

Chad

Background

The Government of the Republic of Chad has been struggling with endemic poverty and civil unrest for decades. Since 2001, the country has faced a humanitarian crisis resulting from the spillover of the conflict in Darfur, continued insecurity in northern Central African Republic, ongoing friction with opposition armed groups, as well as ethnic clashes in the east. The number of Sudanese that have sought refuge between 2003 and 2008 has steadily increased in eastern Chad, and now amount to some 300 000 people, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Further, southern Chad is now host to over 53 300 refugees from the Central African Republic.

Tensions between the Governments of Chad and the Sudan have also increased in the past year. Violence continues in the east of the country and accounts for the displacement of 150 000 people. However, it is estimated that some 30 000 IDPs from eastern Chad have spontaneously returned home. The long-term presence of refugees and IDPs has added pressure on the availability of food and scarce natural resources, including water and firewood, hence increasing tensions with host communities.

KEY FACTS

- Population: 10.3 million
- GNI per capita (USD): 540
- Population below poverty line: 55%
- Life expectancy: 44 years
- Total arable land: 2.8%
- Population in agriculture: 80%
- Population undernourished: 35%
- Total land area: 1.259 million sq km
- Human Development Index: 170/177

(Source: UN; World Bank; World Factbook)

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

The livelihoods of 80 percent of the population are derived directly from agricultural and livestock production, predominantly at a subsistence level. Global acute malnutrition has worsened since 2006 and the nutritional status of refugee camp dwellers has deteriorated throughout 2007 and 2008. The levels of insecurity and vulnerability remain very high in most areas hosting IDPs and refugees and may worsen if internal conflicts continue to proliferate.

Urgent efforts are needed to reinforce activities enabling refugees and IDPs to supplement their food basket and strengthen their livelihoods. Given the shortage of land around the camps, only a small percentage of these households have access to a plot for cultivation. In 2008, a number of them received agricultural inputs and assistance from FAO and other agencies, enabling them to produce their own food. As a result of a good rainy season, the October 2008 harvest is forecasted to provide people that had access to land with self-sufficiency in grain for three to four months. However, as land has acquired a premium value, refugees and IDPs are being charged for rent, often paid with a part of their harvest.

C H A D

Less than 22 percent of refugees and IDPs own livestock and still need to heavily rely on other activities to secure their livelihoods. The high prevalence of refugees and IDPs has altered the trade environment in the areas around the camps. Traders from the host population have been outnumbered and markets have thrived inside the refugee and IDP camps, causing local markets to dwindle. Therefore, host communities must be included in relief efforts with the aim of lessening existing tensions and competition for access to natural resources.



Other parts of the country have been subject to torrential rains, destroying crops, livelihoods and basic infrastructure. This has brought about severe shortages in local food supply and may cause serious health hazards in the longer term.

FAO response

In 2009, FAO will focus on reinforcing food security and nutrition as well as restoring basic livelihoods for IDPs, refugees and vulnerable host-community members in eastern and southern Chad.

Proposed interventions include providing vulnerable households affected by conflicts and floods with farming inputs and training in improved agricultural and livestock practices to increase and diversify their productive capacity. Improved access to markets will be ensured by the rehabilitation of local roads. FAO will also seek to promote income-generating activities for landless IDPs, returnees and host-community women's groups through agricultural processing and small-livestock activities.

To bring about more sustainable agricultural production and strengthen previous interventions, FAO will support farmers in eastern Chad in revitalizing the seed multiplication sector by providing them with adapted inputs and training.

FAO will also create working groups in collaboration with its partners at all levels to strengthen the cohesiveness of interventions and ensure that they are in line with the priorities of the Government and other humanitarian organizations.

“Global acute malnutrition has worsened since 2006”

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding required: USD 6 597 836

Support to the coordination of agricultural emergency activities	
Objectives:	To enhance coordination among humanitarian actors to improve sustainability of action.
Activities:	Create working groups (WGs) at national, district and field levels in collaboration with all actors involved in the return, reintegration and resettlement process of IDPs in eastern Chad: (i) the national WG in N'Djamena, working closely with the IASC, national authorities and clusters, will ensure that planned activities in areas where returnees are settling are consistent with the Government's strategic framework, interventions are elaborated with the support of technical agencies, such as FAO, and that follow up and evaluation of these activities are undertaken; (ii) the district WG in Abeche will develop operational plans for reintegration and development; and (iii) two field-level WGs will cover the Assoungha and Dar Sila, Farchana and Goz Beida/Koukou departments and implement the operational plans elaborated by the district WG.
Beneficiaries:	Population affected by the crisis and humanitarian actors.
Implementing partners:	UN agencies, NGOs (local, national and international), Red Cross/Crescent Movement, relevant national ministries and institutional actors.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 675 000.

