Chad

March 2024

More than a million people are forcibly displaced in Chad, a country heavily affected by humanitarian, political and socio-economic crises. Since April 2023, the conflict in Sudan has forced more than **571,815 Sudanese refugees** to flee to Chad and an additional 250,000 could arrive in Chad by the end of the year.

UNHCR works with partners to support the Government's efforts to provide protection, vital support and help forcibly displaced people build a better future.

KEY FIGURES

1,226,719
Total refugees & asylum seekers[1]

215,928
Total internally displaced persons in the Lac region[2]

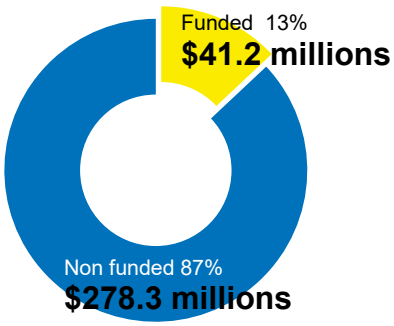
244,558
Total of returnees[3]

1, 2 and 3:UNHCR, 31 March 2024

FUNDING AS OF 31 MARCH 2024

$319.5 million

For the Chad operation



In Farchana, eastern Chad, Sudanese refugees have taken the initiative to make bricks from local materials to reinforce their plactic shelters, making them more durable and better adapted to hot temperatures (often 45 degree). ©UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

Partnerships

- In support of the Government, UNHCR coordinates interventions for international protection and assistance and the search for solutions for forcibly displaced persons.
- UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Social Action, National Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs and in close collaboration with the Ministries of: Territorial Administration and Decentralisation; Public Security and Immigration; Foreign Affairs, Chadians Abroad and International Cooperation; Education and Citizenship; Health and Prevention; Justice and Human Rights; and Women and Early Childhood.
- UNHCR coordinates the implementation of activities with the 'Commission Nationale d'accueil, de réinsertion des réfugiés et des rapatriés' (CNARR).
- UNHCR is the lead agency for three clusters as part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) system: Protection, Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRI) and Site Management and Site Coordination (CCCM).
- UNHCR and CNARR are coordinating 23 partners in the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP). UNHCR's partners include governmental and non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, the private sector, technical and financial humanitarian and development partners, international financial institutions, civil society and refugee and host communities.

Main activities

Emergency response to refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan

- Since the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan, **more than 571,815 Sudanese refugees** have already arrived in eastern Chad, mainly in the provinces of Ennedi Est, Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira. A year on, new arrivals continue to be reported daily.
- **The refugees, mostly women and children (88%)**, need protection, adequate shelter, clean water, food and basic services, including mattresses, soap, kitchen sets and latrines. Children and parents need psycho-social support and children need to continue their studies.
- Most refugees come from Darfur, one of the regions of Sudan most affected by violence, where growing instability **could force up to 250,000 more people to flee to eastern Chad by the end of 2024**. **Before the crisis, eastern Chad already hosted 407,000 Sudanese refugees who had arrived in successive waves over the last 20 years**.
- CNARR and UNHCR coordinate the inter-agency refugee emergency response in support of the government. The main priorities remain immediate emergency assistance to new arrivals at the border and the relocation of refugees away from the border to sites where they can receive the protection and vital assistance they need. The response is coordinated with IOM for aspects related to Chadian returnees and OCHA for host populations along with development actors regarding development in emergency.

PROTECT

Protection

- **In April 2023, Chad ratified the decree implementing the asylum law adopted in December 2020.** This law provides the legal framework defining the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Since 2019, Chad has made 22 commitments** to strengthen the protection and the well-being of refugees, **including seven at the Global Forum in Geneva in December 2023**.
- The CNARR leads the refugee status determination (RSD) process in N'Djamena and in the field on an ad hoc basis.
- UNHCR collaborates with the National Agency for Secure Titles (ANATS) to provide **documents to forcibly displaced people**, including **birth certificates and identity documents**.
- UNHCR and its partners also provide specialized **protection services for children and survivors of violence, including gender-based violence**.
- UNHCR works closely on child protection issues with the Ministry of Women and Early Childhood, CNARR, UNICEF and the ICRC. With the key child protection stakeholders, UNHCR supports the development of the national child protection policy. UNHCR and its partners lead the **best interests determination procedures** to ensure the most vulnerable children receive adequate assistance. **Community child protection structures** support these interventions.
- Refugees and asylum seekers, organised in representative structures and sectoral committees, participate in the implementation and monitoring of protection activities.
- A network of community workers (agents de proximité) serves as an interface between UNHCR, partners and communities to facilitate information sharing, awareness-raising, and community engagement.

