

Sudanese situation - Chad

March 2024

Eastern Chad is home to **over a million Sudanese refugees**, including **more than 570,000** who arrived after the outbreak of conflict in Sudan on **15 April 2023**. Projections for **2024** are for potentially over **250,000 new arrivals**.

Refugees arrive in areas where **natural resources are scarce, essential services are lacking and livelihood activities are limited**.

The situation is exacerbated by the continuing influx of new refugees.

In 2024, the priority is to **save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen the resilience** of **1.2 million Sudanese refugees**, including those in protracted displacement and newly arrived refugees.

KEY INDICATORS

570 686

New Sudanese refugees in Chad as of 31 March 2024

88%

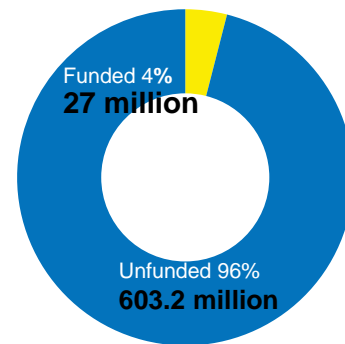
Of women and children

15%

People with specific needs

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR RRRP 2024 IN CHAD (AS OF 31 MARCH 2024)

USD 630.2 million



Including 214.8 million for UNHCR in 2024. The 2023 RRRP for Chad of 388 million was 41% funded with 160.8 million received.



Extension 1 of the Farchana site, Ouaddaï province, welcomes new Sudanese refugees who have found asylum in Chad since 15 April 2023. Ahmat, supported by his friend, decided to transform his mother's shelter into a semi-sustainable mud-brick shelter. © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

Operational context

- One year after the start of the conflict in Sudan, the daily influx continues, with **over 570,000 Sudanese** crossing the border to seek refuge in Chad, including more than 78,000 since the start of the year. The conflict could force **up to 250,000 people** to flee to Ouaddaï, Sila, Wadi Fira and East Ennedi by 2024.
- The massive arrival of refugees in eastern Chad, a region that was already home to over 400,000 refugees, is **putting a strain on already limited natural resources and social services**, fueling **tensions between populations**.
- On 6 March 2024, the Sudanese government authorized the **reopening of the Tine entry point** for cross-border operations, as well as **humanitarian flights** to El Fasher, Kadugli and El Obeid airports, in order to **facilitate and speed up humanitarian assistance**.
- UNHCR and its partners **urgently need additional resources** to continue the **emergency response**, particularly as the rainy season approaches, but also to **invest in the long term** to make a lasting impact.

Key achievements



PROTECTION

- In March, Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (APLFT) provided **legal support to 166 refugees** in Wadi Fira, Ouaddaï and Sila. This support enables them to benefit from legal advice on taking their case to court, and from legal assistance in court. **220 people** have benefited from this support since the beginning of the year.
- UNHCR, through its partner APLFT, has visited **174 Sudanese refugees** in detention facilities in Wadi Fira, Ouaddaï and Sila, including **112** in March, to provide them with legal and judicial assistance and advocate for improvements in their detention conditions.
- In March, UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM and host country authorities, supported the resettlement of **141** Sudanese refugees in a third country, bringing the total number of people resettled since the beginning of 2024 to **225**, including **1** in Canada, **36** in France and **188** in the United States of America.
- UNHCR, together with the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANATS), distributed **951 birth certificates** in the settlement sites of Djabal, Goz-Amir, Zabout and Kerfi in March, bringing the total number of births registered since January in Sila and Oure-Cassoni to **3,561**. The NGO Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has also facilitated the registration of **546 births** in the Metché and Aboutengue sites.
- ANATS and other protection partners raised awareness among **634 people** of the importance of civil status documents and birth registration, particularly to combat statelessness.

Registration

- Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR and its government partner, the Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR), have registered/pre-registered **477,869 people (129,291 households)** in the east of the country. Registration and documentation enable refugees to receive identity cards and/or attestation documents and facilitate their access to essential protection and assistance services.

- **Around 88% of pre-registered and registered refugees are women and 15% have special needs (PBS)** (people living with disabilities, the elderly, etc.).

Relocation

- As of 31 March 2024, UNHCR and its partners African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD), Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), CNARR and Croix Rouge Tchadienne (CRT) have relocated **254,030 people (69,317 households)** from spontaneous sites along the borders to settlement sites in the provinces of Wadi Fira, Ouaddaï and Sila. This represents **45% of the people counted**.
- Relocations have begun in the Farchana extension, with over 5,000 individuals relocated. However, **needs remain**, particularly in terms of **shelter, health services and access to water**.
- In March, UNHCR was granted a **six-hectare area** for an extension to the Amnabak site by the authorities, and missions are underway to identify additional space to relocate around **150,000 more people**.

