

CHAD:

Internally displaced in Chad: Trapped between civil conflict and Sudan's Darfur crisis

A profile of the internal displacement situation

11 July, 2007

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS **3**

OVERVIEW **6**

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN CHAD: TRAPPED BETWEEN CIVIL CONFLICT AND SUDAN'S DARFUR CRISIS 6

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND **10**

BACKGROUND **10**

BACKGROUND (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007) 10

CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS (1946-2007) 11

CHAD'S RICH ETHNIC MAKEUP A FACTOR IN POLITICS AND CONFLICTS (2007) 13

WITH INCREASING MILITARIZATION OF ETHNIC GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES, EASTERN CHAD AT THE BRINK OF WIDESPREAD COMMUNAL VIOLENCE (JANUARY 2007) 14

CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT **14**

CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007) 14

A MIXTURE OF CONFLICTS CAUSE DISPLACEMENTS (MAY 2007) 15

POLITICS AND CONFLICTS CAUSE DETERIORATION OF INTERNAL SITUATION (MARCH 2007) 16

ONGOING VIOLENCE ALONG CHAD-SUDAN BORDER CONTINUES TO DRIVE THOUSANDS OF CHADIANS FROM THEIR HOMES (APRIL 2007) 18

PEACE EFFORTS **19**

PEACE TALKS BETWEEN CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND REBEL GROUPS UNDER WAY (JUNE 2007) 19

EXPANDING CONFLICT IN DARFUR A CAUSE OF TENSIONS AND OBJECT OF PEACE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CHAD AND SUDAN (MAY 2007) 20

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE **24**

GLOBAL FIGURES **24**

INCREASING NUMBER OF IDPs (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007) 24

HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS ESTIMATE THAT 140,000 CHADIANS HAVE BEEN DISPLACED (MAY 2007) 24

MORE THAN 90,000 PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN EASTERN CHAD (NOVEMBER 2006) 24

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION **25**

BETWEEN 10-15,000 IDPs LOCATED IN THE GOZ BEIDA AREA (JULY 2006) 25

IDPs MAINLY FROM FIVE ETHNIC GROUPS (MAY 2006) 25

MOST IDPs LOCATED IN ASSONGHA AND SILA DEPARTMENT (MAY 2006) 25

DISAGGREGATED DATA **26**

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT **27**

GENERAL	27
PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	27
IDPS MOVE WESTWARD FROM THE BORDER TO THE GOZ BEIDA AREA (JULY 2006)	28

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT **29**

OVERVIEW	29
LACK OF SECURITY (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	29
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	29
RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	30
IDP SITES (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	30
PHYSICAL SECURITY	31
CIVILIANS VICTIMS OF ABUSE BY ALL WARRING PARTIES (MAY 2007)	31
SECURITY SITUATION IN BORDER AREA DETERIORATES (MARCH 2007)	32

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS **34**

OVERVIEW	34
LIVING CONDITIONS (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	34
FOOD	36
LITTLE INFORMATION ON IDPS' NUTRITION STATUS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES (MAY 2007)	36
15% OF DISPLACED AND HOST COMMUNITY POPULATION EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO FOOD INSECURITY (APRIL 2007)	36
RAPID SURVEY ON FOOD SECURITY SITUATION OF IDPS AND HOST FAMILIES DEEMS IT PRECARIOUS (FEBRUARY 2007)	37
IDPS FACE SECURITY FOOD CRISIS (AUGUST 2006)	38
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION OF IDPS IN EASTERN CHAD DETERIORATES TO THE POINT OF CRISIS (AUGUST 2006)	39
HEALTH	40
A HEALTH CRISIS LOOMING IN THE EAST (JUNE 2007)	40
CONTINUOUS INCREASE OF HEPATITIS E IN EASTERN KOLOMA AND GOUROUNKOUN IDPS (JUNE 2007)	41
IDPS LACK ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES (AUGUST 2006)	42
WATER AND SANITATION	44
SERIOUS LACK OF WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES IN IDP-AFFECTED ZONES (AUGUST 2006)	44
VULNERABLE GROUPS	46
SIGNIFICANT PRESSURES ON HOST COMMUNITY (JUNE 2007)	46
ATTEMPTS TO DO AWAY WITH CHILD SOLDIERS RECRUITMENT (MAY 2007)	47

ACCESS TO EDUCATION **48**

GENERAL	48
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN IDP CAMPS SUPPORTED BY UNICEF (MAY 2007)	48
OBSTACLES TO EDUCATION	48

LACK OF EDUCATION FACILITIES IN EASTERN CHAD IN IDP- AFFECTED ZONES (AUGUST 2006)	48
<u>ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	51
ACCESS TO LAND	51
IDPs FACE DIFFICULTY TO ACCESS LAND IN GOZ BEIDA, IDPs (JULY 2006)	51
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACCESS</u>	52
GENERAL	52
DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION HAMPER HUMANITARIAN ACCESS IN EASTERN CHAD (FEBRUARY 2007)	52
RAINS LIMIT HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TO SOUTHERN PART OF THE BORDER WITH SUDAN (JULY 2006)	53
<u>NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES</u>	54
NATIONAL RESPONSE (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	54
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE (SPECIAL REPORT, 2007)	55
<u>LIST OF SOURCES USED</u>	57

OVERVIEW

Internally displaced in Chad: Trapped between civil conflict and Sudan's Darfur crisis

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Executive summary

Over the last two years, an estimated 172,600 people have been internally displaced in the south-eastern regions of Chad bordering Sudan's Darfur, including more than 120,000 within the last seven months. They have been displaced by a combination of armed conflict between the government and rebel groups, cross-border raids by militias from neighbouring Sudan, and increasing inter-communal violence. The internal displacement crisis worsened from mid 2006 as, in response to increasing attacks from Chadian rebel movements, the government withdrew the Armée Nationale du Tchad (Chadian National Army, ANT) from south-eastern areas to other more strategic points. This led to a security vacuum along the border with Darfur in which (mainly non-Arab) civilians and villages have been subjected to continuous cross-border attacks attributed to armed militia groups known as Janjaweed. These factors have combined to encourage and trigger inter-ethnic violence and banditry that has forced people to flee, including Arab Chadians who started to be subject to attacks. The increasing militarisation of communities and the ongoing military recruitment (including of children) in IDP sites adds to the overall deterioration in the security situation.

While more than 45,000 Chadians have taken refuge in Darfur, the majority of the displaced have moved westwards to take refuge in the departments of Assounga, Bahr Azoum, Dar Sila, Dar Tama and Ouara. More than 100,000 are concentrated around Goz Beida, Goz Amer and Dogdoré in Dar Sila department, while others have sought security and assistance close to Sudanese refugee camps and humanitarian organisations. However, many displaced people remain in the most insecure border areas, to the south of Goz Amer, where access is limited. In this volatile security situation, displacement is ongoing and while some people have been forced to move repeatedly, others have had their freedom of movement severely limited.

Together with forced displacement, violations of humanitarian law and civilians' rights have been committed in eastern Chad by the Sudanese and Chadian rebel and militia groups, and sometimes by soldiers of the ANT. Targeted attacks against civilians, mainly women and children and often in IDP sites, have included arbitrary killing (sometimes by burning the victim alive), mutilations, and rape. Civilians have often had their houses, livestock and other property destroyed or stolen. Humanitarian workers have been subjected to attacks, physical threats and theft of their vehicles.

All this is hampering IDPs' enjoyment of a whole range of basic rights, including access to food, water, shelter, security and a livelihood. The displaced people are extremely vulnerable, and they have very limited access to already-scarce resources including water, food and healthcare. The level of school attendance in Chad is generally very low, and it is estimated that many of the children of school age currently living in IDP sites have not finished the school year or have not yet been enrolled. In addition, different armed groups have recruited many children including those in IDP sites.

The immediate challenge is to ensure the physical security of civilians and humanitarian operations. While the government should take responsibility for the protection of civilians, Chad's

security forces have failed to control the activities of armed groups operating across the border from Sudan or from within Chad. Given the weak presence of state institutions and functioning law enforcement structures in the conflict-affected areas, crimes on all sides have been committed with total impunity.

The government response to the displacement crisis has so far been inadequate. Although the government has created a Committee for the Assistance of IDPs, composed of representatives of civil society and different ministries under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Relations, Social Action and Family, there is still confusion over which government agency is the focal point for IDP issues, and no national legal framework specifically directed towards the protection of the rights of IDPs has been developed.

Irrespective of IDPs' prospects for return, the authorities in Chad should step up efforts, with the support of the international community, to fulfil their responsibility to ensure that IDPs have access to adequate living conditions, healthcare, food, education, and protection from arbitrary displacement, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. There is a need to reduce tension between displaced populations and host communities by reinforcing local traditional and religious mechanisms, enhancing and increasing access to basic social services, and integrating humanitarian action into longer-term development assistance.

The international response has been limited due to a low level of preparedness, shortcomings in security, access and accurate information on the situation, human resource constraints, and information management. Coordination and communication between UN agencies on the one hand, between UN agencies and NGOs and ICRC on the other, and also between NGOs has been very weak due to a lack of effective coordination structures between the capital N'Djamena and regional and local offices concerning the scope of the displacement crisis and the overall response strategy to adopt. During the last seven months, there have been a series of appeals, but the level of assistance sought has lagged behind the rapidly growing needs of the population.

The Chadian government, which had sought international help for months, has been reluctant to approve the deployment of a "multidimensional presence" as currently proposed by UN Security Council Resolution 1706. There is however concern over the expected impact of the deployment of a peacekeeping force on the security of civilians and humanitarian operations in the current context if it is not in the framework of a lasting regional and national peace process.

Key recommendations

To the Security Council

- Call on the government of Chad to immediately ensure that no support is provided to armed groups responsible for attacks on civilians, no arms are distributed to militia groups, and to take urgent action to restore law and order.
- Call on the government of Sudan to ensure that no support is provided to Sudanese armed groups responsible for attacks on civilians in Eastern Chad.
- Call for the immediate establishment of an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Chad with a mandate to monitor and publicly report on human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses, including those towards IDPs, especially in the conflict-affected east.

To the government of Chad

- Clearly instruct all armed groups including allied militias and Sudanese rebel groups operating in eastern Chad, to respect international humanitarian and human rights law and to end attacks and abuses against civilians (including IDPs) and humanitarian workers.
- Appoint a clear IDP focal point with the overall responsibility for protecting IDPs' rights.
- Through the IDP focal point, seek technical support and training in contingency planning in order to improve its emergency preparedness and response to conflict-induced internal displacement.
- Seek assistance from the international community to develop a National IDP Policy, including clear return and resettlement strategies in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
- Put an effective end to impunity and ensure that perpetrators of human rights abuses are identified and brought to justice, including members of the security forces and pro-government militias.
- Counter inter-ethnic conflict by entering into dialogue with religious and traditional leaders of all ethnic groups.
- Restore security in the departments most affected by conflict and banditry.
- Ensure that IDPs can move freely and return to home areas without fear of harassment or attack, in particular members of the Dadjo ethnic group and Chadian Arabs wishing to work their fields or to return to their village of origin.

To the National Committee of Human Rights

- Support the government in developing a national policy on the protection of IDPs' rights in Chad.
- Develop a programme to monitor the situation and the rights of IDPs in Chad.

To the Chadian rebel groups

- Issue clear orders to all combatants under your control to respect international humanitarian and human rights laws, and to end abuses against civilians.

To the Sudanese rebel groups

- Cease support for Chadian militia groups and other armed groups responsible for attacks against civilians.
- Issue clear orders to all combatants under your control to respect international humanitarian and human rights law, and to end abuses against civilians.

To UN agencies in Chad

- Develop an IDP response strategy based on the principles of clear leadership, accountability and predictability.

- The Humanitarian Coordinator should seek a stronger leadership role to engage the government on the need to address the root causes of displacement and to protect IDPs' rights.
- Further strengthen the capacity of the UN's Human Rights Division to collect IDP-specific information and to advocate for IDPs' rights at various levels.

To UN agencies and international NGOs in Chad

- Collaborate to enable timely, coordinated and comprehensive support to IDPs in eastern Chad within a cluster-based response mechanism.
- Facilitate and support initiatives by IDPs, local populations and traditional leaders to establish or revive conflict resolution and mitigation mechanisms.

To donors

- Support projects within different appeals to improve the protection of IDPs (and other vulnerable groups).
- Beyond the emergency IDP response, support projects that focus more on longer-term goals, including conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation in potential areas of return.

Important sets of recommendations regarding IDPs have been included in the following document and should be considered:

- ["They Came Here to Kill Us". Militia Attacks and Ethnic Targeting of Civilians in Eastern Chad](#)", Human Rights Watch, January 2007

Other sections of the report

[Background](#)
[Causes of displacement](#)
[Increasing number of IDPs](#)
[Pattern of displacement](#)
[Lack of security](#)
[Freedom of movement](#)
[Recruitment and use of child soldiers](#)
[IDP sites](#)
[Living conditions](#)
[National response](#)
[International response](#)

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND

Background

Background (Special report, 2007)

Since gaining independence from France in 1960, landlocked Chad has experienced decades of instability, misrule, corruption, military coups and low-intensity conflict, interspersed with periods of full-scale civil war with international dimensions. Despite its wealth of natural resources (uranium, kaolin, gold, limestone, sand and gravel, salt) and since 2003 its oil revenue, Chad remains on UNDP's Human Development Index for 2006 as the seventh-lowest performing of 177 countries.

In 1990, Idriss Déby Itno overthrew the dictatorial regime of Hissène Habré and raised hopes that he would bring the stability necessary for Chad's development. In 1996, the country embarked on a democratic transition which led to political plurality and a series of (albeit irregular) elections in 1996/1997, 2001/2002 and 2006. However, the underlying political and social schisms have not been addressed and the country has continued to face coup attempts, rebellions and mutinies.

Despite several peace deals signed with various rebel armed groups within and outside Chad, the political and security situation started deteriorating in 2005, following a number of major attacks by Chadian rebels based in Sudan's Darfur, including the attacks of December 2005 on Guereda and Adre in eastern Chad, as well as the attempted coup in March 2006. The situation has remained particularly tense since the April 2006 rebel offensive in several Chadian provinces, including the capital N'Djamena, even though it was repelled by the Chadian army with the significant military assistance of the French. The relocation of armed forces from the border areas to strategic towns has created a security vacuum in vast areas of eastern Chad, leaving residents of many villages caught up in the conflict without any sort of protection. (UN OCHA, November 2006, p.9; UNHCR, February 2007, p.3)

The conflict in Darfur, which since 2003 has caused massive population movements across the border into eastern Chad, has also increased political tensions inside Chad, not least because of the military involvement of Déby Itno's ethnic group, the Zagawa, one of the groups that straddle the border with Darfur. The assistance given by Déby Itno to Sudanese rebel groups operating from eastern Chad prompted the Sudan government's decision to harbour Chadian rebel groups in Darfur. Tensions started to mount between Chad and Sudan amid mutual accusations of arming, financing and harbouring respective rebel groups, which resulted in the suspension of diplomatic relations in April 2006. The two countries have since restored diplomatic relations and signed several peace deals, agreeing to stop conflict spilling across their borders; however, these agreements have so far failed to prevent the cross-border violence. Also, the two governments disagree on the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur and in eastern Chad. (Roy and Massey, May 2007, p.4.)

The dissatisfaction with Déby Itno's handling of the conflict, and with the corruption surrounding his management of the oil wealth, as well as social unrest stemming from the deepening economic crisis, have plunged eastern Chad into a state of continuing conflict and have led to a growing radicalisation of the political and military elites. (Ibid.)

