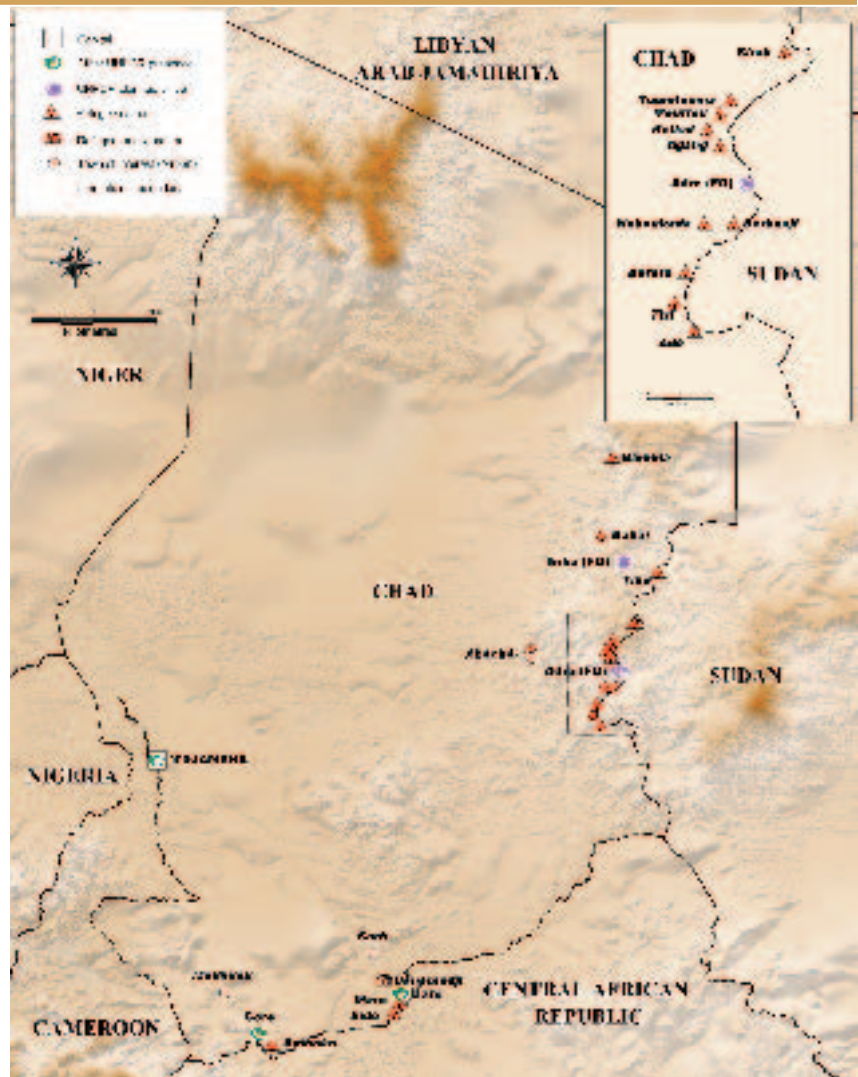


Republic of Chad

Main objectives

- Establish a field presence in eastern Chad in order to ensure that Sudanese refugees have access to protection and life sustaining assistance.
- Ensure that food, shelter, water, sanitation and health care are provided to the refugees.
- Promote the rights of refugees, including safe and unhindered entry into Chad as well as settlement in locations away from border areas.
- Work with the local authorities and sensitise them about the implementation of guidelines on the treatment of vulnerable groups, particularly refugee women and children.
- Assist the Government of Chad to address problems created by hosting large numbers of refugees.
- Facilitate voluntary repatriation as soon as the situation becomes favourable.



Working environment

Recent developments

At the beginning of 2003, the Republic of Chad experienced a massive influx of 41,000 Central African refugees who were fleeing a conflict which culminated in a *coup d'état* in mid-March. President Ange-Felix Patasse was ousted and General François Bozize was installed in power. The refugees, mainly from northern Central African Republic (CAR), settled in three camps in Gore, Maro and Danamadji in southern Chad, near the border with the Central African Republic.

After prolonged fighting between government forces and the former opposition, many parts of northern CAR are still insecure and inaccessible to the international community. Furthermore, remnants of supporters of the ousted former President remain in the north where they subsist through criminal activity, mostly armed robbery.

