

# CHAD EMERGENCY UPDATE

## OUADDAI PROVINCE (EASTERN CHAD)

**2,500**

Estimated new arrivals since 18 July 2020

**7,988**

Total population in Kouchaguine-Moura Camp

**18,500**

Total estimated number of arrivals since December 2019 (including 2,500 in July)

## LEVEL 2 REGISTRATION IN KOUCHAGUINE-MOURA CAMP

### KEY INDICATORS

**4,583 (65%)**

CHILDREN (Below 18 years old)

**3,833 (55%)**

WOMEN AND GIRLS

**150 (2%)**

ELDERLY PERSONS

**7,023**

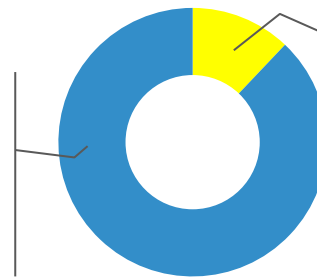
Individuals registered

**1,646**

Households registered

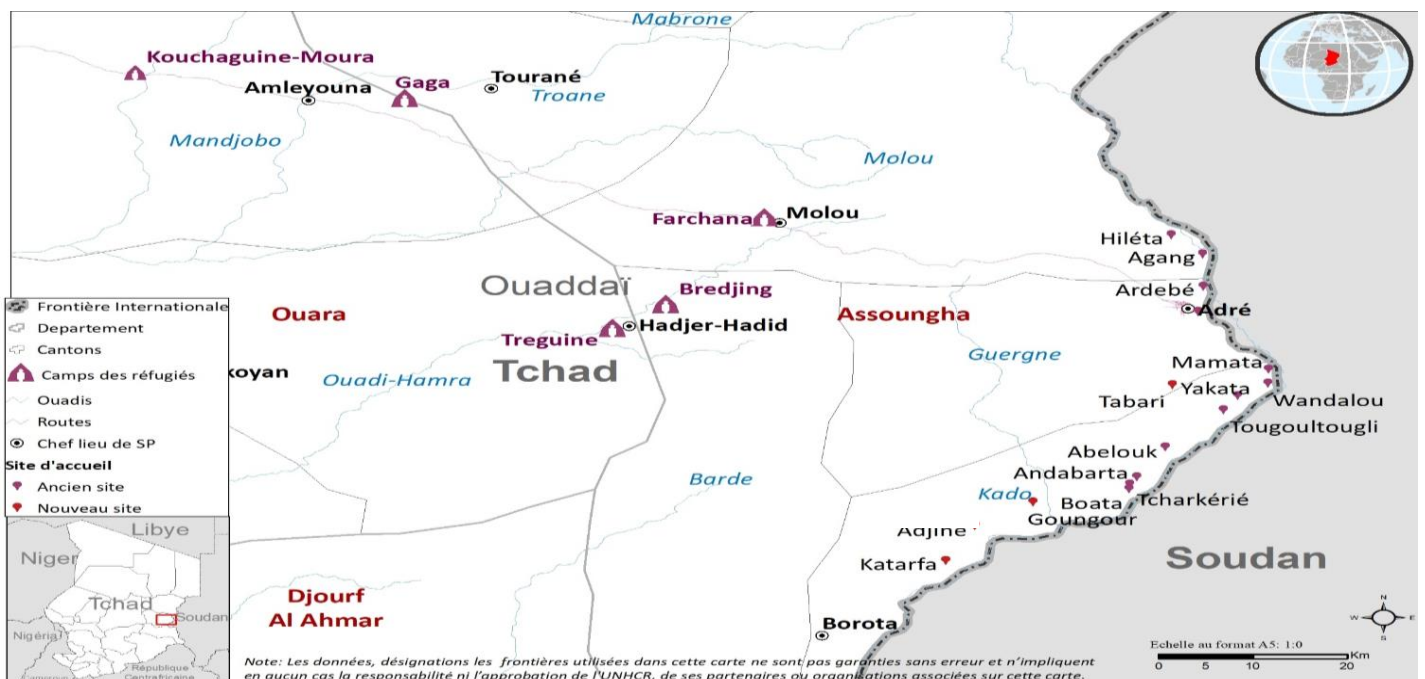
### PROGRESS

Individuals Registered Level 2, 7023, 88%



Individuals pending Registration Level 2, 965, 12%

## MAPPING OF THE TRANSFER OF SUDANESE REFUGEES



## CONTEXT - Violence in Sudan's Darfur forces thousands to flee

Since late December 2019, clashes between rival communities in El Geneina in Sudan's West Darfur State forced over 18,500 refugees to cross into neighboring Chad thus far. From late December to January, approximately 16,500 asylum seekers arrived in Chad. The majority of them are women and children. They arrived exhausted, traumatized and often with signs of malnutrition. Following an alert by authorities in eastern Chad, a joint mission comprising UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Chadian national refugee commission CNARR (Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés) and the Governor of the Ouaddai province was conducted along the border areas to monitor the situation and meet the new arrivals. A rapid assessment of the refugee population revealed that it was composed mainly of women, children and elderly persons in acute need of protection and assistance, including health services, water and sanitation, shelter and core relief items. UNHCR, together with the local authorities and partners, identified a new site in Kouchaguine-Moura, and work started immediately to prepare it to receive the refugees.

