

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 93,000 people have fled the Central African Republic for Chad since December 2013.
- The impending rainy season requires improved shelter and sanitation in transit sites to prevent the outbreak of diseases.
- The Government of Chad has extended the maximum duration of stay for returnees in transit sites from ten days to one year. It is identifying more appropriate sites to host them during this time.
- More measles cases have been reported in the first quarter of 2014 than in all of 2013.

FIGURES

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Population | 11.2 million |
| People in need of humanitarian aid | 2.87 million |
| Total refugee population | 466,850 |
| CAR refugees | 90,000 |
| Sudan refugees | 352,948 |
| Returnees | 350,000 |
| Literacy rate | 33,6% |
| Life expectancy | 49,6 yrs |
| Mortality rate under 5 years | 209/1000 |
| Maternal mortality rate | 1,100 / 100,000 |
| Access to potable water | 48,2% |

FUNDING

527 million
requested (US\$)

3% funded



Sido transit site. (OCHA / Ph. Kropf)

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Thousands continue to seek refuge from CAR

During the month of March, over 12,000 people arrived in Chad from the Central African Republic (CAR). This raises to over 93,000 the number of Chadian migrants, CAR refugees and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) that have fled the violence in CAR since December 2013, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The majority are Chadian returning migrants (63 per cent).

| Total arrivals since December 2014 | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| January 2014 | 36,000 |
| February 2014 | 77,000 |
| March 2014 | 93,000 |

Unregistered arrivals risk extreme vulnerability

While the registration of new arrivals is ongoing at the entry sites at the border, many new arrivals do not register, either unaware of its importance in the delivery of assistance or too afraid of how the information might be used. Instead, they move directly to their home villages or host communities along the border. Because they are not registered, it is difficult to ensure that they are reached with assistance.

As a result, the exact number of arrivals from CAR is unknown and those who have not been registered are at extreme vulnerability, out of the spotlight of humanitarian actors. An inter-agency mission at the end of February revealed that over 4,600 people from CAR had arrived in the Salamat region. Because the greatest influx of returnees was through the regions of Moyen Chari and Logone Orientale, there was no assistance planned for the Salamat region. The need for shelter, food, sanitation, water and health assistance in this region remained the same, however.

Shelter and sanitation urgently required in transit sites ahead of rains

As of the end of March 2014, over 61,000 people remain sheltered in sites in Chad (South and N'Djamena). Of these, more than 57,000 are in the South, staying in the seven sites of Doyaba and Sido (Moyen Chari) and Doba, Goré, Moundou and Mbitoye (Logone Orientale). The sites are in urgent need of assistance prior to the onset of the rainy season, normally in May. But the first of the daily rains are already reported in these regions, and emergency shelter and site sanitation requires urgent improvements to prevent the outbreak of diseases like cholera and malaria.

Government extends the duration of support for Chadian returnees

Following strong advocacy by the humanitarian community, the Government has extended the maximum duration during which Chadian returnees can stay in transit sites from ten days to a year. This will allow those Chadian returnees who lost all family ties in



Chad to better prepare for their return to their areas of origin. The Government is identifying more appropriate sites where people can stay for this longer timeframe and where better services can be provided to them.

Efforts are underway to relocate those currently in transit sites in the South into these new temporary sites. The Government has identified a site in Logone Orientale – known as Danamadja – where those in Doba, Goré, Moundou and Mbitoye can move. Danamadja has also, in recent days, begun hosting new displacements from the Central African Republic, including some 500 people who arrived from Bossangoa in the evening of 11 April 2014. The population from the Doyaba and Sido transit centres will also move to a new site, although its specific location has not yet been identified.

The transit center in Gaoui, northeast of the capital, will continue to host people who lost family ties.

The Government has appointed two national NGOs, *Agence de Développement Economique et Social (ADES)* and *Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV)*, and the Chadian Red Cross (CRT) to manage these three temporary – yet longer-term – sites.

1 year

New maximum length of intended stay of people in the transit sites.

Inter-agency mission from Chad to Moyen-Sido in CAR



The border crossing at Sido Chad and Moyen-Sido CAR. Photo: OCHA

An inter-agency mission was undertaken by IOM, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and OCHA from 21 to 23 March in Moyen-Sido – a town neighbouring the Chadian town and transit site of Sido.

The mission was intended to assess the situation of new arrivals. According to the mayor of Moyen-Sido, roughly 7,000 people arrived in the town since December 2013, mostly women and children from Bangui. The mission highlighted the urgent need of this population for food assistance, as staple-food prices have skyrocketed on the local market, and humanitarian actors in CAR cannot access the zone for security reasons. Two international NGOs operating in the town left at the end of February 2014, following repeated break-ins and robberies, but reinitiated their activities in March after receiving security guarantees by the ex-Seleka forces controlling the town.

