

CHAD SUDAN EMERGENCY

CRITICAL LIFE-SAVING NEEDS FOR PEOPLE FLEEING THE CONFLICT

A call for international solidarity with Sudanese Refugees at the border in Chad

JUNE 2024

Introduction



600,000 refugees in Chad



89% of registered refugees are women and children



71% of refugees reported that they had been victims of human rights violations during their flight to Chad



200,000 refugees in urgent need of assistance and relocation away from the border



11% of UNHCR needs for the emergency response funded

Since April 2023, the conflict in Sudan has caused one of the largest humanitarian and displacement crises in the world, forcing scores of people to flee, including over 600,000 who have crossed the border into Chad, **the largest refugee arrivals in the country's history**. New arrivals are in desperate need of lifesaving protection and assistance. UNHCR is coordinating the emergency response in support of the government. Partners have led a colossal operation to ensure new arrivals receive lifesaving protection, water, food, shelter, and healthcare.

Critical funding gaps significantly hamper the response. Despite generous support from donors, the 2024 inter-agency appeal which comprises 23 partners including UN agencies, and international and national NGOs is only 10% funded.

To save lives, partners have been forced to reallocate resources and prioritize interventions over other equally urgent actions. And even so barely

addressed most urgent needs.

Over half of new arrivals still await relocation in poor conditions in spontaneous sites along the border. In the relocation sites, the assistance in all sectors remained at sub-standard levels. The impending rainy season that will cut access, and expose families to harsh weather and waterborne disease, threatens to exacerbate the already dire situation. To make matters worse the renewed fighting in Al Fasher and the looming famine in Sudan could prompt another substantial refugee outflow into Chad.

Within the overall need of \$214.8 million for interventions in Chad under UNHCR's 2024 Supplementary Appeal, we are urgently seeking an immediate injection of \$80 million in flexible funding to help build three sites with basic services and infrastructure, relocate all families out of overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, and provide vital protection and assistance to save lives over the next six months.

Situation update

Since the beginning of the conflict in Sudan in April over 600,000 refugees fleeing the violence have crossed the border into Chad. The largest refugee arrivals in the country's history.

The new arrivals come mostly from Darfur, one of Sudan's regions most affected by violence and where the escalation of conflict, including ethnically motivated attacks, indiscriminate violence, lootings, and intense fighting, continues to force thousands of people to flee.

New arrivals – 89% women and children – often arrive in poor health, malnourished, traumatized and wounded with often just the clothes they are wearing. They first settle in overcrowded, spontaneous sites along the border, where they sleep in makeshift shelters. **They need protection and assistance, including psychosocial support, food, shelter, water and sanitation services, and core relief items** such as mattresses, soap and cooking utensils. Given the high proportion of women and children among the new arrivals, the number of reports of physical assault, including gender-based violence (GBV), **GBV services, mental health and psychosocial support and child protection are critical concerns. Due to insecurity in areas along the borders, relocating newly arriving refugees to settlements remains a top priority.**

From the onset of the crisis, Chad has continued to grant access to asylum-seekers from Sudan, despite the official closure of its

border. The Government quickly deployed additional security forces along the border to guarantee safety and promote access to territory and asylum. On 25 April 2023 – ten days after the start of the conflict in Sudan – the President of the Transition signed a decree implementing the country's 2020 Asylum Law, which offers opportunities to improve the living conditions of refugees in Chad sustainably.

Yet, the massive arrival of refugees – in less than a year, the country has received more refugees than it has in the last 20 years- adds pressure on already overstretched national services. **Chad now hosts over 1 million Sudanese forced to flee violence over the last two decades. UNHCR and its partners work tirelessly to support the Government's efforts and coordinate the emergency response reaching over 370,000 people in border areas and relocation sites with protection, food, water and healthcare.**

In a record time, UNHCR and its partners built ten extensions and five new refugee settlements, equipped with basic services and infrastructures, including family shelters, mobile clinics, water points, sanitation, and education facilities, now accommodating about 337,000 people.

Relocation to secure family shelters in organized refugee settlements is fundamental to the protection response, more so for highly vulnerable groups.

UNHCR and partners are ramping up efforts to relocate families out of overcrowded and unsanitary spontaneous sites within the next six months.

A group of refugee women and a child cross the border in Ouddai province in Chad. Women and children represent 89% of all new arrivals in Chad © UNHCR/Ying Hu



Summary of most urgent needs within UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal

Protection and well-being - \$20 M

Urgent actions are needed to ensure refugees receive essential protection services including, relocation to safety, registration and documentation, legal assistance, specialized services for children, gender-based violence prevention and response, awareness raising on refugee rights, and support for peaceful cohabitation.

Failure to relocate refugees from insecure areas near the border to secure settlements will leave hundreds of thousands exposed to possible insecurity, harsh weather and increasingly vulnerable to diseases.

Refugees in spontaneous sites in border areas

face protection risks and increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation, lack of access to basic services such as food and water, and inadequate healthcare.

Lack of adequate assistance risks heightening refugees' vulnerability to exploitation and violence, particularly for women and children. Survivors of violence including gender-based violence might not receive the necessary care, leading to long-term trauma. Victims of rights violations could remain without recourse, perpetuating cycles of abuse and children may be more susceptible to harm and exploitation.

Construction of three new sites - \$60 M

There is an urgent need to move refugees out of Adre spontaneous site in Ouaddai where about 200,000 new arrivals continue to live in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions increasing their vulnerability to protection risks and threatening their health and wellbeing.

We are now witnessing a rapid and significant deterioration of an existing humanitarian situation.

The impending rainy season, which will restrict road humanitarian access and expose families to harsh weather and waterborne diseases such as

cholera, threatens to exacerbate the already dire situation. This situation is deteriorating against the backdrop of the intensification of fighting and looming famine across the border in Sudan, and UNHCR and partners expect further substantial refugee outflows into Chad.

In June, the government and partners opened a new site with basics to accommodate up to 50,000 people, but at least three more are needed to relocate an additional 150,000 people.

URGENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

At this critical time, UNHCR appeals to donors now more than ever to fund the immediate relocation of 150,000 Sudanese fleeing the conflict who have crossed the border into Chad to avoid a devastating humanitarian disaster.

Special thanks to our main donors in Chad

