

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

As at 1 May 2023, at least 30,000 people were reported to be displaced to Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces in Chad because of military clashes in Tandulti area in Ag Geneina locality and Foro Baranga town in West Darfur state, Sudan (OCHA 02/05/2023, 27/03/2023, and 12/04/2023; UNHCR 24/04/2023). On the other hand, local community leaders residing in the eastern Chad-Sudan border regions had reported that as many as 42,000 refugees had crossed into Chad from Sudan as at 28 April (CARE 28/04/2023). The main reason behind the recent arrivals is the clashing for power between the two main factions of the military regime in neighbouring Sudan, i.e. the Sudanese Armed forces (SAF) and the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) (The Guardian 27/04/2023; Al Jazeera 26/04/2023). These clashes have triggered intercommunal violence in West Darfur, and clashes in Ag Geneina have killed an estimated 96 people since 24 April according to the OHCHR (OHCHR 28/04/2023).

The newly displaced population includes Chadian returnees, Sudanese people, and foreign nationals, and there is a significant population of women, children, and older people among them (IOM 27/04/2023; OCHA 27/03/2023; CARE 28/04/2023; WFP 28/04/2023). Before the latest influx of refugees from Sudan, Chad was already hosting more than 570,000 refugees, of whom about 70% (about 410,000) were from Sudan (UNHCR accessed 01/05/2023).

Some refugees are arriving with minimal essential items, and others with nothing at all. They are taking shelter in open areas, under trees, or in poorly built huts, where they are exposed to currently high temperatures. The majority of the new arrivals are in dire need of basic humanitarian assistance, specifically food, water, and adequate shelter (IOM 27/04/2023; OCHA 26/04/2023).

Anticipated scope and scale

- The state of intercommunal violence in West Darfur region is still volatile and may result in the influx of even higher numbers of refugees (OCHA 27/03/2023 and 12/04/2023). An estimated 100,000 Sudanese refugees could come to Chad in the coming weeks as a result of the conflict between the

two groups (WFP 28/04/2023; Al Jazeera 01/05/2023). IDP camps will likely be overcrowded, because Chad was already hosting over 570,000 refugees from different countries prior to the recent escalation in violence. This could also put a strain on resources, including food, water, shelter, and medical care (UNHCR 28/04/2023 and 04/03/2022).

- Some refugees who have taken shelter in open areas or in huts are experiencing mid-40° C temperatures. Such temperatures pose serious health risks, especially to women, children, and older people, affecting their morbidity and, possibly, mortality. There are also reports of pregnant women giving birth without adequate shelter and medical assistance, which may increase mortality and health risks for women and children, such as haemorrhage, breech positioning, umbilical cord problems, and a baby failing to breathe at birth (Al Jazeera 01/05/2023; WFP 28/04/2023).
- Limited resources compounded by a lack of humanitarian assistance may trigger competition among locals and refugees for resources, resulting in conflict in the regions hosting the refugees (Al Jazeera 26/04/2023).
- Many communities in the border regions of Chad and Sudan are interconnected. Hostilities among communities in Sudan can affect the political, socioeconomic, and ethnic stability of Chad. Sustained intercommunal conflict in Sudan will likely spill over to Chad (IFRC 26/04/2023).

Humanitarian constraints

- The rainy season in Chad is set to start in June. The floods are usually severe during the rainy season and cause significant damage to roads, aggravating the general lack of road infrastructure, which is already one of the main access constraints in the country (ACAPS 14/12/2022; Al Jazeera 26/04/2023; OCHA 13/10/2022; Le Pays 11/09/2022).
- Refugees and returnees are reported to lack legal and civil documentation, particularly in the vicinity of East, Lake and South Chad. This results in movement restrictions, heightened risk of arbitrary detention, increased risk of statelessness, and difficulty in accessing basic services and employment opportunities for them (OCHA 15/03/2022).

**30,000 –
42,000**
NEW REFUGEES

1.8 million
ACUTELY
MALNOURISHED
CHILDREN UNDER
THE AGE OF FIVE
(INCLUDING 60,000
REFUGEES)
IN 2023

Lack
OF FUNDING AND
RESOURCES

**FUNDING AND
RESPONSE CAPACITY**

UN agencies
(UNICEF, IOM, OCHA,
WFP, etc.)

INGOs
(CARE, MSF,
Premiere Urgence
Internationale, etc.)

Red Cross Movement
(IFRC, ICRC)



- Lengthy registration and visa processes could impede the access and entry of humanitarian staff into the country. For foreign humanitarians, it may take up to three months to receive work permits. They also have to ask for travel authorisations to move outside the capital N'Djamena (ACAPS 14/12/2020; USAID 30/04/2020).

