Boarding operation for refugees in Adré bound for the Arkoum site. © UNHCR/Farchana

Weekly Highlights

- 1,825 individuals (471 households), including 240 persons with specific needs (PSNs), were relocated through three convoys organized on 18, 20 and 22 May 2026, from the border area of Adré to the Arkoum site (Ouaddaï).
- Since 1 March, 8,638 refugees (2,458 households) have already been relocated from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura (3,927 individuals / 973 households), Dougui (787 / 343) and Arkoum (3,924 / 1,142).
- More than 80 m^3 of safe drinking water is currently supplied daily to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura and Arkoum (Ouaddaï).
- 3,230 emergency shelters have been built and 70 family tents installed, out of the16,900 planned.

General Overview

Since April 2023, Chad has received more than 927,000 refugees from Sudan, mainly in the eastern regions, particularly in Ouaddaï (more than 507,000), Wadi Fira (232,000), Sila (105,000) and Ennedi Est (82,000). Including populations already present before the current crisis, the country is now hosting more than 1.3 million Sudanese refugees.

A high concentration is observed in the province of Ouaddaï, especially in Adré, where more than 229,000 pre-registered refugees (60,500 households) are living in the immediate vicinity of the border, under precarious conditions and exposed to security risks.

To strengthen the safety and protection of these populations, the Chadian Government, in coordination with its partners, launched an accelerated relocation operation on 1 March 2026, with support from donors such as Italy, the European Union, Japan, and the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (FHRAOC). This initiative aims to voluntarily relocate more than 85,500 refugees from border areas to established sites located in Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira and Sila.

To date, 165,728 households (622,639 individuals) have already been relocated from border areas to more than 25 secure sites inside the country, with the support of UNHCR and its partners. Operations are ongoing.

Implementation of Refugee Relocation in Eastern Chad

The relocation operation is being implemented through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach combining community outreach, logistical arrangements, assistance and inter-agency coordination to ensure safe, dignified movements aligned with protection standards. In Adré, several partners contributed to activities during the reporting week, notably AIRD for overall logistical support; APLFT, JRS and CRT for the provision of light vehicles; and IRC and JRS for medical screening and the identification of persons with specific needs.

Community mobilization and awareness-raising activities were also carried out with support from refugee leaders, ACTED, APLFT and JRS. In total, 17 community outreach workers, mobilized by ACTED (14), APLFT (01), JRS (01) and CRT (01), were actively involved in relocation awareness-raising activities during the reporting period.

Awareness-Raising to Encourage Refugees to opt for Relocation: Community mobilization remained active through awareness sessions conducted on the sites, in gathering areas and through door-to-door outreach, in order to encourage refugees to voluntarily join the relocation process and benefit from more appropriate services.

Awareness session underway at the spontaneous site in Adré. In Adré, during the reporting week, fourteen (14) awareness sessions (mass sessions and discussion groups) were conducted by the UNHCR relocation team with the support of community actors. In total, 4,483 people were reached, facilitating the relocation of 1,825 individuals. The messages focused on relocation to the Arkoum site, where shelters, safe drinking water, latrines, cash assistance, education services, and access to documentation and refugee status are available.

Awareness-raising session underway at the spontaneous site in Adré.

However, some activities were intermittently affected by search operations conducted by the Defence and Security Forces in Adré, resulting in lower participation due to movement restrictions. Despite these constraints, community outreach remained strong, with the involvement of 17 community volunteers mobilized by ACTED (14), APLFT (01), JRS (01) and CRT (01), who actively supported awareness-raising efforts during the reporting period.

To counter misinformation regarding the availability of services, especially shelters, "*Come and Tell*" sessions were organized, bringing in refugees who had already been relocated to share their experiences with populations at the Adré transit site, alongside exchanges with refugee leaders.

Operational and Logistical Organization of the Relocation

UNHCR, with logistical support from AIRD and in coordination with partners CRT, JRS, is overseeing the implementation of relocation operations. During the reporting period, the three (03) convoys organized mobilized an average of 14 light vehicles and 19 trucks. The light vehicles, including 03 ambulances, 03 DPHR escort vehicles and vehicles dedicated to Persons with Specific Needs, were mainly used to transport vulnerable cases, while trucks transported other refugees.

In order to preserve refugees' dignity, people and their luggage are transported separately, with each truck carrying about 70 passengers and fitted with benches to improve travel conditions. Luggage is systematically tagged, and claim stubs are issued to owners to ensure proper tracking. No baggage quota is imposed, thanks to optimized transport capacity management.