Measles and malaria on the rise in Chad

More cases of measles in the first quarter of 2014 than in all of 2013

| Measles | Cases | Deaths |
|------------------|-------|--------|
| 2011 | 8,650 | 122 |
| 2012 | 8,466 | 56 |
| 2013 | 2,222 | 33 |
| 2014 (Jan-March) | 3,000 | 5 |

In the first quarter of 2014, over 1,200 more cases of measles were registered than in all of 2013, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). From January to March 2014, 3,000 measles cases were registered, including 5 deaths. In 2013, some 2,222 cases were recorded, including 33 deaths. This outbreak affects mainly the capital of the country, N'Djamena. After vaccination campaigns were organized in N'Djamena and the south of

Chad in February and March 2014, *Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)* and other humanitarian health actors are urging the health authorities to re-launch vaccination and improve treatment at hospitals and health centres.

Malaria is also on the rise

From 1 January to 19 March 2014, 163,008 cases of malaria were recorded, of which 252 patients died. This situation could worsen with the beginning of the rainy season that has started in the south, and will move towards the north into the Sahel region within the next four to six weeks. Last year, Chad was hit by a massive malaria outbreak with over

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40,000 cases in August alone. The total number of cases of malaria in 2013 was 991,843 (with 2,614 deaths) and in 2012, 616,722 cases were registered (with 1,159 deaths).

The risk of a possible cholera outbreak is being monitored

The risk of a cholera outbreak in Chad remains real as two neighbouring countries, Niger and Nigeria, are reporting cases. The onset of the rainy season regularly increases infections as the rains wash up human and animal excrements from the soil. The last cholera epidemic in Chad took place in 2011 with over 17,000 cases, including 459 deaths. Following this epidemic, the Ministry of Health along with humanitarian partners, reinforced the sensitization of the population on hygiene measures, and stocked hygiene kits to distribute if needed. According to WHO, hygiene measures and epidemiological surveillance need to be reinforced to prevent a possible outbreak.

First large-scale food voucher program in Chad

Vouchers give choice to beneficiaries and support the local economy

On 23 March, the World Food Program (WFP) started its first large-scale food voucher program in Chad, targeting 53,000 people that fled from CAR since December 2013. Beneficiaries receive a paper-voucher from the WFP or one of their partner NGOs, enabling them to buy commodities from a diverse list of merchants that have accepted set prices for staple food based on an in-depth market and price evaluation done by WFP.

Each family receives vouchers worth US\$45, to buy food for one month. Using vouchers not only gives beneficiaries more choice than the pre-defined food basket used for traditional food distributions but also supports the local economy and improves transport and lead-times of commodities.



A woman in Doyaba transit site receives her food voucher.
Photo: WFP / T. Zoccheddu

US\$45

Value of food vouchers for one family per month.

The vouchers are distributed in the transit sites in the south of the country. Many returnees have been out of the country for two or three generations and have lost all their relations or support networks in Chad. They often are returning to fragile and food-insecure regions and need immediate assistance.

WFP also intends to use voucher transfers to assist other people in need, such as vulnerable Chadian households during the lean season. Funding is urgently required to enable WFP to continue to provide vouchers in southern Chad.

Vouchers give beneficiaries more choice than traditional food distributions and support local markets.

Interesting links

UNHCR: CAR Situation: External Regional Update #9 (2 April)

http://www.tchad-one-un.org/images/car_crisis/UNHCR_ext_update_9.pdf

OCHA Chad Situation Report #3 (30 March 2014)

http://tchad-one-un.org/images/car_crisis/OCHA_sitrep_3_EN_FINAL.pdf

WFP: Chad : Situation Report #4 (26 March 2014)

http://tchad-one-un.org/images/car_crisis/WFP_Chad_External_SitRep_2603_en.pdf

IOM Chad: Influx from the Central African Republic (CAR) (20 March)

http://tchad-one-un.org/images/car_crisis/IOM_sitrep_20_03_en.pdf

MSF: Chad: Despite mass vaccination, measles cases in N'djamena not decreasing (1 April)

<http://www.msf.org/article/chad-despite-mass-vaccination-measles-cases-n%E2%80%99djamena-not-decreasing>

UNDP: Fleeing Central African Republic, Chadians struggle to rebuild lives

http://tchad-one-un.org/images/car_crisis/UNDP_CAR_Article.pdf

OCHA: Aid worker diary: Seeking safety from the violence of the Central African Republic

<http://unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/aid-worker-diary-seeking-safety-violence-central-african-republic>

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For more information, please visit <http://www.unocha.org/tchad/> or <http://reliefweb.int/country/tcd> or [One UN Chad](#).