Chronology of key events (1946-2007)

BBC, 21 May 2007:

Chronology of key events (1946-2006)

A chronology of key events:

1883-93 - Sudanese adventurer Rabih al-Zubayr conquers kingdoms of Ouadai, Baguirmi and Kanem-Bornu, situated in what is now Chad.

1900 - France defeats al-Zubayr's army.

1913 - French conquest of Chad completed; Chad becomes a colony within French Equatorial Africa.

1946 - Chad becomes a French overseas territory with its own territorial parliament and representation in the French National Assembly.

1960 - Chad independent with a southern Christian, Francois - later Ngarta - Tombalbaye, as president.

1963 - Banning of political parties triggers violent opposition in the Muslim north, led by the Chadian National Liberation Front, or Frolinat.

1966 - Northern revolt develops into a fully-fledged guerrilla war.

1973 - French troops help put down the northern revolt, but Frolinat continues guerrilla operations throughout the 1970s and 1980s with the help of weapons supplied by Libya.

Libyan intervention

1975 - Tombalbaye deposed and killed in coup led by another southern Christian, Felix Malloum.

1977 - Libya annexes the northern Chadian Aouzou strip.

1979 - Malloum forced to flee the country; a coalition government headed by a Muslim northerner, Goukouni Oueddei, assumes power.

1980 - Libya sends in troops to support Oueddei in his fight against the Army of the North, led by a former prime minister, Hissene Habre.

1981 - Libyan troops withdraw at Oueddei's request.

1982 - Habre's troops capture the capital, N'Djamena.

1983 - The Organization of African Unity recognizes Habre's government, but Oueddei's forces continue resistance in the north with Libyan help.

1987 - The combined troops of Frolinat and the Chadian Government, with French and US assistance, force Libya out of the entire northern region apart from the Aouzou strip and parts of Tibesti.

First democratic elections

1990 - Habre toppled after his army is defeated by rebels of the Sudan-based and Libyan-backed Patriotic Salvation Movement, led by a former Habre ally, Idriss Deby.

1993 - National democracy conference sets up a transitional government with Deby as interim president and calls for free elections within a year.

1994 - International Court of Justice rejects Libyan claims on Aouzou and rules that Chad had sovereignty over the strip.

1996 - Deby wins Chad's first multi-party presidential election.

1997 - Deby's Patriotic Salvation Movement triumphs on legislative elections.

1998 - The Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad, led by Deby's former Defence Minister, Youssouf Togoimi, begins armed rebellion against the government.

2000 July - Rebels of the Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT) say they have captured the key government garrison town of Bardai in the north.

2001 20 March - Court of appeal in Senegal upholds ruling that former Chadian President Habre should not be made to stand trial in Senegal, where he is in exile. It decided that Senegal's courts do not have the jurisdiction to try Habre on torture charges during his eight years in power in Chad.

2001 May - Deby declared winner in 20 May presidential election. Six unsuccessful presidential candidates are picked up for questioning by police but are released an hour later.

2001 June - Chad's highest court confirms Idriss Deby's re-election even though results from 25% of polling stations were cancelled because of irregularities.

2001 August - President Deby sworn in for a second five-year term.

Peace deals

2002 January - Government and Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT) rebels sign Libyan-brokered peace deal intended to end three-year civil war.

2002 May - MDJT rebels and government forces clash in the far north; 64 are killed in the first outbreak of fighting since January's peace accord.

2003 January - Government signs peace deal with National Resistance Army (ANR) rebels, active in the east.

2003 October - Chad becomes an oil exporter with the opening of a pipeline connecting its oil fields with Cameroon.

2003 December - MDJT, government sign another peace accord. MDJT hardliners reject deal.

Darfur impact

2004 January-February - Thousands of Sudanese refugees arrive in Chad to escape fighting in Darfur region of western Sudan.

2004 April-May - Chadian troops clash with pro-Sudanese government militias as fighting in Sudan's Darfur region spills over the border.

2005 June - Voters back constitutional changes which allow the president to stand for a third term in 2006.

2005 November - Former president, Hissene Habre, is arrested in Senegal over allegations of crimes against humanity.

2005 December - Rebels attack the town of Adre, near the Sudanese border. Chad accuses Sudan of being behind the incident.

2006 January - President Deby backs a law to reduce the amount of oil money spent on development. The move angers the World Bank, which suspends loans and orders the account used to collect oil revenues to be frozen.

2006 March - Government says an attempted military coup has been thwarted.

Rebel battle

2006 April - Rebels seeking to oust President Deby battle government forces on the outskirts of the capital. Hundreds of people are killed. Chad cuts diplomatic ties with Sudan, accusing it of backing the rebels.

2006 May - President Deby is declared the winner of presidential elections. The main opposition parties boycott the poll.

2006 January-June - Thousands of refugees flee eastern areas as marauding Arab Janjaweed militia from Sudan's Darfur region penetrate deeper into Chad.

2006 July - Parliament approves the establishment of Chad's first state oil company, the Societe des Hydrocarbures du Tchad (SHT), which is expected to give Chad greater control over its energy assets.

2006 August - President Deby threatens to expel US energy giant Chevron and Malaysia's Petronas for failing to honour tax obligations, but relents after coming to an agreement with the companies.

2006 October - The army puts tanks on the street of the capital in anticipation of an apparent rebel advance.

2006 November - State of emergency imposed in eastern areas bordering Sudan's Darfur region after a spate of ethnic violence.

2006 December - Private newspapers stop publishing and several radio stations alter their programming to protest against state censorship under the state of emergency.

2007 February - UN refugee agency warns that violence against civilians in Chad could turn into genocide; it says killing tactics from neighbouring Darfur in Sudan are being used in eastern Chad.”

2007 May - Chad and Sudan agree to stop conflict spilling across their borders but critics fear the agreement is unlikely to reduce the violence.

Chad's rich ethnic makeup a factor in politics and conflicts (2007)

- Chad's population partly sedentary and partly nomadic
- Ethnic makeup comprises different groups living in areas extending across borders
- The Zaghawa, For, Toundjour, Tama, Arenga Dolok and Massalites present in the east as well as across border in Darfur
- Ethnicity a factor in political factionalism and conflicts, with solidarity often down to family or community level
- A fundamental division between the Islamic North and Christian/animist South relating back to and exacerated during colonial administration

ECHO, December 2006, p.4

“Chad covers an area of 1 284 000 sq km with an estimated population of 8.986 million. The population, sparse particularly in the north and partly sedentary and partly nomadic, is made up of different ethnic groups living in areas extending beyond Chad's borders: in the east, the Zaghawa, For, Toundjour, Tama, Arenga Dolok and Massalites. The same ethnic groups are present in Darfur and the composition of the refugee population does not differ from that of the host population.”

Roy and Massey, March 2007, p.3-5

“At independence, Chad's immense ethnic diversity – there are an estimated 127 living languages spoken within its borders – exacerbated a pre-existing propensity toward factionalism. Furthermore, intra-group relations, especially in the combative North, were highly prone to segmentation. The factionalism of the civil war underscored this inclination to find allies amongst neighbouring sub-groups, rather than amongst inclusive ethnic, religious or linguistic groups.⁷ William Foltz points out that whilst the struggle against foreign domination engendered varying degrees of ethnic solidarity in other parts of Africa, “post-1965 conflicts in Chad more often broke solidarities down to lineage or family level, instead of promoting and sustaining cohesion of larger social groups”.⁸ Sam Nolutshungu designated these units semi-independent “community-constituencies”.⁹ As government in the capital N'Djaména dissolved into a succession of ever-changing coalitions, faction leaders personified a dual recognition of political representation.”

[...]

Whilst the tendency toward factionalism with its nuances and subtleties has driven conflict in Chad, there remains a more crude, but real, animus between two fundamental sections of the population. A derelict colonial administration exacerbated the pre-existing hostility between the Islamic North and the Christian/animist South, the “breadbasket” of the country referred to by the French as *Tchad utile* – useful Chad. France gave preferential treatment to the South and

Southern leaders, and the legacy of French sectionalism endures.¹² Most of the country's agricultural wealth, as well as the vital oil reserves lie in the South. But there has not been a Southern president since the resignation of Félix Malloum in 1979, and successive Northern Muslim leaders, including Déby Itno, have made effective use of military repression and political "divide and rule" tactics to marginalize the South's influence. As a result Southern rancour towards the North has become entrenched. Although in post-independence Chad, federalism and, with still greater emphasis, secession have been minority positions with Southern politicians basically seeking to control a unitary state, it now seems clear that there is a groundswell of opinion behind autonomy for the South.¹³ "

With increasing militarization of ethnic groups and communities, eastern Chad at the brink of widespread communal violence (January 2007)

- In some parts of the country security officials exploit ethnic differences and trigger communal violence
- Security officials distribute weapons to traditional ethnic groups associated with rebels
- There is concern similar tactics may be used in eastern Chad where ethnic groups have become polarized due to sectarian nature of violence
- With increasing militarization, eastern Chad stands on the brink of widespread communal violence

HRW, January 2007, p.6

"Human Rights Watch received credible reports that in other parts of Chad security officials are exploiting ethnic differences and triggering communal violence in the short-term pursuit of strategic advantage in counterinsurgency efforts, through distributing weapons to the traditional adversaries of some of the ethnic groups that are associated with the Chadian rebel movements. Human Rights Watch is concerned that the Chadian security officials may be using similar tactics in eastern Chad in an attempt to weaken Chadian rebel movements, many of which are confederations of ethnic-based militias.

Ethnic groups in eastern Chad have become polarized by the sectarian nature of the recent violence, wherein militia raids tend to skirt Arab villages, even in hard-hit border areas that are largely abandoned due to insecurity. As arms and ammunition flow into the region and communities become increasingly militarized, eastern Chad stands at the brink of widespread communal violence."

Causes of displacement

Causes of displacement (Special report, 2007)

Forced displacement in eastern Chad has been caused by an armed conflict between the government and rebel groups, cross-border raids by militias from neighbouring Sudan and spiralling inter-communal violence.

Since the end of 2005, there has been intensive fighting between the government forces and numerous rebel groups. Nevertheless, the internal conflict may not be the major direct cause of displacement. Of greater consequence is the government's decision to withdraw the *Armée Nationale du Tchad* (Chadian National Army, ANT) from the south east to concentrate only on

strategic centres, in response to the increasing attacks from rebel movements elsewhere in Chad. This move has left the area along the south-eastern border with Darfur devoid of security. Since then, civilians and villages in the Dar Sila and Dar Assounga departments of the Ouaddai region bordering Darfur, inhabited mainly by non-Arab populations, have been subject to continuous cross-border attacks. These attacks have been primarily attributed to Sudanese militia groups known as Janjaweed (literally, “thieves on horseback” or “Arab nomads”). (“In fact, this term encompasses a wide range of armed actors, including rebels, bandits, militias, etc. These various actors lean on different ethnic groups at a time of strained relationships between nomads and sedentary populations, who are fighting over access to land, water and agricultural resources.” MSF, 18 December 2006.)

Another cause of displacement is the increasing internal and cross border inter-ethnic violence. Although Chadian society is ethnically diverse, religiously divided and prone to factionalism, traditional conflict-prevention mechanisms have long been effective in ensuring the fragile but peaceful coexistence of the communities living on both sides of the border between Chad and Darfur. This area is mainly populated by Ouaddai, Massalite, Arabs, For and Dadjo. Recently, these mechanisms have broken down and traditional leaders have lost authority. While cross-border attacks by militias have been mainly directed at non-Arab populations, Chadian ethnic militia groups have tended to raid Chadian Arab villages viewed as complicit to the Sudanese Janjaweed. In addition, some Arabs in villages close to those previously attacked have reportedly fled to avoid possible future attack on their village. Consequently, the relationships between the different ethnic groups, already exacerbated by competition for scarce water, grazing land and other resources, have significantly deteriorated.

The increasing militarisation of different ethnic groups adds to the inter-communal violence that causes the displacement of civilians. Because of the government’s failure to ensure security in the volatile border area, civilians have started to provide for their own protection by organising self-defence forces and entering into security alliances with neighbouring militias, most of the time along ethnic lines. The Sudanese rebel groups that are operating in eastern Chad with the support and backing of the Chadian government have in some instances trained, organised and supplied these community-based militias. (HRW, January 2007, p.5) In other parts of Chad, security alliances and local officials are reportedly exploiting ethnic differences and triggering violence between communities. Searching for strategic advantage in counter-insurgency efforts, they distribute weapons to traditional adversaries of some of the ethnic groups associated with the Chadian rebel movements. *Ibid.*, p.6 There is concern that this tactic may be used in eastern Chad in order to weaken Chadian rebel groups, which are confederations of ethnically-based militias. Indeed, while sporadic disarmament campaigns have targeted mainly Arab populations, in January 2007 the Chadian security forces reportedly distributed 1,000 Kalashnikovs to the Dadjo, who are the population group most affected by displacement. (IDMC interviews with IDPs and traditional and religious leaders, 26, 27, 28, 29 April 2007 in Goz Beida and Koukou.)

In addition, movements of troops and the presence of rebels carrying out training exercises in the mountains on the border with Darfur are threatening the safety of civilians, and forcing them to abandon their villages. (NRC’s IDMC interviews, 26 April 2007 in Goz Beida.)

A mixture of conflicts cause displacements (May 2007)

- Many different armed groups operate in eastern Chad and make violence a blur
- Conflict in eastern Chad fluid and driven by multiple factors
- Scarce resources, rivalry between sedentary and nomadic groups and or ethnic communities and widespread circulation of small arms adds to inter-ethnic violence

- The spill-over of the Darfur conflict and presence of different armed groups in eastern Chad adds to the inter-ethnic violence

IRIN, 9 May 2007

“The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have revised earlier appeals for emergency assistance in eastern Chad largely due to a sudden increase in the number of people displaced by violence in the area...

Augstburger [senior emergency officer for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] said eastern Chad is awash with armed groups, including Sudanese rebels and militiamen, and various rival local communities. ‘There are so many actors fighting each other that the violence has become a blur.’”

UN OCHA, May 2007, p.1

“Conflicts in Eastern Chad are traditionally fluid. Individual ambitions, rivalry between sedentary and nomadic groups and/or ethnic communities, the widespread circulation of small arms, the spill-over of the conflict in Darfur and the presence of Chadian and Sudanese rebel forces and militias all contribute to a tense environment. This is compounded by increased pressure on scarce natural resources.”

HRW, January 2007, p.21

“The root causes driving the crisis in eastern Chad are multiple. They include conflict over land and natural resources, particularly water, in an area of environmental extremes where rain failure can seriously disrupt access to pasture and the success of agriculture. Beyond resource conflict, the destabilizing impact of the broader political tensions in Chad, the influence of the numerous armed groups in the region, many linked to the Darfur conflict, and the manner in which the Chadian government has responded to the insecurity are all driving conflict. At the community level, dispute resolution mechanisms have broken down.

These frictions are obviously necessary ingredients in an explosive mix, but communal tensions per se are not sufficient to unleash widespread communal violence.⁵¹ Rather, the proximate cause of the atrocities that took place in eastern Chad in 2006 can be found in decisions made by the various armed forces and political leaders in the region in response to the increasing attacks from Chadian rebel movements. These include the government of Chad’s decision to withdraw the Armée Nationale de Tchad (Chadian National Army, ANT) from the area, which produced a sustained security vacuum along the border.”

