

BACKGROUND

Decades of violence have reduced Chad to one of the poorest countries in the world, where an estimated 80 percent of the population lives on less than US\$1 per day. Despite various peace agreements over the past several years, civil unrest persists as evidenced by continued acts of armed rebellion and increasing levels of banditry and criminality. The country is regularly subject to climatic disturbances and natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and locust invasions, which lead to food shortages. Some 7 out of 10 Chadians suffer from severely reduced life expectancy, as well as markedly low standards of health, education and well being.

Chad's economy is primarily agricultural with over 80 percent of the population relying on subsistence farming and livestock rearing for its livelihood. The country is host to some 234 000 Sudanese refugees and 48 000 from northern CAR, placing additional strain on already deficient resources. The escalated violence in eastern Chad has also resulted in the displacement of approximately 50 000 Chadians. Unlike the south, the dry lands of eastern Chad cannot provide sustainable solutions to refugees through subsistence agriculture, leaving them entirely dependent on external assistance. However, in certain areas of southern Chad, children increasingly manifest signs of malnutrition.

The population as a whole is generally vulnerable. However, Chadians living in refugee zones (east and south) endure chronic poverty and problems such as resource availability, access and usage. Tensions are rising between the host community and refugees as locals perceive they are not fairly benefiting from humanitarian assistance as their resources dwindle.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

According to first survey results of the crop year currently in progress, prospects for harvests are good in the soudanian zone (southern Chad) with reference to natural indicators, such as rainfall and the phytosanitary situation. However, an estimated 700 000 people could be affected by food insecurity triggered by factors such as the September 2006 floods in the south, the late onset of the rainy season in the Sahelian region, the deteriorating security situation in the east and new influxes of IDPs and refugees. These factors may contribute to a food deficit requiring 100 000 tonnes of cereals.

Given the increasing levels of insecurity in Darfur and northern CAR, the return of refugees is not foreseen any time soon. The provision of agricultural assistance and proper management of resources will prevent rising tensions between refugees, IDPs and the host community. Further, promoting self-sufficiency amongst the displaced, refugee and host populations is essential and will foster socio-economic integration.

KEY FACTS

- Population: 9.8 million
- GDP (PPP) per capita: US\$1 519
- Population below poverty line: 80%
- Labour force by occupation: agriculture 80%, industry and services 20%
- Total land area: 1.284 million sq km, bordering Cameroon, Central African Republic, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan
- Total arable land: 3%
- Life expectancy: male: 45 years, female: 49 years
- Literacy rate: male: 56%, female: 39%
- Human Development Index: 173/177

(Source: UN; World Bank)

“80 percent of the population lives on less than US\$1 per day”



FAO IN CHAD

In Chad, FAO continues to provide technical assistance to UNHCR initiatives for refugees and host communities, as well as assistance to WFP in better food aid targeting. The FAO has provided direct assistance to tens of thousands of refugees, IDPs and host families with seeds, tools and training in good farming practices.

FAO RESPONSE

In collaboration with partners, FAO aims to improve the food security of refugees, IDPs and host populations through the promotion of small animal breeding, agricultural production, livestock and crop protection, input and tool distributions and the creation of income generating activities. The above initiatives will boost incomes, improve the health and nutritional status of beneficiaries, create jobs and increase self-reliance.

FAO's assistance proposals for 2007 include supplying vulnerable communities with agricultural inputs, such as season-specific seed varieties, and training in good agronomic practices, such as soil conservation, grafting and reforestation. Proposed activities seek to support small animal breeding, the supply and vaccination of livestock and poultry, and the distribution of veterinary kits. FAO's proposals also intend to foster income generating activities through agro-forestry and the establishment of seedling production centres. Beneficiary selection will focus on all vulnerable populations (refugee, IDP and host) with special attention to children and women.

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Funding required: US\$2 299 000

Assistance and supply of market garden produce seeds and agricultural tools to refugees, IDPs and host populations in Chad

Objectives: To promote food security and enhance the production of vulnerable households; improve the health and nutritional status of beneficiaries; and implement income generating activities through agricultural schemes and community organization.

Activities: Supply sorghum, groundnut, millet and other seeds to 15 000 households (10 000 refugee households and 5 000 host population households) for the rainy season; provide market garden produce seeds to 11 000 households (8 000 refugee households and 3 000 host population households) for use around rivers after the drop in the water level, boreholes and/or around oases (maximum of two acres of land/household); supply sorghum and other useful cereal seeds for use after the rainy season to 5 000 refugees and 3 000 host population households on 0.25 hectares; dig boreholes and supply equipment for irrigation; and provide training and supervision to ensure the sustainability of project activities and outcomes.

Beneficiaries: 50 000 refugees and 30 000 vulnerable host populations (IDPs and locals), of which 60 percent in the east and 40 percent in the south (children: 30 percent; women: 45 percent).

Implementing partners: Ministries of rural development (agriculture, livestock, environment and fisheries, water), UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, national and international NGOs (AFRICARE, AFRICAN CONCERN, etc.).

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$968 000.

Assistance to refugees, IDPs and host populations through protection of the environment

Objectives: To promote and use agroforestry (fruits, fodder, etc.) in order to protect the environment in locations where refugees are present; enhance food security through the production of fruit trees and improving animal nutrition; improve the health and nutritional status of beneficiaries thus reducing mortality rates among those at risk; implement and support income generating activities through agroforestry; and promote reforestation and soil conservation.

Activities: Supply seeds and seedlings of fruit trees and others (fodder, edible trees, etc.) to 10 000 refugee households and 2 000 host population households (with priority given to women and children); introduce fodder trees; dig boreholes and supply irrigation equipment; create seedling production centres; and provide training on techniques such as soil conservation and grafting.

Beneficiaries: 50 000 refugees and 10 000 members of the host population, of which 60 percent in the east and 40 percent in the south (children: 40 percent; women: 30 percent; men: 30 percent).

Implementing partners: Ministries of rural development (agriculture, livestock, environment and fisheries, water), UNHCR, WFP, national and international NGOs (AFRICARE, AFRICAN CONCERN, COOPI, etc.).

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$544 500.

Assistance to refugees, IDPs and host populations through the promotion of livestock and protection of existing herds

Objectives: Safeguard the livestock of refugees, IDPs and host populations; promote small animal breeding and use of animal traction; improve the health and nutritional status of beneficiaries; support revenue generating activities through agricultural schemes based on livestock, livestock by-products and community organization; and enhance beneficiary income leading to self-reliance.

Activities: Promote and improve poultry production through the supply of grade chickens to 4 000 refugee households and 2 000 host population households (3 hens, 1 coq and 1 veterinary kit/household); supply 4 sheep and/or goats (3 females and 1 male) and 1 veterinary kit to 1 000 refugee households and 1 000 host population households; vaccinate livestock and poultry belonging to 15 000 households against infectious diseases (Anthrax, Pasteurella, black quarter, peste des petits ruminants, fowl and Newcastle disease, fowl typhoid, etc.); and promote income generating activities for women on livestock/livestock by-products.

Beneficiaries: 30 000 refugee households and 12 000 vulnerable host population households (IDPs and local), of which 60 percent in the east and 40 percent in the south (women: 75 percent; men: 25 percent).

Implementing partners: Ministries of rural development (agriculture, livestock, environment and fisheries, water), UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, national and international NGOs (AFRICARE, AFRICAN CONCERN, etc.).

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$786 500.