Child protection

- In March, child protection partners identified and monitored **1,484 children at risk**, including **15 unaccompanied children, 56 separated children and 1,413 children at risk**. Partners initiated **81 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), including 13 Best Interest Determinations (BIDs)**. **13** children with gunshot wounds were referred to other partners for appropriate care.
- **70 children with special needs and at risk** in the Mile and Kounoungou sites were assisted through cash transfers made by HIAS for **case management**. This money enables the families hosting them to have the necessary resources for their food, health, etc.
- **More than 7,900 children and 280 teenagers** benefited from recreational and sports activities in Oure-Cassoni, Iridimi, Touloum and Amnabak.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Plan International, World Vision, CRT and SOS Village d'Enfants - Tchad (SOSVET), raised awareness among **more than 8,000 people** on the prevention of violations against children in Ouaddaï.

Gender-based violence (GBV)/Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

- UNHCR and APLFT have taken care of **304 cases of gender-based violence (GBV)** since the beginning of the year, including **174 cases** during March in the 4 provinces of Ouaddaï, Wadi-Fira, Sila and Ennedi Est.
- The **174** survivors received psychosocial care, **30** were referred to medical services, and **17** to legal and police services. **20 individual case management meetings** were organized with the various partners to decide on the most appropriate response to the most complex cases.
- In March, APLFT, together with community mobilizers and members of GBV committees, raised awareness among **more than 6,000 people**, including authorities and the host population, on the themes of GBV, the promotion of women's rights and peaceful cohabitation in all sites in the east of the country.
- In March, the GBV committees at various sites in Ouaddaï (Alacha, Arkoum, Metché, Aboutengue, Bredjing and Kouchaguine Moura) and Sila (Djabal, Gozimir and Kerfi) organized **16 meetings** to discuss prevention activities, update members' skills and address various concerns. **246 refugees** took part.

- UNHCR, with partners APLFT and UNFPA, trained **195 people**, mainly GBV case managers, from various organizations (HIAS, ALIMA, COOPI, CNARR, etc.) on the basics of GBV, PSEA, Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), the "Mental Health Gap" approach, psychosocial care for survivors and the legal framework for protection against acts of GBV.
- **1,220 refugee girls and women** in the Alacha site received **dignity kits** including reusable sanitary towels, underwear, veil, soap, solar flashlight and bucket. These kits enable them to take care of themselves, preserve their dignity, and mitigate the risks of GBV.
- Partner JRS has distributed **76 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits** to adolescent girls at middle and high schools in the Treguine and Arkoum sites. These kits are essential to prevent absenteeism or dropping out of school.

Community mobilisation

- Through the Information and Feedback Centers (CIF) set up in old and new refugee sites in eastern Chad, more than **4,100 refugee people** have been informed about the free services available, the referral systems, as well as the risks of fraud and PSEA.
- Over **1,000 complaints** were collected during March through the CIFs, comprising requests for information, assistance or dissatisfaction. **Twenty** were referred to medical partners.
- UNHCR through its partner APLFT has identified **1,686 PBS** in sites in the east of the country, who will benefit from tailored assistance.
- **Four local joint protection committees**, made up of refugees, have been set up in the Arkoum, Alacha, Metché and Ourang sites. Training for members on the UNHCR mandate, protection risk analysis, advocacy mechanisms and conflict resolution tools will be organized in April.



EDUCATION

- In March, JRS launched the construction of **24 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS)**, including **16** in Aboutengue-Ourang, **4** in Metché and **4** in Arkoum. These will be added to the **81 TLS** already present at the 4 new sites (Zabout, Ourang, Metche and Arkoum) and the extension sites. The classrooms accommodate over **36,500 children**, including more than **600 Chadians**.
- Thanks to UNHCR's advocacy with the Office National des Examens et Concours du Supérieur (ONECS) for the admission of new refugee candidates to the Baccalauréat 2024 session to be held in April, around **780 Sudanese candidates** will soon be biometrically enrolled and sit the national exam. This diploma will enable them to access higher education and build their future.



FOOD SECURITY

- In March, UNHCR, together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners, distributed food and made cash transfers to **387,797 people** in eastern Chad. Of these, **284,197** are new refugees, **87,410** are refugees who have been settled for several years, and **16,100** are returnees.