Politics and conflicts cause deterioration of internal situation (March 2007)

- Chad’s politics of faction rooted in socio-political history a factor in conflicts since independence
- Deterioration caused by spill-over of Darfur crisis, internal political crisis and militarization of political differences in the country
- Triple context of crisis comprising embezzlement of state oil revenues, radicalization of opposition and trans-national character of Darfur conflict

Roy and Massey, March 2007, p.3-5

“Politics in Chad is the politics of faction. There is a clear link between the upsurge in insecurity in the East and South-east since 2004 and the continuing conflict in Darfur. The fundamental

causes of that conflict, such as competition for scarce resources, notably land and water, apply equally to the fighting between groups in Chad. Yet beyond the violent contagion from Darfur, the dynamic of insurgency against the Déby Itno government has roots in the country's socio-political history. By 1963, just three years after independence from France, civil strife had gripped Chad. Since then rounds of factional fighting, ranging from chronic low intensity conflict to all out civil war, have been interspersed with cyclical external intervention, both regional and international. Factions form, fight, ally and dissolve seemingly in accordance with tacit conventions.⁶

ICG, June 2006

“The rapid deterioration of the internal situation is not due solely to a spill-over of the Darfur crisis and Khartoum's deliberate use of Chadian warlords in its counter-insurgency strategy, as Déby's government claims. It is equally the manifestation of the political crisis of the semi-authoritarian regime and the absence of domestic political space that has militarised all political differences in the country. However, the ever deeper links between Darfur and the clashes in Chad underscore the convergence of the two crises and the difficulty of settling one independently from the other.

A hopeful aura surrounded Déby's rise to power in 1990. Libya's regional policy was becoming more normal, and the Cold War's end encouraged transition to multiparty politics. But the one-party culture and the drive to control all political space prevailed at the 1993 national conference. Although numerous parties exist, the institutions guaranteeing democracy have largely been emptied of substance. The 1996 and 1997 elections were marred by fraud; those of 2001 and 2002 were farcical.

Déby's sixteen-year rule has been marked by coup attempts and rebellions that were either suppressed with extreme violence or partially settled by expelling dissident elements to Sudan and the Central African Republic. Chad has known relative peace but never reconciliation, since renegotiating the social contract would have weakened the militarily dominant groups and opened a political process Déby did not control.

The present crisis has a triple context: systematic, large-scale embezzlement of state revenues triggering an unprecedented social crisis at a time when oil revenues should have allowed Chadians to live better; radicalisation of opposition within the inner ruling circles over the succession to Déby; and the Darfur war, which at one level should be considered trans-national because of massive involvement of Zaghawa (the president's ethnic group), who give the Darfur rebels the sanctuary and weapons necessary to sustain their struggle. Chadian armed opposition groups have aided the Sudanese government in Darfur, while Darfur rebels helped Chad's army turn back the April offensive.

The armed opposition to Déby is deeply divided by leadership clashes, not over objectives. While more than twenty others claim to be militarily active but are mostly present on the Internet, the three most significant groups are:

- the FUCD, headed by Mahamat Nour, which receives strong Sudanese support;
- the Zaghawa dissident groups, under the Rally of Democratic Forces (RaFD) umbrella and chaired by Timan Erdimi, a former director of Déby's cabinet; and
- the Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT), established in 1998 and operating in the extreme north along the Libyan border under the command of Mahmat Choua Dazi.

This armed opposition, however, reflects only the aspirations of marginal or minority groups in the population. A regime change by force in such a context would bring neither stabilisation nor a democratic opening.

There are about 70 political parties, some created by the regime to divide its opposition. The most significant joined in 2002 to create the Coordination of Political Parties for the Defence of

Democracy (CPPDD). Civil society has become increasingly organised due to national and international mobilisation around the oil and human rights issues. Unions and the exiled civil opposition also are important to the internal political dynamics.

The most shared aspirations among Chadians are for security (in particular, an end to ubiquitous police and army harassment) and a national dialogue that permits a political opening, the return of the armed opposition and transparent elections.”

A report of the International Crisis Group of 1 June 2006 provides an analysis of the political and social crisis in Chad

Ongoing violence along Chad-Sudan border continues to drive thousands of Chadians from their homes (April 2007)

- Numerous attacks on villages in south-eastern Chad force people to leave their homes
- Villages are burned to the ground and people brutally killed
- Many civilians subject to more than one displacement
- During displacement IDPs lost food and other commodities essential for their survival
- The magnitude of IDP situation formally recognized by UN Country Team in early 2006

MSF, 8 June 2007

"In eastern Chad, repeated deadly attacks on villages over the past 18 months have forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. Grouped together in camps where security is not always guaranteed, they live in basic huts and lack food, water and access to medical care."

UNHCR, 17 November 2006

"Displacement is continuing along the volatile Chad-Sudan border, with recent refugee arrivals from Darfur as well as thousands of Chadians being forced to flee ongoing violence.

[...]

Meanwhile, we are still receiving reports of bloody attacks on villages in south-eastern Chad near the border with Darfur. On Wednesday, the village of Samassin, 15 kms southwest of Kerfi, was attacked. One villager was reportedly killed and several wounded. UNHCR has so far received reports of 23 villages being attacked since November 4, and at least 20 others that were abandoned by residents who feared attacks were imminent. Since the latest round of violence began on November 4, we estimate at least 12,000 Chadians have fled their villages – about 7,000 of them are now gathered in Habile, near the town of Koukou. Habile already had some 3,500 displaced Chadians. Another 5,000 recently-displaced Chadians are encamped on the outskirts of Goz Beida, and many others are staying with relatives or friends in the town itself. Altogether, we estimate some 75,000 Chadians have been forced to flee their villages over the past year – 12,000 of them since the latest series of attacks began on November 4.

Some of the internally displaced are trying to quickly get back to their villages to salvage grain and other belongings. But several of them have been attacked, killed or wounded in so doing. On several occasions, returnees have been seriously attacked or even killed upon return.

Information from survivors of the recent attacks south of Goz Beida show a pattern over the past 12 days in which villages were surrounded by armed men – some in military uniforms – on horses and camels. In some cases, the attackers also used rocket propelled grenades, witnesses said. Villages have been burned to the ground and inhabitants gunned down while trying to flee. Survivors describe their attackers as Arab nomad tribes, both Chadians and Sudanese. The

testimonies are harrowing, including reports of babies, children, the elderly and infirm being burned alive in their houses because they were unable to flee. In one village, seven children were burned alive, according to residents. In another, a paralyzed man was trapped in his home and burned to death. The survivors are in a state of shock.”

UNHCR, May 2006, p.18

“From the end of 2005 to the present, there has been continuous unrest along the Chadian border with Sudan that has displaced people in the eastern part of the country. Chadian rebel activities combined with repeated attacks by the *Janjaweed* along the border have caused thousands of families to flee their villages with only basic belongings with them. The displacements and movements intensified further during the month of April 2006 in light of the deterioration of security along the border between Sudan (Darfur region) and Chad. Many people have been subjected to more than one displacement as *Janjaweed* attacks have continued to move further inland in Chad. During flight, displaced families have lost food and other commodities essential for their survival, especially during this period leading to the rainy season that commences in June.

In view of the above situation, a sizeable number of displaced persons have settled close to the refugee camps particularly Djabal and Goz Amir, where UNHCR has been assisting over 40,000 Sudanese refugees since 2004

The magnitude of the IDP situation in eastern Chad was formally recognized by the UN Country Team in Chad early this year, when the Chadian rebel activities intensified in eastern Chad after the attack on Adre on 18 December 2005. Attacks by the *Janjaweed*, reportedly from Sudan, also continued deeper into Chadian territory around the town of Koukou. More recently, on 13 April, Chadian rebels attacked N'djamena and a few days later, Adre. UNHCR has monitored the IDP situation in eastern Chad as early as June 2005. At the onset the number of IDPs was relatively small. The Office coordinated closely with ICRC. An IDP working group had been formed and ICRC was designated as the focal point. ICRC and MSF France and MSF Holland have been assisting IDPs in health, water, provision of NFIs and monitored the general security situation affecting the displaced population. Realizing the worsening situation facing IDPs, the UN Country Team fielded two multi-agency missions in March 2006. Both missions concluded that IDPs were seemingly not in dire need of food owing to recent good harvest. This situation is likely to change with time if appropriate interventions are not made and further deterioration of security occurs. A contingency plan led by WFP was subsequently developed. The teams also recognized a serious lack of protection”.

Peace efforts

Peace talks between Chadian government and rebel groups under way (June 2007)

- Chad government and rebel leaders met in Tripoli to discuss ways to end the internal conflict
- In December 2006, the government and rebel group FUC signed an agreement which still holds

Reuters, 22 June 2007

"Chad's government and rebel leaders gathered in Tripoli on Friday for Libyan-brokered peace talks aimed at ending an insurgency against President Idriss Deby's rule, rebel chiefs and Libyan officials said.

A coalition of Chadian rebels have been fighting a hit-and-run guerrilla war for well over a year against Deby's forces in eastern Chad, which is also hit by a spillover of refugees and Arab Janjaweed raiders from Sudan's Darfur region.

The bloody cycle of violence has included attacks on major towns and a rebel raid last year on Chad's capital N'Djamena.

Timan Erdimi, who forms part of the anti-Deby coalition, told Reuters by telephone from Tripoli that he and other rebel leaders were due to start talks on Saturday with a government delegation led by interim Prime Minister Adoum Younousmi.

"Deby has always refused to negotiate but, following pressure from Libya, he has agreed to talks," Erdimi said.

"We never wanted to negotiate but we've been asked by 'The Guide' (Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi) to do so and that's why we're here."

The rebels want Deby, who seized power in Chad in a 1990 eastern revolt and won a poll last year boycotted by opponents, to agree to a national political dialogue that would lead to early, free elections.

"We carried weapons only because the roads to peace were blocked before us," said Hassan Eljenadi of the Chadian National Reconciliation Movement, one of four rebel factions attending the Tripoli talks. "We came here not to surrender but for a brave reconciliation. If we don't find this, our forces are ready."

VIOLENCE SUBSIDES

Foreign aid groups attending several hundred thousand Sudanese refugees and Chadian civilians displaced by fighting in the east say violence has eased in recent weeks, partly because of peace pacts between Chad and Sudan brokered by Gaddafi and Saudi Arabia.

N'Djamena and Khartoum have in the past accused each other of supporting rebel groups opposed to their respective governments.

While keeping up a military offensive against the insurgents, Deby has also tried to coax them into laying down their arms. In December, he signed a peace deal with one rebel chief, Mahamat Nour Abdelkerim, and made him defence minister.

"Those who have rights can enjoy them. Those who want to be politicians can form a peaceful opposition," Chad's Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmat Allam-Mi told Reuters in Tripoli.

Relief workers are hoping Sudan's recent acceptance of a strong joint AU-U.N. peacekeeping force to be deployed in Darfur will also help to ease the conflict in eastern Chad. "

Expanding conflict in Darfur a cause of tensions and object of peace agreements between Chad and Sudan (May 2007)

- May 2007 - Chad and Sudan agree to end conflict, but critics say agreement is unlikely to reduce the level of violence or significantly impact on humanitarian crisis
- August 2006 Chad and Sudan restore diplomatic relations, and agree not to interfere in each other's affairs or host rebels fighting the other, but renewal of tensions possible
- April 2006 - Déby unilaterally severs relations with Sudan accusing Khartoum of supporting Chadian rebels
- December 2005 - Chad declares a "state of belligerence" with Sudan
- Over a dozen armed groups operate in the volatile border zone between Sudan and Chad and the two countries accuse each other of supporting the other's rebel groups

IRIN, 7 May 2007

"The presidents of Chad and Sudan last week agreed to stop conflict spilling across their borders but critics say the agreement is unlikely to reduce the level of violence and will have little impact on the humanitarian crisis that has displaced an estimated 140,000 Chadians.

"It is a temporary clearing of storm clouds but it is temporary," according to a high level international official in N'djamena who spoke to IRIN on the condition that his name be withheld.

"In the end it won't make a bloody bit of difference," he said, pointing out that Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir and Chad's President Idriss Deby signed other peace deals in recent months, brokered by northern neighbour Libya, and the conflict in the vast area that straddles the border between eastern Chad and western Sudan's Darfur region has continued.

The latest meeting, which ended on Thursday, was brokered by Saudi Arabia. "The two sides will adhere to working with the African Union and the United Nations to end the conflict in Darfur and east Chad to realise stability and peace for all," the Reuters news agency reported as saying.

The agreement follows a period of heightened tension between the two countries after Chadian army reportedly crossing into Sudan in pursuit of Chadian rebels and clashed with Sudanese troops. Sudan said the Chadians killed 17 of its soldiers on 9 April."

For more on the peaces process see an article by ISS of 11 may 2007 Darfur – Diplomatic cacophony at http://www.iss.co.za/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=4405&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

AFP, 28 August 2006

"Chad and Sudan have decided to restore diplomatic relations after almost going to war late last year over alleged Sudanese support for Chadian rebels. In a joint statement after three days of fence-mending talks in Khartoum, the two sides said they would "immediately" reestablish diplomatic ties and pledged not to interfere in each other's affairs or host rebels fighting the other nation.

More than three years of ethnic unrest in Sudan's western region of Darfur has spilled over into neighbouring Chad, with tens of thousands of refugees crossing the border to escape the fighting. On Sunday, Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmat Allami and Sudanese counterpart Lam Akol Ajawin announced the creation of a joint military-security commission and a joint force to secure their border. Resumed bilateral cooperation was also planned in all areas "of common interest", the statement said. Allami said Chad would "remain committed" to the accords and expressed hope that the restoration of relations would help ease the situation in Darfur. The combined effect of war and famine there has left as many as 300,000 people dead in the region and displaced more than two million.

On April 14, Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno had announced the breaking of relations after rebels from the United Front for Change (FUC) launched an abortive assault on N'Djamena with alleged Sudanese support. That rupture came despite a summit in Libya in February which had already tried to mend ties between the two governments after N'Djamena pronounced itself in a "state of belligerence" with Khartoum in December owing to its alleged support for the rebels. Meanwhile, the Chadian president's Zaghawa ethnic group straddles the border and provides significant support to the Darfur rebels."

UN OCHA, November 2006, p.9

“The growing conflict in Darfur has triggered an increase in tension between Chad and Sudan. Both countries have accused each other of supporting one another’s rebel groups to the point where Chad declared a “state of belligerence” with Sudan following the 18 December attack on Adre. In order to address the rising tension, both countries signed the Tripoli Declaration on 8 February where it was agreed that both countries would cease interfering in each other’s internal affairs. However, following the April attack in N’Djamena, Chad cut its diplomatic ties with Sudan and withdrew its role as a mediator for the Darfur crisis. The two countries however re-established diplomatic relations on the occasion of President Deby’s presidential inauguration in August. Nonetheless, differences regarding the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping force in Darfur, the lack of implementation of the Tripoli Agreement and the Darfur Peace Agreement are evident and could lead to renewed tension and conflict. There is an increasing concern that the conflict in Darfur will spread further into eastern Chad thereby causing greater instability in both regions.”

HRW, June 2006, p.6

“Although separated by an international border, Darfur and eastern Chad share many of the same ethnic groups, and the prevailing political dynamics in each region have a direct affect on the other. Chad’s current president, Déby, and former President Hissène Habré both took power at the head of insurgent armies based in Darfur that were backed by the Sudanese government. Many Chadians took refuge and eventual residence in Darfur during those years.

