Eastern Chad Relocation Update

12 April 2026

Newly constructed shelters to house newly relocated families in Kouchaguine-Moura site. ©UNHCR/ B. Daldigue April 2026

Key developments – Week in Review:

- As part of the accelerated relocation initiative, on 7 and 09 April, two convoys safely relocated **208 households (839 refugees)** from Adré to Kouchaguine-Moura.
- Protection support was provided for **196 persons with specific needs (PSN)** during the relocation process, ensuring safe and dignified movement.
- Relocation logistics included **10 trucks** (5 for passengers, 5 for luggage), **8** light vehicles dedicated for PSN, 1 ambulance, and 1 armed escort vehicle.
- **240 shelters** were completed and allocated to new arrivals, including 170 family shelters and 70 tents.
- **42 m^3 of safe drinking water** were distributed between 7 and 10 April 2026.
- As part of the normal relocation process**, 121 households (302 individuals)** relocated from Tine/Kariari (Wadi Fira) and Adré border (Ouaddai) areas respectively to Ouré Cassoni - 54 households (142 individuals) and Dougui site - 67 households (160 individuals).

Displacement overview

Since April 2023, Chad has received nearly 920,000 new arrivals from Sudan, including 707,665 in Ouaddaï Province, one of the main entry points and areas of concentration for refugee populations in the eastern part of the country. Combined with former refugee populations, Chad now hosts over 1.3 million Sudanese refugees.

To date, more than 616,000 people have been relocated to 23 refugee sites and 37 host villages across eastern Chad, including 1,394 in March 2026. However, over 243,000 refugees remain in border areas, mainly around Adré, where nearly 235,000 refugees continue to live in the spontaneous site under conditions of extreme precariousness.

In this context, and following joint advocacy efforts conducted by UNHCR and government counterpart CNARR and partners, some 453 hectares of land have been officially allocated by the authorities for the expansion of existing sites and the hosting of refugees, notably:

- **Abouteingué**: 96.7 ha – estimated capacity of 15,000 refugees
- **Arkoum**: 119.15 ha – estimated capacity of 26,000 refugees
- **Kouchaguine Moura**: 37 ha – estimated capacity of 5,000 refugees
- **Metche**: 200 ha – estimated capacity of 30,000 refugees

In coordination with the Government of Chad, the relocation plan agreed upon by stakeholders officially commenced in early April 2026.

Operationalization of Refugee Relocation

Accelerated relocation activities began in **Ouaddaï Province on 7 April 2026**, led by **UNHCR**, in collaboration with UN agencies and partners, and in close coordination with national and local authorities, including government counterpart; la *Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) and Le *Détachement pour la Protection des Humanitaires et des Réfugiés* (DPHR) to ensure safe and dignified movement of refugees.

This accelerated phase build on earlier relocation efforts that have been progressing at a limited pace due to funding constraints. New contributions from the United States and OCHA, as well as ARADA, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Italy have enabled scaled-up relocations and investment in site infrastructure, supporting the transfer of refugees away from border areas.

Amid persistent security challenges, the operation strengthens refugee protection, improves access to essential services, and eases pressure on Adré and host communities. The approach aligns with UNHCR protection standards, which recommend locating refugee sites at least 50 km from borders and follows government guidance to relocate refugees from border areas. It is also anchored in durable solutions, consistent with the Integrated Territorial Approach and the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Triple Nexus.

In Ouaddaï Province, the operation prioritizes the transfer of pre-registered refugees currently living in spontaneous sites in Adré to planned and secure sites further inland. Meanwhile, new arrivals fleeing renewed violence in El Fasher since late October 2025 continue to be pre-registered and transferred to the site of Dougui or other designated sites, according to their preference and availability.

This accelerated phase targets the relocation of 35,000 refugees who arrived since April 2023 and have been living in transit centers, spontaneous sites, and host villages in along the Adré border. They will be relocated to Kouchaguine-Moura, Arkoum, Metché, and Aboutingué, where site capacity has been expanded and essential infrastructure—including emergency shelters, WASH facilities, and other basic services—is under development.

Embarquement des ménages réfugiés à Adré vers le site de Kouchaguine Moura. ©UNHCR/Farchana.

Relocation Progress and Preparation

The operation began successfully with two convoys transporting 839 individuals from 208 families to Kouchaguine-Moura.

- Preparations included joint coordination meetings, needs assessments, and validation of the operational and communication plans.
- Community messages were developed to strengthen information sharing and engagement.
- The relocation is voluntary, and assistance is provided upon arrival, including food and water (cash or in-kind).
- The relocation route for the initial phase is Adré – Farchana– Kouchaguine, with a travel time of approximately five hours.
- There is no luggage weight limit, recognizing the prolonged stay of refugees in Adré.
- Eligible individuals include registered Sudanese refugees residing in Adré transit and spontaneous sites.

