



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chad – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 26, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated January 8, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Widespread conflict, displacement, and limited resources, as well as periodic poor harvests, have contributed to a complex emergency in Chad. Inter-ethnic conflict, fighting between Government of Chad (GoC) forces and armed opposition groups, and cross-border raids from Sudanese militias based in neighboring Darfur had resulted in more than 170,000 internally displaced Chadians as of December 2009, leading to an increased need for humanitarian services.

Displacement within Chad has occurred in the context of an existing humanitarian emergency marked by the presence of more than 270,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled into the eastern region of Chad since the start of the Darfur complex emergency in 2003. According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 350,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) resided in camps in eastern and southern Chad as of December 2009, taxing limited local resources. In addition to affecting internally displaced and refugee populations, the regional conflict continues to impact Chadian communities that host internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, affecting local agriculture, livestock rearing, and other livelihood activities.

In addition, late-onset and erratic rainfall resulted in poor growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures throughout most Chadian regions during the 2009/2010 season, resulting in a significant reduction in the cereal harvest and poor pasture conditions, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A joint GoC, FAO, U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) assessment conducted in December 2009 estimated that the poor cereal harvest had affected at least 2 million people in Chad.

On December 16, 2009, U.S. Ambassador Louis J. Nigro reissued a disaster declaration in Chad due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in Eastern Chad	170,131	OCHA ¹ – December 2009
Sudanese Refugees in Chad	270,280	UNHCR – December 2009
CAR Refugees in Chad	81,680	UNHCR – December 2009
Affected Host Population	700,000	OCHA – June 2008
Number of Food Insecure Individuals	2,000,000	FEWS NET – March 2010

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN FY 2010

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Chad	\$1,323,681
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Chad	\$36,330,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Chad	\$37,653,681

CURRENT SITUATION

As of late March, relief operations in eastern Chad remain constrained due to insecurity, particularly in localities near the Chad–Sudan border, despite a recent reduction in direct attacks on humanitarian staff and assets. As a result of continued insecurity, several humanitarian organizations working in eastern Chad have temporarily suspended activities, while other agencies have continued operations with a much-reduced staff presence.

Throughout Chad, the GoC and humanitarian agencies have begun scaling up activities in response to increased food security concerns due to the poor cereal harvest.

Security and Humanitarian Access

In mid-January 2010, the GoC and the Government of National Unity in Sudan signed an agreement normalizing relations and establishing a protocol for border security. Despite the recent accords, insecurity in localities near the Chad–Sudan border continues to

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

restrict humanitarian access. Although the number of direct attacks on relief workers has reduced, March U.N. reports indicate that crime and armed banditry remain significant threats to humanitarian staff and assets, with a trend towards increased violence during attacks.

On February 6, an unidentified group released an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff member from captivity, 89 days after the individual's abduction in Kawa village, Ouaddaï Region, approximately 20 km from the Chad–Sudan border.

On March 12, the U.N. Security Council extended the mandate of the U.N. Mission in CAR and Chad (MINURCAT) through May 15, 2010. From March 23 to 31, U.N. officials are scheduled to meet with GoC authorities in N'Djamena to discuss the future of the peacekeeping operation following the mid-May mandate expiration. The GoC has officially requested the withdrawal of MINURCAT and handover of security responsibilities to Chadian forces.

Food Security and Emergency Food Assistance

The poor performance of the 2009/2010 rains resulted in a 34 percent reduction in grain production from 2008/2009 harvests and a 31 percent reduction compared with the five-year average, according to GoC estimates. In Batha, Bahr el Ghazal, North, and Gera regions, damage from grain-eating birds and other pests, including locusts, exacerbated poor growing conditions. In addition, GoC estimates indicated a 31 percent death rate among cattle in western and central regions of Chad during 2009, with lack of water and pasture resulting in early seasonal migration, poor livestock body conditions, and deterioration in terms of trade for pastoralists.

