

CHAD EMERGENCY UPDATE

OUADDAI PROVINCE (EASTERN CHAD)



KEY INDICATORS

9,916 (66%)

Below 18 years old

9,484 (64%)

Women and girls

RELOCATION

5,447

Transferred individuals

1,339

Transferred households

MAPPING OF THE TRANSFER OF SUDANESE REFUGEES



CONTEXT - Violence in Sudan's Darfur forces thousands to flee

From late December 2019 to January 2020, clashes between rival communities in El Geneina, in Sudan's West Darfur State, **forced over 16,000 refugees to cross into neighboring Chad. The majority of them are women and children.** They arrived exhausted, traumatized and often with signs of malnutrition. Following an alert by authorities in eastern Chad, a joint mission comprising UNHCR, WFP, CNARR (Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés) and the Governor of the Ouaddai province was conducted along border areas to monitor the situation and meet with new arrivals. **A rapid assessment of the refugee population revealed that it was composed mainly of women, children and elderly persons in acute need of assistance, including health services, water and sanitation, shelter and core relief items.** Accordingly, UNHCR, together with the local authorities and partners identified a new site in Kouchaguine-Moura, and works were started soon after to prepare it to receive the refugees. As of now, **14,935 individuals (4,336 households)** have been pre-registered. **The situation in Sudan** remains volatile and unpredictable but the influx has decreased. UNHCR maintains close cross border and protection monitoring.

Measures in connection with COVID 19 Pandemic

The Government of Chad announced several risk-mitigation measures to prevent the spreading of COVID 19. Among others, as of 19 March 2020, **the Chad's border with Sudan is closed. Similarly,** a two-week closure of the international airport in N'Djamena for commercial flights was announced, starting on March 19. Although suspension of commercial flights does not extend to cargos, it is feared that the global movement restrictions may affect the flow of supplies into Chad. The Government also ordered **the closure of schools, universities, restaurants, cafes, etc. and banned meetings/gatherings with more than 50 people.**

To better respond to the unprecedented challenge posed by this pandemic, **UNHCR declared COVID-19 a global Level 2 Emergency** on 25 March, activating emergency procedures and giving country operations maximum flexibility and access to resources to ensure provision of assistance persons of concern to the Office.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, UNHCR has been engaging in continuous monitoring, enhanced preparedness and contingency planning, notably in operations hosting large refugee populations, like in Eastern Chad, with particular focus on interventions aiming at preventing the spreading of COVID-19 among the refugee populations. This includes **increasing the distribution of shelter material, core relief items, such as jerry cans and kitchen sets, as well as supporting sanitation, water and hygienic materials.**

On 20 March, **a joint mission of WHO and the Ministry of Health** was undertaken to the Chad-Sudan border. In addition to information sharing, the mission conducted a training session for health staff. As a part of boosting COVID 19 prevention measures, four refugee housing units and three handwashing points will be installed to enhance water and sanitation infrastructures in the district of Adre.

In line with the recently launched OCHA-coordinated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, and working closely with WHO, UNHCR is addressing some of the specific needs and considerations required in camps particularly in relation to key objectives around **shelter; health care and awareness; water, sanitation and hygiene; maintaining or adapting critical protection activities and communicating critical risks and information to all communities.**

RELOCATION

Initially, the relocation of the refugees to the new site was planned to start only after the basic camp infrastructures and services have been installed. However, serious refugee protection concerns at two displacement locations in the border area prompted UNHCR to **initiate the relocation of refugees to the new site much earlier than initially planned.**

From 4 February to the end of March, eleven convoys have been organized. As of 26 March, a total of **5,447 individuals (1,339 households)** have been relocated from the border area to Kouchaguine-Moura.

Simultaneously, in close collaboration with its Government counterparts and humanitarian partners, UNHCR has been working around the clock to ensure family shelters, latrines, showers, boreholes and other basic services **are ready in the camp to receive new refugees.**



Handwashing point at the border area @UNHCR

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN KOUCHANGUINE-MOURA

Since 10 February, UNHCR has deployed a team of emergency experts to support staff already on the ground, implementing interventions in water, sanitation and hygiene, site planning, protection, registration, field coordination, programme and reporting.

