

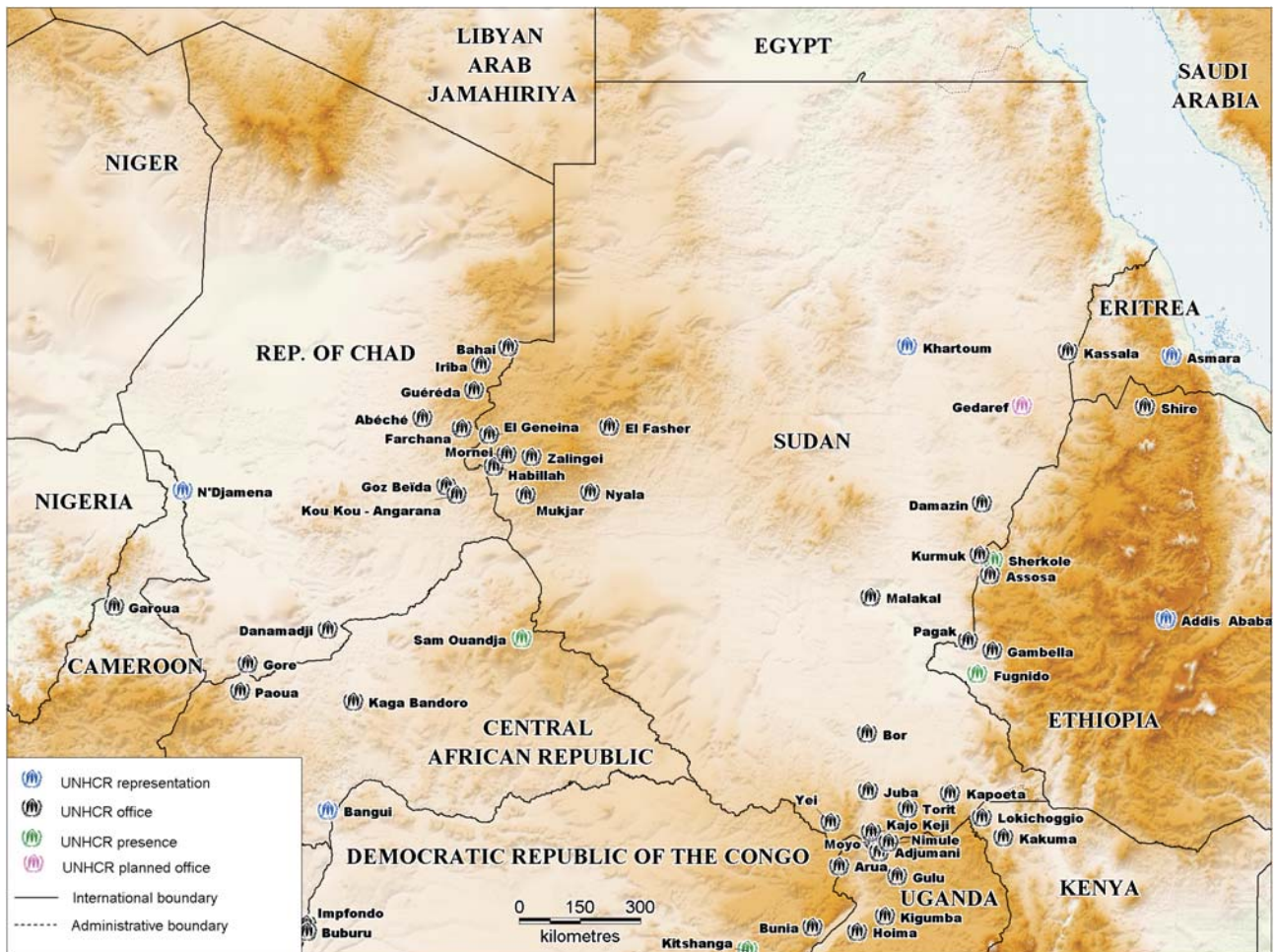
Chad-Sudan Situation

Working environment

Violence continues to affect civilians and the humanitarian community in Chad and Sudan. UNHCR's operations in the region cope with a continuing refugee influx into Chad, a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur, a repatriation operation into Southern Sudan and a protracted refugee situation in east Sudan. Logistical challenges often hamper the delivery of assistance. As political and security developments in Chad and Sudan are increasingly intertwined, UNHCR will have to maintain a situational approach in the region if it is to be effective.