CRISIS IMPACTS

Food security

According to projections, since January 2023, Wadi Fira has been facing Critical (IPC AMN 4) levels, while Ouaddai has been facing Serious (IPC AMN 3) levels. The situation is likely to get worse from June–September, with Wadi Fira remaining in IPC AMN 4 levels, parts of western Ouaddai deteriorating into IPC AMN 4 levels, and the rest of Ouaddai and Sila region in IPC AMN 3 levels (IPC 08/02/2023). At least two million people countrywide are facing acute food insecurity (FEWS NET 14/04/2023). Humanitarian assistance is likely to be more needed during the lean season (June–September), which corresponds to the peak of food insecurity (WFP 31/05/2022).

As at June 2022, almost 500,000 people in West Darfur were experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels, with an additional 200,000 individuals facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels. These numbers indicate that displaced people may have already been struggling with food insecurity in their places of origin before seeking refuge in Chad. Food insecurity and insufficient food assistance are already significant issues in Chad. As a result, it is unlikely that the new refugees from Sudan will receive adequate food aid. The arrival of these refugees will also further strain the already limited food resources in the country, resulting in an increase in both the prevalence and severity of food insecurity and malnutrition among the new arrivals, previous refugees, and local Chadians (IOM 28/04/2023; IPC 21/06/2022).

In 2023, the prevalence and severity of malnutrition are expected to increase in Chad. An estimated 1.8 million children under the age of five in Chad, including 60,000 existing refugee children, will be acutely malnourished. About 415,000 will likely be severely malnourished. Ready-to-use therapeutic food, antibiotics, and monitoring tools are needed for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Around 270,000 pregnant and lactating women, including around 16,000 among the displaced and refugee population, are also likely to suffer from acute malnutrition. Around 90% of existing refugees did not receive adequate food assistance during 2022, and new arrivals are likely to suffer from the same issue. Humanitarian responders are estimated to have had the capacity to provide food for only around 270,000 of the 600,000 refugees (including new arrivals) in Chad in April (IPC 08/02/2023; UN 14/04/2023; UNICEF 27/04/2023).

Shelter and NFIs

New refugees from Sudan are taking shelter in open areas or in poorly built shacks made from sticks, strings, and millet stalks. New arrivals are settling mostly in three villages: Dizé Birte, Koufroun, and Midjiguita (France 24 28/04/2023; OCHA 28/04/2023).

The 14 existing refugee camps in the country are poorly built. The shelters make residents vulnerable to the country's seasonal rains and floods and provide insufficient protection from currently high temperatures. Most of the new refugees are arriving with few to no essential items. They require clothing, bedding, kitchen sets, cooking fuel, tarpaulins, jerry cans, and other essentials (Al Jazeera 01/05/2023 and 26/04/2023; CARE 28/04/2023).

WASH and health

Many of the new arrivals, including women and children, walk for more than two days to get from where they were displaced within Sudan to Chad. They are in urgent need of water and WASH facilities, such as infrastructure for potable water and latrines to avoid the risk of spreading diseases, such as diarrhoeal diseases and malabsorption phenomena, which contributes to malnutrition, especially for young children. Chad's healthcare system is fragile, with there being only one medical doctor per 38,000 inhabitants, and remains vulnerable to such epidemics as cholera, yellow fever, and chikungunya and to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women and girls also need hygiene kits and dignity kits (Al Jazeera 01/05/2023 and 26/04/2023; CARE 28/04/2023; UNICEF accessed 01/05/2022; SOS Children's Villages accessed 01/05/2023).

Many of the new arrivals are women, many of whom are pregnant and are giving birth without medical assistance and shelter. There are also cases of women being forced to give birth and displace right after without any medical assistance or enough rest. The unassisted births put women and children at risk of haemorrhage, breech positioning, shoulder dystocia, umbilical cord problems, and a baby failing to breathe at birth (Al Jazeera 01/05/2023; Reuters 29/04/2023).

Access to WASH facilities in the refugee camps is limited, partially because of old infrastructure in camps, which are often more than 15 years old (UNHCR 20/03/2019). In the regions of Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira, where refugee camps are located in eastern Chad, the rate of access to potable water is estimated to be only about 50% (OCHA 25/03/2019). The regions of Sila and Ouaddai are also vulnerable to floods, which increases the risk of waterborne diseases. In Ouaddai, there were over 57,000 cases of malaria and almost 100 cases of measles in 2022 (OCHA 23/03/2023). As at 27 April, four cases of measles among the refugees have been confirmed in the province of Ouaddai (UNICEF 27/04/2023). The rainy season is expected to begin in June, which will increase the risks of waterborne diseases (Al Jazeera 26/04/2023).