- The WFP has also distributed nutritional supplementation for the prevention of acute malnutrition to **24,948 children** aged between 6 and 23 months and **12,393 pregnant and breastfeeding women**.
- Since the start of the emergency, more than **807,000 people**, including over **139,000 vulnerable Sudanese refugees** who arrived in Chad before the crisis, have received food assistance from UNHCR, WFP and their partners.
- On 19 March, the Association pour la Dynamisation des Initiatives Locales (ADIL) distributed food kits consisting of 5kgs of cereals, 1L of oil, salt and corn flour to **70 refugees and people from the host community with specific needs** in Alacha.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Since the start of the emergency, **469,566 medical consultations** have been carried out. The main pathologies are malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), watery diarrhea and malnutrition.
- More than **405,180 children** aged between 6 and 59 months and **33,594 pregnant and breastfeeding women** have been screened for malnutrition since the start of the emergency. Of these, **43,258 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** and **17,772 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** have been managed.
- Some **14,783 mental health cases** were received for consultation and treatment.
- **7,200 deliveries** have been carried out by qualified health personnel since the start of the emergency.
- Partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) has set up **two health posts** in extension 2 of the Farchana site to improve access to healthcare services for relocated refugees.
- Health partners have recorded **over 1,400 suspected cases of hepatitis E** in the Adré Ourang, Metché and Alacha sites since February. Prevention and awareness-raising actions are continuing at the various sites to limit contamination, such as the distribution of **over 19,000 soaps** by WFP, CRT and ACTED, and **hand-washing training courses** run by IRC.



LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

- Through CIAUD, the UNHCR has helped set up **five community mill management committees** and **two seedling production groups** in Zabout and one in Djabal, advising them on how to operate income-generating activities (IGAs). They will then receive kits that will enable them to launch their activities.
- In March, the Ministry of Planning provided cash transfers to over **1,000 families** in Iriba as part of the Projet d'Appui aux Réfugiés et aux Communautés d'Accueil (PARCA), financed by the World Bank. This project aims to improve access to basic social services and livelihoods for refugees and host communities.



SHELTERS AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

- UNHCR with its partners Agence de Développement Economique et Social (ADES), CRT and INTERSOS have built **6,317 shelters** since the start of 2024, including **2,000** in Ouaddaï, **717** in Sila and **3,600** in Wadi Fira. This brings to over **59,500** shelters built since the crisis began in April 2023.
- UNHCR and partners APLFT, CRT and Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) distributed **Non-Food Items (NFIs) kits** to more than **880 people**, including girls and women of childbearing age and vulnerable people, in the Alacha site. These kits, comprising items such as mats, soap, blankets, mosquito nets and household utensils, enable households to go about their daily lives and maintain a minimum standard of living.
- The Association pour le Développement des Initiatives Locales (ADIL) distributed **60 hygiene kits** and **60 blankets** to **120 refugees and people from the host community in extreme vulnerability** including the frail elderly, people living with physical disabilities and women and children at risk in Ouaddaï.
- Thanks to a donation from UNIQLO, UNHCR, with the support of CNARR, CRT, and ACTED, distributed clothing to over **6,500 individuals** in Gaga and Farchana.



WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION (WASH)

- UNHCR, through partner CRT, has distributed **800 WASH kits** to Kerfi refugees. Comprising buckets, jerry cans and soap, these kits make it easier to transport and preserve water, and improve sanitary conditions.
- In March, partner Lakarmissionen International (LMI) built **two boreholes** in Touloum, bringing the total number built since the start of the crisis to **62**.
- Partners Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV), LMI and CRT **built 275 latrines** in Touloum, Kerfi and Farchana in March, bringing to **11,963 latrines** built in the East since the start of the crisis. More than **20,000** are still needed.
- On 22 March, UNHCR and partners organized mass awareness campaigns in the various sites as part of World Water Day. More than **9,900 people** were made aware of the importance of water and respect for sanitation rules, particularly in the fight against disease.
- **Access to drinking water remains a concern** in most refugee sites, with the quantity of water per person per day reaching 8 L/day/person.



LOGISTICS, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- UNHCR and its partners continue to deploy **enormous logistical resources** to support the **Chadian authorities' efforts to relocate new arrivals** to settlement sites.
- UNHCR has equipped the listening centers in Iridimi, Touloum, Amnabak and Oure-Cassioni with a solar installation enabling a **constant and reliable power supply**. UNHCR has also deployed the internet network at the Kouchagui-Moura, Gaga, Farchana, Metché, Birak and Koulbous sites, ensuring the **efficiency of refugee registration activities**.