Emergency supply of farming inputs to vulnerable households affected by conflict and floods in eastern and southern Chad	
Objectives:	To improve the food security of households affected by conflict and floods through providing direct support to their food production.
Activities:	Identify beneficiary farmers and organize them into groups to ensure better access to project inputs, extension programmes and marketing support; supply rainy-season seeds to 30 000 vulnerable households (including refugees, IDPs, returnees and host-community members) with access to land; supply gardening kits (vegetable seeds, tools and related inputs) to approximately 20 000 of these households; and provide training and technical support to beneficiaries to maximize project impact and profitability and ensure the sustainability of project results.
Beneficiaries:	30 000 households (IDPs, refugees, returnees and host-community members).
Implementing partners:	National agricultural bodies (Ministry, ONDR), UNHCR, WFP, AFRICARE, African Concern, CARE, IRD, etc.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 1 903 000.

Support to agricultural and pastoral production for households affected by the crisis in eastern Chad through improved access to land and water, and protection of gardening perimeters

Objectives:	To increase the productive capacity of host communities, IDPs, refugees and returnees by constructing and/or rehabilitating small hydro-agricultural structures (pastoral or vegetable cultivation wells, artificial ponds, vegetable perimeters for protection against animals, etc.); and promote access to markets through the rehabilitation of roads and market places.
Activities:	Create/rehabilitate gardening and pastoral wells, artificial ponds and micro-dams for irrigation purposes; create/rehabilitate gardening perimeters to protect vegetable production against animals; improve water availability/management through increased pumping capacity (pumps and tubes); reinforce group-based resource management; and rehabilitate market places and roads.
Beneficiaries:	30 000 households (IDPs, refugees, returnees and host populations).
Implementing partners:	National agricultural bodies (Ministries of water and environment, agriculture, animal production, ONDR), UNHCR, WFP, AFRICARE, African Concern, CARE, IRD, etc.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 1 576 300.

Promotion of income-generating activities, such as agricultural processing and livestock activities, to assist women who are displaced, resettling or members of the host community without access to natural resources in eastern and southern Chad

Objectives:	To enable women's groups (comprising displaced, resettling and host-community populations) without access to natural resources to generate income through small agricultural-processing and livestock activities.
Activities:	Procure and distribute key inputs (including grinders for cereals, oil presses for peanut oil and meal, fruit conservation, processing and packaging kits, chickens for egg production and small ruminants for fattening); provide a working-capital fund in the form of raw materials to ensure the effective use of distributed equipment/inputs (cereals, peanuts, fruits, and cottonseed meal and cereals for the chickens and small ruminants); provide technical support to strengthen the production and marketing capacity of beneficiary groups; and ensure market promotion of agricultural produce on the basis of existing, local commercial practices.
Beneficiaries:	5 000 households of displaced, resettled or host-community women.
Implementing partners:	N/A.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 1 277 000.

Seed multiplication and supply of agricultural inputs in support of displaced, resettling and host-community households in Ouaddai region and Northern Salamat

Objectives:	To improve food security through the enhancement of community seed production with a view to increasing local capacity to meet the needs of displaced persons, returnees and host populations.
Activities:	Distribute adapted crop seeds for multiplication to experienced farmers, who will subsequently benefit from training sessions on seed multiplication technologies and cultivation follow up; crop seed multiplication by families that have received assistance through previous projects; procure the produced seeds and redistribute them to other vulnerable households (priority given first to displaced and resettling households and secondly to host populations); re-organize the seed production chain, from multipliers to final seed users; and provide training on community-based supply and/or on produce marketing.
Beneficiaries:	16 100 vulnerable households (including displaced persons, returnees and host-community members).
Implementing partners:	Specialized services of the Ministry of Agriculture, local and international NGOs (IRD, ACF) and community-based organizations.
Duration:	February 2009 – June 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 166 536.