Relocation will continue until 21 September 2026, with movements scaled up gradually.

Challenges: Authorizations to expand shelter construction in Arkoum still pending despite pressure to accelerate the process.

Logistics

Transportation support included 10 trucks (5 for passengers and 5 for luggage), 8 light vehicles for persons with specific needs, 1 ambulance, and 1 armed escort vehicle, ensuring safe and orderly relocation movements.

Baggage policy (current practice): To date, no formal limit on luggage weight or quantity has been imposed, given that refugees have spent nearly three years in Adré spontaneous sites. However, screening is conducted to prevent the transport of commercial goods and ensure safety during relocation.

Embarquement des ménages réfugiés à Adré vers le site de Kouchaguine Moura. ©UNHCR/Farchana.

Identified Needs and Gaps

- Luggage control remains a major challenge, particularly the risk of transporting commercial goods.
- Strengthened screening measures are required, including joint verification by DPHR, use of metal detectors, and support from Chadian Red Cross volunteers for identification and loading procedures.
- Clear guidance on baggage allowance is needed to ensure consistency and compliance.
- Reception Conditions: Adequate reception conditions at destination sites remain essential to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of relocation in the medium and long term, particularly as relocation movements scale up.

Shelter and Non-food Items (NFI)

Emergency shelter: A total of 240 shelters were completed and allocated to new arrivals, comprising 170 family shelters and 70 tents. Additionally, 723 shelter frames have been constructed, including 200 covered with tarpaulins.

Semi-durable shelter: 38 adequate shelters have had their structure completed and are currently awaiting the third and final Cash for Shelter instalment for roofing works, while 97 shelters are under construction, with masonry works in progress and pending the second instalment to complete the walls.

Site Establishment: Kouchaguine-Moura currently hosts 5,455 families (25,070 refugees). The site, originally established on 400 hectares, allocated by the Government of Chad in February 2020, has been recently expanded in 2026 by an additional 35 hectares to accommodate 5,000 refugees relocated from border areas.

Reception Conditions: Temporary community hangars are under construction to improve reception conditions at Kouchaguine-Moura. These interim measures remain in place pending the completion of all emergency shelters.

Shelter planning and expansion: A total of 5,500 emergency shelters is under construction, including 3,000 shelters in Kouchaguine Moura and 2,500 shelters in Arkoum, implemented through local contractors. Shelter allocation is carried out progressively as units are completed.

In parallel, additional relocation targets are planned in other regions, including 1,500 refugees to Kerfi site (Sila Province), and 3,500 refugees to Touloum, Marassabré, and Maiba sites (Wadi Fira Province). This phased and geographically diversified approach aims to reduce pressure on border areas while ensuring safer living conditions and timely access to shelter assistance.

Coordination

Refugee relocation from Adré to planned sites is carried out through strong inter-agency coordination led by UNHCR, in close collaboration with government authorities and humanitarian partners. Ahead of the relocation, a coordination and sensitization meeting was held on 7 April 2026 at the spontaneous site of Adré with community leaders and key partners (UNHCR, WFP, ACTED, MSF-CH, ACF, DRC, APLFT, AFJT, PUI, and the Chadian Red Cross). The meeting presented the programme's objectives, timeline, destination sites, and implementation approach under government supervision. Community leaders expressed support while raising concerns related to reception conditions, transport logistics, and access to assistance, which were addressed by partners through clarifications on ongoing infrastructure works and planned support.

During relocation, CNARR and DPHR ensure government oversight, security facilitation, and movement clearances, while the Chadian Red Cross supports crowd management and boarding processes. Operational partners—including AIRD, APLFT, JRS, and IRC—contribute across shelter, WASH, protection, health, and community engagement at both departure and reception sites. This coordinated approach ensures safe, orderly, and dignified movements, timely assistance upon arrival, and effective information sharing among all stakeholders.

Next Phase

UNHCR reaffirms its commitment to relocating all refugees currently present along the Chad–Sudan border to safe, planned sites integrated into their territorial environment. Despite notable progress, significant gaps remain, including insufficient funding relative to needs, growing demands for social infrastructure (education, health, livelihoods), and the need for stronger support to host communities. UNHCR calls for increased donor engagement and enhanced partner mobilization, alongside coordinated action by all stakeholders, to ensure a holistic, sustainable, and durable response.

