Boarding operation of refugees from Adré bound for the Kouchaguine Moura site. © UNHCR/Farchana/April 2026

Weekly Highlights

- **894 people (311 households)** relocated from the border areas through three (03) accelerated relocation convoys, including 490 people (217 households) from Adré to Arkoum site, and 404 people (94 households) from Adre to Kouchaguine Moura during this period.
- Since 07 April, a total of **4,449 people (1,185 households)** has been relocated from border areas to Arkoum and Kouchaguine Moura through nine convoys
- Operations in Arkoum (Ouaddaï) mobilised **5 trucks and 5 light vehicles**, including dedicated transport for 45 persons with specific needs (PSNs) during this period
- 395 persons with specific needs relocated to Arkoum and Kouchaguine Moura since 7 April 2026.
- At least 40 m^3 potable water per day distributed in both sites to support new arrivals.
- **2,100 emergency shelters** (12%) constructed in Arkoum, Kouchaguine Moura, and Maiba, out of 16,900 planned shelters

Overview

Since April 2023, Chad has received over 927,000 refuges from Sudan, mainly in the eastern regions, including Ouaddaï (507,000+), Wadi Fira (232,000), Sila (105,000), and Ennedi Est (82,000). Combined with refugees who were already present before the current crisis, the country now hosts over 1.3 million Sudanese refugees.

As of 05 April, UNHCR in collaboration with the Government and humanitarian partners, has relocated some 620,000 refugees inland, while around 190,000 people remain in border areas awaiting relocation.

The spillover of the Sudan crisis continues to expose refugees and humanitarian actors to significant protection risks and recurring security incidents, including sporadic attacks and localised conflicts. Land advocacy efforts with local authorities, combined with donor support, have enabled the expansion of reception capacities across several key sites to support large-scale relocation. These include, in Ouaddaï: Aboutengué (15,000), Arkoum (25,000 capacity), Dougui (15,000), Kouchaguine Moura (12,000), and Métché (30,000); in Wadi Fira: the new Maiba site (30,000), Marassabré (20,000), and Touloum (5,000); and in Sila: Kerfi (20,000).

Since April 2023, Arkoum site has received **14,845 households (56,665 individuals)** relocated from border areas to safer inland locations. These relocations—both regular and accelerated—are part of an integrated approach that combines immediate humanitarian assistance with efforts to strengthen services, social cohesion, and resilience. Following a week of unsettlement by the local population, strong engagement by administrative and traditional authorities has been critical in resolving land issues, enabling site expansion, and securing agreement with host communities. Authorities have reaffirmed their solidarity with refugees, and a **local peace committee** has been established to promote dialogue and prevent tensions.

Since 07 April, UNHCR and the Chadian Government have launched an accelerated relocation operation, supported by donors including Italy, the European Union, Japan, and the Regional Humanitarian Fund (RHF-WCA). This phase targets the voluntary relocation of approximately 85,500 refugees from border areas to sites in Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, and Sila.

Implementation of Refugee Relocation in Eastern Chad

Refugee relocation in eastern Chad is implemented through a coordinated, multisectoral approach, combining community engagement, logistical planning, protection, and humanitarian assistance to ensure safe and dignified movements in line with international standards, as well as safe and dignified settlement in relocation sites and areas.

Community Sensitization and Refugee Engagement: Over the past week, UNHCR and CNARR, with the support of partners JRS, APLFT, ACTED, NRC, and IRC, conducted sensitisation activities at transit centers, spontaneous sites and border area, including through mass sessions and focus group discussions at women centers, distribution site, a water point in the central zone reaching over 15,000 refugees, to inform them about relocation modalities and strengthen their engagement in the process.

Operationally and logistical organisation of relocation: Two convoys were organised to Arkoum on 30 April and 04 May, mobilising five trucks and five light vehicles to relocate 490 refugees (218 households) from Adré. Light vehicles were primarily used to transport persons with specific needs, while trucks carried other refugees and their belongings.

