Analytic Report

January-December 2025

As part of border monitoring, Project 21 is a systematic data collection and analysis mechanism designed to document cross-border movements, the profiles of arriving persons, protection risks, and human rights violations, in order to guide humanitarian response and protection actions.

Adré entry point, arrival of new refugees in Chad. ©Unhcr/Aristophane Ngargoune, 02.

Data sources

CRT : Croix Rouge du Tchad
CIAUD : Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement
UNHCR : United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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1. General context and analytical framework

The Sudanese crisis, now entering its third year in 2025, continues to have profound, lasting, and cumulative humanitarian and protection consequences. What began as localized armed clashes has progressively evolved into a systemic crisis affecting the country's entire social, economic, and institutional fabric. The collapse of both social safety nets and state protection mechanisms, combined with the proliferation of armed groups, have significantly reduced protection space and increased risks for civilian populations.

In this context, displacement towards eastern Chad no longer reflects only an urgent escape from active fighting, instead, it increasingly represents delayed survival strategies, often undertaken after the complete exhaustion of remaining resources.

The 35,099 newly arrived households interviewed throughout 2025 illustrate this reality: their journeys are marked by prolonged exposure to violence, severe erosion of livelihoods and growing fragmentation of family structures.

On the Chad side, the eastern provinces, including Ouaddaï, Ennedi Est, Wadi Fira, and Sila, continue to receive these large-scale population movements within the environment already characterized by significan structural vulnerabilities.

Entry points and transit sites have become critical protection spaces where immediate life-saving needs converge with emerging medium-term assistance and protection requirements.

P21 monitoring activities in the border area are therefore a strategic tool for documenting protection dynamics from the very first stages of arrival.

Graphic 1 : Map of Eastern Chad

2. Methodological approach

This analysis is based on data consolidated through Project 21 (P21) border monitoring activities conducted between January and December 2025. This dataset comprises information from 35,099 households (107,574 individuals), interviewed at entry points and transit sites in eastern Chad, accounting for 61% of households arriving during the year.

Interviews were carried out within one to two days of arrival, enabling the capture of perceptions still strongly influenced by immediate experience of forced displacement. The report relies on a dual, complementary analytical approach to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the evolving dynamics and needs of the affected population.

On the one hand, this report provides a consolidated annual overview aimed at identifying the structural trends and underlying dynamics that shape the protection situation throughout the year.

On the other hand, it includes a quarterly comparative analysis covering the first to through the fourth quarters. This dual approach makes it possible to capture variations and emerging trends observed over time, in relation to shifts in the security and humanitarian context, as well as changes in movement patterns and settlement modalities among newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Chad.

New arrivals at the spontaneous site of Korabo/Birak awaiting relocation to the settlement site of Marassabré (Wadi-Fira province).
©UNHCR/Bienvenu Daldigue-2025

3. Profiles of new arrivals and displacement dynamics

3.1. Profiles of new arrivals

Throughout 2025, female heads of householdremained the majority among those interviewed at Chad's entry points, with their proportion fluctuating and reaching up to 85%.

However, this predominance dropped significantly in the third quarter, as the number of male-headed households increased. From July onward, the proportion of male heads of household interviewed at the Adré–Adikong entry points (Ouaddaï province) rose sharply, reaching 52%, peaking at 73% in August, and remaining high in September (74%).

The low representation of male-headed households in the early months of the year can be explained in large part by the increased exposure of men of fighting age to the risks of forced recruitment and detention, which for a long time limited their ability to crosss the border entry points into Chad.

A partial easing of crossing conditions from the third quarter onward facilitated their flight, explaining their increased presence among interviewed households during this period.

3.2. Reasons for displacement

Data from 2025 confirms that widespread insecurity due to armed conflict remains the main reason for displacement to Chad. Over the course of the year, 58% of households identified insecurity as the main reason for departure. This proportion showed remarkable stability across quarters – ranging from 53% to 58% - indicating no meaningful improvement in the security situation inside Sudan.