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS

Conflict between factions of the military regime in Sudan

There have been intense clashes between Sudan's military forces, the SAF, and the country's main paramilitary force, the RSF, comprising former militias from the Darfur war (from 2003–2020), since 15 April. These have had devastating consequences for civilians, who have been killed, injured, or forced to flee their homes. Fighting was initially concentrated in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, but later spread to other areas, including West Darfur (OCHA 28/04/2023, 27/03/2023, and 12/04/2023). The fighting broke out as a result of rising tensions between the country's military ruler, the head of the SAF, and the country's deputy, the head of the RSF, during negotiations on how to integrate the RSF into the SAF and on who would be exercising ultimate control over the combatants and weapons (ICG 23/01/2023; AFP 17/04/2023).

Intercommunal conflict in Sudan

Intercommunal violence between Masalit and Arab tribes erupted on 10 April, in West Darfur region of Sudan, these types of clashes are recurrent in the area and are likely to spillover to Chad since many of these tribe members are displacing towards there (UNHCR 02/05/2023; OCHA accessed 02/05/2023; TRT World 13/04/2023). In addition, the Chadian government fears that the powerful militia leader of the Rapid Sudanese Forcers will promote the rise of his clan if he comes to control in Sudan, and strengthen political and military ambitions within the large Chadian Arab community, to the detriment of the Zaghawa, a nomadic non-Arab African herding tribe based in Chad and Darfur (RLI 25/04/2023).

Chad has a history of clashing with the RSF. In the 2000s, since the group conducted cross-border raids on Sudanese refugees in Chad. The Sudanese RSF commander has ties to Chadian Arab tribesmen, which could increase ethnic tensions and conflict (TWP 28/04/2023; RLI 25/04/2023).

COMPOUNDING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Pre-existing refugees

Eastern Chad was already hosting over 400,000 refugees from Sudan prior to the recent influx (UNHCR 20/04/2023). The new arrivals of displaced people are likely to create additional burdens on public services and resources that are already limited. Before the clashes that began on 15 April, there were at least 14 refugee camps in Eastern Chad. The most populated one was Bredjing in Ouaddai, with over 53,000 refugees, followed by Goz Azmir in Sila region, with almost 40,000 refugees (UNHCR 28/04/2023 and 24/04/2023; France 24 28/04/2023).

Poverty and limited resources

A significant portion of Chad's population is poor, with 42% living below the national poverty line. The country has faced repeated humanitarian emergencies because of floods, measles and cholera outbreaks, and cyclical fluxes of refugees, returnees, and IDPs because of conflict in neighbouring countries, including Sudan. Such emergencies had already put a strain on the country's meagre resources. Eastern Chad was already hosting an estimated 400,000 refugees from Sudan before April 2023, most of whom arrived in the country following the escalation of the Darfur crisis in 2003–2004, and concurrent violence has led to periodic new waves of arrivals. Most of them stay in the regions of Ennedi-Ouest, Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira, all near Chad's border with Sudan, from where the new refugees are arriving (HIAS accessed 04/05/2023; UNHCR 30/06/2020). The constant arrival of refugees has been putting pressure on and further depleting the already limited natural resources in the area. This has also resulted in a strained relationship between some of the local residents and the refugees, and the new wave of arrivals could put further pressure on resources and increase tensions between the two groups (JICA accessed 01/05/2023; Reuters 29/04/2023).

Border closures

On 15 April, Chadian authorities announced the closure of the border with Sudan given the eruption of clashes. According to the Chadian Government, there was a risk of spillover and infiltrations from the conflict (Zawya 16/04/2023). Despite the closure, the entry of Sudanese refugees into Chadian territory continued to be recorded. The border closure has significantly reduced imports from Sudan. The combination of reduced imports and the refugee influx have significantly driven up local food prices, which in turn may create or increase local communities' resentment towards refugees and increase tensions between the two groups.

The border closure will mostly affect eastern Chad, as much of the population's supply of cereal and sugar comes in from Sudan (WFP 28/04/2023). The border closure may also worsen the malnutrition situation.

Oncoming rainy season

The rainy season is expected to occur between June–September. In 2022, flooding affected more than one million people in the country (IRC 24/03/2023). The rainy season and floods will aggravate the food insecurity situation in the country and increase the risks of waterborne diseases in overcrowded refugee sites, where residents are vulnerable to the proliferation of cholera, diarrhea, and measles (WFP 31/05/2022).

Livelihoods

There is little to no access to livelihood opportunities in the refugee camps, leaving refugees unable to meet their needs themselves (OCHA 25/03/2019). The rural population and part (23%) of the urban population live mainly from subsistence agriculture or animal husbandry, which is likely to get affected during the rainy season, affecting both host and refugee communities. Education access and work opportunities are also very limited among refugee communities (OCHA 23/03/2023).