Programmes for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, co-led by CNARR and co-facilitated by IRC, coordinates the provision of specialized assistance to people with specific protection needs, including victims of violence and support to community centres, programs and protection networks.
- Chad is home to more than 215,900 IDPs forcibly displaced by insecurity and violence by non-state armed groups in the Lake Chad region.
- UNHCR, IOM and ICRC provided financial and technical support to the government in translating the Kampala Convention into the national law. **The Council of Ministers validated, in March 2023**, **the draft law on the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in the Republic of Chad and its implementing decree**. Furthermore, the National Transitional Council adopted it in May 2023.
- The protection cluster and the Civil-Military Coordination Unit (CM-COORD) strengthened their collaboration through capacity-building sessions for civilians and military actors on several cross-cutting protection themes, including GBV and child protection.

Shelter / CRI Cluster

- UNHCR leads the Shelter/CRI cluster and coordinates the provision of emergency assistance to internally displaced families. It ensures that displaced families have access to adequate shelter and basic services.

CCCM Cluster

- For IDPs, the CCCM cluster coordinates and provides the minimum package of services in the sites by organising group meetings at national and local levels.

Education

- UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Education to implement the 2030 education strategy for refugees in Chad and to enable schools in refugee sites to be fully and effectively included in the Chadian national education system at all levels.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, **UNHCR continues to support more than 240 pre-school, primary and secondary schools, including those newly established in new refugees sites**. This support includes the payment of salaries to 2,200 community teachers, construction of temporary learning spaces (TLS), distribution of school materials and advocacy for the allocation of land for the construction of schools. UNHCR and its partners are also continuing to support the more than 36,500 refugees who recently arrived in Chad.
- UNHCR and its partners are also supporting students pursuing higher education. **UNHCR has signed agreements with 13 universities to reduce tuition fees by half (50%) for refugee students**. This milestone is an important step towards improving access to higher education for refugee students.

ASSIST

Shelter / Core Relief Items (CRI)

- In 2023, more than 59,000 family shelters were built to respond to the emergency in the east. More than 3,100 shelters have been built using semi-durable and durable materials in the intervention areas of the UNHCR offices in Baga Sola, Goré and N'Djamena.
- **In the first quarter of 2024, 7,117 emergency shelters were built**, including 6,317 emergency family shelters in response to the emergency in the East and **800 emergency family shelters in Mousmba, southern Chad, to relocate 3,425 Central African refugees (275 households)** who fled the violence arrived in Sido in November 2023.

Health

- **UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Health and Prevention, WHO, Médecins Sans Frontière and other partners to ensure access to primary healthcare**, including mental health and psychosocial support services, the national vaccination program and sexual and reproductive health. Chronic disease management has been integrated into the package of services offered. A referral system is in place to ensure access to secondary and tertiary healthcare for complicated cases.
- Health centers in refugee sites are included into the national health system.
- UNHCR continues to pay allowances to health staff. Health care remains free for refugees and the Chadian population in health centers in refugee sites.

- **More than 5,000 community health workers have been identified among the refugees and trained to carry out prevention and health promotion activities at the community level**. A disease surveillance system has been established and reported suspected cases are investigated by the health district surveillance team.
- UNHCR advocates for increased efforts to strengthen the national health system by building health facilities and providing medical equipment, medicines, staff, and training health personnel. **UNHCR advocates for the inclusion of refugees in all national plans.**
- For 2024, UNHCR will be working with the Ministry of Health and development actors **to transform temporary health centres in refugee sites into permanent health centres.** UNHCR and its partners are working with a network of 34 health centres. **Primary consultations are planned for 150,000 forcibly displaced persons, 18% of whom from host communities.** In addition, more than 100,000 children will be vaccinated as part of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).
- **As for the first quarter of 2024, 213,693 forcibly displaced persons, 18% of whom from host communities received primary consultations, and 2,677 births attended by skilled health workers.**
- **Since February, some 1,400 suspected cases of hepatitis E have been recorded** in the Adré Ourang, Metché and Alacha sites, in eastern Chad. UNHCR and its partners joined efforts to provide rapid response, including early detection and treatment of suspected cases, awareness raising, distribution of soap, construction and decommissioning of latrines, improvement of water quality and installation of hand-washing facilities at the sites.

