



Chad and Sudan situation

Working environment

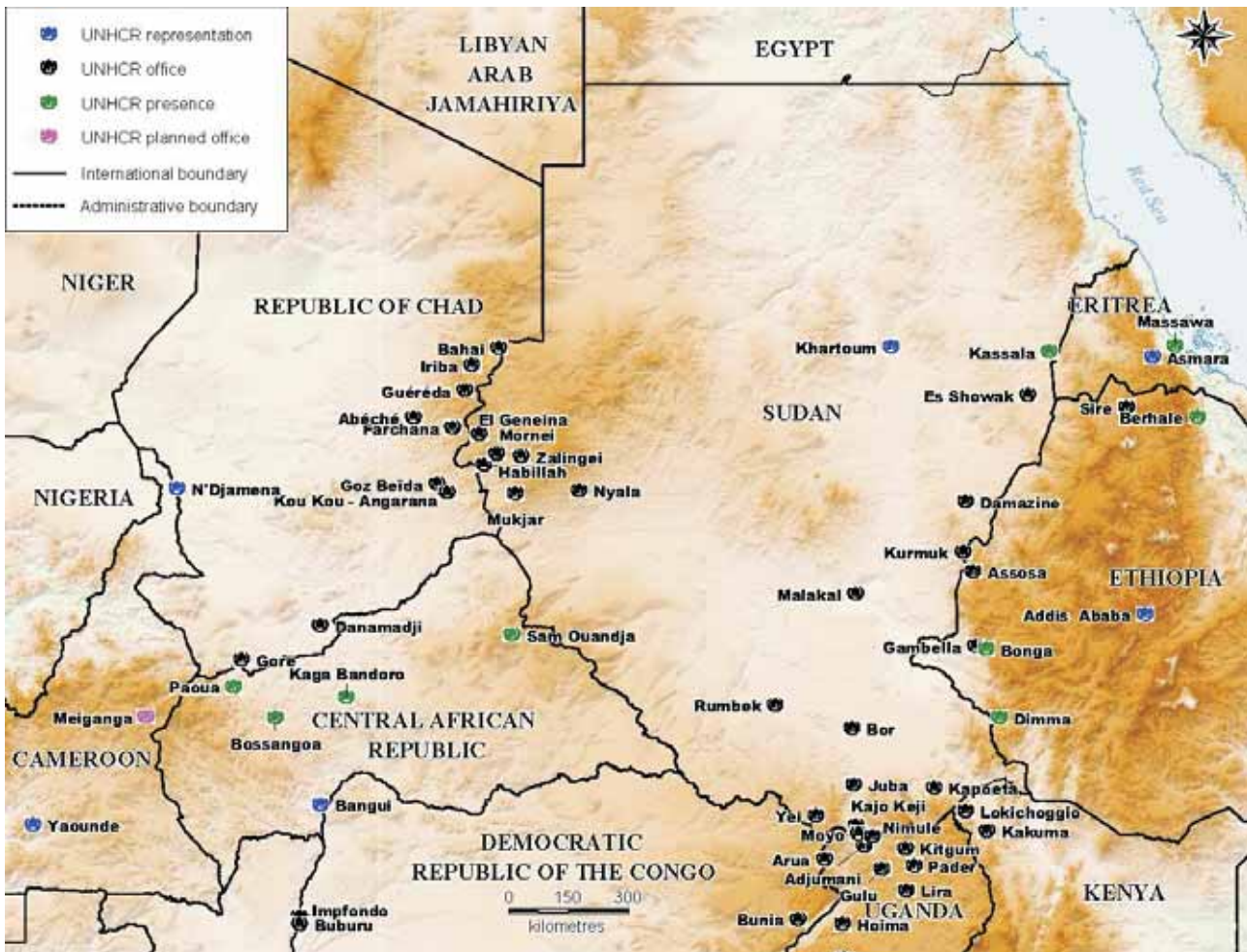
In 2007, the deteriorating security situation gave rise to further displacement in Chad. Some 20,000 Chadians have sought asylum in west Darfur in Sudan. Approximately 180,000 internally displaced Chadians, most staying at IDP camps, are in need of protection and material assistance. Furthermore, 45,000 refugees have arrived in south-western Chad, forced there by the unstable security situation in the north-western areas of the Central African Republic (CAR). Building on UN Security Council Resolution 1706, which calls for the protection of civilian populations, the European Union agreed in September 2007 to deploy 3,000 troops to eastern Chad.