From December 9 to 20, a joint mission comprising representatives from the GoC Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, FAO, WFP, and FEWS NET conducted an assessment of agro-pastoral areas of Chad to identify vulnerable locations and assess humanitarian needs. According to assessment results, the poor 2009/2010 harvests left nearly 2 million individuals, or approximately 18 percent of the total population, food insecure. According to a mid-March FEWS NET report, approximately 800,000 people are expected to be highly or extremely food insecure as of the beginning of April, representing a more severe and earlier onset of the typical June to October hunger season. The remaining 1.2 million individuals will be moderately food insecure, meeting basic food needs during the hunger season through practices such as unsustainable livestock sales.

As a result of worsening food security conditions in rural locations, FEWS NET has observed early and large-scale migration—in some cases of entire households—to urban areas in search of labor opportunities. The surplus of laborers in urban centers has led to a 30 percent reduction in wages. Since rural households depend on income from remittances, the decline in urban wages

presents an obstacle to food security both in urban and rural areas. In addition, a February FEWS NET assessment noted increased employment of coping mechanisms among rural populations, such as distress sales of livestock and wild seed collection. A February European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) assessment in Sahelian regions observed high food prices and low food availability in local markets.

To improve household food security, FAO is distributing seeds, including staple crops rain-fed millet and sorghum, to 33,000 households throughout Sahelian regions in eastern and western Chad. In addition, FAO plans to support the GoC in providing 6,000 metric tons (MT) of livestock feed to mitigate the effects of poor pastoral conditions. USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.7 million in FY 2009 for agriculture and food security interventions benefiting more than 220,000 people in eastern Chad, including seeds and tools distribution, community animal health worker training, and seed fairs.

In early March, WFP launched a new Emergency Operation (EMOP) in Chad to provide 47,000 MT of food assistance to drought-affected households in Kanem, Bahr el Ghazal, Batha, Lac, and Hajer Lamis regions. Through the new EMOP, WFP plans to reach 737,000 beneficiaries from March to December 2010 with supplementary feeding, blanket feeding, general targeted food distribution, and food-for-work interventions. From March 10 to 28, WFP and the GoC Ministry of Agriculture are conducting an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) of affected regions. The EFSA will collect information at the household and community level in order to define beneficiary targeting criteria for food distributions during the June to October hunger season. To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has provided 12,350 MT of emergency food assistance valued at more than \$16.3 million to the WFP response in western and central Chad.

As part of WFP's ongoing EMOP in eastern Chad, WFP reached more than 248,600 Sudanese refugees in 12 camps with nearly 4,800 MT of food assistance in February, while also reaching approximately 18,000 beneficiaries with 155 MT of food aid through supplementary feeding to reduce the prevalence of moderate malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women. In FY09, USAID/FFP provided 96,410 MT of emergency food aid valued at more than \$132 million to the EMOP in eastern Chad, including 44,070 MT as an early FY 2010 contribution. To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has provided 13,370 MT valued at \$20 million to the EMOP in eastern Chad.

Nutrition

While overall data regarding the number of malnourished children in Sahelian regions of Chad is unavailable, OCHA reports that localized nutritional surveys conducted in Sahelian areas have indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates ranging between

20 and 29 percent, well above the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent. In Abeché, eastern Chad, a February 2010 Action Contre la Faim (ACF) nutrition survey reported a decrease in GAM rates since June 2009—from 20.6 percent to 16.8 percent. However, the reduced GAM rate in Abeché remains above the WHO threshold.

In order to strengthen monitoring and treatment of acute malnutrition in affected areas, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is implementing nutrition screening for children, referrals to feeding centers, and community mobilization activities in Kanem and Bahr el Ghazal regions. In addition, UNICEF supported the opening of 11 additional outpatient therapeutic feeding centers in Kanem and seven centers in Bahr el Ghazal to avoid congestion at existing facilities. ACF continues to operate eight outpatient therapeutic centers in Kanem. UNICEF plans to procure additional Plumpy’nut and essential drugs for treatment of acute malnutrition in affected areas, as well as target 45,000 children between the ages of six and 23 months with supplementary Plumpy’doz distributions from May to August.