These operations enabled the transport this week of around 6,792 packages, estimated at nearly 595 tonnes, consisting mainly of personal belongings and household items. Animals are transported separately in a truck specifically dedicated for that purpose.

Given the large volume of luggage, regular shuttle rotations are maintained between Adré and the reception sites, allowing personal effects and passengers to be transported progressively. Convoys are secured by an escort and accompanied by an ambulance throughout the journey.

Staff Support to the Relocation Operation

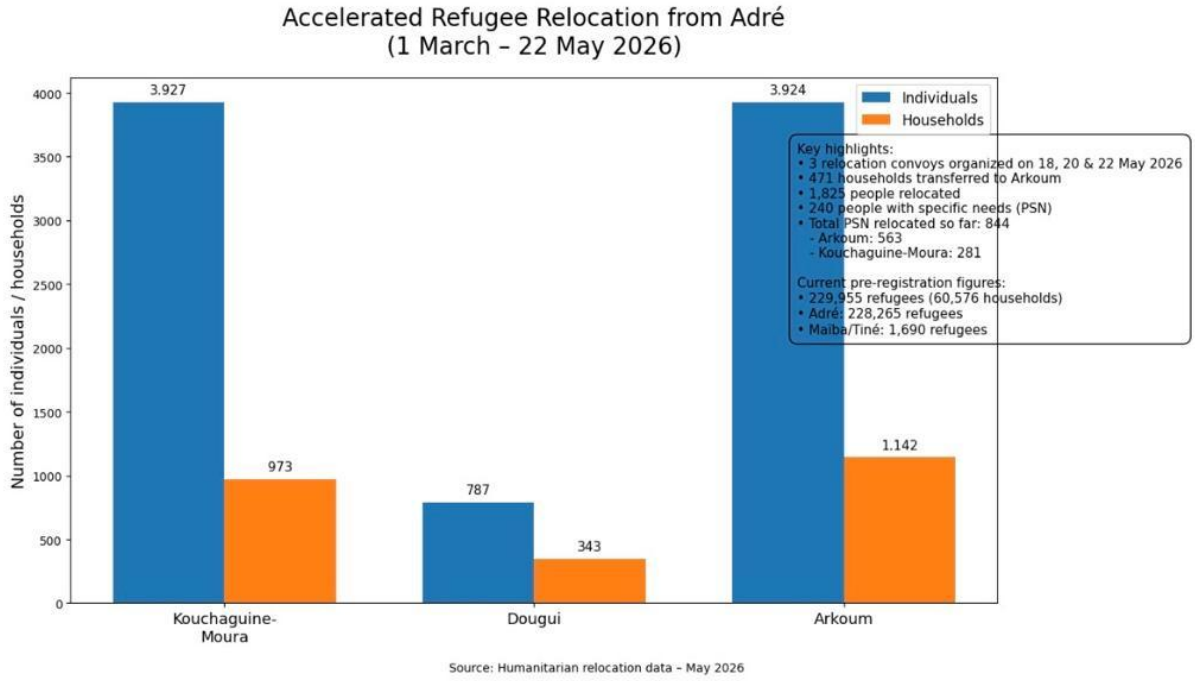
To support the accelerated relocation from Adré, UNHCR deployed additional staff to Adré. A total of 12 staff members were deployed on a rotational basis from the offices of Iriba/Guéréda (02), Goré (02), Bagasola (02), Farchana (04), Abéché (01) and Hadjer Hadid (01). This surge aims to strengthen operational capacity to meet relocation targets, in a context marked by the approaching rainy season, which may complicate access to sites because of the Wadis, whose crossing during the rainy season is difficult, if not impossible.

Details of Relocation Movements

During the reporting period, three relocation convoys were organized from Adré to the developed site of Arkoum, enabling the transfer of 471 households, or 1,825 individuals, including 240 persons with specific needs. These individuals are part of a cumulative total of 844 persons with specific needs already relocated from Adré, including 563 to Arkoum and 281 to Kouchaguine-Moura. These convoys took place on 18, 20 and 22 May 2026.

Thus, since the beginning of the accelerated relocation, 8,638 refugees (2,458 households) have already been relocated from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura (3,927 individuals / 973 households), Dougui (787 / 343) and Arkoum (3,924 / 1,142), covering the period from 1 March 2026 to date.

To date, a total of 229,955 pre-registered refugees (60,576 households) have been recorded, including 228,265 refugees (60,119 households) in Adré and 1,690 individuals (457 households) in Maïba/Tiné, where pre-registration activities are continuing actively.



