

### CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

On 21 November 2023, WFP announced that funding constraints could interrupt food aid to crisis-affected populations in Chad in January 2024, affecting 1.4 million people (WFP 21/11/2023).

Between June–August, around 5.7 million people were projected to be food-insecure in Chad, including 2.1 million facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity at the country level (OCHA 23/11/2023). The most affected provinces were Lac, Logone Oriental, Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira (SISAAP 24/07/2023).

During the September–November 2023 harvest period, food prices increased in most of the country's markets compared to the five-year average when a reverse trend was expected. The price increases resulted from low agricultural production, disruptions in the flow of imported food, and high transportation costs (FEWS NET 01/12/2023; ACAPS accessed 20/12/2023).

From the beginning of the Sudan conflict on 15 April to 10 December, at least 555,000 people crossed from Sudan into Chad, including an estimated 450,000 Sudanese refugees and 98,500 Chadian returnees. These new refugees add to the over 427,000 Sudanese refugees who had been living in camps in Chad for over a decade (IOM 12/12/2023; OCHA 23/11/2023). The influx of displaced people puts more pressure on the limited resources of host communities. In Adré town (Ouaddai province), the number of refugees and returnees is approximately four times greater than the local population (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

### Anticipated scope and scale

- If the WFP warning regarding a potential reduction in food aid materialises, it would have negative consequences for the 1.4 million people projected to be heavily relying on this assistance as at January 2024, especially IDPs, refugees from Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Nigeria, and the newly arrived refugees and returnees from Sudan (WFP 21/11/2023).
- From February 2024, with depleting harvests, there is a risk of the number of acute malnutrition cases rising. Particularly in conflict-affected regions

and areas hosting IDPs, the decline in nutritional conditions is expected to escalate from serious to critical levels by May. The worsening of the situation can be attributed to growing food consumption gaps during the lean season and an insufficient humanitarian response (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

- Between February–May 2023, many households were predicted to experience heightened food insecurity. In response, families may have resorted to coping strategies with potentially harmful consequences, such as cutting back on education and healthcare spending. The consequences could include increased school dropout and illiteracy rates as well as poor health outcomes for the population (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

### Humanitarian constraints

- Heavy rainfall during the 2022 rainy season (June–October) in Chad caused significant damage to public infrastructure, including roads and bridges. As at September 2023,, the country continued to struggle to recover from the destruction, cutting off those affected from essential supplies and services (WFP 14/09/2023; IFRC 09/03/2023). In the INFORM Risk Index, Chad scores 8.7 in terms of lack of coping capacity and 9.2 in terms of lack of coping capacity specifically in infrastructure (WFP 14/09/2023; EC accessed 20/12/2023). This status may delay humanitarian aid and assistance delivery to people in need.
- The volatile security situation in Lac region poses serious challenges to the humanitarian response, preventing movement or activities. As at October 2023, humanitarian access to Ngouboua subprefecture remained limited, preventing humanitarian aid workers from reaching the over 43,200 IDPs and returnees concentrated in 30 sites and villages in the subprefecture (OCHA 23/10/2023).
- In July 2023, the displacement of people fleeing insecurity linked to NSAG attacks and intercommunal violence, as well as movement restrictions, led to the suspension of health services, especially mobile clinics, in Mediom (near Diamerom) and Kandom (west of Kiskra) both in Lac province. The lack of health services left 11,600 people exposed to serious health risks, especially during the rainy season (OCHA 31/07/2023).

