Boarding operation of refugees from Adré to the Arkoum site. © UNHCR/Farchana

Key Highlights of the Week

- A total of 734 refugees (205 households), including 56 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), were relocated through two (02) convoys organized on 25 and 29 May 2026, from the border area of Adré to the Arkoum site (Ouaddaï).

- Overall, 9,372 refugees (2,663 households) have been relocated from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura (3,927 individuals / 973 households), Dougui (787 individuals / 343 households), and Arkoum (4,658 individuals / 1,347 households) since the launch of the accelerated relocation operation by the authorities on 1 March 2026. Among them, 1,021 were Persons with Specific Needs.

- More than 80 m^3 of safe drinking water per day is currently supplied at the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura and Arkoum (Ouaddaï).

- A total of 3,502 emergency shelters have been constructed and 70 family tents installed, out of 16,900 planned.

Overview

Since April 2023, Chad has received more than 929,092 refugees from Sudan, mainly in the eastern regions, including Ouaddaï (over 507,000), Wadi Fira (232,000), Sila (105,000), and Ennedi Est (82,000). Including populations already present before the current crisis, the country now hosts over 1.3 million Sudanese refugees.

A high concentration of refugees is observed in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira, where more than 230,000 people (over 60,000 households) who have been pre-registered are living close to the borders, in precarious conditions and exposed to security risks.

To strengthen the safety and protection of these populations, the Government of Chad, in coordination with its partners, launched an accelerated relocation operation on 1 March 2026, with support from donors such as Italy, the European Union, Japan, and the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (RHFWCA). This initiative aims to facilitate the voluntary relocation of more than 85,500 refugees from border areas to developed sites in Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, and Sila.

To date, 165,728 households (622,639 people) have already been relocated from border areas to more than 25 secure sites inland, with the support of UNHCR and its partners. The operations are ongoing.

Implementation of Refugee Relocation in Eastern Chad

The implementation of the relocation process is based on a multisectoral and highly coordinated approach, built on joint efforts in community awareness, logistical organization, assistance delivery, and inter-agency coordination. This approach aims to ensure that population movements are carried out in a safe, dignified manner, in line with protection standards.
In Adré, Maïba, and Kerfi, the activities conducted during the reporting week illustrate this operational synergy, through the complementary contributions of the various actors involved in logistical support, transportation, medical screening, and the identification of Persons with Specific Needs. Furthermore, community mobilization and awareness-raising efforts were strengthened through the active involvement of community focal points and refugee leaders.

Operational and Logistical Organization of the Relocation

UNHCR, with logistical support from AIRD and in coordination with partners CRT and JRS, ensures the implementation of relocation operations. During the reporting period, the two (02) convoys organized mobilized an average of 19 light vehicles (cars and pickups), including 02 ambulances, 02 DPHR escort vehicles, and 17 vehicles dedicated to the transport of Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), as well as 17 heavy trucks for the transportation of refugees to be relocated and their belongings.

Loading of luggage from Adré to Arkoum

To preserve the dignity of refugees, individuals and their belongings are transported separately, with an approximate capacity of 70 passengers per truck, fitted with

benches to improve transport conditions. Luggage is systematically labeled, and claim tags are issued to owners to ensure proper tracking. No baggage limit is imposed, thanks to optimized management of transport capacity.

During the reporting week, these operations enabled the transport of approximately 2,967 items, estimated at nearly 425 metric tons, consisting mainly of personal belongings and household items. Animals are transported separately in a truck specifically designated for this purpose.

Given the large volume of luggage, regular shuttle rotations are carried out between Adré and the reception sites, allowing for the gradual transfer of both personal belongings and passengers. Convoys are secured with an escort and accompanied by an ambulance and a UNHCR protection officer throughout the journey.

At the relocation boarding point, activities related to biodata collection and verification, as well as dispute management, are carried out throughout the operations. These efforts contribute to ensuring data reliability, preventing disputes, and facilitating the smooth execution of convoys.

Protection

Awareness-raising to promote refugees' participation in the relocation: Twelve (12) awareness-raising and dialogue sessions were organized by the UNHCR relocation team, with the support of community outreach workers. Various activities were put in place to address different needs, including meetings with refugee representatives, targeted focus group discussions, and outreach visits, including door-to-door engagement.

A total of 1,994 individuals were reached through awareness-raising activities, contributing to the relocation of 734 people.

In Adré, ACTED, APLFT, CRT, and JRS supported awareness-raising efforts. A total of 16 community outreach workers, mobilized by ACTED (08), APLFT (03), JRS (02), and CRT (03), were actively involved in relocation sensitization activities during the week, reinforcing the community-based approach.

After awareness-raising, the Cheikhs agreed to be relocated, together with a total of 150 members (relatives and family members).