Protection: Initial protection monitoring indicates that refugees do not consider returning to their home places in Sudan, where fragile security is a recurring phenomenon. Meanwhile, one of the impacts of the applied COVID 19 prevention measures has been the temporary suspension of the L2 individual registration. UNHCR, in close coordination with the authorities and partners, is exploring alternative ways of conducting the registration, while continuing to comply strictly with the COVID-19 prevention measures in place. **Border monitoring and verification** missions are still ongoing with a focus on assessing priority protection and other needs of people of concern to UNHCR.

Shelter and Core Relief Items: As of 28 of March, **1,101 family shelters** of 17.5 m² each have been constructed, and the construction of 399 additional shelters is ongoing. Six transit shelters (capacity of 40 families) have also been constructed and are still occupied.



Family shelter in Kouchaguine-Moura@UNHCR

On 19 March, thanks to its private partner, UPS Foundation, UNHCR airlifted 93.5 tonnes of emergency aid for Sudanese refugees. **The airlift included 10,000 blankets, 12,000 jerry cans, 12,000 mosquito nets, 10,640 plastic buckets, 6,000 kitchen sets, 4,000 sleeping mats, 2,000 solar lamps and 2,000 plastic sheets, in addition to one ambulance.** Some of these emergency relief items will be distributed to the families who have been relocated to Kouchaguine-Moura.

Food: On 28 of March, UNHCR, WFP and partners started a food distribution to **881 individuals** recently relocated to Kouchaguine-Moura. The **monthly food ration** includes cereals, dried vegetables, oil and salt (equivalent to 2,100kcal/person/day).

Health: UNHCR and its partners have conducted a **sensitization session on COVID-19 prevention measures for refugee community leaders and youth** in Kouchaguine-Moura. **The construction of the clinic has been completed , allowing both** enhanced care for people with chronic diseases and those in need of hospitalization. **A new vaccination campaign** against measles is planned to take place in the coming weeks.

Water and Sanitation: **96 m³ of potable water** is provided in the camp of Kouchaguine-Moura through water trucking. This is equivalent to about 17.6 liters per person per day. Also, in order to make the water delivery system fully functional, **28 photovoltaic modules** have been installed, in addition to two generators of 60 and 40 kw respectively. UNHCR and its partners are working closely to start delivering potable water by gravitation through this hybrid system. **113 latrines and 113 showers are functional in the camp**, while the construction of additional 350 latrines and showers is ongoing and shall be completed in the coming days. Similarly, by means of promoting good hygiene and sanitation practice, six community health clubs have conducted sensitization activities in the camp, in coordination with IRC.

As of now, **33 trash cans and 20 handwashing devices** are installed and will be complemented by appropriate hygiene and sanitation information materials in Arabic for Covid-19 prevention.



Delivery of potable water in Kouchaguine-Moura@UNHCR

Energy and Environment: UNHCR, in consultation with the partners, the refugees, the host communities and the local authorities aim to conduct an environmental screening exercise to inform **the environmental impact assessment**. Also, in coordination with the authorities, UNHCR will procure **firewood to cover a minimum of one-month period**. Meanwhile, UNHCR and its partner, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), will sensitize the population on the efficient use of firewood as well as environmental protection.

Other identified environmental priorities are to mark protected trees, create green spaces and plant trees at a location yet to be identified, following the guidance of forestry agents and authorities. UNHCR will also explore more sustainable and environmentally friendly methods of providing energy for cooking. Moreover, in partnership with IRC, UNHCR will develop **a waste management system, with a possibility of incorporating recycling to produce energy**.

Working in Partnership

UNHCR is working in partnership with the Government of Chad, Ouaddai Province Authorities, CNARR (Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (APLFT), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Help Tchad, Tchad SOS, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), KITIR Emplois et Services (KITES), Organisation Humanitaire pour le Développement Local (OHDEL), UNHCR private donors and host communities.

Donors Support

Thanks to our donors' support, we have been able to take urgent action and start relocating the most vulnerable families and provide them with protection. However, [additional funding is urgently needed to relocate families from insecure border areas and to expand our emergency response in Kouchaguine-Moura site, including measures to prevent COVID 19 pandemic amongst refugee and host communities population](#)

Sanitation and hygiene, shelter, sufficient core relief items, access to health care and education, access to energy, logistics and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence are among our priorities.

The funding requirements for the first six months of the emergency response amount to some USD 13 million to ensure refugees have access to adequate protection and life-saving services.

[UNHCR's revised appeal for our COVID-19 response](#) has been released noting 6,390,000 USD required for Chad.

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Kouchaguine-Moura Camp @UNHCR