**5.7M**

FOOD-INSECURE  
PEOPLE

**2.1M**

PEOPLE FACING  
IPC 3 FOOD INSECURITY  
OR WORSE

**1M**

REFUGEES IN CHAD

**7.8**

INFORM CLIMATE  
CHANGE RISK SCORE

- A fuel shortage is causing a ripple effect throughout the country, worsening the already challenging situation for over half a million Sudanese refugees and IDPs depending on food aid. The lack of fuel is reducing the movement of humanitarian responders, limiting assistance operations and making the conditions in refugee and IDP camps even more dire (BNN 16/11/2023; FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

## CRISIS IMPACTS

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### Nutrition

As at July 2023, 17 departments were experiencing severe food insecurity, with the nutrition level in 43 departments categorised to be Under Pressure (CH Phase 2). This put almost 3.6 million people at risk of facing severe food insecurity without livelihood support and acute malnutrition treatment services (OCHA 23/11/2023). An estimated 1.8 million children under the age of five likely experienced severe acute malnutrition, with 414,000 being severely malnourished between October 2022 and September 2023. Around 270,000 pregnant and lactating women were also expected to experience acute malnutrition. These figures show a slight increase from the 2021 analysis and a general trend of deterioration in the nutritional situation (IPC 08/02/2023). Between January–August 2023, 256,759 cases of severe malnutrition were reported (OCHA 23/11/2023).

### Health

Food insecurity in Chad has a significant health impact. Malnutrition leads to compromised immunity and overall health, increasing disease vulnerability.

Between July–October 2023, 5,539 meningitis cases and 1,569 measles cases were reported in the country. In the same period in 2022, only 55 meningitis cases and 341 measles cases were reported. In 2023, there were also 1.1 million suspected malaria cases, 760,077 of which were confirmed positive. Compared to 2022, there were fewer suspected cases but a higher percentage of confirmed positives (OCHA 23/11/2023).

Between February–May 2024, households will likely adopt coping strategies with potentially harmful consequences, such as reducing health spending, given high prices and low income levels. These measures, however, will not be sufficient to meet consumption needs and would heighten the risk of poor diet (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

### Education

Food insecurity and malnutrition can have a significant impact on the education of school-aged children (WFP accessed 14/12/2023). Some families will likely adopt coping strategies such as reducing education spending, which could have harmful consequences that include increased dropout rates and illiteracy levels in the country (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

An Education Cluster report run between 2020–2022 showed that 40% of school-aged children in Chad experienced chronic malnutrition and were at risk of cognitive and developmental delays. Undernourished children have a school year repetition rate of almost 30%, higher than the already high rate of just over 22% for children who are not undernourished (ECW 20/12/2023).

## DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS

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### Food price increases reducing accessibility

Increased food prices because of several factors drive the food insecurity crisis in Chad in 2023. These factors include a sharp decline in oil prices, climate change, and an increase in insecurity and conflicts. Cereals, the most commonly consumed food in Chad, have seen a significant increase in prices, making it difficult for households to afford a balanced and healthy diet. The demand for food is high, causing prices to rise abnormally compared to the five-year average. Millet prices are increasing in Abéché (38%), Moundou (41%), N'Djamena (23%), and Sarh (34%) compared to the five-year average. Sorghum prices have increased the most compared to the five-year average in Sarh (55%) and Kélo (77%). The high prices of basic food products make it difficult for households to access an adequate and nutritious diet, which can lead to malnutrition and worsen the food insecurity crisis in the country (WB accessed 22/12/2023; FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

### Armed violence reducing availability and stability

Current conflict is leading to multiple negative outcomes, including the disruption of people's livelihoods in Lac province. Food production has decreased, and households in conflict-affected areas are experiencing food insecurity. The insecurity has also stopped the flow of food and livestock across borders, affecting the availability of imported food products and disrupting the livelihoods of people in the eastern regions (FEWS NET 30/06/2023 and 20/10/2023).

## Renewed conflict in Tibesti region

In mid-August 2023, clashes between armed groups and government forces erupted in Tibesti region, marking the end of a ceasefire that had been upheld for over a year. The military responded by deploying additional troops to strengthen surveillance along the Chad-Libya border. This escalation has disrupted cross-border flows, especially into Chad (ICG accessed 22/12/2023; FEWS NET 30/10/2023).

