

CHAD EMERGENCY UPDATE

OUADDAI PROVINCE (EASTERN CHAD)

16,000

Estimated Arrivals since
29.12.19

38

New pre-registered
individuals during the
week 8 to 15 Jun 2020

15,476

Total number of Pre-
registered individuals

4,499

Pre-registered
households

KEY INDICATORS

10,282 (66%)

Below 18 years old

9,805 (63%)

Women and Girls

RELOCATION

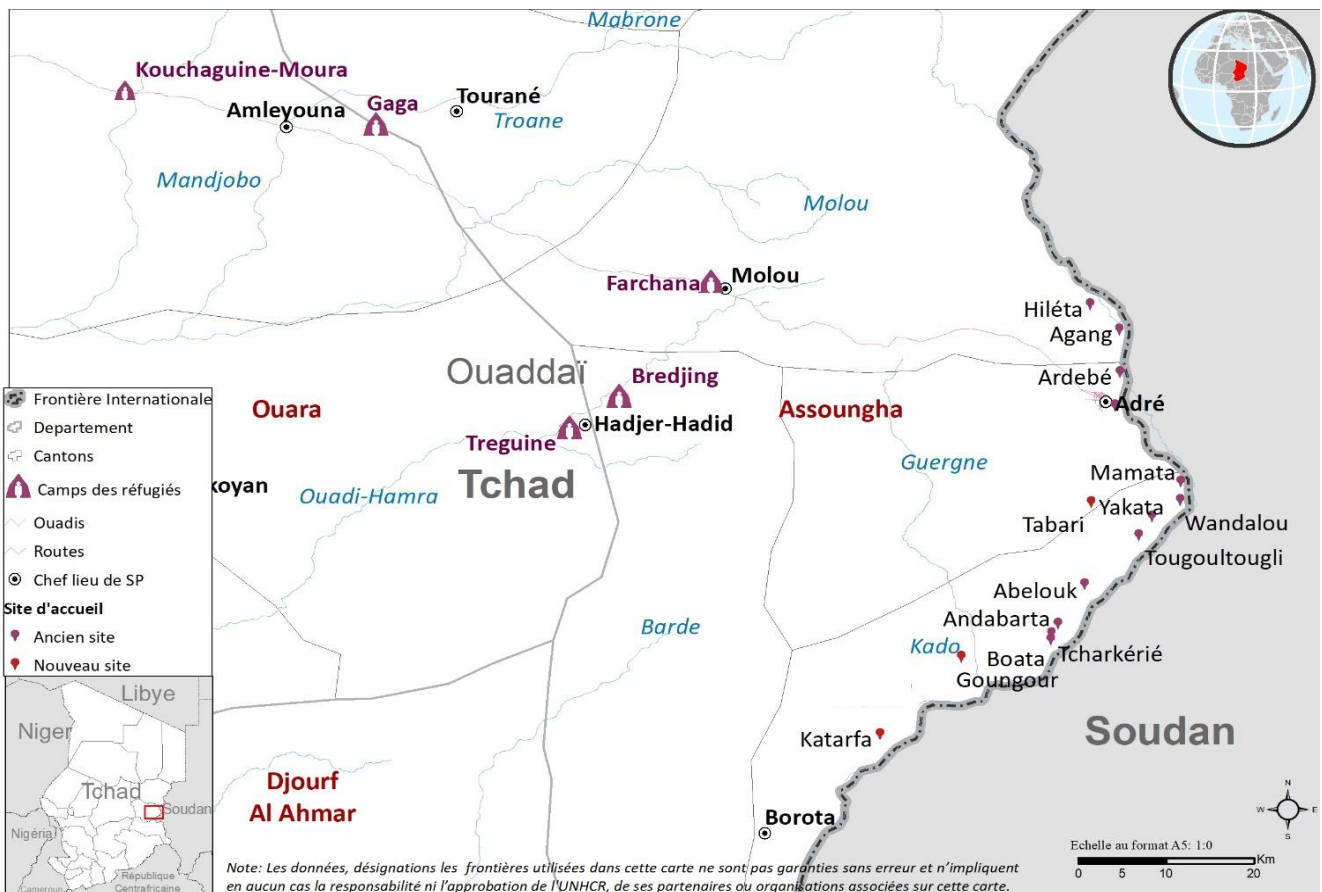
6,164

Transferred individuals

1,521

Transferred households

MAPPING OF THE TRANSFER OF SUDANESE REFUGEES



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

From late December 2019 to January 2020, clashes between rival communities in El Geneina in Sudan's West Darfur State forced over 16,000 refugees to cross into neighboring 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 assistance, including health services, water and sanitation, shelter and core relief items. Accordingly, 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. As of 23 June, 15,476 individuals (4,499 households) have been pre-registered. 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 were therefore not relocated to the new camp at Kouchaguine-Moura.