In parallel, relocations to **Kouchaguine Moura** continued, with 404 households relocated on 05 May. Since the launch of accelerated relocation on 07 April, a total of 3,959 people (968 households) has been relocated to Kouchaguine site. Overall, 4,449 people, including 395 PSN, have been relocated from the Adré border area to safer locations inland to date.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Water Supply: The average water supply in the sites at eastern Chad stands at **11.4 litres** per person per day. The following improvements is being made to support relocation sites:

- **Kouchaguine Moura** continues to scale up water supply infrastructure, with the construction of a 50 m^3 elevated water tower underway and most planned water points already installed. In the meantime, water trucking ensures the daily provision of 40 m^3 of potable water to meet the needs of newly relocated refugees.
- In Arkoum, two water distribution ramps have been installed with water maintained through daily trucking of approximately 50 m^3. Two boreholes are currently under construction to strengthen the system and gradually replace water trucking.
- In Aboutengué, the water network upgrades are ongoing, with 8.7 km of pipelines completed, (72.5% progress).

Sanitation - Kouchaguine Moura: 80 family latrines have been completed (53% of target), alongside the installation of 232 emergency latrines, including 35 fully completed units. While in Arkoum, Aboutengué, Kerfi, contractors are being deployed to construct additional family and emergency latrines to meet the needs of newly arrived refugees.

Community Engagement and Hygiene Promotion: Hygiene promotion and community outreach reached 65,475 people (including 31.8% women and 32% girls). A total of 129 sessions were conducted, including 83 household visits and 46 group awareness sessions, achieving a 6.3% coverage rate.

Community women in Arkoum are mobilizing to welcome refugees.
© UNHCR/Farchana/May 2026

Shelter and Reception

Preparation for relocation is ongoing. To date, 2,100 emergency shelters have been constructed across Arkoum, Kouchaguine Moura, and Maiba.

- **Arkoum:** 750 emergency shelters have been built out of the targeted 6,250, of which around 100 have already been allocated to new arrivals.
- **Kouchaguine-Moura:** 850 family shelters have been constructed and allocated, out of 3,200 shelters planned for the initial phase.
- **Maiba:** 500 shelters have been completed out of 7,500 planned, all funded by the RHF-WCA. WASH infrastructure is being developed in preparation for the relocation.

Upon arrival, shelters are directly allocated by CNARR, with priority given to persons with specific needs. Partners present on site—AIRD, CRT, OHDEL, JRS, ADES, and LMI—support household identification, protection, and access to essential services under UNHCR and CNARR coordination.

Health – Medical Screening of Convoys

Given the ongoing measles and meningitis outbreaks and the heightened vulnerability of refugees due to precarious living conditions, systematic medical screening is conducted for all relocation convoys. Each convoy is accompanied by a medical doctor and an ambulance to ensure timely response to health needs and safeguard refugees throughout the relocation process.

Coordination

Relocation activities are coordinated by UNHCR in support of CNARR, in close collaboration with local administrative and traditional authorities. Implementation is carried out with the support of partners—AIRD, ADES, APLFT, JRS, OHDEL, CRT, IRC, LMI, ACTED, NRC, and DRC—according to their respective mandates in protection, community engagement, cash and food assistance, shelter, and essential services. In addition to operational coordination at departure and arrival sites, strategic coordination mechanisms are in place in Farchana and Iriba, with overall coordination strengthened at the Abéché level.

Sectoral Gaps and challenges in Refugee Relocation –Eastern Chad

The planned relocation of 15,000 to 30,000 refugees per site across Aboutengué, Arkoum, Kouchaguine, Métché, and Maiba is placing significant strain on sectoral capacities. Current resources remain insufficient to meet the scale of needs, creating critical gaps that risk undermining the effectiveness and sustainability of the response.

Protection and GBV: Protection services remain severely under-resourced across all new sites. There is a shortage of community outreach workers, case managers, and functional community centres, limiting refugees' access to protection services. Gaps in accountability and feedback mechanisms further restrict access to information and reduce community engagement.

At the same time, GBV prevention and response capacities are critically underfunded, with major shortages in safe spaces, dignity kits, and cash assistance—particularly in Aboutengué and Métché, where more than 16,000 dignity kits are still needed.

Shelter: Shelter represents one of the most pressing bottlenecks. Across all sites, there is a critical shortage of family shelters, with deficits exceeding 4,000 units in Aboutengué and Métché alone. These gaps increase the risk of overcrowding, deteriorating living conditions, and rising tensions, while also constraining the continuation of relocation movements.