The refugees, many of them in exile for more than seven months, do not yet feel safe enough to return to their homes, mainly in northern CAR.

In early 2003, fighting broke out in Darfur, western Sudan, between Sudanese Government forces and the rebel Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), an armed opposition group that has operated in the area since February 2003. The ensuing conflict resulted in the death or injury of hundreds of civilians. Tens of thousands were displaced in Darfur, while others took refuge in neighbouring Chad. In late August, a verification mission composed of Chadian government officials, UNHCR and WFP, confirmed the presence of over 65,000 Sudanese refugees in the towns of Tine, Birak, Farachana, Borota and the district of Adré, in eastern Chad, bordering the Sudanese town of El-Geneina. The location is about 1,000 km from the Chadian capital, N'Djamena. With the new influx of Sudanese, the number of refugees in Chad has risen to 120,000. This figure includes some 12,000

Sudanese who were already living in Adré and 1,000 urban refugees in N'Djamena.

Preliminary interviews with refugees have revealed that several small groups began to flee at the end of June 2003, joined by increasing numbers since August. As reasons for flight, they cited attacks by armed militia aimed at routing out SLM rebels, involving extensive burning and looting of their villages as well as violence, including the killing of males. Local populations have assisted the refugees with food, clothing and household utensils. Their makeshift shelters are made of branches covered with thin plastic sheets, fabric or leaves. An initial *Médecins sans frontières* survey found no cases of extreme malnutrition. However, a few cases of malaria and diarrhoea were reported.

UNHCR rapidly deployed an emergency response team to determine the scale and scope of its intervention in eastern Chad and initiate appropriate emergency response activities. There were no humanitarian agencies in that part of the country before the crisis.

Constraints

The main problem is inaccessibility. The CAR refugees have settled 1,000 km from the capital, in the desert region of the Ouadai, where there are no roads. The most appropriate means of transport to these areas is by plane. This severely restricts the transport of people and supplies to the refugee sites.

Another serious constraint is the security situation in northern CAR, near the border with southern Chad. Voluntary repatriation of some of the Central African refugees will remain impossible until there is stability in this area.

While the Sudanese refugees remain in border areas in eastern Chad, also 1,000 km from N'Djamena, harsh

climatic conditions and the remoteness of the Adré district will pose significant barriers to the smooth and effective delivery of protection and humanitarian assistance for the refugees. The provision of food presents a major challenge for UNHCR and WFP, as the area of operations suffers a perennial food deficit.

Strategy

UNHCR will provide humanitarian assistance for the refugees through a number of implementing partners. In addition, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) will be signed with UN agencies and diplomatic missions intervening in the programme. In order to monitor the operations closely, UNHCR will open field offices in Goré, Danamadji, Abeché, Tine and possibly, Adré. Emphasis will be put on recruitment and training of local staff for UNHCR and NGOs in order to minimise the cost of international staff and ensure the sustainability of the programme.

The pressures posed by the needs of the refugees may unsettle the delicate balance of the local economy. Currently UNHCR is working with local partners to establish a mechanism that would entail setting up a new goods distribution network and hiring personnel. Basic food items such as salt and high protein biscuits will be provided for refugees who may suffer from malnutrition.

Trucks, light vehicles and planes will have to be hired or purchased for transportation of refugees, relief items and humanitarian staff. Domestic items will be provided to make refugees self-sufficient in cooking and personal hygiene. Non-food items airlifted to Chad so far include blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and sanitary supplies. There is an urgent need for tents, which are the most practical shelter in the Saharan environment.

The Saharan environment is fragile, and existing capacity in villages is overstretched, greatly increasing the risk of epidemics. Qualified personnel in key sectors such as health and water will have to be recruited and deployed to provide basic services. There are no nearby river sources which would facilitate the supply of water in camps. The aquifer in those locations is on average 100 metres down, necessitating the drilling of wells at great expense. Activities in the water sector will include exploring cost effective ways of supplying water to refugees such as the digging of shallow wells wherever possible

Planning figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Central Africa (refugees)	41,000	20,000
Sudan (refugees)	65,000	8,000
DRC (refugees)	167	100
Other refugees	176	150
Asylum-seekers from CAR	70	40
Asylum-seekers from DRC	50	20
Asylum-seekers from Sudan	350	150
Asylum-seekers from elsewhere	170	100
Total	106,983	28,560

Total requirements: USD 12,098,114



Many of the refugees who fled to Chad have been living in the open without adequate shelter. Here, a woman and her children, the majority of those who fled the fighting in Darfur – western Sudan, are settling down in newly established camps. MSF Belgium

and the procurement of related equipment (pumps, pipes, chemicals and water purification tablets, etc.). In the sanitation sector, adequate facilities must be put in place for the effective removal of garbage, vector control and proper management of contaminated water. Minimum standards of health care will be maintained through the provision of preventive and emergency curative health services and education (in the first instance covering water usage, sanitation, and care of the environment).