President Déby, himself a Zaghawa of the Bideyat clan, initially supported the Sudan government’s counter-insurgency campaign and refused to aid his fellow Zaghawas in Darfur. However, he isolated himself from many in his ethnic community with this policy. Several of the Darfur rebel groups received unofficial support from Chadian officials and private individuals in the first two years of the conflict, and a May 2004 coup attempt is thought to have been instigated by Zaghawa members of the government. Déby also came under increasing domestic political pressure in the run-up to the 2006 presidential elections over Chad’s burgeoning fiscal crisis.”

pp.7-9

“In October 2005, these pressures culminated in a wave of army desertions, and some in Déby’s inner circle, including elements of his Republican Guard, took up arms against him. Zaghawa deserters regrouped in Darfur under the banner of the Socle pour le Changement, l’Unité et la Démocratie (Platform for Change, Unity and Democracy, SCUD).

Several other small Chadian rebel movements were already based in West Darfur, including the Rassemblement pour la Démocratie et la Liberté (Rally for Democracy and Freedom, RDL), commanded by Mahamat Nour Abdelkarim, a Chadian from the Tama ethnic group. On December 28, the RDL and seven other Chadian anti-government armed groups created the Front Unique pour le Changement Démocratique au Tchad (Single Front for Democratic Change in Chad, FUCD), under the leadership of Mahamat Nour. Until late 2005 there was little evidence of Sudanese government support for these groups, despite a barrage of accusations from the government of Chad, but by October 2005 relations between N’djama and Khartoum were seriously strained. In addition to the Sudanese and Chadian military, more than a dozen armed groups were operating in the volatile border zone, including Sudanese government-backed Janjaweed militias, at least four factions of the Darfur rebel movements and several Chadian rebel forces. Chadian demands that Khartoum put a stop to cross-border Janjaweed militia attacks met with little response.

Tensions along the border came to a head in early December with a joint operation by Sudanese government troops, Janjaweed militias and Chadian rebels on the Changaya headquarters of SLA commander Khamis Abdullah Abaker in West Darfur. On December 18, Chadian RDL rebels led by Mahamat Nour attacked Adré. Although Chadian troops repelled the RDL assault, the Sudanese government appeared to have backed Mahamat Nour's action and Chad declared a "state of belligerence" with Sudan on December 23. The Chadian government responded to the growing menace from Darfur by seeking defensive alliances with Darfurian rebel groups in order to protect the porous border, particularly the stretch south of Adré that was increasingly vulnerable to cross-border attacks—precisely where SLA commander Khamis Abdullah was strong. President Déby reportedly backed efforts to unite the increasingly factionalized Darfur rebels. Early in 2006, Khamis Abdullah, who is Masalit, joined a new rebel alliance between Minni Minawi's SLA faction and the JEM18 and agreed to help secure the border inside West Darfur in return for material assistance from Chad.

Despite continuing to build alliances and maneuver behind the scenes, Chad and Sudan signed the Tripoli Agreement, brokered by Libyan president Muammar al-Qaddafi, on February 8, 2006, publicly vowing to cease all support for each other's respective opposition groups and calling for African Union observers to monitor the agreement. President Déby sought to bolster his regime through arms purchases, which were facilitated in March by \$65 million in taxes on petroleum operations that came due earlier than forecasted under a revenue management program coordinated by the World Bank.

On March 14, SCUD, the rebel group formed by Déby's Zaghawa relatives, attempted to overthrow the Déby regime by shooting down the president's aircraft, but Chad immediately named Sudan as the *éminence grise* behind the coup. The following weekend, starting on March 17, individuals linked to SLA commander Khamis Abdullah conducted a major recruitment campaign in two refugee camps in eastern Chad. An estimated 4,700 Masalit refugees, many of them children, were recruited into military service, some of them forcibly. In mid-April, Chadian rebels launched their most serious attack yet, hoping to oust Déby prior to the presidential elections scheduled for May 3. On April 12 an FUCD convoy swept hundreds of kilometers through Chad from bases in Darfur and Central African Republic, reaching N'djamena on April 13. At least 291 people died in the fighting, including civilians, government soldiers, and rebels. President Déby immediately accused the Sudanese government of backing the FUCD attack, which was repelled by Chadian military supported by Darfur rebels in eastern Chad, as well as low-key French military assistance in the form of logistics and intelligence and a warning shot ("coup de semonce") fired from a Mirage jet at an advancing rebel column. Several hundred rebel fighters were detained and publicly displayed in N'djamena by the Chadian authorities, with Chadian officials claiming that more than half were Sudanese. On April 14, Déby unilaterally severed relations with Sudan."

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE

Global figures

Increasing number of IDPs (Special report, 2007)

Although humanitarian organisations agree that the number of IDPs has been increasing continuously since April 2006, there is no common understanding of the current scope of the displacement situation, and the estimates of the number of IDPs differ. While some organisations have reported a figure of 105,000 to 120,000, other agencies have proposed a range of between 140,000 and 165,000. However, a profiling exercise undertaken in 14 IDP sites by Intersos, IFORD, UNHCR and ICRC in April 2007 estimated the total number of IDPs in the Dar Assoungha and Dar Sila departments of Ouaddai region at 146,896. This figure still needs to be validated by humanitarian agencies. It does not, however, cover all IDP sites or areas which are currently inaccessible to humanitarian organisations. Moreover, people continue to be forcibly displaced, with around 1,000 newly displaced reported around Guereda in Wadi Fira region in May 2007. (UNICEF, 15 May 2007; WFP, 16 May 2007; UNICEF 11 June 2007) As of mid-June 2007, UNHCR estimates that there are more than 172,600 IDPs in eastern Chad. (UNHCR, 17 June 2007)

Humanitarian organisations estimate that 140,000 Chadians have been displaced (May 2007)

- Civilians have continued to be displaced over the past 18 months
- There are 9 major IDP sites and 17 smaller scattered sites
- The majority of the displaced are located in the Dar Sila and Dar Assoungha departements

UN OCHA, May 2007, p.1

"Military operations and intercommunity violence have resulted in a steady deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Humanitarian organisations estimate that 140,000 Chadians have been internally displaced over the past 18 months, mainly in the Dar Sila and Dar Assoungha departments.

While most IDPs are from Dadjo and Massalites origins, attacks on "Arab" communities have recently

been on the rise and additional displacements could still happen before the rainy season, particularly

in areas bordering Darfur. At this stage, prospects for the return of IDPs appear limited."

More than 90,000 people internally displaced in eastern Chad (November 2006)

UNHCR, 24 November 2006

"UNHCR now estimates that more than 90,000 people are displaced in eastern Chad, including at least 15,000 since the beginning of November in the south-east of the country near the border with Sudan's troubled Darfur region. Some 7,000 of them have gathered in the outskirts of Goz Beida, where they have sought shelter under trees or wherever they can get it."

Geographical distribution

Between 10-15,000 IDPs located in the Goz Beida area (July 2006)

- Most of the displaced live with host families
- IDP settlements are in sites close to host village, accessible to humanitarian organizations
- IDPs in flooding prone areas refuse to move to new sites

UN OCHA, 14 July 2006, pp.1-2

“Most of the internally displaced who moved westwards away from the border – some 10-15,000 people – went to the Goz Beida area where there are two Sudanese refugee camps and where UNHCR and a number of NGOs have a presence.

The Chadian government and humanitarian organizations have agreed on the need to avoid setting up ‘camps’ for the internally displaced, so as not to create a pull-factor for all those desperate for humanitarian aid. Most of the internally displaced are therefore living with host families and are being assisted mainly through community-based programmes. Where settlements cannot be avoided, the policy is to select sites close to host villages to which humanitarian organizations have access and where they can have adequate water, land for cultivation and protection. In the Goz Beida area, Chadian authorities and UNHCR remain locked in negotiations with displaced people who refuse to move to new sites despite the fact that their current location is prone to flooding and does not meet the agreed criteria.”

IDPs mainly from five ethnic groups (May 2006)

- Numbering between 40-50,000, IDPs, come mainly from Ouaddaian, Massalit, Arabs, Fur and Dadjo tribal groups

UNHCR May 2006, p.19

“Due to insecurity, access to IDPs is limited for humanitarian workers. Information obtained from local authorities, IDPs and local host communities estimate the population of the displaced to be between 40,000 and 50,000. They are mainly from the following tribal groups: Ouaddaian, Massalit, Arabs, Fur and Dadjo. The majority of the IDPs come from Bir Sale, Hillket, Goz Merem, Diniese, Mourmondji, Langata, Hadjer Beid and Modeyna. They live in makeshift shelters that afford them limited protection from the harsh conditions in Borota, Koloy, Goungour, Dogdore/Tur and Goz Beida.”

Most IDPs located in Assongha and Sila department (May 2006)

- 35,000 to 40,000 IDPs scattered though Sila and Assingha Departments
- IDPs live in host villages
- Women and children account for 70% of IDPs

FEWS NET, May 2006

“The food situation for the displaced population in eastern Chad is currently stable but, with the beginning of the rainy season, the outlook for the coming months is disconcerting. As of the beginning of May, the size of the displaced population is estimated to be approximately 35,000 to 40,000 individuals scattered throughout the Sila and Assongha Departments, with women and children accounting for 70% of this group. The host villages for the country’s displaced population are:

- Allacha, Borota, Goungour and Amlyouna in Assongha Department; and
- Koukou, Koloye, Daguessa, Moudeina, Dogdoré and Gouroukoun in Sila Department.”

Disaggregated data

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Patterns of displacement (Special report, 2007)

While more than 45,000 Chadians have taken refuge in Darfur, the majority of displaced people have moved westward and taken refuge in the Assoungha, Bahr Azoum, Dar Sila, Dar Tama and Ouara departments. The more than 100,000 IDPs who are hosted in the Dar Sila are mainly concentrated around the villages of Goz Beida, Goz Amer and Dogdoré. Others have moved close to refugee camps and humanitarian actors in the hope of finding security and assistance. Most IDPs are concentrated in nine major sites and 17 scattered smaller sites where security is not always guaranteed, while many other displaced people have remained in the most insecure border areas, south of Goz Amer, where humanitarian access is limited. IDPs to the north of Goz Bagar have been displaced at least twice since 2005. In Abdi, IDPs started to arrive at the beginning of 2007 and continue to arrive at the sites.

While the Darfur crisis started in 2003 and brought about the flow of more than 230,000 Sudanese refugees to eastern Chad, the internal displacement crisis in this region only started at the end of 2005 and developed in three main waves. The first wave took place between the end of 2005 and mid-2006, when some 53,000 civilians (UN OCHA, November 2006, p.1) were forced to flee the south-eastern border with Sudan's Darfur. From February to April 2006, several villages near the border were attacked, forcing the residents to move to what they thought would be safer areas. There they were attacked and displaced again. Some 12,000 civilians were reported to be concentrated in the area of Goz Beida, while the rest remained closer to their villages. (UNHCR, February 2007, p.3)

The second wave of displacement started at the end of 2006 along with a significant deterioration of the security situation. In November 2006, following a wave of inter-ethnic violence between Arab and non-Arab ethnic groups, some 50 villages south-east of Goz Beida were raided and at least 30 burned and destroyed. Over 250 people were killed and hundreds wounded. The attacks resulted in the displacement of some 25,000 civilians who gathered in the outskirts of Goz Beida, near Koukou Angarana, and in Koloy/Ade area. (MSF, 22 November 2006; UNHCR, 24, 28 November 2006; AI, 1 December 2006; IRIN, 11 December 2006) Between December 2006 and January 2007, the situation deteriorated further and another wave of attacks in the Koukou-Angarana area left 30 people dead and displaced an estimated 20,000 Chadians. More than 10,000 were displaced as a result of cross-border attacks, allegedly by Janjaweed militia, in the region of Borota. Another 10,000 from more than 20 villages fled inter-communal hostilities and gathered in the village of Gassire, 8 km north of the town of Goz Beida, while other displaced moved towards Goz Amir refugee camp. (MSF, 18 December 2006; UNHCR, 5 January, February, 2007)

The third wave started on 31 March 2007 when, following brutal attacks on the villages of Tiero and Marena 45 km east of the village of Koukou-Angarana, more than 9,000 civilians from 31 villages were forced to flee. Between 200 and 400 people were killed and at least 80 wounded. The people displaced, who took refuge in the new Habilé site for IDPs, blamed the attacks on Janjaweed militiamen on horses and camels assisted by Chadian rebels with heavy weaponry and vehicles. (UNHCR, 10 April 2007; OXFAM, 20 June 2007) At the time of writing, displacements continue.

IDPs move westward from the border to the Goz Beida area (July 2006)

- Creation of camps in the Goz Beida area generally avoided, not to create a pull-factor
- Most displaced live with host families and get assistance through community-based programmes
- Some squat on the outskirts of villages
- Where unavoidable, IDP settlements located close to host villages accessible to humanitarian organizations
- Some IDPs forced to moved for the second or third time

UN OCHA, 14 July 2006, pp.1-2

“Most of the internally displaced who moved westwards away from the border – some 10-15,000 people – went to the Goz Beida area where there are two Sudanese refugee camps and where UNHCR and a number of NGOs have a presence.

The Chadian government and humanitarian organizations have agreed on the need to avoid setting up ‘camps’ for the internally displaced, so as not to create a pull-factor for all those desperate for humanitarian aid. Most of the internally displaced are therefore living with host families and are being assisted mainly through community-based programmes. Where settlements cannot be avoided, the policy is to select sites close to host villages to which humanitarian organizations have access and where they can have adequate water, land for cultivation and protection. In the Goz Beida area, Chadian authorities and UNHCR remain locked in negotiations with displaced people who refuse to move to new sites despite the fact that their current location is prone to flooding and does not meet the agreed criteria.”

BBC, 20 April 2006

“The village of Gouroukoun sits in a giant valley, 100 km from the Chad-Sudan border. Normally this valley is almost empty, but hundreds of temporary shelters now dot the landscape. It looks like a refugee camp, but the people squatting here are Chadians, who have been forced to flee their homes near the border with Sudan.

Several different armed groups - both rebels and robbers - are operating in parts of this area, while Chad's army has withdrawn to key towns, leaving much of the border unguarded.

Up to 50,000 people are currently squatting on the outskirts of villages, after leaving their own homes in the border region.

The government accuses Sudan of backing rebel groups which earlier this month passed through this area and reached the capital, N'Djamena, before being beaten back.

But those who have fled to Gouroukoun say they were not attacked by rebels but by Sudan's Janjaweed militia, who have crossed the border to loot.

On the move

[...]

For many of the Chadians, it was the second or even third time they had been forced to move.”

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Overview

Lack of security (Special report, 2007)

In eastern Chad, civilians face serious security risks related both to ongoing fighting between various armed groups and attacks on villages and IDP sites. Acts of violence against civilians are committed by the Sudanese and Chadian rebel and militia groups and sometimes by soldiers of the ANT. There are reports of deliberate targeting of civilians, especially women and children. (UN OCHA, November 2006 p.1 ; AI, 1 December 2006) IDPs are exposed to a range of threats to their personal security and integrity, including when they are in IDP sites. There have been cases of arbitrary killings, including by burning alive, and of rapes and mutilation. Moreover, the displaced often have their houses and other property destroyed or taken away. The attacks are of varied intensity and range from the theft of cattle to setting whole villages on fire. Hundreds upon hundreds of homes have been burned to the ground and their inhabitants have lost all their assets, including livestock and food supplies. (Fews Net, May 2006, pp.2-3; UNHCR, 10 April 2007) Attacks on humanitarian aid workers and cases of theft of humanitarian personnel's vehicles are also reportedly on the rise. (UN OCHA, November 2006 p.1.)