Voices of the beneficiaries

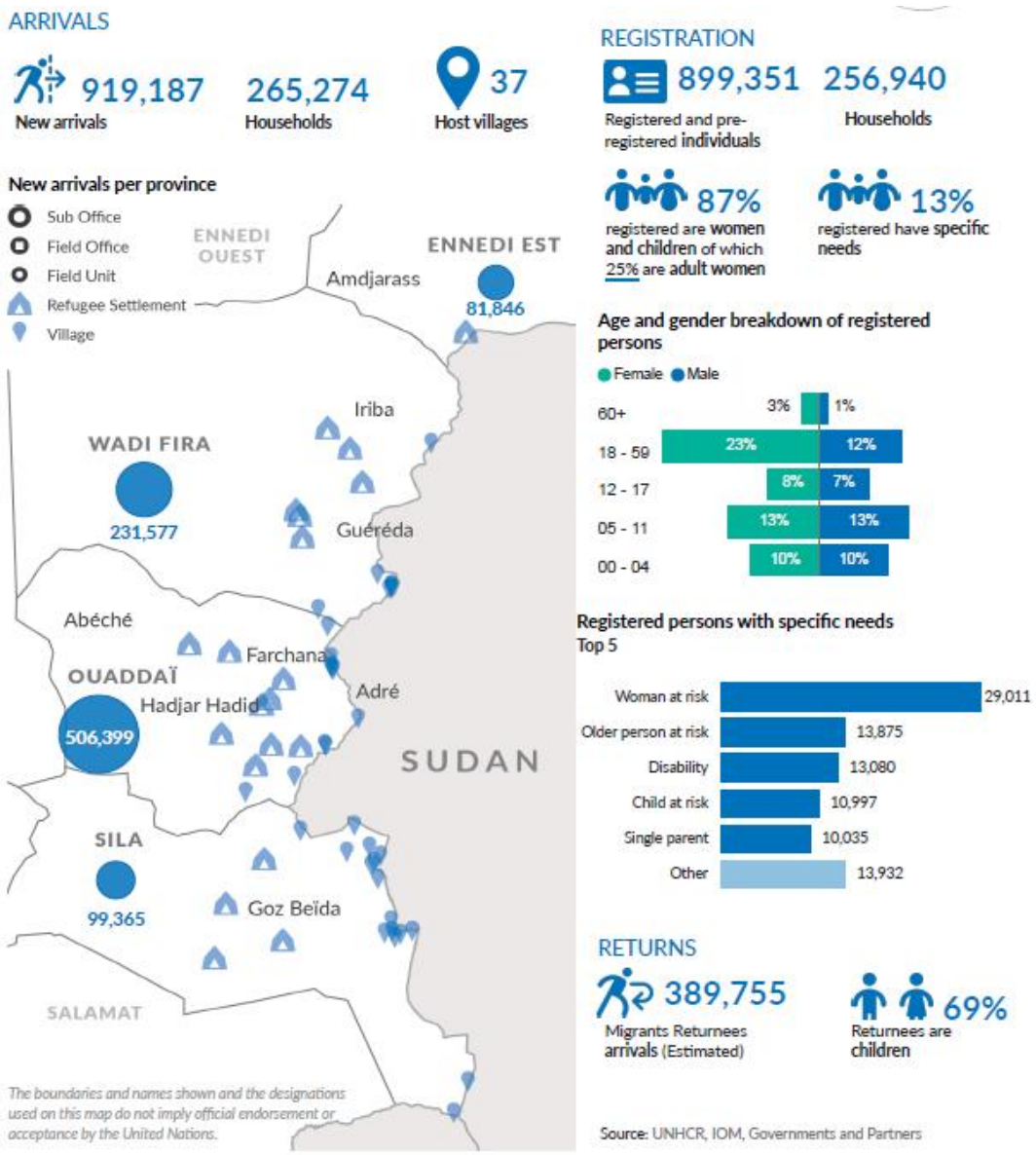
"My name is Ali. I am a Sudanese refugee, and I lived for about six months in the spontaneous site of Adré. Since my arrival, my situation has been very difficult. We live in extreme hardship, with severe shortages of food, safe drinking water, healthcare, and decent living conditions. Despite these challenges, we have shown patience. Today, by the grace of God, we are deeply grateful to have the opportunity to be relocated. This relocation represents immense hope for us—the hope of living in a safer environment with better living conditions. We hope that this new chapter will allow us to regain stability, dignity, and hope for the future."

Mohamed, a young refugee in his thirties from the spontaneous site of Adré.

"Since this morning, we have been waiting for the departure. As you can see, people are sitting in groups, sometimes for a long time. While we wait, we talk among ourselves about the difficulties we face in the spontaneous site. Despite all the problems, what matters most to us is that the departure takes place. Even if it happens later, or even during a second night, we remain hopeful. With God's help, I hope that everyone will be able to leave together and begin a new phase under better conditions."

Fatime, a young Sudanese refugee woman from the spontaneous site of Adré.

UNHCR presence in Easter Chad



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