Republic of Chad (Annual programme)

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for the annual programme covering southern Chad and urban refugees in N'Djamena were to provide protection and assistance to 30,000 Central African (CAR) refugees in southern Chad, and relocate 11,200 new arrivals away from the border to Amboko and Gondjé; promote self-reliance and local integration pending durable solutions; ensure the civilian character of the three refugee camps and the physical security of refugees in and around the settlements; strengthen strategic partnerships with NGOs and UN agencies; and provide protection and assistance to some 5,000 urban refugees.

Impact

- As repatriation of refugees was not possible in 2005, UNHCR worked together with the Government and FAO towards achieving self-reliance for the CAR refugees and their progressive local integration. The Government allocated land to refugees for cultivation while seeds and agricultural tools were distributed by FAO.
- UNHCR opened a new extension in Amboko settlement to accommodate the new influx of 11,200 CAR refugees, which significantly slowed down efforts to help the existing population become more self-reliant.
- New NGO partners joined the operation, bringing in new competencies and additional resources.
- Refugees contributed to the local economy by selling crops at local markets and offering services.
- Some 1,500 Chadian refugees were successfully repatriated from CAR and reintegrated in their villages of origin.

Working environment

The context

At the beginning of 2005, southern Chad hosted 30,000 refugees from northern CAR and 41,200 by the



end of the year. In June 2005, an eruption of violence in northern CAR provoked an influx of 11,200 CAR refugees into Chad and created a still ongoing emergency situation. In addition, the presence of rebels and bandits (*coupeurs de route* or highwaymen) threatened the security in the area. As a result, UNHCR and partners had to readjust their operational objectives by forgoing the planned repatriation of CAR refugees and strengthening self-reliance and local integration activities for the old CAR refugee population, as well as giving priority to the provision of emergency protection and assistance to the new arrivals. With the country's few former industries, such as cotton, still not fully functioning after years of conflict, there were few signs of sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Constraints

The operation in Chad faced many complex problems. UNHCR and its partners had to work in an environment

of insecurity, with an impoverished local population and limited institutional capacity on the part of the government counterpart, the Commission nationale d'accueil et de réinsertion des réfugiés (CNAR). Transportation costs in landlocked Chad for items procured internationally were high and travel by road during the rainy season was impossible. UNHCR and partners had to manage the emergency situation with limited human and financial resources, including a lack of trained staff in southern Chad. Insufficient funding for this operation meant that many important needs were not met, in particular water supply, which remained below standard; reorientation of public health services from the Amboko camp to Goré village to benefit local populations; and registration of refugees in Amboko and Yaroungou. Neither could a much needed increase in the number of gendarmes to provide adequate security at refugee sites take place; and assistance to host communities and contingency planning of non-food items for 15,000 new arrivals in the South had to be postponed. In addition, the promotion of self-reliance – to allow for a rapid disengagement from an otherwise costly and open-ended basic assistance programme - could not be achieved.

Funding

The refugee programme for CAR refugees in southern Chad began with a very low level of funding. The operation had to seek funds twice during the year from the operational reserve in order to continue to fulfil its operational objectives.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

There were three large-scale influxes from CAR into Chad in 2005. In December 2005, the new refugee site at Gondjé was officially opened to accommodate the additional refugees fleeing from CAR. UNHCR undertook regular border monitoring missions, and pre-screened and relocated refugees to the Amboko extension or to Gondjé. No cases of *refoulement* were reported. A number of training seminars and sensitization campaigns on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence were organized for staff and partners. Due to insecurity in northern CAR, 1500 Chadian refugees were repatriated from CAR at their request and reintegrated in their villages of origin.

Activities and assistance

Community services: With the support of new NGO partners, efforts to promote refugee participation started to bear fruit. Refugee communities were encouraged to address the situation of refugees with special needs. Women's participation in decision-making reached 46 per cent in Yaroungou. They were equally well represented on the refugee management committees. Discussions, meetings and campaigns against female genital mutilation were organized. Mixed committees of refugees and the local population fostered peaceful coexistence and reduced tensions.