Chad

Sudan



In Chad, UNHCR continues to operate in an extremely volatile security environment. There were several armed attacks on refugee camps in 2008, but the deployment of EUFOR and MINURCAT forces has begun to improve the situation. In 2008, Chad witnessed an increase in the number of refugees; the country now hosts more than 300,000 refugees, in addition to some 150,000 IDPs.

In Darfur, continuing conflict and the displacement of civilians within the region—as well as to Chad—complicate efforts to provide protection and assistance. Darfur has two million IDPs and more than 30,000 Chadian and 3,000 CAR (Central African Republic) refugees. While UNHCR does not have full access to all sites, it has been able to expand its presence to north and south Darfur.

In Southern Sudan, UNHCR expects to help some 54,000 refugees return from neighbouring countries of asylum and facilitate their reintegration in 2009. The Office has also begun community-based projects to find solutions for the small number of Ethiopian refugees currently in the region.

Eastern Sudan, characterized by acute poverty and underdevelopment, hosts some 147,000 refugees, including an estimated 90,000 in camps. The majority have been there a long time—unable to repatriate voluntarily, be resettled, or integrate

locally. Furthermore, since July 2007 eastern Sudan has been receiving fresh asylum flows from Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

Strategic objectives

UNHCR will continue to protect and assist people of concern in Chad. Given the limited prospects for the return of refugees in the near future and severe scarcities of water, firewood and arable land, UNHCR will reorient its assistance programmes towards helping the displaced to become self reliant. It will also bid to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. Where possible, UNHCR will facilitate the return of IDPs to their villages of origin; it is expected that up to 30,000 IDPs will be able to return in this manner in 2009.

In Darfur, in 2009 UNHCR will provide non-food items and essential services to groups with specific needs. It will also concentrate on building the capacity of local authorities and promoting peace and reconciliation among local communities.

UNHCR will continue to facilitate the return of refugees into Southern Sudan. Current planning assumptions are that some 54,000 refugees will return from neighbouring countries of asylum in 2009. However, there are concerns about the lack of

basic infrastructure in communities of origin in Southern Sudan.

In an effort to resolve the protracted refugee situation in eastern Sudan, UNHCR will intensify its efforts to create conditions conducive to the local integration of the longstanding caseload of Eritrean refugees here, while also pursuing resettlement options where appropriate. With the onset of a comprehensive verification exercise in 2008, it is expected that durable solutions can be considered in 2009 for a significant portion of this group.

Challenges

The protection environment in both Chad and Darfur is affected by the militarization of refugee and IDP camps. The ongoing deployment of EUFOR and MINURCAT in Chad, as well as the expected full deployment of UNAMID in Darfur, should bring significant improvements in security, but the operating environment in 2009 will nevertheless pose significant security challenges.

The implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has fallen behind schedule as relations

between the Government of Southern Sudan and the National Congress remain tense. There is disagreement on several critical issues, including wealth sharing and the delineation of the boundary.

In eastern Sudan, there are many unmet refugee needs in the areas of drinking water, health services and economic opportunities.

Operations

UNHCR's country operations for **Chad** and **Sudan** are described in separate chapters.

Financial information

The overall budget for Chad and Sudan has increased by approximately 20 per cent over the last five years. A major increase occurred in 2008, mainly due to the emphasis on reintegration activities in Southern Sudan, the expansion of programmes in Darfur and projects to cope with displacement within and into Chad.



Displaced people queue for water in Dogdore camp in Chad.