

# Chad: New arrivals from Niger, CAR and Sudan

7<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**Thousands arrived in Baga Sola, in Chad from Niger**

**Fresh influx of CAR refugees in the south of Chad**

**Over 500 Sudanese sought refuge in Chad following clashes between farmers and herders**

## New arrivals from Niger



*A group of new arrivals during the meeting with the interagency mission led by the Humanitarian Coordinator*

While UNHCR and partners are providing the emergency assistance to the new arrivals from Niger, in Baga Sola, in Chad's Lake region, an interagency team including the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR's acting Representative and other UN agencies as well as the Head of Chadian refugee commission (CNARR) undertook a field visit to gather further information on the massive population movement between the two countries.

During their visit from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August, the mission's members had meeting with local authorities, the humanitarian staff and the new arrivals.

In addition to this visit, a Multi-Function Team (MFT) also assessed the situation of the new arrivals, with focus on their protection needs.

UNHCR and WFP have respectively distributed non-food to 6,912 people and food items to 7,248 individuals on the site the new arrivals have settled on a site that they named Dar el Kheir (the providential land).

The new site is located 14 km from Baga Sola, near the Nigerian refugee camp of Dar es Salam and the site called Dar Naim hosting a community with similar ethnicity as the new arrivals.

The group started arriving from Niger in their thousands in Baga Sola, in Lake region, western Chad, during the week of 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

Chad's Lake region hosts over 8,000 Nigerians refugees including the 6,000 residing in Dar es Salam camp and some 100,000 IDPs.



*NFIs distributed include: Mat, bucket, jerrycan, plastic sheeting, blanket, soap, mosquito net and kitchen set.*

According to the MFT's assessment, their massive move to Chad can be explained by two reasons: abuses they suffered from elements of Boko Haram and the withdrawal of the Chadian army from in their places of origin in Niger.

The assessment also established that the grandparents of the new arrivals had left Chad about 40 years ago. They fled the exactions of the regime of

the former president of Chad, Hissen Habré. They claimed that at that time their rights were violated with their cattle forcibly taken from them, their women taken by force. It was then that they decided to leave Chad to go to Niger.

Chadian government branch overseeing refugee and asylum policies, the CNARR, will undertake, with the UNHCR support, a registration exercise in Dar el Kheir. At the end of this process CNARR (Chadian government) hopes to confirm the figures and the status of the new population in the Lake region.

Furthermore, a Chad government high level mission led by the Governor of the Lake Region will be travelling on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August to Niger to meet their counterparts in Diffa to discuss various issues related to this influx and have a common understanding of the situation.

UNHCR has deployed 17 additional staff including protection, data/registration, drivers and cars from its other offices in the country to support the local team deal with this situation.

### **New influx from CAR**



*A group of new arrivals from CAR under a tree*

185 new Central African refugees crossed the border into Chad, mainly during the weekend. The first arrivals were recorded about a week ago, but it is on Saturday, August 5, 2017 that the majority of new arrivals have

sought refuge in Chad. Since then, small groups have arrived in the last two days.

Alerted by local authorities of the new violence in CAR causing population movement to Chad on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, a joint team (CNARR, UNHCR and NGOs) was deployed to deal with the situation in the town of Sido, in Chad, where they were welcome by local population and authorities.

The new arrival said that they fled because of exaction they were subjected to by combatants of a former Seleka following a clash between a farmer and a herder working for an ex-Seleka commander.

The new refugees, who came without any possessions, are predominantly women and children. They said that most adult men have remained hidden in the forest to watch over their property.



*A group of new arrivals being relocated from the border to Belom camp, 25 km away*

Due to lack of proper shelters, the new arrivals are temporarily being accommodated in the schools of the refugee camp of Belom, which is already hosting 19,800 refugees from CAR. They are given hot meal upon their arrival and have received non-food items from UNHCR.

At the border, amidst the screening of the population, children are vaccinated against measles, yellow fever by the health team of UNHCR partner ADES.

three unaccompanied children and one separated child were identified and will be closely monitored during the week-end.

This group is the latest of successive waves of refugees from CAR welcomed by Chadian authorities and populations in the last 12 months. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR and its partners transferred 1,125 people in April and over 750 others in July from the border to the sites of Diba and Vom, In Baibokoum sub-prefecture. They joined over 1,700 people who fled violence in CAR in June-July 2016. However, this is the first time that new refugees from CAR have crossed at the Sido border, in recent years.

Chad already hosts over 73,000 CAR refugees mainly settled in camps in the south of the country.

### **Over 500 Sudanese sought refuge in the village of Katarfa in Chad**

Since Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the Chadian village of Katarfa, in the east of the country, has seen its population of 218 households increased with the arrival of 112 families from Sudan totalling 519 people.

A joint team of CNARR and UNHCR from Hadjer Hadid, eastern Chad, visited Katarfa located in the sub-prefecture of Borota. The village is situated 18 km from Borota, which is itself at 65 km in the east of Hadjer Hadid. Katarfa is located 2 km from the border, which is a valley known as a wadi by locals.

The new arrivals mainly women and children are from Massalit ethnic group. They said that they fled their village, Terbebe, following a surge of violence after a clash between a Massalit farmer and an Arab herder.

They said that other residents fled toward Mesmere and Konga in Sudan, while they find their way to Chad bringing few belongings and some donkeys that they used to carry the children.

According to locals, the increase level of water in the wadi following the rains in the area may have discourage other to follow them in Chad.

The Katarfa's new arrivals say they feel safe. Since they crossed the border, the Chadian security forces have increased their patrols in the area.

The asylum seekers said that they do not intend to return to Terbebe in Sudan because of the insecurity prevailing there. They plan to settle in Katarfa where villagers are willing to welcome them and give them access to land for farming and housing.

UNHCR Sub Office in Farchana overseeing the field office of Hadjer Hadid and its counterparts of CNARR and other stakeholders will organize another mission on Tuesday 8 August 2017 in Katarfa to sensitise the new arrivals about the voluntary transfer to camps of Hadjer Hadjid, over 70 km away from the border.

Chad hosts over 319,500 Sudanese refugees who fled the Darfur conflict in 2003. They are settled in 12 camps and a site in the east of the country. They make 79% of the over 402,000 refugees living in Chad.

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