Since the start of the influx, UNHCR and Government of Chad have undertaken the pre-registration of a total of 15,476 individuals (4,499 households). However, although the situation in Sudan remains volatile and unpredictable, a large number of persons who were pre-registered are believed to have returned to Sudan and have therefore not been relocated to the new camp at Kouchaguine-Moura.

Some time later, as a result of further inter-community conflict on 16 May which caused a number of deaths in West Darfur, Sudan, thousands more new arrivals crossed the border to seek asylum in Chad.

Most recently, since 18 July 2020, further violence between Arab and Massalit ethnicities has led to approximately 2,000 – 2,500 individuals crossing the border from Darfur in Sudan to seek asylum in Chad. The new arrivals gathered in various small villages along the Chad-Sudan border including Wandalou, Yakata, Goungour, Katarfa, Gofota and others. Although the relocation of the newest arrivals to Kouchaguine-Moura camp started on 1 August, due to poor road conditions and heavy rains it has only been possible to successfully complete four convoys with 242 households of 965 individuals so far. The relocation was suspended while awaiting the construction of new shelters to accommodate them.

UNHCR continues to maintain close cross-border and protection monitoring.

## Measures in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic

The Government of Chad continues its efforts to repatriate Chadians stranded out of the country and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Among other efforts, the government began food distribution for the most impoverished on 20 May and distributed free face masks from existing stocks as well as pending orders. In addition, Chad's borders with Sudan and the Central African Republic remain closed and mass gatherings of more than 50 people remain prohibited. After four and a half months of closure since mid-March, the international airport in N'Djamena began accepting commercial arrivals on 1 August, with the application of certain infection control measures. The government allowed bars, restaurants, markets and shops to reopen as of 21 May and schools to resume as of 25 June 2020, providing they respect the current prevention measures.

As of 18 August, there was a total of 970 cases of COVID-19 in Chad recorded since the start of the outbreak in 15 provinces (N'Djamena, Batha, Ennedi Est, Guera, Kanem, Lac, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo Kebbi-Est, Moyen-Chari, Sila, Ouaddaï, Wadi-Fira, Logone occidental, and Chari Baguirmi). Of this total, there are 865 recovered cases, 76 deaths and 29 active cases. No persons of concern to UNHCR are believed to be among the number of confirmed cases.

## Update of COVID-19 situation in Ouaddai Province & UNHCR's Response

In Ouaddaï Province in Eastern Chad, 14 cases have tested positive for COVID-19, including one from Farchana, where UNHCR's Sub Office for the zone is located. All of them have recovered. None of the reported cases are believed to be persons of concern to UNHCR.

To better respond to the unprecedented challenge caused by this pandemic, UNHCR declared the COVID-19 situation a global Level 2 Emergency on 25 March 2020, activating emergency procedures and giving country operations maximum flexibility and access to resources to ensure the provision of assistance to persons of concern to the Office.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, UNHCR has been engaging in continuous monitoring, enhanced preparedness and contingency planning, notably in operations hosting large refugee populations, like in Eastern Chad, with a particular focus on interventions aimed at preventing spreading of COVID-19 among refugee populations. This includes increasing the distribution of shelter material, core relief items such as jerrycans and kitchen sets, as well as supporting sanitation, water and hygiene materials.

In line with the OCHA-coordinated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, and working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR is addressing the specific needs and considerations required in camps. These focus in particular on key objectives around shelter, health care and awareness, water, sanitation and hygiene, and maintaining or adapting critical protection activities and communicating critical risks and information to all communities.

Regarding the camps in the region covered by UNHCR's Farchana Office, the construction of isolation rooms for COVID-19 patients was completed in Bredjing, Treguine, Farchana, Gaga and Kouchaguine-Moura camps. 3,300 awareness-raising posters on COVID-19 have been distributed to the camps and sensitisation sessions on COVID-19 for refugees continue in the camps. Protective face masks were produced locally for UNHCR staff and partners as well as refugees, and a task force was put in place in order to define the strategic orientations and the priority actions to be taken with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **RELOCATION & REFUGEE POPULATION IN KOUCHAGUINE-MOURA CAMP**

The initial operation of relocating refugees from the border to Kouchaguine-Moura camp after the first arrivals in early 2020, which started on 4 February 2020, was completed on 14 April in accordance with the deadline given by the government authorities, except for a small number of families who had chosen to stay at the border awaiting the harvest season. Relocation convoys then resumed in May to transfer the remaining persons who had been waiting for harvest as well as newly arrived refugees who were displaced in the middle of May as a result of inter-community conflict, as mentioned above.