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- Consultations with administrative and traditional authorities, refugee committees and host villages have led to the extension of the **Projet d'Appui au Développement Local et d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques (ALBIA)** to Guereda, with activities involving **alternative energies, assisted natural regeneration, seedling production and reforestation**. Funded by the World Bank, under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and in collaboration with the UNHCR, this project aims to improve the management of natural resources and livelihoods in the context of climate change.

Partnerships & Coordination

UNHCR and its partners are working together to support national and local authorities, who continue to welcome refugees and lead efforts to meet the needs of all those who have fled in search of safety, as well as to welcome communities affected by the crisis in Sudan. While the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) leads Chad's humanitarian response, the UNHCR Representative leads the refugee response. At the technical and operational level, the distribution of coordination responsibilities was agreed as follows:

- Response to refugees (UNHCR)
- Response to returnees (IOM)
- Host communities and other affected populations (OCHA)

Thus, at the national level, UNHCR leads coordination with the Ministry of Social Action, National Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs, and in close collaboration with the Ministries of Territorial Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration, Foreign Affairs, Chadians Abroad and International Cooperation, Education and Civic Promotion, Health and Prevention, Justice Keeper of the Seals and Humans Rights, and Women, and Early Childhood. UNHCR also leads sectoral coordination of protection, shelter/AME, water, sanitation, and health with co-leads such as Plan International, NRC, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and ACTED. The CNARR serves as a government interface between humanitarian partners, local authorities, and decentralized state services at the provincial level.

Funding update

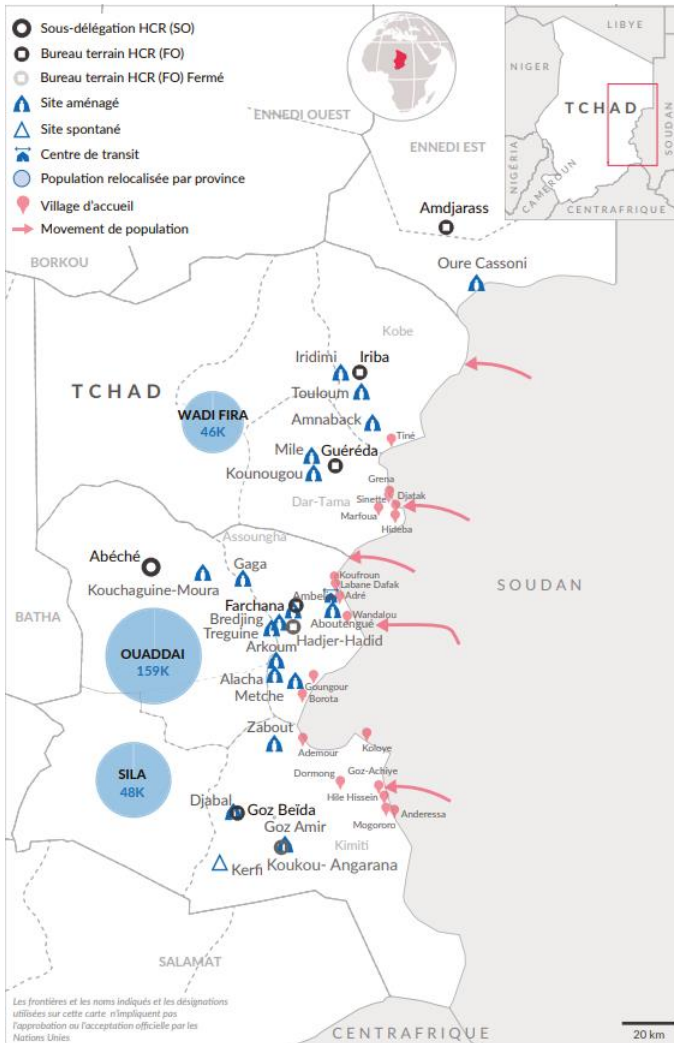
The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) covering Sudan and the 5 host countries was published earlier this year. In Chad, a total of \$630.2 million, including \$214.8 million for UNHCR, is needed to provide vital assistance to new refugees, as well as to support the resilience of refugees already present since 2003 and the host community. As of 31 March 2024, UNHCR has secured around 20 million for the refugee response, which represents 9%. **The partners reiterate the need for the necessary funds to support the implementation of the PRRP.**

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Situation map



Refugees' presence per host villages