Quarterly analysis reveals an evolution in displacement motivations over time. In the first quarter, a high proportion of preventive departures (20%) suggests that many households were attempting to pre-empt a deterioration in security conditions. From the second quarter onward—and especially in the third quarter—factors related to deteriorating access to economic opportunities and basic social services due to widespread insecurity gained importance, reaching up to 18%. This shift indicates that many households delayed leaving until their survival mechanisms had been fully exhausted.

Overall, Thus, the dynamics of displacement in 2025 are not limited to an immediate reaction to the conflict, but reflect a prolonged crisis of livelihood and protection, in which flight becomes the last available option.

4. Risks associated with forced displacement

4.1. Violation and dangers encountered

One of the most alarming findings for 2025 concerns the extent of human rights violations suffered during flight. Over the course of the year, 71% of households (compared to 50% in 2024) reported having been victims of at least one violation during their displacement to Chad. This proportion peaked in the first quarter (78%) and remained high throughout the year.

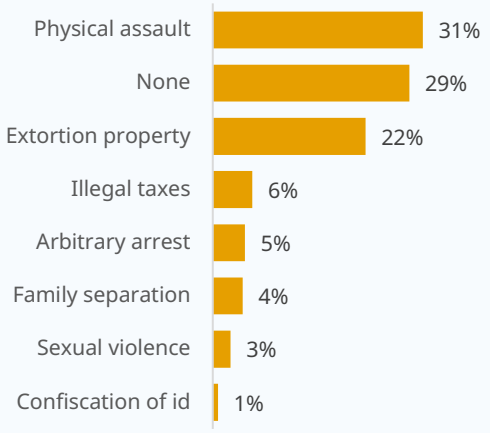
Physical assaults (31%) and extortion of property (22%) are the most frequently reported risks. Illegal taxes (6%), arbitrary arrests (5%), and sexual violence (3%), although less frequently reported, are observed on a recurring basis, indicating the existence of persistent harmful practices that are probably underreported.

4.2. Evolution of risks

Analysis of the results indicates that the nature of the risks changes over the course of the quarters. While the first quarter is dominated by directly violent acts, particularly physical assaults (41%), the second and third quarters are characterized by an increase in economic predation (extortion of property and illegal taxes exceeding 33%).

This dynamic highlights the gradual establishment of control and exploitation mechanisms along displacement routes, exercised by actors who take advantage of the vulnerability of displaced populations. This development confirms that the displacement route itself constitutes an area of prolonged violence, exposing displaced persons to ongoing risks, rather than simply being a transitional stage on the way to safety.

Graphic 2 : Violations during displacement



Interview conducted by UNHCR and CRT with new arrivals in Adré, *©UNHCR/Bienvenu Daldigue-2025*

5. Family fragmentation and associated vulnerabilities

Nearly 46% of households surveyed in 2025 report having family members who remained in Sudan, compared to 52% in 2024. This proportion remains stable throughout the year, indicating that this is a persistent and deeply rooted phenomenon, rather than a temporary variation linked to specific circumstances.

The lack of means of transportation, cited by 49% of households, appears to be the main cause mentioned, highlighting how increased vulnerability contributes to family separation.

Fears of arbitrary arrest (15%) and forced recruitment (7%) illustrate the persistence of a coercive environment that prevents some members from fleeing.

This fragmentation has direct repercussions on protection. It intensifies psychosocial distress, weakens support mechanisms, and limits prospects for durable solutions, as decisions to return or integrate remain closely linked to the situation of relatives who have remained in the country of origin.

6. Essential needs and the struggle for survival

The priority needs expressed by households mainly concern items that are essential for restoring minimum decent living conditions, in particular kitchen utensils (39%) and bedding materials (39%), followed by clothing (7%) and firewood (6%).

This profile of needs highlights a gradual shift in the priorities of households in transit sites, moving from a response to the immediate emergency to a focus on short- and medium-term stabilization.

This trend reflects the situation of households that have been settled since the early stages of the emergency (particularly at the Adré transit site), many of which no longer wish to leave a site that was initially designed to be temporary.

The observed dynamic cannot be explained by a lack of relocation options or sustainable solutions, but rather by a strategic choice on the part of households to remain in the town of Adré. This town is perceived as a major economic hub in eastern Chad, offering opportunities for small businesses, daily activities, and more.