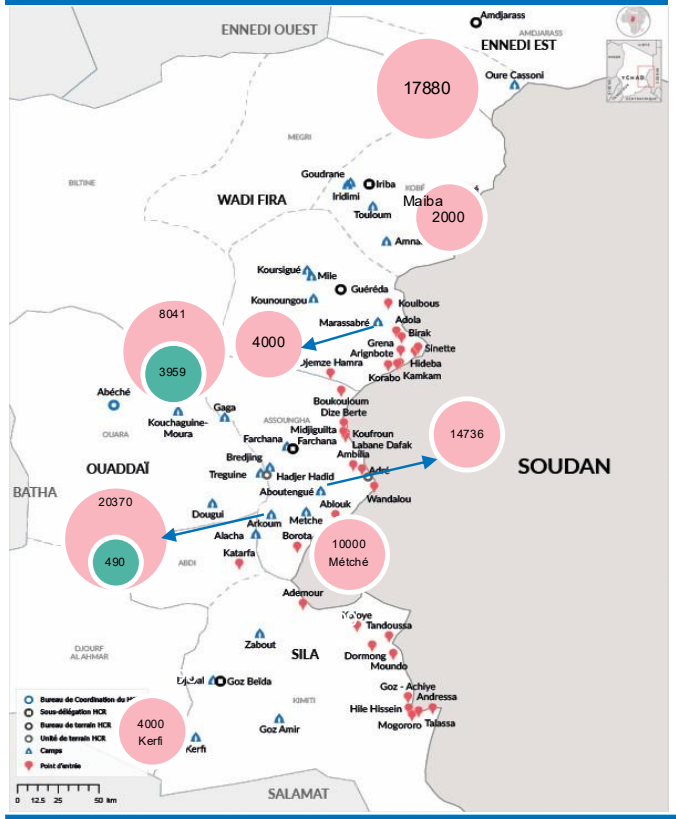
WASH: The scale-up of relocation has significantly increased demand for WASH infrastructure. Major gaps persist across the entire service chain, including boreholes, water points, distribution networks, and sanitation facilities. In key sites such as Aboutengué, Arkoum, and Métché, over 10,000 latrines are still required, exposing communities to heightened risks of waterborne diseases and undermining minimum humanitarian standards.

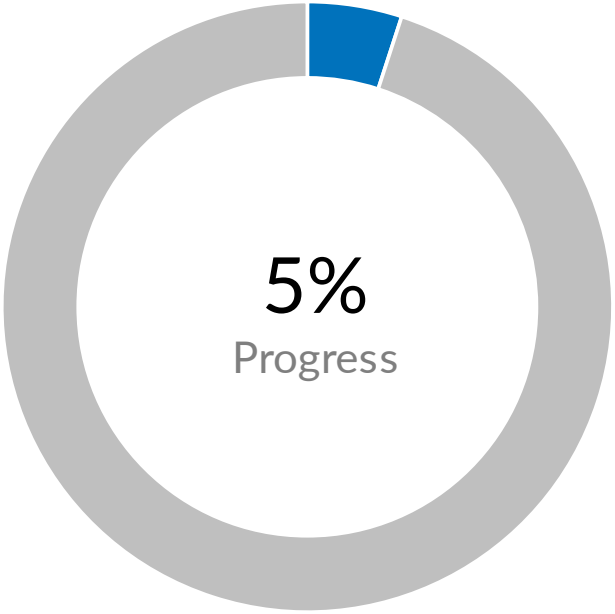
Education: The education sector is under considerable strain, with insufficient numbers of teachers, classrooms, and learning materials. In sites such as Métché and Arkoum, existing infrastructure is unable to absorb the growing number of school-aged children, increasing the risk of prolonged disruption to education.

Health: Health systems remain overstretched, facing shortages of qualified personnel, mobile clinics, ambulances, essential medicines, equipment, and referral funds. These constraints significantly limit access to basic and specialised healthcare, increasing the risk of preventable morbidity and mortality among already vulnerable populations.

Operational Risks: Without additional support, delays in fully operationalising new sites are likely to persist, potentially slowing relocation efforts, rising protection concerns, and worsening living conditions, while further exacerbating humanitarian pressure and weaking social cohesion with host communities.

Relocation in Eastern Chad 06/05/2026





Target 85 476

Relocated 4 449

Awaiting 81 027

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