UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

Chad

January 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 **546,700 Sudanese refugees** to flee to Chad. An additional 250,000 refugees could arrive in Chad by 2024.

UNHCR supports the government's efforts to provide protection, vital support and help forcibly displaced people build a better future.

KEY FIGURES

1,114,041

Total refugees & asylum seekers[1]

215,928

Total internally displaced persons in the Lac region[2]

240,475

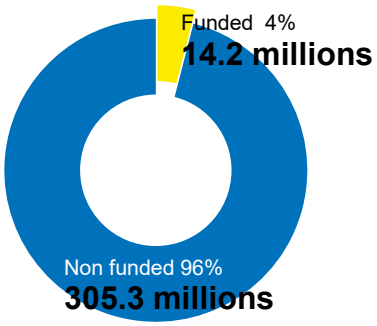
Total of returnees[3]

1, 2 and 3:UNHCR, 30 January 2024

FUNDING AS OF 30 JANUARY 2024

$319.5 million

For the Chad operation



An aerial view of the Sudanese refugee site at Metché, in eastern Chad. ©UNHCR/Insa Wawa Diatta

Partnerships

- In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, and in support of the government, UNHCR coordinates interventions for international protection and assistance and the search for solutions for forcibly displaced peesons, in close cooperation and under the auspices of the Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations system.
- UNHCR works under the supervision of the Ministry of National Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs, Territorial Administration, in close collaboration with ministries of Decentralization and Good Governance, Public Security and Immigration, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Education and civic promotion, Health and prevention, Justice and Human Rights, Women and Protection of 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: Protection, Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRI) and Site Management and Site Coordination (CCCM).
- 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 546,700 Sudanese refugees** have already arrived in eastern Chad, mainly in the provinces of Ennedi Est, Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira. 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 to continue their studies.
- The 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**. **Even before the crisis, eastern Chad already hosted 407,000 Sudanese refugees who had arrived in successive waves over the last 20 years**. In addition, the combination of factors such as the influx of refugees, the consequences of climate change with recurring cycles of floods and droughts, continues to exacerbate the vulnerability of host communities.
- 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 from the border to sites where they can receive the protection and vital assistance they need. Meetings include IOM for aspects related to Chadian returnees. OCHA supports the coordination of the response to host populations.

Protection

Programmes for Refugees

- **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 Protection of 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 from 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.

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, and despite the formal integration of refugee site schools into the Chadian education system, **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. UNHCR has supported the registration of more than 107,000 of the refugee children and some 23,000 Chadian ones enrolled in 2022-2023.
- UNHCR and its partners are also supporting students pursuing higher education. **UNHCR has signed agreements with 13 universities to ensure equal tuition fees for refugees and Chadian students**. UNHCR provides scholarships for students. More than 600 refugees received scholarships in 2023.

Health

- **UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Health and Prevention and 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. Despite the inclusion of health centers in refugee sites into the national health system, UNHCR continues to pay allowances to health staff. Health care remains free for refugees and the Chadian population.
- **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 led 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 displayed 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).

Food security and nutrition

- World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR distribute 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**.

- 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.
- 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.

Hygiene and Sanitation

- UNHCR and its partners provide drinking water to refugees and host communities. On average, refugees have access to about 20 litres of water per person per day (l/p/d). However, there are large regional disparities. Refugees in the east receive only 15 l/p/d, less than those in the west and south who 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.

Shelter / Core Relief Items (CRI)

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.
- In 2023, more than 59,000 family shelters were built to respond to the emergency in the east. In addition, 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.

Site Coordination and Management

- The government has primary responsibility for the management of refugee sites. The CNARR represents the government in the sites and is the point of contact for all government authorities and services.
- CNARR monitors the activities and services provided in the sites. UNHCR monitors the activities and services provided by its partners in the sites.
- 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.

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.
- As part of a pilot phase to reduce the use of firewood, UNHCR has selected 100 households in Goré, southern Chad, in 2023 and a further 50 in 2024 to be provided with butane gas for cooking. The mid-term evaluation of the pilot phase, conducted in November 2023, showed that the 100

households selected in 2023 appreciated the use of butane gas and that large quantities of additional butane cylinders were needed to meet demand.

- In 2023, UNHCR and its partners installed 51 solar street lights 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.

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 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 2013, more than 30,400 forcibly displayed persons received support for various activities to strengthen their autonomy: farming, fishing, small businesses, etc.

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 problems. UNHCR also sought complementary pathways, such as scholarships and family reunification. In 2024, based on the quotas currently allocated by countries to Chad, the records of 1,150 people should be submitted for examination and 1,450 departures are planned for resettlement through complementary pathways such as the granting of scholarships or 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, more than 10,000 Cameroonian refugees will have returned home under the voluntary repatriation program.

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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For more information please contact: Emmanuel Gay, Senior Inter-Agency Officer - gayemm@unhcr.org; Daouda Guirou, Associate Reporting Officer - guirou@unhcr.org ,