An important risk factor stems from the fact that some combatants of the so-called Toroboro – members of Sudanese rebel groups and Chadian militias fighting alongside the ANT – live among the civilian population. This exposes civilians to further attacks by groups opposed to the government. Undisciplined and drunk Toroboro combatants pose further threats to civilians, for example by harassing adolescent girls. (UN OCHA, November 2006 p.1.)

Finally, the increased number of armed men and the circulation of small arms, including in IDP sites, have led to an increase in highway banditry. This, in turn, has reduced the flow of goods such as food in the affected regions. (FewsNet, January 2007, pp.2-3; IDMC interviews with traditional leaders, 26 April 2007 in Goz Beida Extortion and racketeering are rampant. WFP, 2 May 2007)

Forced displacement, human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses in eastern Chad continue. The immediate challenge is to ensure the physical security of civilians and humanitarian operations. Although the government is responsible for the protection of civilians, Chadian security forces have failed to prevent cross-border raids by militia groups from Sudan, and have been unwilling or unable to control the activities of armed groups operating within Chad. Given the weak presence of state institutions in the conflict-affected areas and the absence of functioning law enforcement structures, crimes by all sides have been committed with total impunity. (UN OCHA, May 2007, p.5)

No mechanism is in place to systematically monitor, document and follow up on violations and abuses of IDPs' human rights.

Freedom of movement (Special report, 2007)

Freedom of movement remains severely limited by the volatile security situation. The limitations are often due to the high risks involved in moving outside IDP sites. When IDPs do leave to look

for resources such as firewood, they expose themselves to attacks by armed groups and individuals; there have also been reports of women being raped or beaten by host communities when they ventured too far from the site. Inability to move freely deprives the displaced people of access to resources, mainly water and land, and denies them their livelihoods. (UN OCHA, May 2007, p.5)

The displaced are afraid to return to their villages because armed groups are still controlling many areas in the region. There is no systematic mechanism for disseminating information on the situation in their villages of origin and locations of attacks. Some displaced people have tried to return to salvage their belongings and, in the process, they have been killed. (UNHCR, 24 November 2006) As there are no sure guarantees of an end to the displacements, there is also no possibility of safe return.

Recruitment and use of child soldiers (Special report, 2007)

Armed groups on all sides have recruited and continued to use child soldiers. The ANT have been recruiting in IDP sites, including Gassiré, Kouroukoun, Habilé and Aradib. (IDMC interviews with traditional and religious leaders in Goz Beida, 26, 27 April 2007). Youth and children are also said to be recruited by army officials. They are recruited by ethnic militia groups as well, or they join such groups for their own security. In schools along the troubled eastern zone near Sudan, it is understood that when a boy is suddenly absent from the classroom, he has probably joined one of the fighting groups. Some children join the army after armed men have killed members of their families. (VOA, 15 May 2007) In the military installations in Mongo in the region of Guera alone, UNICEF and Child Protection NGOs have identified and registered 400 children associated with armed groups, most of whom originate from the conflict-affected area of Guereda. (UNICEF, 31 May 2007) It is reported that *Forces Unies pour le Changement*, the rebel group that has lately signed a peace agreement with the government, has more than 1,000 child soldiers in its ranks. (UNICEF, 9 May 2007)

Recently, Chad's government admitted that there are child soldiers in the ANT and signed an agreement with UNICEF for the demobilisation of children enrolled in armed forces and groups. UNICEF will also help the government prevent the recruitment of children and ensure their liberation and reintegration into their communities. (UNICEF, 9 May 2007)

IDP sites (Special report, 2007)

When the displacements started, the Chadian government and humanitarian organisations agreed on the need to avoid setting up "camps" for the internally displaced so as not to create a "pull factor" for all those desperate for humanitarian aid. The displaced initially lived with host families and were assisted mainly through community-based programmes. However, as more and more civilians were forced out of their homes and villages, settlements could no longer be avoided. The government, together with humanitarian organisations, selected a number of sites close to host villages, to which humanitarian organizations have access and where IDPs can have access to water and land for cultivation and where they can be protected. However, in a number of areas such as in Goz Beida, even after negotiations between the government, UNHCR and displaced people, the IDPs refused to move to new sites although their current locations were prone to flooding, did not meet the agreed criteria and belonged to host communities who would need them for cultivation. (RI, 11 April 2006 ; UN OCHA, 30 November 2006)

The criteria used by the government to locate IDP sites have to be reviewed in order to avoid tensions between the displaced groups themselves, and with host communities. In view of the

limited resources available, the continued presence of Sudanese refugees and IDPs has caused unrest between the displaced and host populations. (UN OCHA, November 2006, p.9) In Farchana and other areas of the Dar Sila, some sites are located on flood-prone areas on land generally cultivated by host populations. Some IDP sites, as well as refugee camps, are very close to Arab villages and can only add to the tensions that already exist between the communities. In addition, the concentration of newly displaced people close to refugee camps and IDP sites has put enormous pressure on resources such as water, firewood and pasture land, and friction between IDPs and host communities is recurrent. (FewsNet, January 2007, pp.2-3.)

Physical security

Civilians victims of abuse by all warring parties (May 2007)

- Government unable to ensure protection of civilians and humanitarian workers
- Human rights and humanitarian law violations continue in a climate of impunity
- Civilians, including IDPs, victim of abuse by militia groups based in Darfur and Chad, Chadian self-defence groups and Chad-supported Sudanese rebel movements based in Chad
- Killings, rapes, looting, burning of villages among abuses faced by civilians
- Civilians victims of targeted attacks and/or casualties during fighting

“The Government has acknowledged its lack of capacity to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in eastern Chad. In the absence of effective administrative and military authorities, violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights law continue to be perpetrated, with internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and refugees becoming targets in a climate of total impunity. Discussions on the deployment of a United Nations multidimensional presence to help restore security in eastern Chad are yet to yield concrete results. In this context, humanitarian workers often appear as the sole actors trying to cope with the situation.”

UN SG report, S/2007/97, 20 February 2007, paragraph 9.

“While violence associated with rebel activities continues, it should be noted that civilians have generally not been targeted by the rebels. Militia attacks, on the other hand, have targeted civilians. Throughout late December and early January, militia groups attacked Chadian villages in the Dar Sila area of the Ouaddai region. In one particularly brutal assault, militia groups attacked Chadian civilians near the town of Koukou Angarana on 15 and 16 December 2006, killing 30, including local residents, internally displaced persons and a few Sudanese refugees who had wandered outside their camps. That was followed on 16 December by heavy fighting between ANT and militia groups around the town of Habilé, which is in the same area, forcing 9,000 internally displaced people who had sought refuge around Habilé to move towards Koukou Angarana; that was the second time they had been forced to flee for their lives.”

HRW, January 2007, p.24

“Various militia groups including Janjaweed groups based in Darfur and Arab militias based in Chad and Darfur have raped and killed Chadian civilians, have looted and burned Chadian villages and stolen livestock and other property. Community-based Chadian self-defense groups have killed Chadian civilians. Self-defense groups and government of Chad-supported Sudanese rebel movements with bases in Chad have been responsible for the recruitment and use of child

soldiers. The government of Chad has failed to take adequate action to protect civilians, has failed to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice, and has allowed a climate of impunity to persist in eastern Chad. The government of Chad bears responsibility for abuses carried out by entities that receive its support or sponsorship, including Sudanese rebel groups and community-based self-defense militias.”

For more information about human rights violations and abuses see “They Came Here to Kill Us: Militias Attacks and Ethnic Targeting of Civilians in Eastern Chad” and “Chad: Civilians under attack. Darfur conflict spreads to eastern Chad”

Security situation in border area deteriorates (March 2007)

- The Darfur crisis and deterioration of Chad-Sudan relations of grave impact on civilians
- Even when not targeted, civilian fall casualties during fighting
- Cross-border attacks worsen in scale and nature, causing death, detrsuction and more displacement
- Civilians more vulnerable to attacks since the withdrawal of government troops from rural areas
- Attacks on aid workers on the rise

UNHCR, 10 April 2007

HABILE CAMP, Chad,— Some 9,000 Chadians have arrived in UN refugee agency trucks and on their own at the Habile site for internally displaced persons after brutal attacks on two villages left houses torched and the ground strewn with dead.

A United Nations team headed by UNHCR reached the burnt out villages of Tiero and Marena on Sunday, a week after the March 31 attacks. Survivors blamed the attacks on janjaweed militiamen on horses and camels, assisted by Chadian rebels with heavy weaponry and vehicles. Decomposing bodies still lay on the ground and smoke hung in the air from the last of the fires that had destroyed their houses

Estimates of the death toll have risen to between 200 and 400, although the exact number may never be known. With improved security, friends and relatives have returned to bury the dead. Victims were buried where they fell, often in common graves. Many who survived the attacks – particularly the elderly and young children – died in subsequent days from exhaustion and dehydration, often while fleeing. About 80 additional people were wounded.

The attacks on the villages 45 kilometres east of the UNHCR sub-office in the village of Koukou-Angarana were far worse than initially thought. An estimated 8,000 local residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs) had been living in Tiero and Marena. Residents of other villages in the area also fled.

More than 9,000 Chadians from 31 villages have now arrived at the new Habile site for IDPs in UNHCR vehicles or by themselves. They joined another 9,000 who had fled earlier attacks in the region, especially last November and December when inter-communal violence left more than 200 dead and many wounded. The precise number of new IDPs remains unclear, and additional names are being presented to aid agencies daily. Many new arrivals had already been displaced several times in the past year.

UN OCHA, 14 July 2006, p.1

“The security situation in eastern Chad has deteriorated significantly over the last six months. Incursions by armed groups from Sudan have been intensifying, attacks on civilians have been increasing and ethnic tensions are rising. The withdrawal of Chadian government troops from rural areas has left civilians more vulnerable to attack than before. Over 50,000 Chadians have already been forced to flee their homes, most of them now being internally displaced in Chad, but some having fled across the border into Darfur. Attacks on aid workers are also increasing. A UNICEF staff member was shot in the arm in May and there have been numerous other security incidents since then.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator visited eastern Chad in early June, followed by a UN Security Council mission. Both have highlighted the need for urgent political action to deal with the deteriorating security situation. Unless this happens, there is a real risk that the situation may deteriorate further in the months ahead.

[...]

Most of the 50,000 internally displaced in eastern Chad remain in insecure border areas to which humanitarian organizations have limited access.”

HRW, June 2006, p.10

“The Darfur crisis and the deterioration of Chad-Sudan relations over the past nine months has had a three-fold effect on civilians:

First, the fighting between Chadian rebel and Chadian government forces has had both direct and indirect effects on civilians. While civilians do not appear to have been specifically targeted by Chadian rebel forces, there have been civilian casualties during the fighting, particularly in N’djamena. There are concerns that Chadian government forces have been implicated in a variety of abuses against civilians and captured rebels in connection with the Chadian rebel incursions.

Second, abuses by Darfur rebel groups operating in Chad, including the forced recruitment and mistreatment of Sudanese refugees in Chad, appear to be increasing and linked to the Chadian government’s efforts to secure its border from further incursions from Sudan.

Third, the cross-border attacks by Sudanese Janjaweed militias based in Darfur are worsening in both scale and in nature. Not only are these attacks penetrating deeper inside Chad and displacing tens of thousands of Chadian civilians, but they also appear to be drawing on alliances with Chadian civilians and potentially affecting the relations between different ethnic groups in eastern Chad”.

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS

Overview

Living conditions (Special report, 2007)

Until recently, the assistance provided by many organisations in Chad focused on the refugees arriving from Sudan's Darfur and neglected host communities and IDPs. Indeed, during the first months of displacement, there were very good mechanisms of solidarity among the population in place. Long before the intervention of humanitarian organisations, IDPs were taken care of by host communities which provided them with shelter and food even though their own resources were very limited. In some areas, there has been no screening of IDPs' living conditions from the beginning of displacement, and the assessment of needs is difficult. The continuously deteriorating security situation and the increasing number of IDPs has led to a significant reduction in the already-scarce resources of host communities, whose vulnerability is in some areas equal to that of IDPs. (WFP, February 2007, 4) Nonetheless displaced groups, and particularly those recently displaced, face particular difficulties in ensuring access to food, water and healthcare.

The ongoing and unpredictable crisis, the incapacity of the national authorities to tackle the increasing security concerns and the deterioration of the socio-political environment are all hampering IDPs' enjoyment of basic rights, and their access to a livelihood. (UN OCHA, November 2006 p.1.)

Food and water

The population of Chad is generally poor and inhabitants of the conflict-affected south-east already live in chronic poverty and face problems in accessing resources. In this context, IDPs face serious difficulties in accessing food. (WFP, 28 May 2007, p.17) In Kerfi and in Ade, the nutritional status of IDPs is reportedly grave. Research carried out by MSF in the camps around Goz Beida at the end of May 2007 found that one child in five was suffering from acute malnutrition and that the mortality rates, as registered from 30 March to 20 May 2007, were very high. (MSF, 8 June 2007) While COOPI found that one person in ten was suffering from acute malnutrition and one per cent from severe acute malnutrition, ICRC found global malnutrition rates of 65 per cent at the border area with Darfur. These differences result no doubt from different assessment methodologies used by aid agencies and they highlight the need to harmonise information gathering. (UNICEF, 11 June 2007)

There are certainly gaps in the humanitarian response due to the volatile security situation and the inadequacy of nutrition activities undertaken such as food and water assistance. To help fill that gap, UN OCHA launched a three-month emergency plan in April 2007. However, there are already concerns that its objectives in terms of food, water and shelter are inadequate to cover the current levels of need. (MSF, 8 May 2007)

Health

Access to healthcare services in IDP sites and areas of refuge is difficult. Few viable medical centres are available and medical personnel is lacking. Overcrowding in IDP sites and the difficult living environment have a negative impact on IDPs' health condition. Displaced families are living in makeshift shelters, which will not protect them from the rains during the rainy season from June to September. Given the poor quality of shelter and lack of access to clean water, there is a growing risk of malaria and diarrhoea caused by water-borne diseases such as hepatitis E. This risk will further increase during the rainy season. (WHO, 6 May 2007, p.7) An increase in diarrhoea cases has already been registered in the IDP sites of Habilé III and Koloma and of hepatitis E in Koloma and Gouroukoun IDP sites. WHO, 25 June 2007, p.1 Access to certain areas such as Abdi is restricted and, consequently, the provision of medical care is limited and IDPs' health situation is precarious. (UNICEF, 31 May 2007)

There is an urgent need to monitor and address epidemics and to prevent the deterioration of IDPs' health by increasing hospital capacity and support to health centres, improving water supply and responding to nutritional problems. (MSF, 8 June 2007) Psychosocial support is also necessary for people affected by trauma and those who have experienced sexual violence, often widows or unaccompanied children. (UN OCHA, 9 May 2007)

Education

The school attendance level in the eastern part of Chad is generally very low. Due to the increasing insecurity, the education system in the conflict-affected regions has collapsed. Many schools are closed because both regular and community-hired teachers have left, sometimes more than two years ago, due to arrears in the payment of salaries and persistent insecurity. Consequently, children have been recruited by militia groups or the army. (VOA, 15 May 2007; JRS, 41 May 2007)

There is little information on how many students have been affected by displacement and how displacement has disrupted the education process. In April 2007, the UN country team estimated that out of 140,000 displaced people, around 40,000 are children of school age. Many of these children have not finished the current school year or have not yet been enrolled. An example of a primary school in Habilé is illustrative of the difficulties facing education providers. The Habilé school originally hosted 300 students, but after waves of violence forced families from surrounding villages to seek safety in the area, the school ended up hosting more than 1,500. Most of the new students had never attended school before. (UN OCHA, 9 May 2007)

Another challenge is the maintenance of school infrastructures. IDPs lack school materials, teachers and community-hired teachers. Many of the current teachers come from the displaced communities and do not have adequate skills. Many have been hired by humanitarian organisations. With violence ongoing, students' parents associations have collapsed and need to be restructured also within IDP sites.

