

# Alert

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Chad – No. 02/2011

## Assistance to returning IDPs, Refugees and Host Communities in Eastern & Southern Chad

Geneva, 14 January 2011

In addition to recent Sahel drought and flood disasters and the resultant increased vulnerability, Chad has continued to host refugees from Central Africa republic and those from the Darfur conflict in Sudan, and its own IDPs resulting from internal conflict. This situation has led to the prolonged humanitarian crisis in Chad. Refugees continue to depend on humanitarian aid while IDPs as well as their host community need support for better conditions of return and re-integration.

### **Background**

During the Darfur rebellion in Sudan (2003), there was heavy influx of refugees into Chad. Approximately, 256,361 Sudanese refugees have since crossed into the eastern provinces of Chad. The Darfur crisis precipitated internal conflicts due to increased competition for scarce services and natural resources in the host communities in Chad. The increased internal conflicts and rebel attacks on villages led to internal displacement of Chadians starting at the end of 2005 and since then the IDP population has grown to around 180,000<sup>1</sup>. Presidential elections in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2005 led to fights between government troops and rebels in the north of the country and resulted to a new wave of CAR refugees arriving in the southern part of Chad. It is estimated that 62,428<sup>2</sup> refugees from the CAR have settled in 11 camps in the southern and south-eastern provinces of Chad.

These conflicts and their impacts are closely linked to the endemic poverty in Chad.

The Sudanese refugees are totally dependent on international aid with hardly any alternative options for earning their livelihoods. Access to arable land is generally non-existent for the Sudanese refugees. IDPs are highly dependent on support for shelter, education, health as well as support for return.

The CAR refugees in the south have been able to develop a greater level of food self-sufficiency through agricultural production on the allocated land however, remain dependent on international support for basic services.

Gender-based violence remains a concern in the IDP sites and refugee camps. Traditions and cultural norms and practices are particularly harmful for women and girls. These include: early marriage and female genital mutilation.

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1 Working figures used by the UN in January 2011, in addition a total of 43,000 IDPs have returned to their villages and government expects voluntary returns for another 30,000.

2 Working figures used by the UN in January 2011.

The humanitarian situation in Chad is one of a protracted and forgotten crisis with a great need for long term sustained humanitarian support to save lives and livelihoods.

**Impact**

Presence of Refugees, IDPs and a vulnerable host community has resulted to increased humanitarian needs which have been aggravated by the 2009 Sahel drought in the region and recent flooding in 2010. It is estimated that 2.5 million<sup>3</sup> people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Chad at the end of 2010.

**National and international response**

Chadian government approach is to encourage voluntary return and has called on agencies to reduce assistance in IDP sites, and to only provide assistance when they return to their villages of origin, or integrate within the community where they presently are. However inadequate basic services and insecurity justifies the need for assistance to a time that the situation is favourable for return. The government, UN and NGOs are in discussions regarding protection of civilians, durable solutions for return, humanitarian access and the need to link emergency interventions with long term development in Chad. This has led to a national strategy for durable solutions including a 3 year plan for the East. The international community is requested to contribute towards the activities specified in the plan. However, situation of the Sudanese refugees is complicated and a possible return depends very much on political solutions to the crisis in Darfur. Until such a time continued assistance for them will be required.

UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, OCHA and 70 NGO's will continue to assist the refugees and IDP populations in 2011 but with a clear shift to sustainable solutions for both the IDPs and CAR refugees.

With the closing of the MINURCAT mission as at 31.12.2010 the Government of Chad has reiterated its commitment to assume full responsibility for security and access through the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité* (DIS- a special Chadian security force formed by the UN. NGO's are represented in the *Bureaux de Sécurisation et des Mouvements* (BSM) were plans for convoys and other protection needs are discussed on a weekly basis.

**ACT International response**

Since 2007 ACT has continued to respond to the IDPs at the Habile and Aradib sites near the town of Koukou, with focus on site management, community services, protection, psychosocial support, and water and sanitation.

On a request by UNHCR and the agency's challenge in ensuring agreements with qualified implementing partners for support to several of the refugee camps near the Sudanese border LWF/ACT took on the management of the Gaga camp in the Ourara district and the Farcharna camp in the Assoungha district.

LWF has signed 3 agreements with UNHCR for 2011 activities for construction of shelters for IDPs in their villages of return, shelter construction and community services for the Sudanese refugees and agricultural activities for the CAR refugees.

As part of its partnership agreements with UNHCR, LWF is planning the following activities under its ACT Alliance funding in 2011.

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<sup>3</sup> UN planning figures, January 2011

**Planned Activities**

- Assist the affected populations with psycho-social support and activities
- As part of Conflict prevention and Peace building efforts; assist the host communities with capacity building and construction of social infrastructure
- Environmental activities- use of improved fuel stoves, establishment of tree nurseries
- Improved livelihoods through agricultural support and Income Generating activities

This year, ACT response will target 131,515 people as follows:

| Category – to be assisted under the ACT Alliance Appeal         | Affected Population |        |                |
|---|---------------------|--------|----------------|
|   | Female              | Male   | Total          |
| IDPs - in villages of return                                    |                     |        | 11,077         |
| Sudanese Refugees in Eastern Chad- Farchana and Gaga Camp       | 23,013              | 18,312 | 41,325         |
| CAR Refugees in Southern Chad – Maro camp                       | 2,625               | 2,488  | 5,113          |
| Host populations in Eastern Chad around IDPs Villages of Return |                     |        | 14,000         |
| Host populations in Eastern Chad around Farchana and Gaga       |                     |        | 32,000         |
| Host population in the Southern Chad around Maro                |                     |        | 28,000         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                     |        | <b>131,515</b> |

The Lutheran World Federation is the only implementing member in Chad and the Country representative will continue to provide regular updates to the ACT Alliance.

A full appeal will be issued early next week.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer ([Jean.Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org](mailto:Jean.Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org)).**

**Thank you for your attention.**

**For further information please contact:**

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