In August, relocation from the border to Kouchaguine-Moura camp was once again initiated for an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 new arrivals who fled to Chad since 18 July 2020. As of 11 August, only four convoys with 242 households of 965 individuals had arrived in Kouchaguine-Moura camp due to the poor road conditions in the region, seasonal heavy rains and limited number of shelters. The relocation is suspended and will resume once shelters are completed to accommodate the new arrivals. Currently the 242 households of 965 individuals are still accommodated in the transit hangars waiting for the shelters to be constructed.

Further to the groups of refugees relocated from the border area, groups of people consisting mostly of women and children continue to arrive spontaneously in Kouchaguine-Moura camp, with the majority seeking to reunite with family members already in the camp. Interviews are conducted in close collaboration with the government

authorities to assess the reasons of arrival and the nationality of those who arrive directly in the camp. As of 18 August 2020, Kouchaguine-Moura camp is hosting 1,888 households of 7,988 individuals, of which the majority has been fully registered.

The Level 2 biometric registration exercise in Kouchaguine-Moura camp, which began on 20 July with UNHCR working in close collaboration with the Chadian government authorities, was completed on 5 August after registering all refugees who arrived in the camp before the most recent displacement from Sudan in July 2020. However, the exercise will resume after the rainy season for the registration of the newer arrivals, including those most recently relocated from the border. In total, 1,646 households of 7,023 individuals were registered during the initial exercise, with women and girls representing 55% of the registered population.

In close collaboration with its government counterparts and humanitarian partners, UNHCR continues to work around the clock to ensure that family shelters, latrines, showers, boreholes and other basic services are available in the new Kouchaguine-Moura camp for the refugees who are present.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN KOUCHAGUINE-MOURA**

### **Protection**

Initial protection monitoring indicates that refugees do not consider it possible to return to their homes in Sudan due to the security situation, which remains volatile.

The identification of people with specific needs continues in Kouchaguine-Moura camp. To date, there are in total 2,671 people identified with specific needs, consisting mainly of children at risk, old people at risk, people with disabilities, single parents and people with serious medical conditions.

Eight SGBV cases have been reported since the beginning of the relocation exercise to Kouchaguine-Moura camp, including one case of rape, one of physical violence, one of forced marriage, three cases of psychological/emotional abuse and two of denial of resources, opportunities or services. Appropriate support is being provided to the survivors based on their needs.

Border monitoring at the Chad-Sudan border was conducted on 27 July 2020 in close collaboration with the government partner (CNARR) with the aim of assessing the situation of the new arrivals. Between 2,000 and 2,500 individuals are estimated to have crossed the border to seek asylum in Chad since 18 July following intercommunity conflict between Arabs and Massalites in El-Geneina in Sudan. The new arrivals are

gathered in various villages including Wandalou, Yakata, Goungour, Katarfa, Gofota and others. Four convoys with 242 households of 965 individuals have arrived in Kouchauine-Moura camp. The relocation was suspended while waiting for the shelters to be constructed for the new arrivals.

In order to improve the living conditions of the refugees in the Kouchaguine-Moura camp, on 12 August 2020 UNHCR in close collaboration with CNARR organized a field mission to assess the refugees' living condition in Kouchaguine-Moura camp and their needs for further actions. The mission was composed of the Government authorities and the humanitarian actors in Ouaddai province including UN agencies. The field mission was followed by a coordination meeting which took place on 13 August 2020 in Abéché (capital city of Ouaddaï province). During that meeting updated information was shared with the participants on the progress made so far in the camp, the challenges and unmet needs. Recommendations have been made and various partners have pledged to intervene to improve living conditions in the camp. Emergency coordination meetings are held on a monthly basis and the next will take place in September to take stock of the progress made.

Following the registration exercise completed on 8 August, the issuance of refugee ID cards and proof of registration started in Kouchaguine-Moura camp on 19 August for the population registered in UNHCR's proGres database.



