relocation to the Tiné transit site. In Oure-Cassoni, in East Ennedi, nearly 17,000 new arrivals have settled in a wadi (flood-prone area), without shelter or latrines.

Since April 2023, UNHCR, its partners, and the Chadian authorities have relocated more than 614,694 refugees from border areas to safer, established sites, where they have access to shelter, necessities, and essential services.

In the health sector, UNHCR has provided boxes of medicines and medical supplies for partner-run health centers in the provinces of Wadi Fira and East Ennedi. These supplies will last for approximately six months. In the WASH sector, UNHCR successfully drilled a well at the new Oure-Cassoni extension site to meet the water needs of the new refugees settled there.

# EASTERN CHAD

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