

CONTEXT

- The UN estimates 5.8 million people across Chad—more than 32 percent of the population—will require humanitarian assistance in 2024. Protracted conflict and widespread displacement, compounded by climatic shocks such as drought and flooding, continue to drive humanitarian needs throughout the country.
- Protracted insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin—comprising portions of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria—continues to generate displacement in western Chad’s Lac Province, where an estimated 54,600 people were displaced between June and September 2023, according to the UN. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities in Lac face sustained humanitarian needs, including emergency food, livelihoods, and protection services.
- Due to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, nearly 497,000 Sudanese refugees arrived in Chad between April 2023 and January 2024. In total, Chad hosted more than 1.1 million refugees—more than 934,000 of whom were from Sudan—as of January 4, a number which has nearly doubled since April 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports.
- Nearly 2.9 million people across Chad are projected to face Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the June-to-August 2024 lean season, the period when food is most scarce, according to a November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé analysis.¹ In eastern Chad, below-average rainfall, the influx of newly arrived Sudanese refugees, and a loss of livelihood opportunities due to persistent armed group activity is putting additional pressure on food sources and driving food insecurity, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In Lac, emergency food aid and humanitarian access remain limited due to insecurity, the UN reports.



ASSISTANCE

- In response to humanitarian needs in Chad, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide multi-sector emergency support for IDPs and host communities, as well as emergency food and nutrition assistance to refugees, with the goal of meeting immediate needs.

¹ Cadre Harmonisé (CH) is a standardized framework used across West Africa and the Sahel that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The CH scale is comparable across countries in West Africa and ranges from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

- In partnership with the UN World Food Program (WFP), USAID/BHA provides emergency food assistance—including cash-based transfers and in-kind food assistance—to host communities, IDPs, refugees, and returnees throughout Chad. In response to increased displacement from Sudan since April, WFP has scaled-up its operations in Chad and had assisted more than 537,000 refugees and returnees as of December 2023 with USAID/BHA and other donor support.



USAID/BHA partners continue to provide access to food and nutrition assistance in eastern Chad.

Photo Credit: USAID/BHA

- Recognizing high levels of humanitarian need in eastern Chad, USAID/BHA partners are delivering multi-sector assistance to displaced populations in the region. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides multipurpose cash assistance, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services to Chadian returnees in Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira regions. As of January, IOM had reached more than 78,000 returnees affected by the Sudan crisis with humanitarian assistance. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also provides treatment of severe acute malnutrition in children ages five years and younger in the same regions with USAID/BHA and other donor support.
- USAID/BHA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provides integrated, multi-sector assistance to support the economic recovery and protection of IDPs and host community members—primarily women and girls—in Lac’s Fouli and Kaya departments. The protection activities aim to expand access to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and case management services, as well as improve referral pathways for legal and psychosocial support services for GBV survivors. The NGO also works with community leaders, other humanitarian actors, and local authorities to support advocacy efforts and promote the delivery of protection services in Lac. In FY 2023, IRC reached more than 16,000 IDPs with humanitarian assistance.
- USAID/BHA has supported partners of the Chad Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) since 2019 to flexibly respond to the multi-sector needs of people displaced by conflict in Lac’s Fouli, Kaya, and Mamdi departments. The RRM addresses IDP needs through emergency food assistance; humanitarian assessments, coordination, and information management; protection services; and shelter assistance.

USAID/BHA Funding in Chad ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL ⁴
FY 2022	\$73,598,436	–	\$73,598,436
FY2023	\$80,394,286	–	\$80,394,286
FY 2024	\$12,368,030	–	\$12,368,030

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 24, 2024. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities with emergency response.

⁴ USAID/BHA funding in Chad benefitting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USG Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.