7. Specific Protection: GBV and Child Protection

7.1. Gender-Based Violence: informal support mechanisms

Data from households interviewed at transit sites indicate that survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) rely primarily on family and community networks for support. In fact, 24% say they reach out to family members and 25% to neighbors or friends, while only 11% mention turning to NGOs or UN agencies.

This configuration highlights an underutilization of specialized GBV care services. This could likely be linked to persistent barriers to confidentiality due to insufficient safe spaces, stigma, and physical access to services, which increases the risk of inadequate or delayed care for survivors.

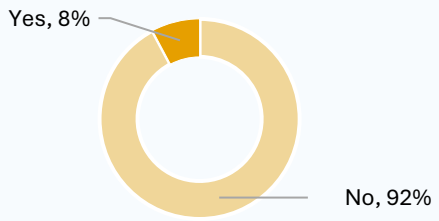
Interview conducted by CRT with new Sudanese refugees at the Tine border (Wadi Fira), ©CRT/2025

7.2. Child protection: dropping out of school and increased risks

The situation of children remains particularly worrying. In 2025, 67% of households report that their children are out of school due to the crisis, while 54% report having school-age children. This massive and persistent dropout rate is a major aggravating factor in protection risks, particularly increased exposure to child labor and child marriage, while indirectly contributing to family separation in a context of prolonged displacement.

As for data on the presence of unaccompanied or separated children (UAC/SC), 8% of households report the presence of at least one UAC/SC, revealing family fragmentation dynamics linked to the conditions of flight and violence suffered before and during displacement. Although this proportion is small, it remains highly concerning given the vulnerability of these children, who are often exposed to multiple risks of abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Graphic 3 : Presence of UAC/SC



8. Documentation and legal protection

Documentation appears to be one of the major cross-cutting issues for protection in 2025. More than 54% of households interviewed do not have any personal documents, while 37% have an identity card or other similar document and only 9% have a birth certificate.

The loss or destruction of documents during flight is the main reason given (57% burned, 34% Lost)

This lack of documentation increases the risk of abuse during the displacement to Chad.

Prolonged stays in transit sites, particularly in Adré (more than 230,000 arrivals since 2023), exacerbate legal vulnerabilities; the loss of identity documents and the non-registration of births expose children born in exile and households without proof of nationality to an increased risk of statelessness.

9. Cross-cutting analysis and programmatic implications

The annual analysis highlights a protection crisis that is not abating but transforming. While conflict-related violence continues to force people to flee.

The resulting consequences, including lack of access to economic opportunities and basic services, also drive many households to leave their area of residence, but later, after their survival resources have been exhausted. These late departures affect particularly vulnerable households and expose them to increased risks throughout their flight.

Quarterly comparisons indicate that, despite fluctuations in the number of interviews conducted, vulnerability levels remain high, reflecting what is now a structural crisis in eastern Chad.

In this context, the results of P21 monitoring at borders in 2025 show that the humanitarian response cannot be limited to receiving and managing arrivals. It must also incorporate a protection approach designed for the medium term, adapted to a crisis that is becoming entrenched.

The persistence of high rates of violence, frequent family separation, overcrowding at transit sites, and difficulties in accessing identity documents underscores the need for and continuity of substantial, structured, and better coordinated responses. These responses must be implemented both at points of entry and in reception areas in order to effectively meet the protection needs of affected populations over the long term.

10. useful links

Results Border monitoring P21 |	https://bit.ly/BorderMonitoring-SdnEmergency
Results Protection Monitoring P21 |	https://bit.ly/MonitoringP21-Tchad
Mapping of refugee-led associations (RLO)|	https://bit.ly/tchad-RLOs_2025
P21 Information Products Feedback Form |	https://bit.ly/EvaluationProduitsP21-Tchad
Operational Data Portal (UNHCR) |	https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/tcd
Sudanese Emergency Coordination Platform |	https://new.ajala.app/index.php

Jorge Olague, head of UNHCR's private sector partnerships section, converses with newly arrived refugee children at the Adré border (Ouaddaï). *©UNHCR/Bienvenu Daldigue-2025*