

Briefing Note – 25 September 2014

Chad

Population Displacement from CAR



Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Significant	Urgent
Expected impact	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Major

Crisis Overview

- Civilians have borne the brunt of violence in CAR, prompting large-scale internal and cross-border displacement. Most of CAR's Muslim population has fled to the eastern part of the country or sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Inter-communal conflict has been ongoing in CAR since December 2013, originating in a cycle of reprisals between the predominantly Muslim and Chad-backed Seleka, and mainly Christian self-defence groups, known as anti-balaka.
- From December 2013 to February 2014 the Chadian Government evacuated its citizens from CAR, mainly to camps along the border and to the capital N'Djamena.
- Chad officially closed its border with CAR in May 2014, but displaced people have continued to cross into the country.
- As of 8 September, there are 113,343 evacuees (including third-country nationals and migrants), and 94,512 CAR refugees, 19,471 of whom have arrived since December 2013.

Affected groups	Key figures
Country population	12,800,000
Total refugee population in Chad	461,000
CAR refugees since December 2013	16,345
CAR refugees under 18 years since December 2013	11,205
Evacuees from CAR since December 2013	107,536

Sources: World Bank 2013, IOM 11/08/2014, UNHCR 2014, IOM 31/08/2014

- The newly arrived are mainly Muslim and hosted in predominantly Christian areas in Chad. Before the crisis, CAR refugees in Chad were mostly of non-Muslim background.
- The categorisation of displaced people arriving from CAR is a major challenge: most arrive without legal documents.
- Chad is host to 461,000 refugees in total. The country faces chronic food insecurity, natural hazards and regular outbreaks of diseases.

Key Findings

Anticipated scope and scale

- 113,343 evacuees (including TCNs and migrants) and 94,471 CAR refugees, mainly in refugee camps and in temporary and transit sites. UNHCR projections expect around 45,000 CAR refugees in total for 2014.
- The rainy season is destroying tents and shelters and deteriorating health and hygiene conditions.
- The rainy season is also likely to impact negatively on food security and nutritional status.

Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- Emergency shelter and NFIs; food, WASH (drainage and flooding kits, safe water), protection, and health.
- Areas with high density of CAR displaced populations along the border, as well as flood-prone areas.
- Unaccompanied children, female-headed or child-headed households; widows; vulnerability to multiple risks (i.e. flooding, food insecurity).
- The different categories of displaced (refugees, returning nationals, and potential cases of statelessness) pose unique operational challenges and categorisation ambiguities could affect reintegration and return assistance.

Humanitarian constraints

- Flooding and or insecurity impair access in some areas.
- Borders with CAR are closed except to Chadians, but influx into Chad continues.
- Funding constraints result in reduced support, particularly in terms of food assistance from humanitarian agencies.

Key Information

New Displacement

- As of 8 September, there are 113,343 evacuees (IOM 31/08/2014) and 94,512 CAR refugees, 19,471 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (OCHA 19/09/2014). Evacuees include CAR nationals, TCNs, and Chadian returnees. There are also CAR citizens of Chadian origin who have lived in CAR for several generations, and are at particular risk of statelessness.
- While the border between CAR and Chad has been officially closed to everyone except Chadian citizens since May 2014, people have continued to cross into the country from CAR (UNHCR Revised RRP 2014).
- About 80% of the individuals arriving in Chad lack identity papers (IOM 31/08/2014). The issuing of appropriate documentation by the Government of Chad remains an ongoing problem.
- Many CAR nationals claim to be Chadian, due to the closure of the border and the Government of Chad's road evacuations of exclusively Chadian citizens (IOM 31/08/2014).
- Evacuees who are dual citizens are classified automatically as returnees, even if they had never lived in or had long since left Chad (IOM 31/08/2014).
- These difficulties of classification could have serious impacts on both evacuees and refugees: they could affect the reintegration and return assistance available to CAR nationals should they wish to return to CAR; in Chad, it could mean that those considered as Chadian returnees, but who have little or no connection to the country, face integration challenges.

Refugees

- Projections estimate that around 45,000 CAR refugees in total will have sought asylum in Chad in 2014 (UNHCR, Revised RRP 2014).
- Close to 60% of the newly arrived refugees are children, of whom 20% are under five years old (UNHCR, Revised RRP 2014).
- The majority of refugees arriving in 2013 and 2014 are hosted in Dosseye and Belom camps, which have a total population of 21,806 and 28,470, individuals respectively (UNHCR 05/08/2014).

Evacuees

- The Government has increased the maximum stay in transit centres from ten days to one year to allow the restoration of family links and prepare better relocations. The government will provide birth certificates to every child born in a transit site (OCHA 18/07/2014).

