UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

EASTERN CHAD

30 June 2026

SUDAN SITUATION – FLASH UPDATES

Key numbers

1,378,000
Sudanese refugees in Chad

934, 200
New Sudanese refugee arrivals from April 2023 –June 2026[2]

30, 600
New Sudanese refugees registered since January 2026

Funding

$567.7 M requested for the Sudanese Emergency Interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan - 2026- **18% received**

UPDATE ON SITUATION IN SUDAN

Implication for Eastern Chad

Throughout June, violence in northern and central Sudan—particularly in El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan—has significantly increased the risk of spillover into neighbouring countries, including Chad. The intensification of drone strikes targeting infrastructure and public areas, combined with artillery shelling and the buildup of forces around El Obeid, points to a possible shift towards a large-scale offensive. This situation has led the United Nations, the Security Council, and several international actors to warn of an "imminent risk of mass atrocities" against civilian populations.

These recent developments in Sudan, particularly in North Kordofan - a critical transit corridor between central Sudan and Darfur—continue to heighten the risk of spillover into Darfur and neighbouring countries, including Chad. This dynamic is now accompanied by a gradual shift of the conflict closer to Chad's eastern border areas, especially in Wadi Fira province. Several clashes between the warring parties have recently been reported approximately 100 km from the border, reflecting an escalation of hostilities in close proximity to Chadian territory.

On 29 June, coordinated attacks led by Joint Forces allied with the SAF targeted the localities of Abu Gamra (around 100 km east of Tiné) and Koulbous-Sudan, directly across from Koulbous-Chad, with the two locations separated by a wadi of less than 500 metres. According to multiple sources, the Joint Forces have taken control of Koulbous-Sudan, forcing RSF elements to withdraw from the town. However, the situation remains highly volatile and could evolve rapidly.

In response, Chadian authorities have reinforced security measures along the border to prevent any spillover of the conflict into national territory. Given current developments, counter-attacks by the RSF or renewed offensives by the SAF and their allies remain highly probable in the coming days. In this context, an increase in drone strikes and ground clashes is expected, particularly along the Wadi Fira and Ouaddaï border areas.

These developments further exacerbate already identified risks for Chad in terms of cross-border movements, humanitarian access, and regional stability. A deterioration of the security situation near the borders could not only accelerate refugee flows into eastern Chad but also complicate ongoing humanitarian operations. United Nations personnel and activities may face increased risks, particularly from indirect fire or shrapnel in the event of escalating hostilities near Koulbous.

In this context, heightened vigilance is recommended across all border areas. In the event of a rapid deterioration of the security situation, a precautionary suspension of movements and activities in Koulbous-Chad may be considered to ensure the safety of personnel and beneficiaries, while allowing for the rapid adaptation of humanitarian operations.

Implications for Humanitarian Response in Eastern Chad

For more information, Kindly contact : Principal Situation Coordinator – Isaac Tiantse Tagamgno, tiantse@unhcr.org,
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A significant deterioration of the situation in El-Obeid and cross border Sudan is likely to generate direct, rapid, and multi-dimensional effects on humanitarian operations in Eastern Chad, particularly in the provinces of Wadi Fira, Ennedi Est, and Ouaddaï. Given current displacement trends and existing migration routes, the expected impact would be characterised by:

- **Rapid and potentially large-scale cross-border influx:** An escalation in El-Obeid could trigger substantial refugee movements towards key entry points in Eastern Chad. These flows would likely be unstructured, difficult to predict, and include a high proportion of vulnerable individuals, complicating initial response efforts and reception mechanisms.
- **Critical saturation of existing reception capacities:** Transit centres and reception sites, already under strain from previous influxes, could quickly reach or exceed operational capacity. This would result in deteriorating living conditions, longer registration and assistance timelines, and heightened protection risks.
- **Surge in emergency multisectoral needs:** Increased arrivals would place immediate pressure on essential services, with heightened protection needs—particularly for identifying individuals with specific needs and mitigating risks of violence and exploitation. Requirements for registration (including biometric), emergency shelter, health services (including primary care, nutrition, and disease surveillance), as well as water, sanitation and hygiene would rise sharply, with a high risk of overwhelming existing infrastructure.
- **Increased pressure on host communities and public services:** New arrivals would intensify pressure on already limited resources, including water, land, and basic social services. This dynamic could exacerbate community tensions, increase competition over natural resources, and further weaken the resilience of host populations.
- **Intensified operational and logistical constraints:** The scale and speed of needs may exceed current response capacities, requiring rapid mobilisation of human and material resources, adjustments to supply chains, and continuous prioritisation of interventions in an already constrained environment.
- **Need for rapid expansion of reception infrastructure:** The evolving situation may necessitate the establishment of new sites or the expansion of existing ones. However, these options would remain subject to land availability, as well as technical and logistical constraints, which could delay the response.
- **Risk of deterioration in the quality of humanitarian response:** If capacities are exceeded, the pace of arrivals could compromise adherence to minimum humanitarian standards, with direct implications for the quality of assistance, as well as the protection and dignity of affected populations.