## Influx of Sudanese refugees

Since mid-April 2023, the conflict in Sudan has caused a surge in refugees and returnees in Chad, worsening the food crisis in the eastern regions. As at 11 December, Chad hosted over one million refugees, with the Sudan conflict continuing to drive hundreds of thousands more across the border (UNHCR accessed 20/12/2023; WFP accessed 15/12/2023). The violence has led to a disruption of cross-border flows of both food and NFIs, aggravating the food crisis. The situation has also reduced the purchasing power of affected households, and the influx of refugees and returnees has increased the competition for resources, such as food, water, and healthcare (WFP accessed 15/12/2023; FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

## Conflict between farmers and herders

Since the end of September 2023, there has been a surge in clashes between farmers and herders in various southern localities. In Moyen Chari region, new clashes in Koumogo and Korbol have resulted in nearly a dozen casualties and multiple serious injuries. A similar security crisis in Nya Pendé department in June 2023 further affected the agricultural season, with more than 16,000 individuals who had sought refuge in Central African Republic yet to return (FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

## Climate change and environmental degradations affecting the agricultural sector

Chad is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change worldwide and faces rapid desertification and environmental degradation. Floods from 2022–2023 affected the population's livelihoods (WFP 14/09/2023; OCHA 23/11/2023). Between August–September 2023, flooding in the provinces of Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Mayo Kebbi Est, and Tandjilé destroyed around 18,130 hectares of crops and caused the loss of livestock (OCHA 23/11/2023). The country's INFORM Climate Change Risk score is 7.8 (EC accessed 20/12/2023). Prolonged dry spells in southern agricultural areas at the beginning of the rainy season resulted in delays in sowing and some crop wilting (FEWS NET 01/08/2023).

An estimated 88% of the population in Chad depends on agriculture as their main source of livelihood, but the contribution of agriculture to the country's GDP has been declining. Between 2010–2018, the agricultural sector employed approximately 75% of the country's labour force (WB 09/06/2022). This reliance on agriculture puts the population at risk of fluctuations in agricultural production, often caused by the unpredictable effects of climate change. The dependence on subsistence agriculture has been a significant driver of food insecurity in Chad, as it leaves the population susceptible to the impacts of climate change and other factors that affect agricultural productivity (WB 09/06/2022; FEWS NET 17/11/2023).

## COMPOUNDING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

### Health and WASH services

Poor WASH conditions in Chad add to the food insecurity crisis in the country. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities can lead to the spread of waterborne diseases, poor hygiene practices, and the consumption of contaminated water. These factors can worsen the already high malnutrition levels in the country. They also weaken the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to infections (MSF 05/12/2023; ACTED 13/10/2023).

