

CHAD

Operational Highlights

24 February 2014

External

SOUTH

Influx from Central African Republic (CAR)

- During week ending 24 February, HCR facilitated the relocation of **421 pre-registered CAR refugees (138 families)** from Bitoye to Dosseye camp. The remaining 410 refugees (115 families) in Bitoye will be transferred in the next days. Since 14 January, the start of HCR relocation of refugees in 2014, to date, HCR has facilitated the relocation of a total of 1,697 newly-arrived refugees from CAR (473 families) to Dosseye camp in the South. Since 1 December 2013, there have been some **8,000 refugees arriving in Chad**. This brings the estimated number of CAR refugees in the country to some **87,000 individuals**.

End of Government-sponsored evacuation from the Central African Republic

- On 19 February, the Government of Chad announced the end of its operation to repatriate Chadian nationals from Bangui by air to Ndjamena and by road to Sido. According to the Government, since 21 December 2013, a total of **72,481 individuals have arrived in Chad**, among these 16,440 individuals by air to Ndjamena.

NDJAMENA

Refugees in Transit Centers

- Based on information received from IOM's returnee registration, HCR continued to **verify and pre-register CAR refugees** who have arrived in Ndjamena on flights facilitated by the Government of Chad or IOM. This population is living among Chadian returnees in 8 Transit Centers managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare (Ministre d'Action Sociale) in the capital. To date, HCR has pre-registered 989 newly-arrived refugees (386 families) from CAR, among them 51% women. The exercise will be completed in the coming week.

Advocacy with the Government and Local Authorities

- HCR continues to urge the Government, and stands ready to provide assistance, in the **identification** of the various groups and **profiles** of individuals (e.g. students) who have arrived in Chad with Government assistance since 1 December 2013. HCR continues to advocate for the Government to **recognize 2nd and 3rd generation Chadian** nationals and to issue them identification documents. Furthermore, HCR is urging Government authorities to formalize the **assistance plan** for latter group.
- As existing refugee camps in the South are **saturated** with new arrivals, HCR is advocating with the Government **to identify new sites and villages** to accommodate newly arrived refugees from CAR. Once a site or village has been identified, HCR will conduct an assessment to the location to evaluation available land, access to basic needs and services such as shelter, drinking water, health and education and most importantly the willingness of the local population to receive refugees in their midst.

- To prevent any rising tension that may lead to spill-over conflict in Chad, UNHCR is urging the authorities and other agencies to be extremely judicious in their planning of new sites and locations that will accommodate those arriving in Chad from CAR and to ensure due **consideration to ethnicity, religion, culture and mode of life** (agriculturalist / pastoralist).
- Recognizing that not all local authorities may have one and the same understanding of the population they are confronted with, HCR is ensuring that its Offices in the South work together to **keep authorities well informed** and to **redress any misinformation** especially on identification and assistance provided to persons arriving from CAR into Chad. From 20 to 23 February, UNHCR undertook a mission to Sido, Maro and Sahr to reinforce the key messages of UNHCR and its partners' engagement with the returnees and the few refugees who have arrived with them. Emphasis on **greater synergy** between local authorities in adjacent provinces on their reception, identification and response modalities to various population groups (including Chadians and refugees) arriving from CAR. In Sahr, the mission met with the Governor of the region, and representatives of actors involved in the response to the returnee crisis, including UN agencies with the aim to further share the key messages.

EAST

Newly-arrived refugees from Sudan

- Following an alert by MSF on 20 February, reporting an influx of some 5,000 Sudanese refugees into Chad at the Umdukum border point, UNHCR undertook a mission to the area on 22 -24 February. During this mission **4,358 newly arrived Sudanese refugees** (1,082 families) UNHCR identified and pre-registered. Among these, 72% are children and 55% women. HCR and its partners will facilitate the transfer of this population to Kerfi starting on 26 February.
- Monitoring of additional areas of the border are underway to verify the arrival of more refugees into eastern Chad. UNHCR, together with CNARR, local authorities and partners, continues to sensitize refugees living along the border to relocate away from this relatively unsafe area.

Relocation of Sudanese Refugees to Kerfi

- UNHCR and its partners continue to facilitate the relocation of Sudanese refugees from Abgadam and vicinity to Kerfi. To date, a total of **240 refugees** have been relocated in two convoys. The next convoy is scheduled to leave Abgadam on Wednesday 26 February.