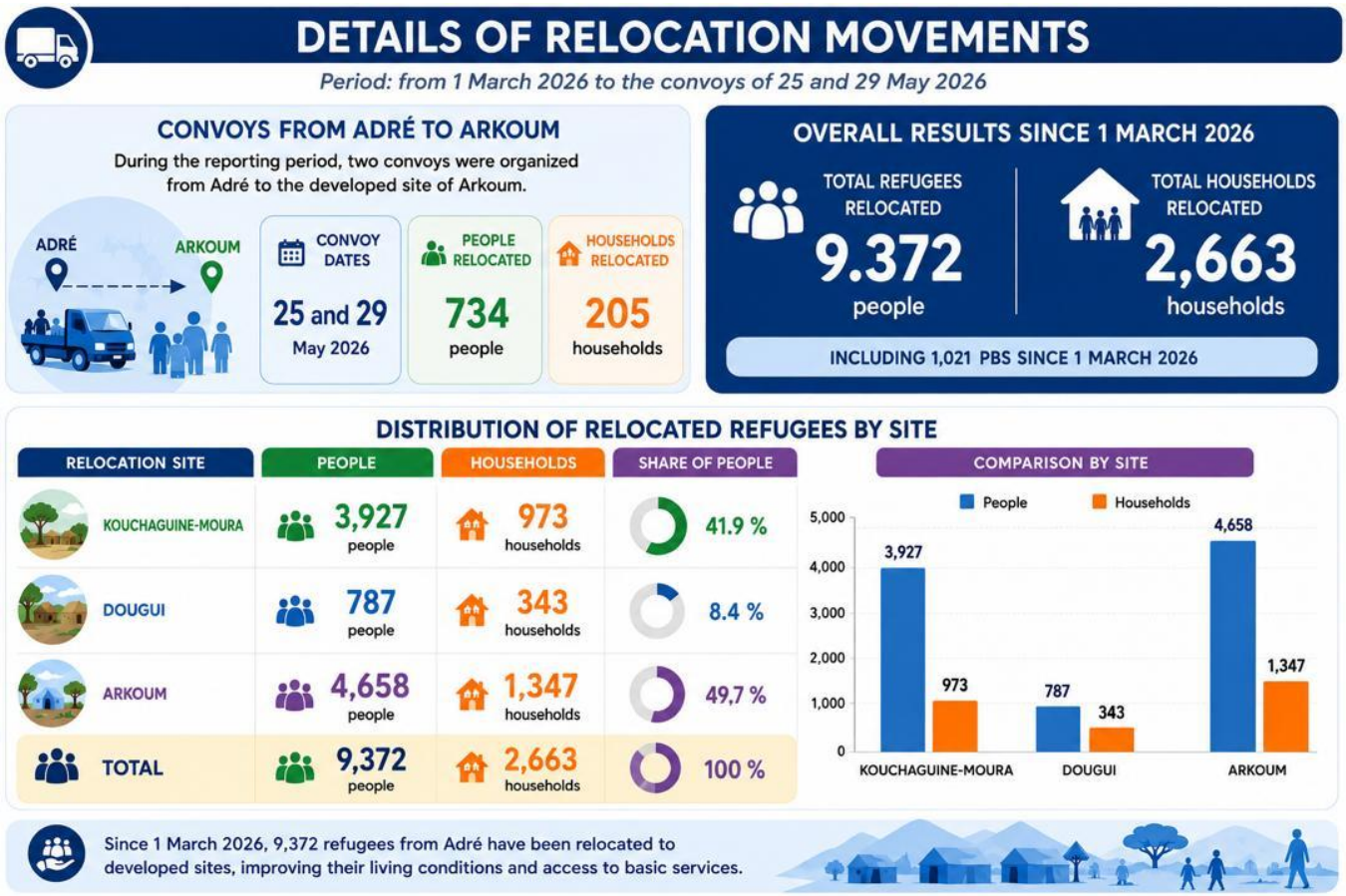
In addition, visits by refugee representatives from relocation sites, facilitated by UNHCR (the "Come and Tell" visits), are ongoing to counter misinformation regarding the availability of services. These efforts led to the mobilization of two Cheikhs, who committed to accompanying more than 155 households to the Arkoum site.

In addition, visits by refugee representatives from relocation sites, facilitated by UNHCR (the "Come and Tell" visits), are ongoing to counter misinformation regarding the availability of services. These efforts led to the mobilization of two Cheikhs, who committed to accompanying more than 155 households to the Arkoum site.

Care for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs): Throughout the relocation process, protection teams from UNHCR, CNARR, and their partners continue to identify and support persons with specific needs, including children and women at risk, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and individuals with critical medical conditions. Identification is carried out through a dedicated screening process conducted by trained protection staff at the time of relocation registration, using a harmonized questionnaire that respects the principles of confidentiality, informed consent, and do no harm. To date, these individuals have been relocated from Adré to the sites of Kouchaguine-Moura and Arkoum.

Special attention is given to the organization of movements, from departure to arrival, as well as to the provision of appropriate transport, in order to ensure a safe relocation process that respects the dignity of those concerned.