Where schools still function, major challenges exist. Recurrent attacks on villages force schools to cancel classes. There is usually no registration processes, which makes it hard for teachers to track students. To solve that problem and track students during waves of violence, for example, the Jesuit Relief Services helped to create a student registration system. (VOA, 15 May 2007) As schools were closed or abandoned, a number of children joined militia groups or the army and others may have been forcibly recruited. Ibid

Strong advocacy is needed to convince the government to pay community teachers using resources from the oil income as provided for by the agreement with the World Bank. Where

possible, feeding in schools should be created to encourage children's attendance and reduce their exposure to unexploded ordnance and other risks associated with accessing food. There is also a need for vocational training to provide life skills training to adolescents, to prevent them from being recruited in armed groups or exploited by host communities.

Food

Little information on IDPs' nutrition status makes it difficult to assess assistance programmes (May 2007)

- While the displaced receive aid, gaps in assistance provision remain
- Few data available on nutrition situation of IDPs
- Few nutrition programmes in place
- It remains to be seen if lack of nutrition activities constitutes a gap in response

United Nations Sub-Committee on Nutrition, 31 May 2007, p.12

"Displaced families have received humanitarian aid such as non-food items, food, safe drinking water and health care. However, gaps in provision of aid remain and access to many areas will become increasingly difficult during the rainy season between June and September. There are few data available on the nutrition status of the displaced population. In Ade IDP site, however, the nutrition situation has been reported as worrying (UNICEF, 15/05/07). It seems that there are few nutrition programmes for the IDPs, apart for those located near to Goz Amir and Djabal refugee camps, who can access the nutrition centres there. It is unclear if the lack of nutrition activities is explained by a nutrition situation that does not warrant implementation of such activities, or by a gap in the humanitarian response".

15% of displaced and host community population extremely vulnerable to food insecurity (April 2007)

- Food insecurity enhanced by insecurity which interferes with humanitarian efforts and market
- While food reserves of households are depleted, economic decline offers few income and employment sources
- Despite efforts by Chadian government and humanitarian actors, IDPs face drinking water shortages as well
- Have no food reserves or other means of subsistence, new violence-induced IDPs in need of emergency assistance
- Food security outlook for new IDPs is not very optimistic
-

FEW NET, April 2007

The food security of the country's approximately 140,000 IDPs and their host communities is a serious concern. Nearly 15 percent of this population is living in areas where the high level of civil insecurity is interfering with humanitarian relief efforts and markets, making them extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. Residents of the Tissi and Adé areas, for example, are faced with general civil insecurity as well as specific threats from

frequent operations by rebel groups. These households have depleted the food reserves they brought with them from their homes and obtained from the sporadic distributions of food aid by the Chadian government and humanitarian agencies. The survival strategies of IDPs including gathering of wood, straw and woody vegetation for building materials and labor sale are increasingly ineffectual, with the weak local economy offering few sources of effective demand or employment. The current economic decline is limiting IDPs' and host communities' income sources, weakening their purchasing power and, as a result, curtailing their food access on local markets. The high level of food insecurity faced by these populations was evident in areas visited by the rapid food assessment mission conducted by FEWS NET between April 3rd through April 10th in Sila and Assounga departments.

IDPs in most of the camps visited in both departments are also faced with shortages of drinking water despite water supply efforts by the Chadian government and its humanitarian partners. There were long waiting lines for water at the Gouroukouné camp. IDPs at the Goudiang camp, which has no improved water points, are drawing their water supplies from wells dug in a wadi bed. The precarious nature of the shelters in virtually all the camps was evident. IDPs are living in straw huts and will be exposed to the elements once the rains begin to fall.

Attacks on the villages of Tiero and Marena on March 31st 2007 were responsible for a hundred or so deaths, with as many injured and both villages burned to the ground. Close to 9,200 residents were displaced and admitted to the Aradib camp and later resettled in Habilé III camp. These new IDPs have no food reserves or other means of subsistence, and are facing extreme food insecurity necessitating emergency aid from the Chadian government and its humanitarian partners.

The food security outlook for these IDPs is not good. Stubborn civil security problems prevent IDPs from returning home and limit any possibility of their gaining access to farmland in host villages for the growing of rainfed crops. With the existence of relatively accessible farmland in Dar Sila department, the major constraint restricting land access in this area is civil insecurity. In contrast, with the rugged terrain and rocky soil in Assounga department, there is very limited access to arable land in this area, even for host communities. In this context the risk that IDPs will become increasingly reliant on food aid and rainfed crop production, the lynchpin of the traditional food security system, will be reduced is a real concern.

Rapid survey on food security situation of IDPs and host families deems it precarious (February 2007)

- Rapid survey by WFP conducted in view of apparent deterioration of nutritional situation of IDPs
- Socio-economic and nutritional situation of IDPs and host communities precarious
- The situation greatly depends on availability of assistance
- The level of vulnerability to nutritional insecurity higher where IDPs received no assistance
- Where IDPs received assistance, the level of nutritional security may decrease when supplies run out
- IDP sites in Marena/Tiero and Gourougoun in need of immediate assistance
- Generally, the situation of host communities is similar to or slightly better than that of IDPs

- The percentages of people living in situations of severe food insecurity are 18.6% for host communities and 31.1% for IDPs

WFP, February 2007, p.4

“La méconnaissance du nombre de déplacés ainsi que de leur situation alimentaire et socio-économique rendait difficile la mise en place d’une stratégie d’intervention à court et moyen terme. C’est devant cette situation et des informations faisant état de la détérioration de la situation alimentaire, qu’il a été décidé d’organiser une enquête rapide de terrain pour mieux évaluer les conditions actuelles de vie de ces personnes.

Il ressort de cette enquête que la situation socio-économique et alimentaire des déplacés reste très précaire. Elle varie cependant d’un site à un autre en fonction de l’assistance alimentaire et non alimentaire reçue par les déplacés.

L’analyse des résultats de l’enquête montre que le niveau de vulnérabilité à l’insécurité alimentaire reste plus marqué dans les sites des déplacés n’ayant pas encore reçu d’assistance alimentaire (Gouroukoun, Kerfi, Marena/Tiere et Koubigou). Dans ces sites, plus de 45% des ménages sont en insécurité alimentaire sévère ; alors que sur l’ensemble de l’échantillon, nous avons une moyenne de 31.6%. Les populations hôtes présentent le plus faible taux de ménages en insécurité alimentaire sévère (18.6%).

Il faudra interpréter avec précaution le niveau de vulnérabilité à l’insécurité alimentaire des ménages dans les sites des déplacés ayant reçu l’aide alimentaire avant le passage de l’enquête. Dans ces sites, l’aide alimentaire reçue a permis de rehausser le niveau de sécurité alimentaire, mais cette aide étant ponctuelle, ce niveau pourrait se rabaisser une fois que les ménages auront épuisé ce stock.

Les sites de Goungour, Gassiré, Goz Bagar et Ideter présentent les taux les plus élevés de ménages en sécurité alimentaire, respectivement 14, 15, 15.2, et 18%. Le premier site abrite des déplacés qui ont intégré le village d’accueil depuis l’année dernière. Les 3 autres sites ont bénéficié de l’aide alimentaire en février 2007.

Les sites de Marena/Tiéro et de Gourougoun ont un besoin immédiat d’assistance alimentaire. Le nombre de ménage en insécurité alimentaire sévère est très élevée, respectivement 51.2 et 46.8%.

Une comparaison des niveaux de vulnérabilité entre les populations hôtes et les déplacés montre que la situation est moyennement la même avec un léger avantage pour les populations hôtes. En effet, la proportion des ménages en sécurité alimentaire est de 20.8% pour les populations hôtes contre 11.1% pour les déplacés, ceux à risques sont de 38.1% pour les populations hôtes contre 35.1% pour les déplacés. La grande différence est observée au niveau des ménages en insécurité alimentaire sévère où les populations hôtes présentent un taux de 18.6% contre 31.6% chez les déplacés.”

For more information about the socio-economic situation of IDPs and host populations, see « [Enquête rapide sur la situation socio-économique et alimentaire des déplacés et des populations hôtes à l’Est du Tchad](#) »

IDPs face security food crisis (August 2006)

- IDPs on the border with Darfur have not been able to plant crops
- About 7,000 IDPs from Gouroukoun who refused to be relocated have no access to land
- They face deteriorating food crisis and require humanitarian assistance
- Threatened by repeated attacks, people left their homes and lost most of their assets such as livestock and food supplies
- Many were unable to take enough food provisions to meet their nutrition needs

- No easy access for IDPs to cropland and safe water supplies in and around settlement areas

FEWS NET, 16 August 2006

“Internally displaced Chadians on the Sudanese border who have not been able to plant crops face a deteriorating food security crisis that could last for the next year.

...

In eastern Chad, the food security situation of displaced persons has deteriorated following a series of clashes between government and rebel forces since April 2006. In May, a joint mission of humanitarian agencies found 35,000 to 40,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), primarily agropastoralists, from Assoungha and Dar Sila departments (see map). About two thirds of the IDPs have access to land and seed protection programs that have allowed them to plant for this year's season. However, about 7,000 IDPs from Gouroukoun (Goz-Beida Camp) who refused to be relocated were unable to access land, seeds or seed protection programs and thus unable to plant. These IDPs face a deteriorating food security crisis and will require humanitarian assistance over the course of the next year.

While adequate food aid is being distributed to refugee camps hosting an increasing population of Sudanese refugees from Darfur, water shortages remain critical in some camps (see map). In July water rations stood at 8.01, 9.54, and 11.6 liters/person/day respectively in Touloum, Irdimi and Amnabak refugee camps, all less than the SPHERE minimum standard of 15 liters/person/day. With the onset of the rainy season, shortages of potable water will become even more critical and dangerous as refugees will compensate for shortages using rain water, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases.”

WFP, 28 July 2006, p.13

“MSF identified more than 230 new moderate cases of malnutrition around Farchana camps. It is believed that these cases are related to food shortage and movement of IDPs which could have destabilized household food production.”

FEWS NET, May 2006

“Threatened by repeated attacks many of these displaced persons lost most of their assets (livestock, valuables, food supplies, etc.) when they departed their homes for personal security reasons. As a result, many were unable to take along enough provisions to meet their food needs for any length of time. This population group, which has virtually depleted its food reserves just as the rainy season is getting underway, is expected to have a hard time making it through the pre-harvest lean period. Even with scheduled grants of seeds and farm implements for these displaced persons, access to cropland and a safe water supply in and around certain villages could pose a serious problems for settlers in the Assongha Department and Gouroukoun (close to Goz-Beida), where there is very little (if any) fallow land and the capacity of existing boreholes is limited.

It should be noted that although they are still waiting for permanent settlement and emergency food aid, these displaced persons have already received supplies of NFIs. The UNHCR, its partners and the donor community are studying a contingency plan for a target group of 50,000 recipients.”

Food security situation of IDPs in eastern Chad deteriorates to the point of crisis (August 2006)

- IDPs on the border with Darfur have not been able to plant crops and face food security crisis

- Two thirds of the IDPs have access to land and seed protection programmes and were able to plant for this year's season
- About 7,000 IDPs from Gouroukoun who refused to be relocated have no access to land and were unable to plant
- IDPs face deteriorating food crisis and require humanitarian assistance
- Cases of malnutrition reported among IDPs around Farchana camps

FEWS NET, May 2006

"Threatened by repeated attacks many of these displaced persons lost most of their assets (livestock, valuables, food supplies, etc.) when they departed their homes for personal security reasons. As a result, many were unable to take along enough provisions to meet their food needs for any length of time. This population group, which has virtually depleted its food reserves just as the rainy season is getting underway, is expected to have a hard time making it through the pre-harvest lean period. Even with scheduled grants of seeds and farm implements for these displaced persons, access to cropland and a safe water supply in and around certain villages could pose a serious problems for settlers in the Assongha Department and Gouroukoun (close to Goz-Beida), where there is very little (if any) fallow land and the capacity of existing boreholes is limited.

It should be noted that although they are still waiting for permanent settlement and emergency food aid, these displaced persons have already received supplies of NFIs. The UNHCR, its partners and the donor community are studying a contingency plan for a target group of 50,000 recipients."

Health

A health crisis looming in the east (June 2007)

IRIN, 1 June 2007

"A health crisis is looming in the southern part of eastern Chad, where roughly 100,000 poorly-nourished displaced people are living in close proximity with too few latrines.

"The rainy season is coming so it is a race against time to build enough latrines to avoid serious outbreaks of disease," Daniel Augstburger, senior emergency officer for the UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs told IRIN on Wednesday.

Of the 12 major sites for the displaced, the worst is Habile next to the town of Koukou where there are only 100 latrines for 25,000 displaced people.

"We need 700 more latrines to meet the standard of one latrine for every 30 people, otherwise we expect a disaster. The problem is basically funding. We are still waiting on donors to come good," Augstburger said.

Dysentery has already broken out in the Habile site. Hepatitis E has broken out in two other camps.

Some of the displaced sites have better sanitation than others, but none of them are yet adequate.

Medicins Sans Frontier (MSF) said it was concerned about sanitation in its site in Dogdore on the boerder with Sudan."We have everything else under control," said Chantal Gamba, MSFs' medical coordinator in Chad. "But at this time with the rainy about to start we are all worried that poor sanitation could bring cholera and other epidemics."

The current health services in many sites would be overwhelmed the moment there were an epidemic, health workers said.

In Goz Beida, a recent MSF survey found 19.5 percent of the displaced population were severely or moderately malnourished thus more susceptible to disease.

Relief workers have also identified pockets of malnutrition at various other sites such as at Ade where MSF recently opened a therapeutic feeding centre.

"The nutrition cluster of NGOs have done their assessments but using various methods and we still need to identify the causes of malnutrition, whether it's lack of food or poor eating habits or water born disease that deplete people's nutrients," Augstburger said.

Only three NGOs have health clinics for displaced populations, one for each of the main sites."

The only hospital for all the 100,000 displaced is in the main town of Goz Beida and it has just two doctors. Many smaller sites of displaced people have no health services at all."

UNICEF, 31 May 2007

The health situation in several IDP-sites around Goz Beida is worrying; mainly due to overcrowding. Quick action is needed in order to prevent a diarrhoea/cholera outbreak during the rainy season. UNICEF is part of the contingency plan that has been set up against Cholera and Hepatitis E.

Continuous increase of hepatitis E in eastern Koloma and Gouroukoun IDPs (June 2007)

WHO, 25 June 2007, p.1

• The number of cases of hepatitis E in the eastern IDPs camps, mainly Koloma and Gouroukoun, continues to be increasing. The reported number of cases grew from 43 and no deaths last week to 55 cases and one death this week bringing the total number of cases to 563 with eight deaths. The increasing incidence of hepatitis E and the coming rainy season are extremely concerning as it indicates great risk for outbreak of other oral faecal disease such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

• All nine samples sent from Goz Beida to the laboratory at Val de Grace Hospital in Paris were confirmed positive for hepatitis E.

• In the past two weeks, increasing violence around Goz Beida and insecurity (attacks and carjacking on AU Headquarters and MSF vehicles) around Abeche are hampering humanitarian efforts.

• The strike of the country's civil servants, including government-run hospitals and clinics has been ongoing for seven weeks.