More recently, thousands of new arrivals crossed the border to seek asylum in Chad as a result of an inter-community conflict which occurred on 16 May and caused a number of deaths in West Darfur, Sudan. In close collaboration with the Chadian Government authorities, 159 households of 525 individuals have been pre-registered since the beginning of the recent movement in full respect of COVID-19 prevention measures. Simultaneously, UNHCR maintains 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 has begun food distribution for the most impoverished, starting from 20 May, pending the arrival of food orders from outside the country, and distributes 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. The international airport in N'Djamena also remains closed for commercial flights, although goods and cargo flights are able to land. Notwithstanding this, it is feared that the global movement restrictions may affect the flow of supplies into Chad. However, 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 22 June, there was a total of 858 registered cases of COVID-19 in 15 provinces (N'Djamena, Batha, Ennedi Est, Guera, Kanem, Lac, Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo Kebbi-Est, Moyen-Chari, Sila, Ouaddaï, Wadi-Fira and Logone occidental). As of the same date, there were 752 recovered cases, 74 deaths and 32 active cases.

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

In Ouaddaï Province in Eastern Chad, six 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.

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 recently launched OCHA-coordinated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, and working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR is addressing some of 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. The delivery of equipment including beds and mattresses is pending and the construction of latrines is being finalized. 3,300 awareness-raising posters on COVID-19 were distributed to the camps

and sensitisation sessions on COVID-19 for refugees continue in the camps. Protective face masks are being 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

The initial operation of relocating refugees from the border to Kouchaguine-Moura camp, 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. On May 16, 2020, as a result of inter-community conflict, as mentioned above. As of 23 June, a total of 1,521 households of 6,164 individuals have been relocated to Kouchaguine-Moura.

On 20 June 2020, UNHCR, in close collaboration with the government partner, carried out the 16th relocation convoy from the border to Kouchaguine-Moura camp, comprising 17 households of 66 individuals. The new arrivals were provided with core relief items upon arrival to the camp such as blankets, kitchen sets, jerrycans, buckets, mosquito nets, solar lanterns, soap and firewood in accordance with the CRI distribution protocol.

Simultaneously, in close collaboration with its government counterparts and humanitarian partners, UNHCR is still working 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 newly arrived refugees.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN KOUCHANGUINE-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.

In close collaboration with the government partner (CNARR), UNHCR started the pre-registration exercise of the new arrivals who fled to Chad after inter-community conflict which occurred on 16 May in Darfur, Sudan. 159 households of 525 individuals have been pre-registered in full respect of the COVID-19 prevention measures.

Border monitoring and verification missions are still ongoing with a focus on assessing priority protection and other needs of people of concern to UNHCR.

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 17.5m² each, fulfilling all shelter needs for the existing population. However, additional shelters are needed for the new arrivals, while resources are too limited.

Food

In coordination with distribution partner HIAS, WFP has provided and HIAS has distributed food rations for two months (June and July) to the entire population in the camp. The next distribution is planned in August.

Health

Sensitization sessions on COVID-19 prevention measures are still ongoing in Kouchaguine-Moura camp. So far, 4,680 people have been sensitized on good hygiene practices and physical (social) distancing to adopt in the COVID-19 context, including 758 during the past week.

In addition, 405 new patients were received and treated (at the health center) free of charge, which makes a total of 6,793 consultations to date. Severe respiratory infections are the main cause of consultation, followed by malaria and diarrhea.

From 16-23 June 2020, some 1,959 screenings for malnutrition were conducted among children under the age of five : 18 new cases of moderate acute malnutrition and three new cases of severe acute malnutrition were admitted into the nutritional programs in this period. Since the onset of the emergency, an estimated total of 2,444 individual children under the age of five have benefited from one or more screenings for malnutrition: 151 have been admitted to nutritional programs, including 57 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and 94 in cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition, while 561 children aged 6-23 months receive Nutributter to prevent malnutrition on a monthly basis.

Four new births were recorded at the health center from 16-23 June 2020, which makes a total of 65 new births (refugees) since the beginning of the relocation exercise on 4 February.

Six new cases of serious health issues were referred to the Provincial Hospital of Abéché, which makes a total of 39 referrals to date.

Water and Sanitation

An emergency water system has been set up, consisting of four boreholes, a network of pipeline, two steel storage tanks and various water points. 235m³ of drinking water is being provided in the camp of Kouchaguine-Moura through direct pumping (80%) and water trucking (20%). This is equivalent to about 40 liters per person, per day. 11 water distribution points have been connected to the water system. Eight additional points will be constructed in the coming days in order to cover the entire camp and replace the temporary plastic tanks.

107 emergency latrines and 107 showers are functional in the camp. Under UNICEF fund, the NGO Help began the construction of 210 emergency latrines. 40 have been completed and the remaining are still under construction. In the meantime, UNHCR started the construction of 120 Latrines and bathrooms. 98 will be constructed in the camp and 22 latrines and bathrooms will be constructed in the surrounding villages.

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.

Contacts:

Abdou Mahaman Dango – Head of UNHCR Sub Office Farchana – dango@unhcr.org / +235 68 59 30 94