Food security and nutrition

- World Food Programme (WFP), with the support of UNHCR, is in charge of distributing food and cash transfers to refugees to help them meet their food needs. Food distributions are targeted at the most vulnerable refugees and new arrivals. **More than 800,000 people are expected to receive food/cash assistance in 2024**. **In the first quarter of 2024, 345,138 refugees and host populations received food/cash assistance in all provinces.**
- UNHCR is working with UNICEF and WFP to implement programmes to treat and prevent acute malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women. **In the first quarter, 233,850 children below five years of age were screened for malnutrition in all provinces.**
- Community health networks conduct monthly nutrition surveillance. Nutrition partners also conduct education activities on good infant and young child feeding practices and best practices in sanitation and hygiene.
- Partners implement vitamin A supplementation and deworming programmes throughout the country.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNHCR and its partners provide drinking water to refugees and host communities. **In the first quarter of 2024, on average, refugees have access to about 11 litres of water per person per day (l/p/d)**. This is below WHO standard of 20 l/p/d. However, there are large regional disparities. Refugees in the west and south have access to an average of 18 and 27 l/p/d respectively.

- In refugees sites and host villages, UNHCR and its partners provide sanitation and hygiene services, including latrines, washing facilities, waste management and awareness-raising activities to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Access to Energy

- UNHCR and its partners are working to ensure that displaced communities and their hosts have access to a sustainable source of energy for cooking and lighting.
- In 2023, UNHCR and its partners installed 51 solar streetlights in Gaga and Farchana in eastern Chad. Twelve solar pumping systems, including seven hybrids, were installed in Djabal and Goz Bieda to provide drinking water. Efforts are ongoing for the implementation of solar streetlights and pumping system in 2024.

EMPOWER

Resilience and Livelihood

- **UNHCR works with refugees to strengthen their livelihoods.** Farmers and fishermen received support to access agricultural land, cash, seeds, tools, small ruminants, veterinary services, and training to help them develop their activities. Refugees running small businesses receive cash transfers and basic business management training to help them grow their businesses. In addition, a holistic approach is being taken to improve refugees' access to basic social services through their gradual integration into government services, particularly in the health and education sectors.
- UNHCR supports access to community credit for displaced communities through Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs). VSCAs enable their members to save together and access small loans from their savings.
- UNHCR has also implemented the Integrated Development of Host Areas (DIZA) project, with other partners, to promote self-sufficiency among beneficiaries and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host populations, in line with the Humanitarian/Development Nexus. This is achieved through the dissemination of the Asylum Law, support to NGO consortia to share plans and strategies, and liaison with authorities and joint committees of refugees and host populations.
- In 2023, more than 30,400 forcibly displayed persons received support for various activities to strengthen their autonomy: farming, fishing, small businesses, etc.

SOLVE

Durable solutions

- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR supports initiatives **to strengthen national institutions** and advocate for the **inclusion of refugees in public services**. UNHCR also supports resilience and empowerment activities to facilitate the economic integration of refugees.
- UNHCR facilitates access to **resettlement** for vulnerable refugees, including women and children at risk, survivors of violence and refugees with medical conditions. UNHCR also seeks **complementary pathways**, such as scholarships and family reunification. In 2024, based on the quotas currently allocated by countries to Chad, a total of 1,150 people should be submitted for resettlement consideration and 1,450 people are planned to depart through complementary pathways such as through scholarships or family reunification. During the first quarter, **587 people**

were referred for examination by Australia, Canada, the United States and France. **Some 455 people were resettled to Australia, Canada, the United States, Finland and France**. In addition, three people went to France for family reunification.

- **Voluntary repatriation:** As soon as circumstances allow, going home remains the strongest hope for refugees. UNHCR promotes voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity as one of the means of finding a durable solution for refugees. To this end, awareness-raising sessions are held in various sites, and potential returnees are assisted with a repatriation package in collaboration with the Chadian authorities and partners. **In 2024, 11,811 Cameroonian refugees returned home under the voluntary repatriation programme, bringing the total to 14,011 since 6 December 2023**.

UNHCR's main partners in Chad : International Organization for Migration | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations Population Fund | World Health Organization | World Food Programme | International Committee of the Red Cross | Commission Nationale d'accueil, de réinsertion des réfugiés et des rapatriés | Agence nationale des titres sécurisés du Tchad | African Initiative for Relief and Development | Agence de développement économique et social | Association de Coopération Rurale en Afrique | Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad | Comité international pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement | Croix Rouge du Tchad | International Rescue Committee | INTERSOS | Jesuit Refugee Service | Läkarmissionen | Oxfam | Secours Catholique Développement | World Vision.

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