• A visit to refugee camps in Eastern Chad by the Foreign Minister of France on 9 June was followed by high level political discussions and airlifts of humanitarian supplies by the French Military to Goz Beida."

IDPs lack access to health services and essential medicines (August 2006)

- Malaria main cause of death among children under five
- Only 10 per cent of the population has access to health centres
- Rate of malnutrition among children under five is 49 per cent
- Sudden rise in population due to displacement worsens the risk of epidemics

UNICEF, August 2006

“Overview The Chadian government, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies are working together to provide urgent health and nutrition assistance to IDPs and host communities in four IDP-affected zones. Lack of access to adequate health services and essential medicines, and to water and sanitation facilities, make this assistance all the more necessary. In eastern Chad, where malaria is the number one cause of death among children under five, only 10% of the population has access to health centers, and the rate of malnutrition among children under five is as high as 49%. Another risk factor for the spread of epidemics among both IDPs and host communities is the sudden rise in population density due to displacement.

Health and Nutrition Strategy The assistance strategy for the health and nutrition sector is (1) to vaccinate children from 6 months to 15 years of age against deadly diseases such as measles and meningitis, (2) to provide Vitamin A and de-worming medicines to help children ward off malnutrition and illness, (3) to expand the capacity of existing therapeutic feeding centres and health centres to ensure that displaced families and host communities have adequate access to essential medicines and services, (4) to distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets to children and pregnant women to reduce the incidence of malaria, and (5) to monitor the nutritional status of children and women and distribute high energy biscuits at the first sign of need.

*In January 2005, the **World Health Organization** implemented an early warning and reporting system (EWARS) in eastern Chad. The purpose is early detection of epidemics and subsequent rapid response, and it is operational in 76 health centers serving the local population and 12 health centers serving refugees. EWARS is monitoring and responding to the Hepatitis E epidemic currently affecting Gaga refugee camp.*

<p>Zone 1: Adre, Borota, Allacha, Goungour</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing health & nutrition</u> ICRC, MSF-H, MSF-F, Première Urgence</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 13,000 estimated.</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Adre: [to be determined]; Borota, Allacha, Goungour: Children vaccinated against measles (MSF-F, Ministry of Health); distribution of essential medicines to unassisted health centers, distribution of NFIs (ICRC); distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, promotion of hygiene awareness (Première Urgence).</p>	<p>Zone 2: Ade, Koloye</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing health & nutrition</u> ICRC, MSF-F, Première Urgence</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 10,000 estimated</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Ade: none [to be verified; problem of ongoing insecurity] Koloye: Distribution of essential medicines to unassisted health centers, distribution of NFIs (ICRC); distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, promotion of hygiene awareness (Première Urgence).</p> <p><u>Health centers and mobile clinics</u></p>
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<p><u>Health centers and mobile clinics</u> Adre: 1 health center (MSF-F); Borota, Allacha: 1 mobile clinic (MSF-H), which uses emergency health kits provided by UNICEF.</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> MSF-H vaccination campaign (measles, polio, vitamin A supplementation, treatment against intestinal worms) in September - October.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Need for mosquito nets, K-Otab tablets for treatment of mosquito nets, BP5 high protein biscuits, calcium hypochlorite antiseptic.</p>	<p>Ade: none [to be verified; problem of ongoing insecurity] Koloye: 1 mobile clinic (MSF-F)</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> [to be determined]</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Ade: [to be determined] Koloye: need for tetanus, tuberculosis, polio vaccines, soap, jerry cans, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and hygiene promotion against Hepatitis E.</p>
<p>Zone 3: Daguessa, Dogdore, Tour, Tiero, Marena</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing health & nutrition</u> ICRC, MSF-F, COOPI, UNICEF</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 22,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Dogdore: children received measles and polio vaccines, vitamin A supplementation, treatment against intestinal worms (provided by UNICEF, implemented by MSF-F and Ministry of Health). Tour, Tiero: distribution of essential medicines to unassisted health centers, distribution of NFIs (ICRC).</p> <p><u>Health centers and mobile clinics</u> Daguessa: 1 health center, lacks essential medicines Dogdore: 1 health center (MSF-F, COOPI)</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> [to be determined]</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Dogdore: need for tetanus, tuberculosis, polio vaccines, soap, jerry cans, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and hygiene promotion against Hepatitis E.</p>	<p>Zone 4: Goz Beida , Koukou-Angarana</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing health & nutrition</u> ICRC, MSF-F, Première Urgence, COOPI, InterSOS, UNICEF</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 13,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Goz Beida, Koukou-Angarana: children received measles and polio vaccines, vitamin A supplementation, treatment against intestinal worms (provided by UNICEF, implemented by COOPI and Ministry of Health); Gouroukoun: distribution of NFIs (MSF-F). Koubigou, Sanour, Habile: distribution of blankets, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, BP5 high protein biscuits (InterSOS). Abdi: distribution of NFIs (ICRC); distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, promotion of hygiene awareness (Première Urgence).</p> <p><u>Health centers and mobile clinics</u> Koukou-Angarana: 1 health center, assisted by COOPI, which uses emergency health kits provided by UNICEF. Gouroukoun, Koubigou, Sanour: 1 mobile clinic (COOPI)</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> Abdi: vaccination campaign (measles, polio, vitamin A supplementation, treatment against intestinal worms) to be implemented by Première Urgence.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u></p>

	[to be determined]
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Water and sanitation

Serious lack of water and sanitation facilities in IDP-affected zones (August 2006)

- Only 39 per cent of Chad's population has access to safe drinking water
- Less than 1% of families in rural areas use latrines
- Sudden rise in population due to arrival of IDPs and limited resources may lead to conflict between IDPs and host communities
- Overcrowding increases risk of epidemics from use of contaminated water and inadequate sanitation facilities

UNICEF, August 2006,

“Overview The Chadian government, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies are working together to provide water and sanitation assistance to IDPs and host communities in four IDP-affected zones. This is of particular urgency given the lack of water and sanitation facilities in the region: only 34% of Chad's population has access to safe drinking water and less than 1% of families in rural areas use latrines. The danger to communities already facing such difficulties has been the sudden rise in population density with the arrival of IDPs. Overcrowding can lead to disputes over limited resources between IDPs and host communities and to a high risk of epidemics from use of contaminated water and inadequate sanitation facilities.

Water and Environmental Sanitation Strategy The assistance strategy for the water and environmental sanitation sector is (1) to establish new safe water sources in communities that can host IDPs, (2) to establish water point management committees in each host community to oversee functioning and maintenance of new water sources, (3) to build family and community latrines for IDPs and host communities, (4) to promote hygiene education programs, and (5) to support IDPs with improved water sources and sanitation facilities when security allows them to return to their villages of origin.

<p>Zone 1: Abdi, Adre, Borota, Allacha, Goungour</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing water & sanitation</u> Abdi: Première Urgence; Adre: none [to be verified]; Borota: ICRC, MSF-H; Allacha, Goungour: MSF-H, Première Urgence</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 13,000 estimated</p> <p><u>Water & sanitation situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Abdi: 1 water tower (not functional); Borota: 1 well (dry most of the year, needs</p>	<p>Zone 2: Ade, Koloye</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing water & sanitation</u> Ade: none (MSF-F is no longer present due to insecurity) Koloye: ICRC, MSF-F, Première Urgence</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 10,000 estimated</p> <p><u>Water & sanitation situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Ade: unknown [to be verified]; Koloye: 1 well Defecation in open areas without latrines,</p>
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<p>rehabilitation); Allacha: 1 well (drying, needs rehabilitation); Goungour: 1 well (drying, needs rehabilitation). [all to be verified]</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Borota: 1 MSF-H jetted borehole (dry).</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> 10 boreholes with hand pumps (UNICEF) to be drilled starting in September 2006.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Water: [to be determined]. Sanitation: [to be determined].</p>	<p>common</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Koloye: 2 MSF-F jetted boreholes (each yields 7 l/p/d); MSF-F treating water with UV rays; UNICEF provided chloride and soap to MSF-F.</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> ICRC plans needs-assessment before new assistance is provided; MSF-F to jet 2-3 more boreholes; 7 boreholes with hand pumps (UNICEF) to be drilled starting in September 2006.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Koloye: 1 ICRC well (dry); 2 MSF-F jetted boreholes near riverbed (dry). Sanitation: [to be determined].</p>
<p>Zone 3: Daguessa, Dogdore, Tour, Tiero, Marena</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing water & sanitation</u> Daguessa: none [to be verified]; Dogdore, Tour: ICRC, MSF-F, Première Urgence; Tiero: ICRC, MSF-F, Première Urgence; Marena: none [to be verified]</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 22,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Water & sanitation situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Daguessa: 3 wells (1 poor quality); Dogdore, Tour: 4 wells (1 dry); Tiero: no wells (water source Bar Azoum riverbed); Marena: no wells (water source Bar Azoum riverbed). Defecation in open areas without latrines, common.</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Dogdore: 3 ICRC wells; 3 MSF-F jetted boreholes yield 90,000 l/d; MSF-F treating water with UV rays; UNICEF provided chloride, soap, 2 water bladders (5,000 litres each), and 20 plastic latrine slabs to MSF-F. Tour: 4 ICRC wells</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> Dogdore, Tour: 2 MSF-F jetted wells still</p>	<p>Zone 4: Goz Beida , Koukou-Angarana</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing water & sanitation</u> Goz Beida and Koukou-Angarana: InterSOS, UNICEF</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 13,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> 4 water pumping stations in Koubigou, Sanour, Abchour and Habile, each yielding 15 l/p/d (UNICEF); 12 boreholes with hand pumps (UNICEF) in surrounding villages; family water kits, sanitation kits and soap distributed; water management committees and hygiene promotion programs established; 160 family latrines (InterSOS) constructed.</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> Chadian government, UNHCR, Oxfam and UNICEF agree on approach to provide 9,000 IDPs with water (construction to begin mid September); InterSOS is building 142 family latrines; 21 boreholes with hand pumps (UNICEF) to be drilled in Zones 3 and 4 starting in September 2006.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Tcharow: 1 MSF-F jetted borehole (not operational); Gassire: 1 MSF-F jetted borehole</p>

pending; MSF-F to distribute soap and jerry cans end August; MSF-F to study building durable boreholes in October; 21 boreholes with hand pumps (UNICEF) to be drilled in Zones 3 and 4 starting in September 2006.	(dry); Gouroukoun: 1 MSF-F jetted borehole (dry).
Problems and gaps in assistance Sanitation: [to be determined]	

Vulnerable groups

Significant pressures on host community (June 2007)

- Growth of population with IDPs' arrival increases demands for assistance and strains local resources
- Problems with water and wood for cooking are growing as are prices for basic foods
- Impoverished host populations often the only assistance for IDPs

IRIN, 7 June 2007

"Much of Dar Sila department has now been abandoned, he said. "The fact is that five of the nine cantons in Dar Sila are now empty. The population is all cramped together in four cantons," he added.

He said the pressures on the host communities are "terrible", pointing especially to the town Goz Beida where the population has grown from 5,000 to 50,000, but the supply of goods has not kept pace with demand.

Prices of basics foods like millet and sorghum are increasing and many people say they do not have money to pay for them. Water is a problem now. Wood for cooking has been depleted.

"Just look at the mountains surrounding Goz Beida. There are no more trees -- just dead stumps. Also much of our fertile land has been occupied by the displaced people and the refugees. It is simply unsustainable," he said."

Refugee International, 11 April 2006

"Most of the displaced remain along the border, near their home villages, assisted only by the local impoverished host populations. Those who have made their way into camps or towns further from the border in their quest for safety have found it difficult to locate any assistance from the international humanitarian community. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) does not have the mandate to assist internally displaced persons in Chad. The UN agencies are waiting for the Chadian government to own up to the crisis and formally request assistance. Despite many promises made by the Chadian government to international organizations, the Chadian army has not secured its borders, nor is it protecting its citizens.

[...]

Only those with means could make it all the way to Goz Beida from Koloye; nevertheless, they arrived with few possessions. The Sultan of Dar Sila, the traditional leader in the region, gave them some land abutting Djabal, as well as some flour and two calves. "The government of Chad does not care about these people and it is not providing them with the security they need," the Sultan told RI. "I can not let them die of hunger. I have to assist them as much as I can".

The arrival of these internally displaced people is straining scarce local resources, which were already being taxed by refugees. Displaced Chadians could increase resentment between the host population and the new arrivals. Local projects assisting host populations are supposed to mitigate these effects. In all of eastern Chad, however, UNHCR hasn't spent even half of its meager 2005 budget line devoted to these kinds of projects. Currently, the internally displaced population, deprived of water, latrines and shelters, is using Djabal's infrastructure, which is extremely weak. Water is a huge concern and, according to one humanitarian worker, there is "a complete lack of functional latrines" in Djabal refugee camp. Humanitarian agencies in Goz Beida fear a public health crisis to which they will not be able to adequately respond."

Attempts to do away with child soldiers recruitment (May 2007)

- UNICEF and the Government of Chad sign agreement for demobilization of child soldiers
- The UN agency to help government prevent recruitment and ensure liberation and reintegration
- Child soldiers reported to be part of different armed groups, including Chadian armed forces and Sudanese rebel movements

UNICEF, 9 May 2007

"UNICEF and the Government of Chad signed an agreement today for the demobilization of child soldiers throughout the country.

The accord, signed by UNICEF Representative Stephen Adkisson and Chad's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Djidda Moussa Outman, follows on Chad's commitment at the Paris Protocols, agreed on 6 February 2006, to demobilize children enrolled in armed forces and groups.

...UNICEF will help the government prevent the recruitment of children into armed forces and ensure their liberation and reintegration.

It will assist the government with a national programme to release children from armed groups, offer them support and then, reintegrate them into their communities. The programme will also benefit Sudanese children who can be returned to their country of origin.

...Some 300 child soldiers were identified less than a week ago in the region of Guera.

According to informed sources, the rebel group, Forces Unies pour le Changement, which recently signed a peace agreement with the government, has more than 1,000 child soldiers in its ranks. Negotiations are under way for their demobilization and their return to civilian life and in their families."

HRW, January 2007, p.61

"In research missions to eastern Chad in 2006, Human Rights Watch observed children who have been recruited into armed groups including the Chadian armed forces, the Sudanese rebel movements and Tora Boro militias.[...] This is in direct violation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (generally known as the Child Soldiers Protocol), to which Chad is party;[...] it establishes eighteen as the minimum age for direct participation in hostilities, for compulsory recruitment, and for any recruitment or use in hostilities by irregular armed groups.[...]"

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Education opportunities in IDP camps supported by UNICEF (May 2007)

UNICEF, 31 May 2007

3. Education

“Since 2 May a nation-wide strike of Chadian civil servants has affected schools in the host communities whilst activities continue normally in refugee camps and IDP sites.

Currently 62,688 refugee children are enrolled in 75 schools supported by UNICEF in the 12 camps, 30,334 of which are girls. Within the 7 schools located in IDP sites 3,105 IDPs and host community children are registered, 1,515 of them are girls. A new school has been opened this month at Habile III adding 1,273 children.

39 teachers for schools in the IDP sites of Gouroukoun, Koubigou, Sanour, Abchour, Koukou and Habile have been trained by NGO partner JRS. Under the principle Training of Trainers reconstitution sessions for/by community teachers are currently underway in all 12 refugee camps.

The construction of 5 hangars at the IDP site of Gassire is terminated, whilst the erection of 4 new classrooms at Aradip is underway, as well as 3 classrooms for Habile III.

24 kindergartens have been built in the camps of Mile (4), Kounoungo (4) Iridimi (5) and Ouré Cassoni (11); the construction of 58 additional ones is underway.