- As of 8 September, 60,671 evacuees are residing in temporary and transit sites in Sido (17,316), Doyaba (12,754), Danamadja (11,292), Maigama (5,784), Gaoui (4,252), Mbitoye (4,065), Kobiteye (3,791) and Djako (1,417) (IOM 08/09/2014).
- Djako temporary site has been set up to host 5,000 Chadian returnees that had fled from CAR to Cameroon (IOM 14/07/2014). Over July–August, more than 1,400 had been repatriated (OCHA 31/08/2014).
- Between 29 July and 11 August, 935 new arrivals (367 female, 568 male including 87 children) were registered, compared to over 3,000 per week at the height of the influx in January (OCHA, 16/07/2014).
- With the aim of closing transit sites, the temporary sites of Danamadja and Maigama are being expanded to absorb populations hosted in transit sites (Shelter Cluster 05/08/2014).

Past Displacement

- As of 14 September, Chad was host to 461,000 refugees, mainly from Sudan's Darfur, CAR, Libya, and Nigeria (UNHCR 16/09/2014).
- In 2013, Chad faced two simultaneous refugee emergencies with some 10,000 refugees from the CAR, and over 30,000 Sudanese refugees from West Darfur bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees to 348,528 and the total number of CAR refugees to some 74,131 as of 31 August 2013 (Inter regional Appeal revision 07/2014).

Crisis Impact

Shelter

- Torrential rains in southern Chad during May–June caused significant damage to shelters in transit, temporary sites and refugee camps, increasing the need for NFIs, emergency shelter and flood mitigation (IOM 31/07/2014).
- In early June, rains over Zafaye temporary camp in the Gaoui outskirts of N'Djamena destroyed nearly two-thirds of the tents and flooded the camp (OCHA 01/07/2014).
- Shelter and NFIs continue to be priority needs for returnees settling into villages, according to multi-sector assessments. The set-up or reinforcement of community mechanisms to cope with the newly arrived Chadian returnees is required (IOM 11/08/2014).

Health

- Main causes of morbidity and mortality among refugees are **diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, and malaria** (UNHCR 07/2014).
- There has been a sharp increase in **malaria** cases in Sido transit site and Koumba and Bethel villages at the border to CAR. A total of 4,981 cases were registered

since May with the beginning of the first rains, with 562 cases in May and 2,181 cases in June according to MSF reports (OCHA 16/07/2014).

- MSF surveillance shows that **under-five mortality rates** far surpass the WHO emergency threshold of deaths per 10,000 per day, with 5.4 recorded in Gbiti, and 3.1 in Gado Bedzere (WFP 13/06/2014).

Malnutrition

GAM is above the emergency threshold of 15% in refugee/returnee sites and entry points; reaching 24% in Bitoye and 20% in Doba as of May. In southern Chad, GAM levels among children under five are high (UNHCR 07/2014). The nutritional situation could deteriorate with the rainy season (June –October) and lack of services (FAO/WFP 05/2014).

WASH

- Access to WASH facilities for the host community has been affected by the number of arrivals. This situation is exacerbated by the rainy season, and there is increased risk of water-borne and diarrheal diseases. The quantity and quality of water available in camps and host communities is negatively affected and the risk of contamination increases (UNHCR 31/07/2014).
- Recent rains in camps mean drainage of stagnant water is required, as is an upgrade of WASH facilities (IOM 11/08/2014).

Food Security

- Over 810,000 people (displaced and local population) are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity and above during the June-September lean season (GIEWS 07/08/2014).
- Funding restrictions resulted in cuts in food assistance from 1 July. More than 300,000 refugees, primarily from Darfur and CAR, are reported to be the worst affected. Food rations have been reduced by up to 60% (UNCHR 01/07/2014, WFP 07/2014).
- Refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, Salamat, and in the border areas with CAR, are putting pressure on host households. Food prices are increasing due to production deficits and increased demands (WFP 07/2014).
- Regional crises are affecting cross-border trade and markets with CAR, Libya, Cameroon and Nigeria (FEWSNET and humanitarian partners, 06/2014; SRP 02/2014).
- Since December 2013, cross-border transhumance routes have been interrupted due to the security situation. Most cattle traders and transhumance pastoralists of Chadian origin have moved to Chad and the rest remain in central, eastern, and northeastern regions of CAR (OCHA 10/07/2014).

Protection

- New arrivals are exposed to various protection risks such as arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, child labour, prostitution, exacerbated by the fragility of national and community protection mechanisms (UNHCR 31/07/2014).
- Among the refugees arriving since December 2013, 60% are children, including unaccompanied and separated children, child-headed households (UNHCR 31/07/2014).
- According to an IOM survey of 1,256 individuals, less than 3% had a birth certificate and 5% National ID. For those of CAR nationality only 8% had ID for CAR (IOM 06/2014).

Humanitarian Constraints

- Humanitarian actors supporting the refugee crisis identify funding and some violence in border areas as main constraints (OCHA, UNHCR, FAO, WFP 07/2013).
- Bad road conditions due to the rainy season, are limiting access (ECHO, 07/2014). In August heavy rainfall has slowed or impeded the movement of humanitarian personnel to zones of assistance (UNHCR 15/08/2014)
- Difficulties identifying partners in Bitoye, Mbaiboukoum and Sido due to security concerns (WFP 17/07/2014).