Baseline information on host provinces in Chad

PROVINCES	POPULATION	PEOPLE IN NEED	REFUGEES (AS AT FEBRUARY 2023) PRIOR TO CLASHES
Wadi Fira	788,000	470,000	142,402
Ouaddai	1,000,000	547,000	159,113
Sila	492,000	313,000	69,904

Sources: INSEED (accessed 04/05/2023); UNHCR (06/03/2023); OCHA (23/03/2023)

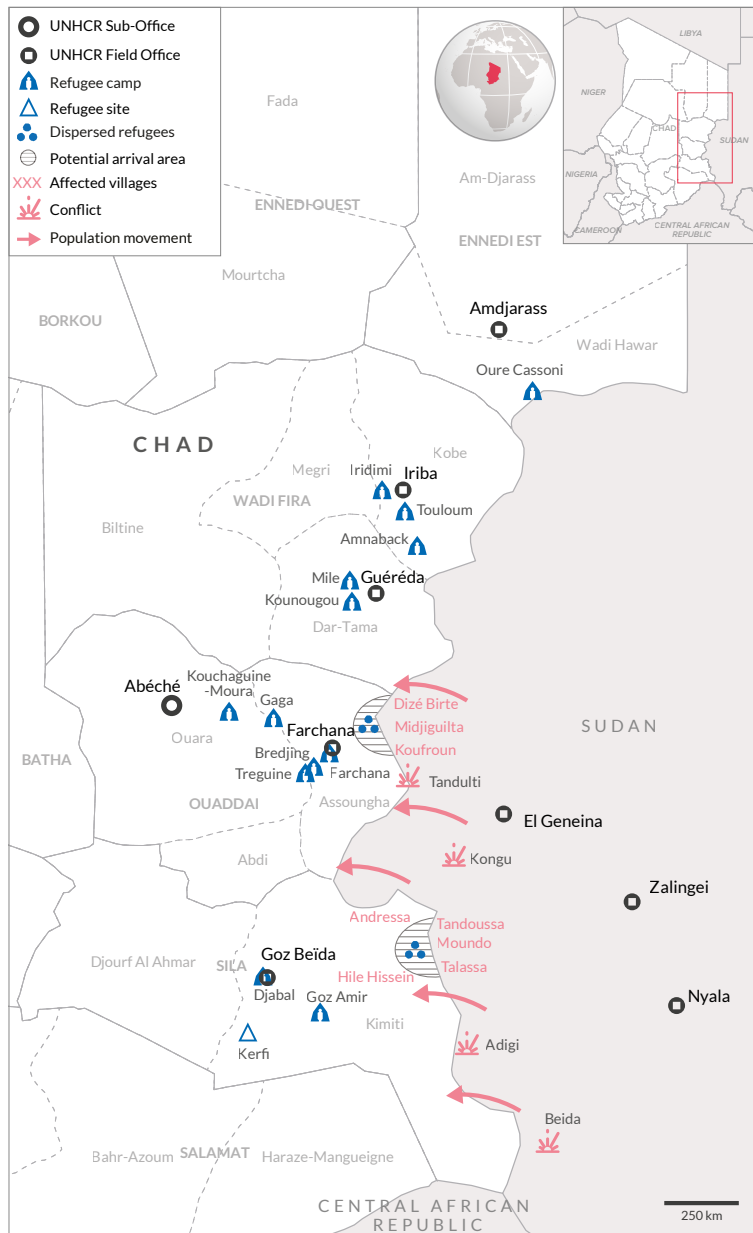
FUNDING AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

The humanitarian response in Chad is severely underfunded. The Humanitarian Response Plan for Chad is currently 97% underfunded (IRC 02/05/2023). Current levels of funding are not enough to meet refugees' need for nutritional support; clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; access to education; adequate shelter; and cash or core relief items. Initiatives for improved access to livelihoods and building self-reliance for refugees are also severely underfunded. The lack of funding will likely be an aggravating factor, increasing needs in all the mentioned sectors. Without immediate and sustained funding, food assistance may come to a halt for refugees and IDPs in May (UNHCR 19/09/2022; WFP 14/04/2023).

The WFP and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, warned that USD 142 million is required to respond to refugees in Chad, particularly to respond to the newly arrived refugees from Sudan. WFP was already forced to make additional cuts to already dwindling food assistance to refugees in April 2023 (UNHCR/WFP 14/04/2023).

The USAID has deployed a disaster response team to coordinate humanitarian response for the Sudanese, and IOM has deployed teams in the border of Chad and Sudan (IOM 27/04/2023; AllAfrica 24/04/2023).

DISPLACEMENT MAP OF REFUGEES FROM SUDAN AS AT 28 APRIL 2023



Source: UNHCR (28/04/2023)