

OFDA
**Disaster
Case Reports**

Chad Civil Strife/Food Shortage
June 1978-November 1979

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523**

CHAD - Civil Strife/Food Shortage

Data

Date: June 1978 - November 1979 (FY 80)

Location: The capital city of N'Djamena and Charl-Baguirmi, Lac, and Kanem Prefectures

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 475,000

Damage: In N'Djamena public buildings were looted, most public services were disrupted, and medical care was greatly reduced. Outside the capital crop failures caused a food shortage.

The Disaster

Protracted civil strife throughout Chad reached the capital, N'Djamena, in February 1979. Roughly half of the city's population, including most of the civil servants, fled. Most essential services were disrupted and looting was widespread.

Irregular rains and intense attacks by insects and birds led to a poor harvest across much of the Chadian Sahel in 1978. Effects of this food grain shortfall were especially noticeable in Charl-Baguirmi, Lac, and Kanem Prefectures. Although the causes of the disaster occurred between June and October of 1978, the resulting food shortage was felt until the next harvest in November 1979.

Action Taken by the Government of Chad (GOC)

A major problem hindering relief activities was the extremely weak nature of the GOC. In the capital few ministries were operational and in the countryside there was a total absence of GOC authority. The National Disaster Relief Agency (DLCCN) was severely affected by the events which followed the outbreak of the civil war. All of the agency's trucks were stolen and most of its substantial stock of donor-supplied food was looted. Warehouse security was a constant problem, as the four factions occupying N'Djamena were unable to exercise control over their troops. In this unstable atmosphere ministries were reluctant to make decisions and, as a result, no one was named Acting Director of the DLCCN until mid-August, despite the urgency of the food situation. Consequently, the DLCCN was forced to rely on other groups, particularly the Chadian Grain Office, the Chadian Truckers Cooperative, CARE-Chad, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and various ad hoc administrative groups, to organize food distribution. (See below under U.S. Voluntary Agencies and International Community Assistance.)

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In July 1979 when it was learned that civilian administrators had been named for Kanem and Lac Prefectures, the DLCCN began to develop a Rural Emergency Program. An overall distribution plan was established, and instructions were issued to leaders in all the affected sous-prefectures. Local authorities set up six distribution centers in each sous-prefecture and formed committees in each center to receive the food and to distribute it equitably to the surrounding villages.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In November 1979, the U.S. Ambassador exercised his Disaster Assistance Authority and made available \$25,000 for the purchase of medicines and medical supplies.....\$25,000

U.S.A.I.D./Chad served as a catalyst in the organization of both rural and urban feeding programs. U.S.A.I.D. representatives organized meetings, coordinated activities, mobilized resources, and assisted the GOC in putting together a short-term disaster relief program. In addition, U.S.A.I.D. funded transport of bilateral P.L. 480 commodities to the stricken areas and provided a drought relief specialist and an end-use checker to help organize the program and monitor its activities.

Funds provided through A.I.D./Washington:

Transportation Grant.....\$348,500
End-use Checkers..... 97,000

Funds provided through local sale proceeds:

CARE Transportation Contract.....\$125,000
N'Djamena Food-For-Work Reconstruction Project..... 260,000

Title II Commodities:

Sorghum 4,164 MT.....\$1,717,352
Soy fortified sorghum grits (SFSG) 1,090 MT..... 506,850

TOTAL \$3,079,702

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

CARE/Chad played a crucial role in the emergency relief program distributing P.L. 480 commodities and cooperating with the ICRC and the DLCCN on a feeding program for displaced persons. In addition, CARE sent two emergency relief experts to help plan and execute the distribution programs, one of whom remained to manage the urban emergency activities.

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A CARE Chad field representative handled transport bills through two separate transport contracts and helped with end-use checking in the first phase of the program. A local CARE contractor coordinated the truck dispatching for that phase.

| <u>P.L. 480 Commodities</u> | <u>Tons</u> | <u>\$Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Rice | 66 | 39,006 |
| Non-fat dried milk | 99 | 64,647 |
| Oil | 4 | 4,748 |
| Soy-fortified cornmeal | 103 | 50,161 |
| | TOTAL | \$158,562 |

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

European Economic Community - provided 2,500 MT of wheat (\$1,200,000), 475 MT of non-fat dry milk (\$300,000), 100 MT of butter oil (\$120,000), and 253 MT of rice (\$150,000)

International Committee of the Red Cross - provided 218 MT of grain worth \$288,355

World Food Program - provided 5,000 MT of wheat (\$2,220,000), one MT of non-fat dry milk (\$653), two MT of cornmeal (\$974), and 71 MT of sorghum (\$29,394)

Governments

Egypt - provided 12 MT of foodstuffs, value not reported

Germany, Federal Republic - supplied 2,000 MT of rice valued at \$1,150,000

Saudi Arabia - provided 1,329 MT of sorghum and 387 MT of salt and oil; total value of \$550,000

Voluntary Agencies

Evangelic Mission - supplied 3 MT of millet, value not reported

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Swiss Red Cross - provided 11 MT of NFD, value not reported

TOTAL \$6,009,376

* Please note - the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and International assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.

This publication does not require CRB approval.