Preparedness Measures - Priority

In anticipation of potential new influxes, humanitarian efforts in Chad are focused on strengthening preparedness and response capacity.

At the border, priority include conducting assessment of available capacity in transit centers and existing reception sites, reinforcing protection monitoring, ensuring timely registration, and improving identification and referral mechanisms for individuals with specific needs. Decongestion of border areas through relocation to safer inland sites remains a key operational priority.

Across sites, efforts should focus on assessing capacities and identify opportunities for site expansion, including the pre-identification of land where feasible. The prepositioning of essential supplies—such as NFIs, emergency shelter, and WASH kits—is being accelerated to enable immediate and rapid response.

Coordination with CNARR, local authorities, and humanitarian partners remains central to ensuring an effective response. Updated contingency planning and strengthened information-sharing, particularly with field teams, are critical to adapt operations in real time.

UPDATE ON REFUGEE RESPONSE IN CHAD

Security situation in Chad:

Chad continues to manage the impact of the Sudan crisis under complex conditions. While the official border closure remains in place, humanitarian corridors allow asylum seekers to seek protection and safety.

However, the operational environment is becoming increasingly challenging. Rising pressure on resources in refugee-hosting areas is contributing to tensions between refugees and host communities, as highlighted by recent incidents in Dar Tama. At the same time, movement restrictions and security-related constraints are affecting humanitarian access and the timely delivery of assistance.

Cross Border Movements and Trends (June 2026)

Despite declines of arrivals observed from February to May 2026, arrivals sharply increased again in June, with over 5,400 new refugees recorded, compared to 2,000 in May. Since the beginning of 2026, more than 30,500 refugees have arrived, bringing the total number hosted by Chad to approximately 934,000 individuals (270,300 households) since April 2023.

New arrivals continue are evenly distributed across Ennedi Est/Oure-Cassoni (31%), Ouaddaï/Adré–Adikong (34%) and Wadi Fira/Tiné (35%).

With majority belonging to Zaghawa ethnic group, refugees originate mainly from North Darfur localities, including Abgamra, Ableha, Birdick, El Fasher, Farawiya, Korbia, Kutum, Orchi, Tawila, Umbaru, and Zamzam.

Response at the Border

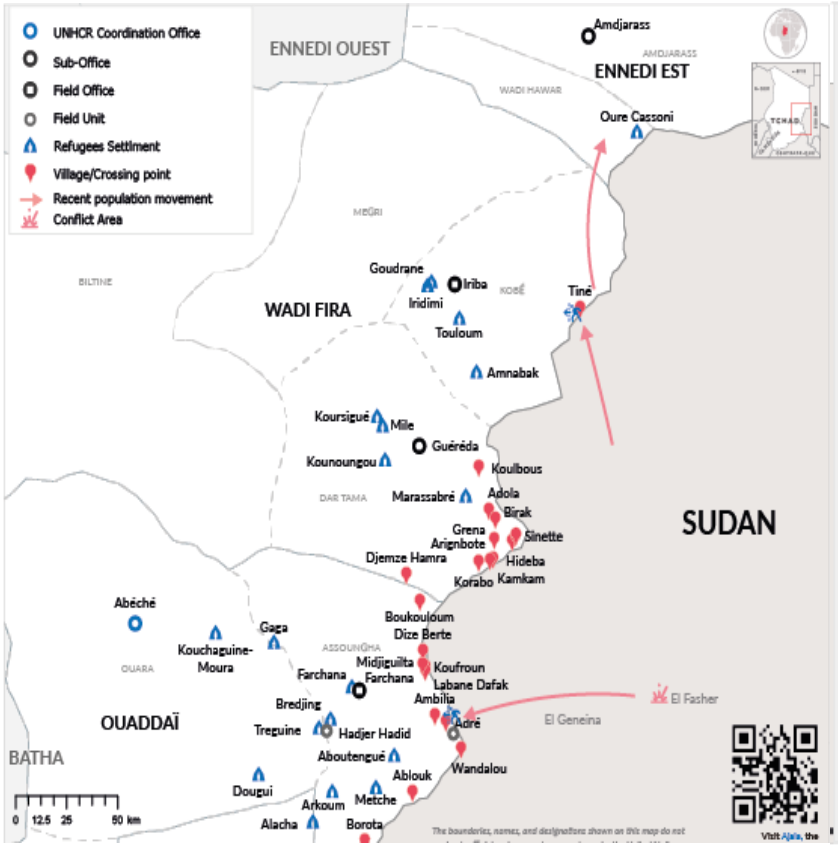
Assistance at Tiné: The One-Stop-Shop (Guichet Unique) at the Tiné border crossing remains temporarily closed, with new arrivals redirected to a transit site located approximately 5 km from the border.
At the transit centre, UNHCR and partners continue to provide essential services, including including CNARR (protection and access to asylum), MSF Belgium (medical screening and health assistance), the Chadian Red Cross (border monitoring), ICRC (restoring family links), UNHCR (protection and non-food item assistance), Caritas (food security), and NIRVANA (community-based protection). In June, UNHCR relocated over 3,800 refugees from the Tiné transit site to sites mainland.