*Distribution of ID cards & proof of registration to refugees in Kouchaguine-Moura camp  
©UNHCR/E. Umutesi*



*Refugees in Kouchaguine-Moura camp very happy after receiving their documents ©UNHCR/ E. Umutesi*

### **Shelter and Core Relief Items**

In addition to the six transit shelters (capacity of 40 families) that have already been constructed, UNHCR in partnership with the CNARR finalised the construction of 1,500 family shelters of 17.5m<sup>2</sup> each. Additional shelters are needed for the new arrivals, but resources are too limited. Currently the 242 households of 965 individuals are still accommodated in the transit hangars and the relocation of approximately 385 individuals was suspended waiting for the shelters to be constructed.

Upon arrival in Kouchaguine-Moura camp, new arrivals are hosted in a transit center while waiting for the family shelters to be constructed. They are provided with food, water and core relief items including blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, jerry cans, mats, soaps, kitchen kits and solar lamps.



*Distribution of core relief items to the refugees newly arrived in Kouchaguine-Moura camp  
©UNHCR/T. Tchangbele*



*New arrivals receiving core relief items upon arrival in Kouchaguine-Moura camp  
©UNHCR/ T. Tchangbele*



## Food

In coordination with distribution partner HIAS, food rations for June and July supplied by WFP were distributed to the entire population in the camp. The next general food distribution will start on 19 August.

## Health

Sensitization sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures continue in Kouchaguine-Moura camp. So far, 6,233 people have been sensitized on good hygiene practices and physical (social) distancing to adopt in the COVID-19 context, including 175 during the past week.

From 11 to 18 August, 302 new patients were received and treated at the camp's health center free of charge, which makes a total of 9,240 consultations to date. Severe respiratory infections are the main cause of consultation, followed by malaria and diarrhea. Since the establishment of Kouchaguine-Moura camp a total of 51 cases of serious health issues have been referred to the Provincial Hospital in Abéché city.

From 11-18 August, some 614 screenings for malnutrition were conducted among children under the age of five. No new case was admitted into nutrition programs during this period. Since the onset of the emergency, an estimated total of 2,202 individual children under the age of five have benefited from one or more screenings for malnutrition: 202 have been admitted to nutrition programs, including 77 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 125 in cases of moderate acute malnutrition, while 564 children aged 6-23 months are receiving Nutributter on a monthly basis to prevent malnutrition.

Six new births have been recorded at the camp's health center, which makes a total of 98 births (refugees) since the beginning of the relocation exercise to the camp on 4 February.

In the first week of July, the Kouchaguine-Moura camp health center was completely destroyed by a violent storm and heavy rain, having a serious impact on the provision of healthcare services to the population. Four refugee house units (RHU) and two medical tents were installed while waiting for the health center to be rehabilitated to enable refugees to receive adequate health care in appropriate facilities.



*Health facility (consultation room) in Kouchaguine-Moura camp ©UNHCR/ E. Umutesi*

Following the most recent new influx from Sudan, a mobile clinic was put in place to provide primary health care to asylum seekers arriving from Darfur in the Chadian villages along the border, namely in Mamata, Katarfa, Goungour and Gofota villages.

### **Water and Sanitation**

An emergency water system is in operation for the camp, consisting of four boreholes, a network of pipeline, two steel storage tanks and various water points. 190m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water is being provided per day in the camp of Kouchaguine-Moura through direct pumping (80%) and water trucking (20%). This is equivalent to about 36 liters per person, per day. 11 water distribution points have been connected to the water system. Eight additional points are planned to be constructed in order to cover the entire camp and replace the temporary plastic tanks. A water point was installed at the health center in Kouchaguine-Moura camp.

406 emergency latrines (76 communal latrines and 330 family latrines) and 227 showers are functional in the camp. Under UNICEF financing, the NGO Help completed the construction of 210 emergency latrines while UNHCR completed 120 latrines and shower units. 20 communal latrines and showers have been rehabilitated in 4 blocks for the newest arrivals while they stay in the transit shelters following relocation.

## Working in Partnership

UNHCR is working in partnership with the Government of Chad, the Ouaddai Province authorities, CNARR (Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (APLFT), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Help Tchad, Tchad SOS, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), KITIR Emplois et Services (KITES), Organisation Humanitaire pour le Développement Local (OHDEL), UNHCR private donors and host communities.

## Donor Support

Thanks to support from donors, UNHCR has been able to take urgent action to relocate refugees from the border to the camp and provide them with protection. However, additional funding is urgently needed to expand UNHCR's emergency response in the Kouchaguine-Moura site, including measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among refugee and host communities.

Among UNHCR's key priorities are sanitation and hygiene activities, shelter, sufficient provision of core relief items, access to health care and education, access to energy, logistics and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

The funding requirements for the first six months of the emergency response amount to US \$13 million to ensure that refugees have access to adequate protection and life-saving services.

UNHCR's revised appeal for the COVID-19 response has been released, with US \$6,390,000 needed for Chad.

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