In the community services sector, the emphasis will be on organising refugees to participate in the management of their own affairs, particularly in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable among them, including unaccompanied minors and single parents. Efforts will be made to begin education activities as soon as refugees are transferred to the new sites.

To implement the activities outlined above, UNHCR will provide technical and administrative support to implementing partners who are involved in the project. Taking into account the remoteness of the area of operations and given that there has been no prior presence of humanitarian agencies in the region, UNHCR will provide some of

the agencies with vehicles, generators, telecommunications equipment, computers, office premises, etc.

Sudanese refugees

The refugee population is mainly from the Zaghawa ethnic community who straddle the Chad-Sudan border. Roughly three-quarters of them are women and children under the age of five living in deplorable conditions with little or no access to clean water, food or health care. Young people and the elderly are noticeably absent. UNHCR is collaborating with its Chadian Government refugee counterpart, CNAR, and humanitarian actors to ensure a co-ordinated response to the needs of the Sudanese refugees. The immediate priority is to mobilise staff, equipment and relief items in order to establish infrastructure in eastern and southern Chad in the vital sectors of shelter, health, water and sanitation.

The intention is to transfer refugees who are scattered in some 20 sites along the remote border to new sites in order to decongest the border areas and facilitate the distribution of food and non-food items. However, the planned relocation could be severely hampered by the continuing rainy season, which has caused dry river beds to flood, cutting off road access in some places.

Central African refugees

UNHCR set up three camps to shelter the Central African refugees. It is expected that the three newly-built camps – Gore, Danamadji and Maro – between them will host some 28,000 refugees who agreed to be relocated from unsafe border areas. The refugee situation in southern Chad has been stabilised with the ongoing relocation of refugees to the new camps and the installation of basic services such as water and sanitation. Health and other community services will also be offered.

Although the current CAR government has appointed administrative staff for deployment to the north, they have thus far been unable to take up their posts, partly owing to the prevailing security situation. In their absence, the return of refugees to northern CAR would be unlikely.

Organisation and implementation

Management structure

Given the recent refugee crisis, UNHCR had to reopen its office in N'Djamena. In order to provide emergency assistance to the Central African refugees in southern Chad, UNHCR has also opened two field offices in Gore and Danamadji. In addition, there are plans to establish two field offices in eastern Chad to help care for the Sudanese refugees.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to work closely with a committee established in February 2003 comprised of UN agencies, NGOs and others involved in providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees. The committee meets once a week to co-ordinate all activities related to the refugees and distribute information about the development of the programme.

Offices
N'Djamena
Gore

Partners
NGOs
Africare
Chadian Red Cross
<i>Commission nationale d'accueil des réfugiés</i>
<i>Médecins sans frontières</i> (Belgium)
<i>Secours catholique pour le développement</i>
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>

Budget (USD)			
Activities and Services	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	261,354	1,291,997	1,553,351
Community services	69,230	290,000	359,230
Crop production	82,050	170,000	252,050
Domestic needs	168,557	800,000	968,557
Education	82,050	400,000	482,050
Food	0	200,000	200,000
Forestry	26,410	0	26,410
Health	230,510	800,000	1,030,510
Income generation	41,025	0	41,025
Legal assistance	82,050	280,000	362,050
Livestock	42,820	0	42,820
Operational support (to agencies)	220,048	700,000	920,048
Sanitation	69,230	500,000	569,230
Shelter / other infrastructure	231,280	800,000	1,031,280
Transport / logistics	269,100	1,500,000	1,769,100
Water	85,640	700,000	785,640
Total Operations	1,961,354	8,431,997	10,393,351
Programme support	392,249	1,312,514	1,704,763
Total	2,353,603	9,744,511	12,098,114

The supplementary programme budget does not include 7 per cent support costs (USD 590,240) that are recovered from each contribution to meet indirect support costs for UNCHR (field and headquarters).