Registration: As of 30 June 2026, over 934,000 refugees have been pre-registered by UNHCR and the government counterpart CNARR. Women and children account for 87% of this population, while 13% are persons with specific needs, including, women at risk (25%), elderly at risk (12%), persons with disabilities (11%), and Children at risk (10%). To date, 63% of registered refugees have completed Level 2 (biometric) registration, facilitating access to documentation and services.

Relocation: In June, 12,266 individuals were relocated from border areas to inland sites, bringing the total to 36,330 refugees relocated since January 2026. Since April 2023, more than 637,300 refugees have been transferred to safer locations inland. UNHCR continues to support the accelerated relocation of refugees from border areas to sites across Ennedi Est, Wadi Fira, Ouaddaï, and Sila.

Response on sites: On sites, refugees receive integrated support, including protection services, access to documentation, healthcare, shelter, WASH, food and non-food assistance. Community-based approaches, including AAP and PSEA mechanisms, are being reinforced to ensure accountability and support the most vulnerable, alongside efforts to strengthen resilience through education and livelihoods.

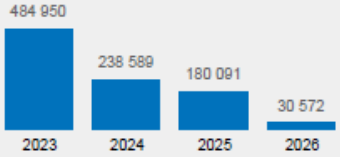
EASTERN CHAD



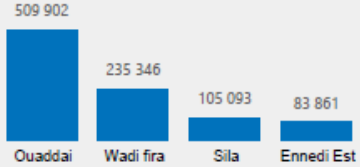
New arrival since april 2023

# Households	# Individuals
270 177	934 202

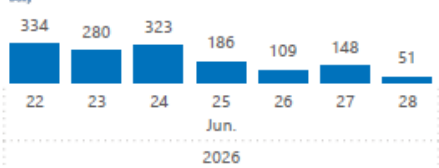
New arrivals by year

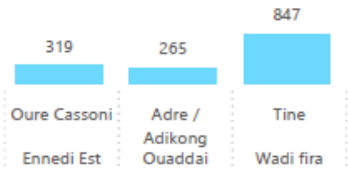


New arrivals by province



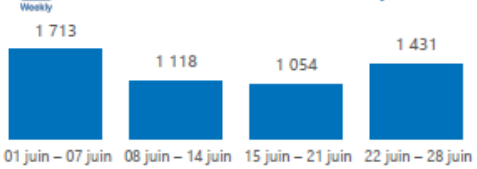
Trends in new arrivals over the past 7 days

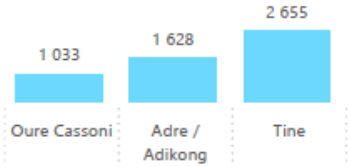




204 *Individuals / day*
7-day daily average of arrivals

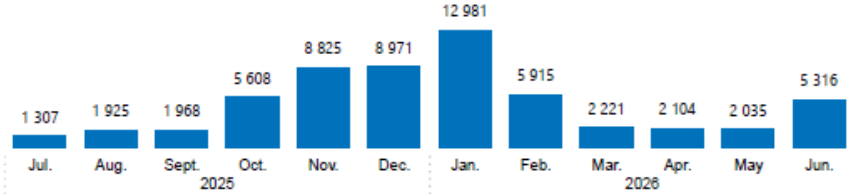
Trends in new arrivals over the past 4 weeks





1 329 *Individuals / week*
4-week weekly average of arrivals

Monthly trend of arrivals over the last 12 months



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