At the relocation boarding point, biodata collection and verification activities, as well as case dispute management, continue throughout the operation, helping to ensure data reliability, prevent disputes and support the smooth running of the convoys.

Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

Throughout the relocation process, protection teams from UNHCR, CNARR and their partners continue to identify and support persons with specific needs, including children and women at risk, pregnant or breastfeeding women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and individuals with critical medical conditions. To date, these individuals have been relocated from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura and Arkoum.

Particular attention is given to organizing movements from departure to arrival, as well as providing adapted means of transport, in order to ensure a safe relocation process that respects the dignity of the people concerned.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

Monitoring of services, particularly water supply on the Arkoum extension site, was carried out to assess access conditions for relocated refugees and identify the adjustments needed to ensure regular, equitable and sufficient distribution, thereby contributing to the quality of reception within the relocation response.

Operation and Maintenance of Water Infrastructure

- **Kouchaguine-Moura:** Works are continuing with the rehabilitation of a 20 m³ water tower financed by Qatar Charity (nearly 80% completion), 15/20 water points completed (75%), construction of a 50

m³ water tower support structure (35%), drilling of 03 boreholes (02 completed, i.e. 66.66%), and the distribution of 1,550 WASH kits out of 1,800 by Plan International.

- **Arkoum:** IRC/CRT is ensuring the daily distribution of 50 m³ of water trucking.
- **Maïba:** Borehole F2 has been completed (100%), with filling of a 20 m³ tank. In addition, installation of a 66 kVA generator and the ongoing construction of a platform for placing tanks for water storage and distribution are underway.

Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

- Kouchaguine-Moura: 420 latrines laid out and 230 completed out of 630 (36.50%), and 120/150 family latrines (80%) by CRT.
- Arkoum: Out of 800 emergency latrine-shower units by LMI, 288 have been laid out, 276 excavations completed, 208 slabs completed, 202 foundations completed, 95 tarpaulin-covered and 75 finalized (9.37%), along with 25 CRT latrines (100%) and 21/25 family slabs (84%).
- Maïba: Of the 125 planned latrines, 50 are under construction by KITES, UNICEF's partner, and 75 are under construction by LMI, UNHCR's implementing partner.

Shelter and Reception

- In Arkoum, a total of 1,250 emergency shelters are under construction, including 1,100 already completed out of the 5,600 planned.
- In Kouchaguine-Moura, to date, 1,460 shelters have been built out of the 3,000 planned for the initial phase of site relocation. In addition, 70 family tents have also been distributed.
- In Maïba, 500 shelters have been completed.

Construction work on the two sites is continuing at a good pace in order to receive relocated populations. Since the beginning of the relocation operation, partners have also been deployed to the sites to ensure the reception of relocated persons, protection of persons with specific needs, refugee registration and access to essential services. These interventions are coordinated by UNHCR and CNARR, with the support of partners such as AIRD, CRT, OHDEL, JRS, ADES and LMI.

Food Assistance / Cash

The WFP continues the general food distribution on the Arkoum extension site for newly relocated households.

In terms of cash assistance (CBI for NFIs and hot meals), UNHCR, through its financial partner Express Union, launched a distribution on 04 May 2026, which is ongoing for the benefit of relocated households. Households receive this assistance about five days after settling on the site. An allocation of XAF 20,000 per person is provided, including XAF 6,000 for hot meals and XAF 14,000 for non-food items (NFIs). Each person with specific needs receives an additional amount of XAF 33,500. This assistance, provided by UNHCR, is intended to cover the immediate needs of newly arrived households.

Health

IRC, through a mobile clinic, continues to support healthcare by providing first aid and access to health services for refugees immediately upon arrival.

Another partner has taken position but has not yet started activities. It is expected to become operational next week.

Coordination

Relocation activities are coordinated by UNHCR, in support of CNARR, in close collaboration with local, administrative and traditional authorities. Operational implementation is carried out with the support of partners AIRD, ADES, APLFT, JRS, OHDEL, CRT, IRC, LMI, ACTED, NRC, MSF Suisse, DRC, the WFP, KITES,

UNICEF, as well as refugee leaders, in line with their respective mandates in protection, community outreach, cash assistance, food assistance, shelter, WASH and other essential services.

Operational Challenges and Gaps

The most pressing needs concern shelter, non-food items (NFIs), water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), nutrition, health, education, access to land, as well as protection, particularly for persons with specific needs. These constraints, combined with still limited operational and financial capacities, slow the pace of relocation and underscore the urgent need for stronger partner engagement in key sectors to support the gradual and sustainable expansion of reception sites.

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