Eastern Sudan, considered one of the least developed regions in the country, is currently hosting more than 135,000 refugees, mainly from Eritrea and Ethiopia, in 12 camps in the Central State as well as in the states of Gedaref, Sinar and Kassala.

In Southern Sudan, although the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 is behind schedule, the outlook remains positive. As of 15 September 2007, UNHCR had assisted more than 56,000 refugees to return to Southern Sudan from various countries in the region. Southern Sudan also has its share of refugees, the majority of them Anuaks from the Gambella region of Ethiopia.

Chad

Sudan



Darfur saw a surge in violent attacks in 2007, leading to further displacement. Due to the worsening security situation, UNHCR has access to only 65 per cent of the 800,000 people displaced in west Darfur. UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of July 2007 called for the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces to protect civilians in Darfur. Some 2,600 refugees from the region have sought refuge in north-eastern CAR, while up to 5,000 refugees from CAR have fled to Sudan.

Strategy

In Chad, UNHCR will seek to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps by improving the physical safety of refugees and protecting them – particularly children – from forced recruitment. The Office will promote the self-reliance of CAR and Sudanese refugees through income-generation projects. It will also monitor IDP sites, early-recovery activities and voluntary returns in eastern Chad.

In eastern Sudan, the Office will shift from providing care and maintenance for refugees to the promotion of local integration through self-reliance. However, phasing out UNHCR's programmes in eastern Sudan will only be possible when solutions for the protracted situation are found, and when the national asylum system has the capacity to uphold international protection standards. UNHCR will use third-country

resettlement as a strategic tool in the search for durable solutions. It will also work with the Government to address the environmental impact of this protracted refugee situation

In 2008 and 2009, UNHCR will facilitate, and promote when feasible, the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and other countries. The goal is to repatriate more 80,000 Sudanese in 2008, and same number in 2009.

In west Darfur, UNHCR will support potential returns and provide protection to displaced populations and host communities. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has emphasized the need for UNHCR to take a lead role in protection and camp coordination in south and north Darfur. The UN Country Team and UNHCR are seeking the approval of the Sudanese Government for this expanded role.

Constraints

The militarization of eastern Chad and the recruitment of refugees into armed groups compromise the physical safety of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Due to the scarcity of natural resources and inadequate services, UNHCR's assistance programmes for refugees in Chad are also available to local populations.



UNHCR/CH. CAUX

IDPs on the road to Kerfi. Inter-communal attacks in southeastern Chad have displaced thousands of people who fled their villages by foot.

Assessments conducted with refugee participation in 12 camps in eastern Sudan identified water shortages as a major protection concern. Insufficient clean-water supplies raises the risk of water-borne diseases. Furthermore, refugees have expressed concerns about the limited amount of food aid. This is a concern particularly for families with newborn babies who are not enrolled in the food ration system, and for families with members who have not been recognized as refugees.

Other concerns include poor sanitation, the scarcity of medicines, inaccessibility of education, lack of work permits and licenses and few employment opportunities. Refugees with farming skills are unable to rent land. Participatory assessment results also highlighted the urgent need to define the legal status of many camp-based refugees. Following the application of the cessation clause, nearly 70,000 Eritreans lost their refugee status but continue to live in the camps.

Despite two years of peace in Southern Sudan and the Blue Nile State, access to basic necessities, such as

clean drinking water, is limited. There are food scarcities and insufficient shelter in many areas. Most children do not have a proper education due to lack of teachers and facilities. Issues of justice and human rights are not adequately addressed, and the judiciary is not fully functional. Outbreaks of cholera, meningitis, malaria and other diseases are endemic. Armed groups not yet mainstreamed into the peace and reconciliation process continue to instil fear.

In west Darfur, security incidents in and around IDP camps, violations of human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, occupation of lands and villages and absence of livelihoods remain key protection challenges.

Operations

UNHCR's country operations for Chad and Sudan are described in detail in the following country chapters.