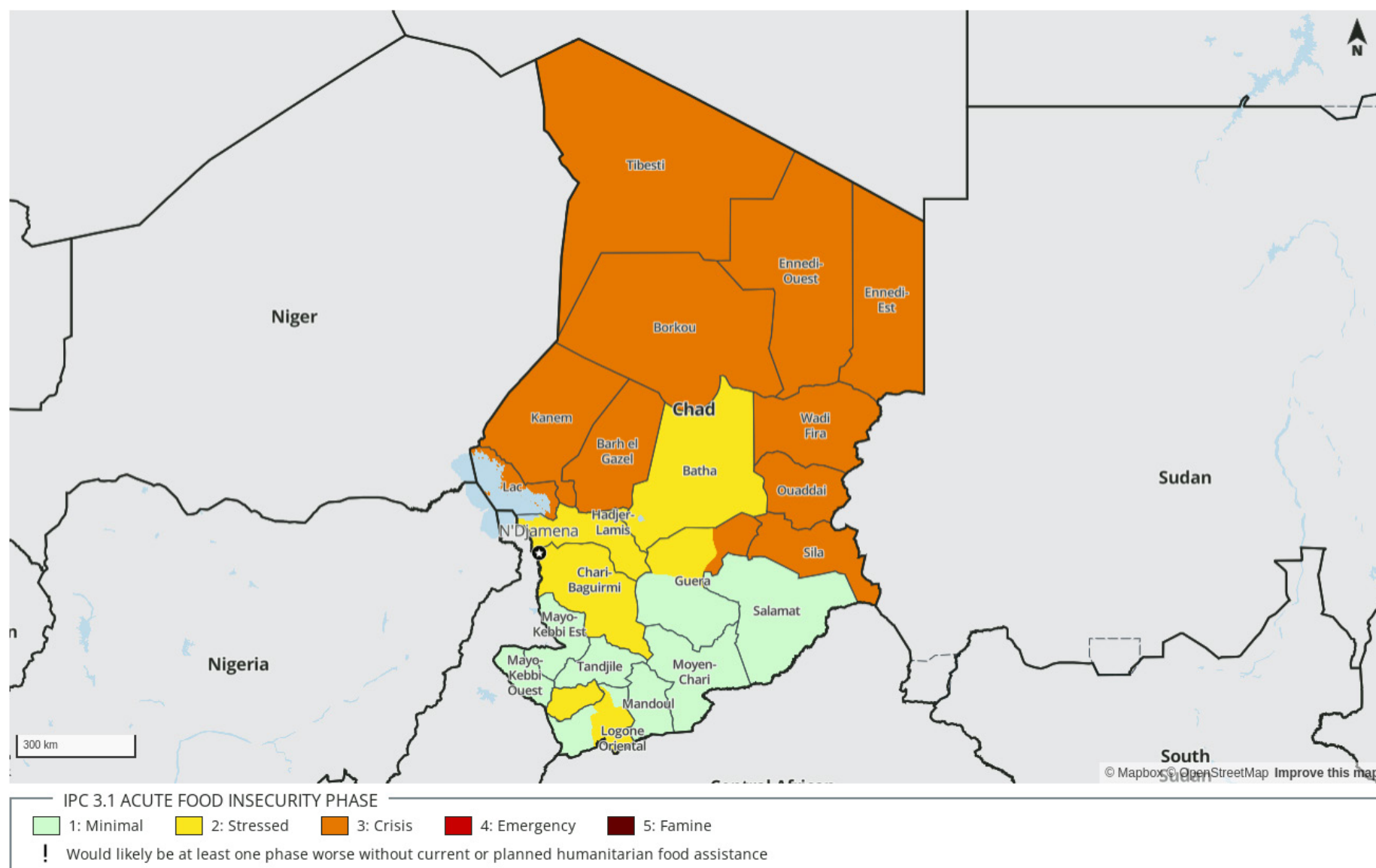
The lack of basic infrastructure development in the eastern part of the country is causing serious vulnerabilities to food insecurity. Less than 50% of the eastern provinces have access to water, and only 33% of health infrastructures have clean and functional water points (OCHA 02/11/2023).

The increasing number of refugees will further limit access to existing facilities. The open defecation rate, which has already reached 80% in Ouaddai, Sila, and Wadi Fira provinces, will also likely increase (OCHA 03/11/2023). The Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees living in eastern Chad are in dire conditions and require immediate access to clean water. The absence of latrines and adequate waste management poses a significant risk to their health given their weak immunity caused by food insecurity (IPC 08/02/2023; OCHA 23/11/2023; MSF 07/12/2023). In December 2023, approximately 40,000 refugees living in Metche refugee camp in Ouaddai province received only six litres of water per person per day, far below the recommended WASH Sphere standard of 20L daily (MSF 05/12/2023; UNHCR accessed 22/12/2023). This lack of water, along with the absence of proper latrines and waste management systems, poses a serious risk to their health. Those who have acquired infections, which are particularly risky for malnourished children, are being treated for skin conditions, gastrointestinal infections, and acute watery diarrhoea (MSF 05/12/2023).

## Poverty

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 42.3% of the population living below the national poverty line. Extreme poverty has increased significantly, rising from 31.2% in 2018 to 34.9% in 2021 and 35.4% in 2023. This high level of poverty affects the country's food security situation by making it difficult for individuals to access adequate and nutritious food, leading to a severe food crisis. The lack of access to food and basic social services, along with limited income-generating opportunities, worsens the situation (WB accessed 22/12/2023).

## MAP 1. PROJECTED FOOD INSECURITY OUTCOMES IN CHAD, FEBRUARY–MAY 2024



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Source: FEWS NET (17/11/2023)