Persons of concern									
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18				
Refugees	Sudan	228,800	202,300	57	62				
	Central African Republic	41,200	41,200	54	60				
	Others	5,300	1,400	-	-				
Returnees	From Central African Republic	1,500	1,500	-	-				

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets								
	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure			
Annual programme	8,859,550	8,568,404	83,494	8,651,898	8,651,898			
Supplementary programme ³	76,259,079	49,902,636	15,968,107	65,870,743	63,384,305			
Total	85,118,629	58,471,040	16,051,601	74,522,641	72,036,203			

- ¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.
- ² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.
- The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Eastern Chad and Darfur, Western Sudan. Please see the chapter on Eastern Chad and Darfur for a description of activities.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Crop production: Some 3,000 hectares of land were allocated to refugees for farming in Amboko and Yaroungou. Seeds and tools were distributed. By the end of 2005, the UN Joint Assessment Mission agreed that the food ration for refugees in Yaroungou could be reduced to 1,200 kilocalories and in Amboko to 1,800 kilocalories.

Domestic needs and household support: Due to the absence of a contingency stock, non-food items (NFIs) for the new arrivals had to be borrowed from the operation in eastern Chad at a very high logistics cost. Other UN agencies and NGOs also provided additional NFIs. NFIs were also provided to the 1,500 Chadian returnees, as part of their reintegration package.

Education: Refugee children followed the Chadian curricula and the Chadian Government progressively assigned teachers to the primary schools in the camps. The average class size at Yaroungou was 65. At Amboko, the rate of enrolment was 84 per cent (40 per cent girls). In October, a literacy centre was opened at Yaroungou which enrolled over 600 adults and 69 adolescents who had dropped out of school. In Goré, 1,300 refugee students were integrated into the local secondary school and the Amboko secondary school was closed.

Food: With frequent breakdowns in the WFP food pipeline, the distribution of food items to refugees was irregular. Most of the food rations amounted to 1,800 kilocalories per person per day. The situation improved during the last quarter of the year, as WFP borrowed from other operations in the region.

Forestry: In the South, there was a plentiful supply of wood for fuel and construction purposes. However, the use of these resources was discussed with refugees and local communities to prevent environmental degradation and tensions between the two communities. A reforestation campaign was undertaken and improved fuel-efficient stoves were introduced in all camps.

Health and nutrition: Malaria remained the highest cause of morbidity and mortality despite sensitization and the distribution of mosquito nets in the settlements. Diarrhoea, respiratory infections and skin diseases were the other most frequently diagnosed illnesses. Following the identification of cases of meningitis in Yaroungou refugee settlement, a vaccination campaign was carried out both inside and outside the settlement. Polio and measles vaccination reached 100 per cent coverage amongst new arrivals and about 70 per cent in the old refugee population. HIV/AIDS committees were set up in camps and worked closely with local associations. Nutritional screening of refugee children among new arrivals in the Amboko camp extension, completed in early September,



UNHCR staff help refugees from the Central African Republic who walked dozens of kilometres and crossed the Nya river in tiny canoes. The refugees were then transferred by truck to Amboko camp, near Goré town. UNHCR / B. Heger

identified eight per cent moderate to acute malnutrition among the children aged 0-5 years. This was brought under control by the end of the year. Supplementary feeding was provided mainly for children among the new arrivals who showed signs of malnutrition.

Income generation: A socio-economic survey was carried out in Amboko and Goré areas and seed capital was provided to selected refugee associations to start small businesses.

Legal assistance: Training for the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and awareness-raising for focal points tasked with identification of cases was undertaken for community-based organizations, implementing partner staff and local authorities. Prevention activities mainly involved sensitization of the refugee community carried out through a network of refugee committees, action groups and volunteers.

Livestock: Refugees in Yaroungou and Amboko undertook small-scale production of chicken and rabbits to generate some income. Vaccination was provided for cattle.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR was able to provide only limited support to the six implementing partners in southern Chad due to lack of resources. This situation led to serious constraints as implementing partners who were totally dependent on UNHCR for funds were forced to suspend some activities, such as registration of refugees and rehabilitation of the airstrip in Goré.

Sanitation: Family latrines were built in all three camps. Communal areas such as schools and market places were also equipped. Some 6,500 mosquito nets were distributed in Goré, prioritizing children, old people and pregnant women. Spraying of tents was carried out in September for the Amboko extension.

Shelter and infrastructure: A new refugee site was built at Gondjé, near Amboko camp, to accommodate up to 15,000 new arrivals. The community was successfully encouraged to assist in building shelters for vulnerable refugees. Health and education services were put in place. Internal roads were rehabilitated and access roads were opened for the Gondjé site. Clearing and demarcation of housing plots was started.