Potential Aggravating Factors

Regional Crises

- Darfur, Sudan:** The war in Darfur has been ongoing since February 2003. As of 31 August, 360,500 Sudanese refugees are registered in Chad (OCHA 31/08/2014). In Tissi, southeastern Chad, which is mainly hosting Sudanese refugees, basic services are non-existent (UNICEF, 04/2013).
- Nigeria:** There was a surge in violent attacks by Nigerian Islamist fighters Boko Haram March–September 2013, and again since January 2014, causing mass displacement into neighbouring countries, including Chad (CFR 2014). UNHCR estimates that 4,000 people have fled from Nigeria into Chad since 2009. 1,100 refugees arrived in Chad in a week in early August (UNHCR 12/08/2014) and a further influx is anticipated (All Africa 13/08/2014).

Seasonal Information

- The rainy season extends from June to October. Flooding is recurrent between July and September in different parts of the country, including the areas where the CAR refugees are hosted. The rainy season brings spikes in malaria and cholera (RSP 2014).
- The lean season is June-September, and affects especially the food security situation of poor households (HEWS 2012).

Other Factors of Vulnerability

- The majority of the new refugees are Muslim, while the population of southern Chad and the previously displaced refugees from CAR are predominantly Christian. Local authorities fear that sectarian tensions in CAR could spill over and threaten security in Chad (UNHCR 31/07/2014).
- The massive and sudden influx from CAR is causing social and economic problems with host communities. Areas with high numbers of returnees do not necessarily correspond to areas of origin. Clashes between evacuees in temporary sites and host communities have resulted in fatalities, particularly in southern Chad. The displacement of transhumance pastoralists has also created bottlenecks of livestock, where the spread of disease and competition over resources pose serious concerns (IOM 31/08/2014).
- Ex-combatants could be present among the Chadian returnees and CAR refugees. The presence of armed elements and revenge acts are possible destabilising factors (UNHCR 31/07/2014).

Response Capacity

Local and National Response Capacity

- The Government of Chad is working closely with local and international humanitarian actors to assist the new arrivals. It is expected that the Chadian Government will continue to grant international protection to refugees in 2014 and 2015, as it has done since the refugee crisis in Sudan began in 2003 (UNHCR 2014).
- The Chadian Red Cross in its auxiliary role to the Government is supporting relief responses to the different humanitarian crisis in the country (IFRC 11/12/2013).
- Association pour le Développement Economique et Social de Koba (ADES), Secours Catholique pour le Développement (SECADEV), and other national NGOs are working closely with UN agencies and international NGOs to deliver operational response (UNHCR, Revised RRP 2014).

International Response Capacity

- The funding requirement to respond to the refugee crisis in Chad is USD 623 million, with a funding gap of 71%, as of 22 August (Humanitarian Response 22/08/2014).
- The IASC cluster system is activated and the different Cluster activities are regularly coordinated.
- The UN agencies and international NGOs are providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees (UNHCR, Revised RRP 2014). UNHCR is trying to assist the Government to prevent statelessness among evacuees by issuing national ID cards to those who qualify for Chadian nationality (IOM 31/08/2014).

Population Coping Mechanisms

- Reducing the size and quality of meals.
- Dependency on humanitarian assistance or support from host populations.
- Selling humanitarian aid in the markets.
- Joining armed groups along the CAR border (Interagency Reports, Humanitarian Response 2014).

Key Indicators

- **Demographics:** Population: 12.8 million (World Bank 2013). Urban population: 27.6%; rural: 72.4% (Geohive 2010). Population age breakdown: <14: 45%; 14-64: 52%; >64: 3% (HEWS 2012). Life expectancy: 50.7 years (UNICEF 2013).
- **Health:** Under-5 mortality rate: 150/1,000 live births. 2013 maternal mortality ratio: 980/100,000 live births. (UNICEF 2013). Malaria: nearly one million suspected cases and 2,614 deaths in 2013 (The Global Fund, 24/04/2014).
- **Nutrition:** 150,000 children are estimated to be severely malnourished in 2014 (UNICEF 14/08/2014).
- **WASH:** Use of improved water sources: 50.2% (urban 70.8%, rural 44.4%). Use of improved sanitation facilities: 11.7% (urban 30.9%, rural 6.4%).
- **Socio-economic:** Population below international poverty line (USD 1.25/person/day): 61.9% (UNICEF 2013).

Information Gaps and Needs

- Disaggregated data on protection issues faced by refugee populations.
- Disaggregated data on returnee and refugee populations as well as the location of Chadian returnees.
- Legal status of Chadian returnees, born in CAR, as well as information on legal assistance available.

Lessons Learned

- Analyses of past displacement crises highlighted that the positive attitude of local authorities towards integration of social services may change for political reasons (UNOCHA 2010).
- There has been a continued focus among responders through 2013-2014 on improving self-reliance of both displaced people and host communities, and reducing dependency. This suggests that there remain gaps in strengthening local services and capacities (UNHCR 2014).