Material (tables, blackboards, mats, uniforms, pens, chalk, exercise books) has been delivered to 4 schools of the Essential Learning Packet in the Dar Sila Department, as well as to 7 schools in IDP sites and 75 schools in refugee camps - priority was given to schools built by UNHCR.”

[...]

4. Protection

UNICEF and Child Protection NGOs have been given unrestricted access to the military installations in Mongo (Region of Guera). They identified and registered 400 children associated with armed forces, most of whom originate from the conflict affected area of Guereda.

Obstacles to education

Lack of education facilities in Eastern Chad in IDP- affected zones (August 2006)

- Schools in rudimentary shelters
- Teachers have little or no formal training
- Students lack learning materials

UNICEF, 31 August 2006

“Overview The Chadian government, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies are working together to provide education assistance to IDPs and host communities in four IDP-affected zones. This is of vital importance in eastern Chad, where most of the schools are rudimentary shelters, with teachers who have little or no formal training and students who lack learning materials. Because conflict and displacement present particular threats for children, such as separation from their families, targeted violence, or recruitment by fighting forces, education is one of the most important protection tools for children as it greatly reduces their exposure to such threats. Even in emergencies, education is a fundamental human right of every child.

Education Strategy The assistance strategy for the education sector is (1) to expand the quality and physical capacity of primary schools for displaced children and children from host communities through the construction of classrooms, (2) to provide displaced children and children from host communities with “School-in-a-Box” kits, plastic mats for sitting, black boards and other learning materials and equipment, (3) to train community-based teachers, and (4) to strengthen parent - teacher associations (PTAs).

<p>Zone 1: Abdi, Borota, Allacha, Goungour</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing education</u> Première Urgence, UNICEF</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 13,000 estimated</p> <p><u>Education situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Abdi: 1 primary school, 1 secondary school Borota: 1 primary school, no teachers Goungour: 1 primary school, no teachers Allacha: 1 primary school [all of the above to be verified]</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> None</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> Première Urgence to supervise construction of 106 classrooms throughout Zone 1, to preposition 160 “School-in-a-Box” kits, to train community-based teachers, to strengthen PTAs.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> [to be determined]</p>	<p>Zone 2: Ade, Koloye</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing education</u> None [problem of ongoing insecurity]</p> <p><u>Numbers of IDPs:</u> 10,000 estimated</p> <p><u>Education situation before arrival of IDPs</u> [to be determined]</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> None</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u></p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Ongoing insecurity in eastern Chad has prevented NGOs from working in the zone.</p>
<p>Zone 3: Daguessa, Dogdore, Tour, Tiero, Marena</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing education</u> None [problem of ongoing insecurity]</p>	<p>Zone 4: Goz Beida , Koukou-Angarana</p> <p><u>Humanitarian organizations providing education</u> UNICEF</p>

<p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 22,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Education situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Daguessa: 1 primary school Dogdore: no schools Tour: no schools Tioro: 1 primary school, no teachers Marena: 1 primary school, no teachers [all of the above to be verified]</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> None</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> Dogdore: UNICEF to conduct needs-assessment of number of teachers and school aged children.</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> Ongoing insecurity in eastern Chad has prevented NGOs from working in the zone.</p>	<p><u>Numbers of IDPs: 13,000 estimated</u></p> <p><u>Education situation before arrival of IDPs</u> Goz Beida: 4 primary schools, 1 secondary school Koukou-Angarana: 3 primary schools</p> <p><u>Assistance provided to date to IDPs & host communities</u> Gouroukoun, Koubigou, Sanour, Habile: census conducted to identify number of school aged children, with monitoring of numbers ongoing; construction of 14 classrooms underway; educational materials prepositioned; community-based teachers trained; PTAs encouraged and strengthened.</p> <p><u>Planned actions</u> [to be determined]</p> <p><u>Problems and gaps in assistance</u> [to be determined]</p>
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ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Access to land

IDPs face difficulty to access land in Goz Beida, IDPs (July 2006)

WFP, 28 July 2006, p.13

“In Goz Beida, IDPs lack access to agricultural land. A mission consisting of WFP, UNHCR, NGOs and local authorities evaluated the plight of IDPs in the area. The possibility of allowing the IDPs land access was discussed with the local population. It was agreed that some IDPs could have access to land in the villages of Sannour and Koubigou.”

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Deteriorating security situation hamper humanitarian access in eastern Chad (February 2007)

- Fights between rebels and national Chadian army in December 2006 make NGOs, except from staff essential to provide minimum services, evacuate to N'Djamena
- Humanitarian activities resumed in mid-January, still their sustainability depends on security and access to refugee and IDP camps
- Humanitarian workers' vehicles stolen and humanitarian workers victims of acts of violence
- Frequent rebel movements threaten the work of humanitarian agencies

Caritas, 8 February 2007

“En décembre dernier, des affrontements lourds entre rebelles et armée nationale tchadienne avaient forcé l'ensemble des ONG à évacuer leur personnel vers N'Djamena, ne gardant sur place que leur personnel dit « essentiel » afin d'assurer un service minimum (distribution de vivres et service de l'eau). Les équipes du SECADEV, qui avaient elles aussi du être délocalisées dans la capitale, sont finalement revenues début janvier. Si l'ensemble des activités a repris à la mi-janvier, leur déroulement au quotidien est fonction des conditions de sécurité, et les violences de ces jours derniers sont venues rappeler l'extrême volatilité de la situation. Pourtant, il est plus que jamais essentiel pour les organisations humanitaires de pouvoir circuler et d'avoir accès aux camps de réfugiés, mais aussi aux personnes déplacées dont le nombre n'a cessé de croître ces dernières semaines. Ainsi, plus de 20 000 personnes ont du fuir leur village, élevant le nombre de déplacés à 110 000 sur l'ensemble du Tchad, en majorité concentrés à l'Est. »

UNHCR, 6 October 2006

“The security situation throughout eastern Chad remains extremely volatile as unidentified armed groups continue to operate in the region and frequently target humanitarian workers. In the past 10 days, three more vehicles belonging to humanitarian agencies were stolen by unidentified armed men in the region of Guereda and Bahai.

Unsuccessful attempts were also made to steal two other vehicles, which involved acts of violence against humanitarian workers. In one of the incidents, a group of armed men wearing military uniforms stormed the premises of a humanitarian agency and held all staff at gunpoint while attempting to steal the agency's pick-up truck. When this failed, they proceeded to another agency's compound and repeated the same scenario, taking humanitarian staff hostage. Warned of the situation, the Chadian gendarmerie intervened by firing in the air, causing the assailants to flee. All hostages were unharmed.

This succession of incidents brings to a staggering total of 40 the number of cars that have been stolen from humanitarian agencies operating in eastern Chad in less than one year – since November 2005. To date, only about half of these cars have been recovered, and no one has been arrested for these crimes.

Security Council, 22 June 2006, paragraph 55

“Across the border in Goz Beida (Eastern Chad), humanitarian organizations were just as downbeat, expressing considerable concern at the deteriorating security situation in the border regions, particularly the frequent rebel movement through, and recruitment within, the camps, as well as the Janjaweed attacks against villages. They stressed that, unless better protection was provided, the humanitarian character of their operations would be seriously compromised. They were also concerned at the negative impact of the refugees on the local environment, in particular the use of scarce local resources. The continuing crisis was receiving inadequate funding, and humanitarian interlocutors feared that financial resources would not be sufficient to maintain the necessary support to the large numbers of refugees and IDPs.”

Rains limit humanitarian access to southern part of the border with Sudan (July 2006)

UN OCHA, 14 July 2006, p.2

“Of particular concern to the humanitarian community at the moment is the southern part of the border area, especially south of Wadi Azum, which is now cut off because of the rains. Over 10,000 Chadians are known to have fled into Sudan from this area in the last two months because of attacks by armed groups, while others were internally displaced. Chadian government troops left this area in April and no humanitarian organizations are present to monitor what is happening in this area. Given current trends, there is a high likelihood of further armed clashes and displacement of civilians from this area.”

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

National Response (Special report, 2007)

The Government of Chad bears the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of all civilians on its territory, including IDPs, and for the protection of their human rights. The main challenge at present is to secure the stronger engagement of central authorities and their cooperation with local and traditional authorities in areas affected and threatened by displacement.

So far, the government response to the displacement-related human rights, humanitarian and protection crisis has been minimal and inadequate, not least because both at the policy and operational levels there is little knowledge and experience in tackling such emergencies. In addition, there has been a lack of substantive action by the government at the central level; there is no clearly identified government institution responsible for the rights of IDPs and no national legal framework specifically directed towards their protection.. The government has created a Committee for Assistance to IDPs (*Comité Chargé d'Assistance aux Personnes Déplacées*) composed of representatives of civil society and of different ministries. This body is coordinated by the Ministry of Social Relations, Social Action and Family. At the same time, there is another inter-ministerial agency, the National Committee for the Reintegration of Refugees (*Comité National de la Réinsertion des Réfugiés*) under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, which has also been associated with IDP-related issues. As a result, there is confusion about which government agency is the focal point for IDPs.

The absence of a clear government focal point adds to and explains the lack of any concerted response to the displacement crisis and the lack of cooperation with humanitarian organisations in the capital and in the east. This results in parallel responses within uncoordinated and ineffective strategies. In the beginning of the year, the government released some \$8 million for emergency assistance to IDPs. The Committee for Assistance to IDPs has started distributing food and non-food items to the displaced in certain IDP sites, as witnessed by IDMC in the Gassiré site. However, the extent to which these distributions meet IDPs' immediate emergency needs is not known.

While the government is intent on the return of IDPs to their areas of origin, it has not yet developed any strategy to address the root causes of inter-ethnic violence which have caused the displacement. A state of emergency was introduced for six months, but civilians continued to be displaced because of violence. (IRIN, 25 may 2007) The situation has been compounded by the continuing absence of viable local administration and social services in many areas in the east, especially between Goz Beida and the frontier with Darfur, from which the government forces withdrew. There are also reasons to believe that the government is undermining the efforts of traditional leaders to find solutions to inter-communal violence. For instance, the government pressured the Sultan of Dar Sila, who was engaged in conflict mediation in the department, to resign.

Some local authorities have requested that the government provide military assistance to protect civilian areas from further attacks, and to prevent inter-communal violence. However, the authorities in N'Djamena have not always heeded these requests. (IDMC Interviews Goz Beida and Koukou, 28, 29 April 2007; IRIN, 7 June 2007)

Despite the fact that security is not yet restored, the overarching goal of the central government is the return of all displaced persons to their original homes. The strategy seems to be focused on

the preservation of the government's stability and the integrity of the territory against Chadian rebels, but not necessarily on the security of civilians.

International Response (Special report, 2007)

At the international level, the response has been limited as it has suffered from a low level of preparedness, shortcomings in monitoring due in part to the unpredictable security situation, and constraints in human resources and information management. Coordination and communication between UN agencies, between UN agencies and NGOs and ICRC, and also between NGOs themselves, has been very weak, as disconnection between the capital and regional and local levels has prevented a shared and effective understanding of the scope of the displacement crisis and the overall response strategy to adopt. There is a need for more systematic, better-planned, more effective coordination, with clear roles and responsibilities.

Since the displacement crisis started, the UN agencies have been using an approach modelled on the cluster approach, with sectoral responsibility for coordinating the protection and assistance for IDPs delegated to the UNHCR Deputy Representative based in Abéché in the south-east. UNHCR, as at the global level, is the lead agency for three clusters: protection, site management and coordination, and shelter; WHO for health; UNICEF for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene; and WFP for logistics and food security. (UN OCHA, 30 November 2006, pp.4-5) Since April 2006, the response strategy has consisted of building support where IDPs are located.

Yet the lack of the formal activation of the cluster approach made the coordination heavier, led to the confusion of roles, a lack of accountability and an absence of overall long term strategic planning on issues facing vulnerable groups including IDPs and host communities. Indeed the previous strategy started to fall apart when the security situation worsened and the number of IDPs drastically increased from some 40,000 in April 2006 to over 172,600 as of June 2007. Until February 2007, the UN Office of the Humanitarian Affairs was based only in the capital N'Djamena, and the response suffered from poor reporting and weak information management.

However, in February 2007 UN OCHA opened offices in conflict-affected eastern areas. The recruitment of a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator is ongoing, although it has been suggested that this position will only help to improve coordination if a workable process is identified for the humanitarian agencies (including NGOs and the ICRC) with headquarters in the capital and operational offices in the east. Furthermore, the UN country team in June 2007 made a request to formally implement the cluster approach to enable clear leadership, accountability and predictability. In this process, clear cluster leads would be identified in N'Djamena and Abéché, within a system in which NGOs are considered as policy-making partners as well as implementing partners.

The appeals process has been fragmented. Since November 2006, there have been three funding appeals for programmes targeting IDPs' needs in Chad. The first was the 2007 UN Consolidated Appeal Process which requested some \$170.7 million, most of it to fund refugee programmes and only a few millions targeting some 53,000 IDPs. The second, launched in February 2007, is a UNHCR supplementary appeal for \$6.2 million for the protection and assistance to IDPs in Chad from January to December 2007; and in April 2007, the UN launched a revised appeal for \$23.5 million to fund a 90-day programme of IDP Emergency Assistance. (UNHCR, February 2007; UN OCHA, 9 May 2007) This latest appeal includes UNHCR's funding needs for protection and shelter, and non-food items already contained in the previous UNHCR appeal. NGOs expressed concern that the latest appeal does not match the overall IDP needs, and indeed donors are also confused over the co-existence of these different appeals. Looking ahead, accurate and comprehensive information and data are crucial in order to identify needs

and gaps in assistance in order to design relevant appeals and plan relevant humanitarian responses. The aforementioned profiling exercise undertaken in April 2007 aims at addressing this gap.

Further constraints hamper the response of international agencies to the needs of IDPs in eastern Chad. The operational capacity of humanitarian actors including the UN, ICRC and international NGOs currently active in eastern Chad (such as Intersos, Coopi, ACF, IRD, IRD, MSF-Holland and France, OXFAM UK and Intermon, Première Urgence, JRS, HIAS and Mentor Initiative) has reached its human resource limit. The difficult environment and the shortage of implementing partners further limit the capacity to deliver aid.

The deteriorating security environment has resulted in limited and sporadic access, thereby hampering humanitarian operations and creating an unpredictable situation which has not made it easy to plan ahead. Incidents including car hijacking and violent robberies have become major concerns to humanitarian workers who have also been physically threatened. Armed men from all parties to the conflict have attacked humanitarian premises and staff. Some vehicles belonging to humanitarian actors have been seen used by the ANT. (UNOCHA, November 2006, p.7; OXFAM, 20 June 2007)

In line with Security Council Resolution 1706, the UN Secretary-General recommended the establishment of a “multidimensional presence consisting of political, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in Chad, including in the internally displaced persons and refugee camps and, if necessary, in the Central African Republic” to address the humanitarian situation in the two countries and to stem the spill-over from Sudan’s Darfur conflict. The Chadian government, which had sought international help for months, has been reluctant to approve the deployment of the international force in the form in which it is currently proposed. In lieu of the multidimensional force, the government of Chad has requested a “civilian force”, and has argued that a UN military force should not be deployed in Chad on the basis that the government of Sudan had refused the deployment of such a force in Darfur. (UN SG report, S/2007/97, paragraph 33) There is also concern over the expected impact of the deployment of a peacekeeping force on the security of civilians and humanitarian operations in the current context if it is not in the framework of a credible regional and national peace process.

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