Arrival at relocation sites: Convoys are received by mixed teams composed of CNARR, UNHCR, and partner staff, particularly from protection, to facilitate installation and provide initial guidance. In the days that follow, protection partners such as APLFT and JRS conduct information and dialogue sessions in settlement areas to share details on available services and access modalities. This community engagement helps initiate case management for refugees with specific needs and supports the continued identification of needs, complementing efforts already carried out in Adré.



Relocation staff support: As part of the accelerated relocation effort, temporary staff support was mobilized from several offices to strengthen operational capacity in Adré. In total, 12 colleagues were deployed in support, coming from Farchana (4), Iriba (3), Goré (2), Bagasola (2), and Guéréda (1).

WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water: Operation and maintenance activities for water infrastructure are progressing across several sites.

- In Kouchaguine-Moura, the rehabilitation of the 20 m³ water tower, funded by Qatar Charity, is 70% complete, while 15 out of 20 water points (75%) have been completed. The construction of the support structure for the 50 m³ elevated water tank has reached 35%, with 13 out of 15 water points installed. Drilling works for three boreholes are 66.66% complete, including two already completed.

- In Arkoum Extension, construction of the water tower by partner IRC is ongoing, with the casting of isolated footings already completed. Water trucking continues pending the establishment of sustainable water supply solutions at the site.
- In Abouteingué, the rehabilitation of 20 water points is 60% complete (12/20), and repair works on the main pipeline of water tower No. 1 were carried out on 21 May.
- In Maïba, borehole F2 is completed, including the filling of a 20 m^3 tank. The construction of a platform for the installation of tanks for water storage and distribution is ongoing.

Sanitation

- In Arkoum, construction works for 800 emergency latrine-shower units by LMI show an overall progress rate of 22% (177 structures completed), with 379 units installed (47%), 293 slabs completed (36%), 300 pits excavated (37%), and 209 latrines covered with tarpaulins (26%). In addition, 25 sanitation slabs (100%) for family latrines have been completed by LMI.
- In Kouchaguine-Moura, 420 latrines have been installed and 230 completed out of 630 (36.50%). Furthermore, 120 family latrines out of 150 planned (80%) have been completed by CRT.
- In Maïba, 125 latrines are currently under construction by KITES, an UNICEF partner and UNHCR implementing partner (LMI).

Shelter and Reception

- In Arkoum, out of 1,342 emergency shelters constructed and 178 frames secured, 1,007 shelters have been allocated, with an average of 4 persons per shelter.
- In Kouchaguine-Moura, 1,460 shelters have been constructed to date out of the 3,000 planned for the initial relocation phase. In addition, 70 family tents have also been distributed.
- In Maïba, 500 shelters have been completed.
- In Kerfi, more than 200 emergency shelters have been finalized.

Site preparation works for the two sites are ongoing, with the mobilization of partners AIRD, CRT, OHDEL, JRS, ADES, and LMI, who ensure reception, protection, registration, and access to essential services, under the coordination of UNHCR and CNARR.

Food Assistance / Cash

WFP continues the General Food Distribution (GFD) at the Arkoum Extension site for newly relocated households.
Regarding cash-based assistance (CBI) for non-food items (NFI) and hot meals, UNHCR, through its financial partner Express Union, launched a distribution on 04 May 2026, which is ongoing for relocated households. Households typically receive this assistance approximately five days after arrival at the site.

An allocation of 20,000 XAF per person is provided, including:

- 6,000 XAF for hot meals
- 14,000 XAF for non-food items (NFI)

Each Person with Specific Needs (PSN) receives an additional 33,500 XAF. This assistance provided by UNHCR aims to cover the immediate needs of newly settled households.

Health & Nutrition

Health:

In Arkoum, IRC, through a mobile clinic, continues to support healthcare by providing primary care and access to services for refugees upon arrival. The partner PUI has also positioned itself at the site.

Nutrition

- **Ouaddaï:**
    - Arkoum: The 60 cartons of RUTF announced last week have been delivered. The response is ongoing.
    - Métché: ACF, MSF Spain, UNICEF, and WFP continue screening and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
    - Abouteingué: The 59 cartons of RUTF announced previously have been delivered. Treatment continues.
- Sila (Kerfi): ADES and UNICEF support screening and treatment activities.
- Wadi Fira (Maïba): Activities are in the start-up phase.

Coordination

Relocation activities are coordinated by UNHCR, in support of CNARR, in close collaboration with local, administrative, and traditional authorities, within existing coordination frameworks.
Operational implementation is carried out with the support of partners AIRD, ADES, APLFT, JRS, OHDEL, CRT, IRC, LMI, ACTED, NRC, MSF Switzerland, MSF Spain, DRC, WFP, KITES, UNICEF, ACF, as well as refugee leaders, in line with their respective mandates in protection, cash assistance, food assistance, shelter, WASH, health, nutrition, and other essential services.

Challenges and Operational Gaps

The most urgent needs relate to shelter, non-food items (NFI), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, health, education, access to land, as well as protection, particularly for persons with specific needs. These constraints, combined with limited operational and financial capacities, are slowing down the pace of relocation and highlight the urgent need to strengthen partner engagement in key sectors to support the gradual and sustainable expansion of relocation sites.
END

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