Transport and logistics: The rehabilitation of an airstrip was started in Goré but by the end of the year had not yet been finished. As the Government would not allow Mission Aviation Fellowship to fly UNHCR and other humanitarian staff in mid-2005, another aircraft was chartered to continue to transport humanitarian staff members to the two main cities in the South, Moundou and Sahr. To meet the high demand for transport during the emergency, 18 trucks were transferred from the eastern Chad operation to southern Chad to establish a logistics capacity. A warehouse was set up in Goré. A mobile workshop was used pending the building of a workshop to serve the operation in the South.

Water: At Yaroungou settlement, refugees received between six and ten litres per person per day. In Amboko, refugees depended on the emergency water system installed in 2003, which provided about 15 litres per person per day from four boreholes. The need for water in the camp extension was an additional challenge. In Gondjé, an emergency water supply system was installed.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2005, the total number of staff in eastern and southern Chad was 340, comprising 101 international and 207 local staff, 26 UNVs and six consultants. The operation in southern Chad was supported by two field offices at Danamadji and Goré. Following the emergency in the South, the field office in Goré received support from the eastern Chad programme and the Representation in N'Djamena.

Working with others

At country level, UNHCR worked in close collaboration with UN sister agencies based in N'Djamena. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with FAO, UNICEF and WFP. In addition, UNHCR worked in close cooperation with some 35 implementing partners, including the Government of Chad, and local and international NGOs. UNHCR organized and chaired weekly coordination meetings with UN agencies and NGO partners. Refugee issues were fully integrated in the Common Country

Assessment-United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Consolidated Appeals Process and refugee-hosting areas were identified as a priority for the UN Country Team.

UNHCR and WFP are the only two UN agencies with a presence on the ground in southern Chad. The emergency triggered a short-term inter-agency mobilization in support of UNHCR and partners already working in Goré. Coordination meetings were held every week with all partners involved in the operation.

Overall assessment

The operation in the South demanded a response which called upon all aspects of UNHCR's mandate, ranging from immediate assistance and protection to durable solutions.

The climatic conditions in southern Chad and the support of the Government offer a perfect environment for implementation of the self-reliance strategy and integration of services. However, although progress was made in implementing self-reliance activities in the earlier part of the year, the process was slowed down by the new influx of refugees. Moreover, in the absence of other UN agencies in southern Chad, this was a low profile operation which received little international attention and had to be conducted on a very tight budget.

Offices

N'Djamena

Goré

Danamadji

Partners

Government agencies

Commission nationale d'accueil et de réinsertion des réfugiés

Ministère de l'Administration du Territoire

NGOs

Africare

African Concern

CARE International

Cooperazione Internationale

OXFAM International

Médecins sans Frontières

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

FAO

UNV

Financial Report (USD)								
	Cu	Prior years' projects						
Expenditure breakdown	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary programme budgets				
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,454,712	8,991,716	10,446,428	0				
Community services	84,320	2,393,676	2,477,996	800,238				
Crop production	87,438	354,304	441,742	89,485				
Domestic needs and household support	645,901	3,428,611	4,074,512	363,925				
Education	488,336	1,005,092	1,493,428	(23,732)				
Food	14,740	0	14,740	0				
Forestry	0	1,948,872	1,948,872	333,837				
Health and nutrition	450,859	2,200,395	2,651,254	1,430,674				
Income generation	25,952	168,423	194,375	3,645				
Legal assistance	136,720	1,193,694	1,330,414	234,862				
Livestock	6,247	162,587	168,834	62,085				
Operational support (to agencies)	663,354	6,021,619	6,684,973	1,597,964				
Sanitation	37,711	338,210	375,921	118,762				
Shelter and infrastructure	293,064	630,946	924,010	378,025				
Transport and logistics	1,638,866	14,041,220	15,680,086	4,054,895				
Water	65,324	2,498,286	2,563,610	782,513				
Instalments with implementing partners	1,355,433	7,996,423	9,351,856	(10,227,178)				
Sub-total operational activities	7,448,977	53,374,074	60,823,051	0				
Programme support	1,202,921	10,010,231	11,213,152	0				
Total expenditure	8,651,898	63,384,305	72,036,203	0				
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(910,372)				
Instalments with implementing partners								
Payments made	2,755,042	27,266,706	30,021,748					
Reporting received	(1,399,609)	(19,270,283)	(20,669,892)					
Balance	1,355,433	7,996,423	9,351,856					
Prior years' report								
Instalments with implementing partners								
Outstanding 1st January				14,732,035				
Reporting received				(10,227,178)				
Refunded to UNHCR				(2,741,060)				
Adjustments				(18,216)				
Balance				1,745,581				