Health

As of February 14, health workers had recorded a total of 519 cases of meningitis in Chad, including 56 deaths, since January 1. On February 19, the GoC Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a countrywide meningitis outbreak and an epidemic in most-affected Mandoul and Logone Occidental regions in southern Chad. According to WHO, meningitis cases have been reported in eastern, western, and southern Chad, as well as N’Djamena. In response, the MoH and health partners have strengthened epidemiological surveillance efforts throughout the country to promote the detection and prompt treatment of meningitis cases. In addition, the MoH initiated a meningitis vaccination campaign in several southern Chad localities targeting more than 42,500 individuals.

Between January 1 and February 28, health workers reported two polio cases in Chad, including one case in Salamat Region in southern Chad and one case in Wadi Fira Region in eastern Chad. In collaboration with WHO, the MoH organized a countrywide polio immunization campaign from February 10 to 12, targeting approximately 2.3 million children 59 months or younger. In 2008 and 2009, health workers in Chad recorded a total of 35 and 66 polio cases, respectively.

During FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$2 million to support health interventions in Chad, including primary health care and disease prevention.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In response to concerns regarding water availability and increasing malnutrition cases following poor rains, partners have begun scaling up WASH activities, particularly in drought-affected Sahelian regions and areas hosting large numbers of IDPs and refugees. Based

upon needs assessments conducted from February 8 to 13 in drought-affected areas, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) plans to support the Red Cross of Chad in implementing hygiene promotion activities in a total of 10 communities in Lac Kanem, and Sala regions. Hygiene promotion interventions will focus on prevention of water-related illnesses, such as diarrhea, that negatively affect the nutritional status of children under five years of age. In addition, UNICEF plans to target schools, health centers, and rural communities with WASH programs, including provision of safe drinking water and hygiene promotion.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$500,000 to ACF to support safe drinking water provision, sanitation support, and hygiene promotion among displaced and host communities in eastern Chad. In addition, USAID/OFDA partners UNICEF and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) continue to implement activities funded during FY 2009, including construction or rehabilitation of water points, provision of technical support for improved water point management and maintenance, and promotion of proper hygiene practices.

Refugees

In recent months, UNHCR has conducted verification exercises in 11 of 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad, with verification in the final location—Oure Cassoni camp in the Bourkou–Ennedi–Tibesti Region—scheduled for completion by the end of March. As of late 2009, relief agencies estimated that more than 270,000 Sudanese refugees were residing in Chad.

GoC officials and UNHCR representatives continue to discuss the relocation of Oure Cassoni refugee camp away from the border with Sudan. In February, UNHCR conducted water availability assessments in Haouch, approximately 150 km west of the current camp location. Pending determination of adequate site viability, relocation of Oure Cassoni residents could begin within two months, according to UNHCR. Located 7 km from the Chad–Sudan border, Oure Cassoni camp hosts approximately 28,000 Darfuri refugees and experiences recurrent issues, including water and firewood shortages, recruitment of child soldiers, and militarization, according to relief agencies. During FY 2009, State/PRM provided more than \$20 million to UNHCR for refugee support in eastern and southern Chad.

U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

During FY 2009 and FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$232 million in humanitarian assistance for IDPs, refugees, and host communities in Chad, including refugee protection and assistance; psychosocial services; agriculture and food security interventions; emergency food assistance; and health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2010

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACF	WASH	Dar Sila	\$500,000
U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Humanitarian Air Service	Eastern Chad	\$800,000
	Administrative Support	Eastern Chad	\$23,681
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,323,681
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	12,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Western and Central Chad	\$16,330,000
WFP	13,370 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$20,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$36,330,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD IN FY 2010			\$37,653,681

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or obligated amounts as of March 26, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA