



Sudanese refugee women attend a camp meeting at Iridimi camp, Chad.

UNHCR / M. COLLINS



# Chad and Sudan Situation

## | OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR protected and assisted nearly 340,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) in Chad, including 15,000 new arrivals from CAR.
- Thirty-five thousand internally displaced persons (IDP) returned to their villages of origin in Chad in 2009, and UNHCR helped with their local integration. IDP movements back to places of origin in Darfur, by contrast, were largely limited to seasonal visits.
- UNHCR facilitated the return of 32,000 Sudanese refugees into Southern Sudan, bringing the total number of returnees since 2005 to 330,000.
- A multi-year self-reliance strategy addressed the protracted refugee situation in eastern Sudan. Similar efforts are underway in Chad to increase the long-term sustainability of the refugee camps in the country.
- The verification of all refugees in the camps in eastern Chad to establish precise population figures and aid in the issuance of identity cards to all refugees was completed in 2009.

# Chad and Sudan Situation



## Working environment

Incursions by armed opposition groups into eastern Chad in May 2009 led to the temporary relocation of UNHCR staff from two offices. In the latter part of 2009, renewed negotiations between Chad and Sudan contributed to a more positive operational environment, despite no prospects for the return of refugees from Chad.

The deployment of the United Nations Mission in Chad and Central African Republic (MINURCAT) troops proceeded at a slow pace, and only 50 per cent had arrived by the end of 2009. However, the expansion and continued training of gendarmes under the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*, a UN-supported security force in Chad, has led to an improvement in security in and around the refugee camps.

Attacks on humanitarian workers, including car-jackings, burglaries and kidnappings, reached alarming levels in Chad and Sudan, notably in the regions of Darfur and southern Sudan. In the latter region, tribal conflicts and general criminality as well as unresolved issues around the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) contributed to a worsening security environment.

The expulsion of some international NGOs from Sudan and the deregistration of national NGOs had an adverse effect on UNHCR's implementation capacity.

The triangle between eastern Chad, Darfur and the Central African Republic witnessed increasing instability and displacement on account of rebel activity. Between December 2008 and March 2009, some 15,000 new arrivals entered south-western Chad from the Central African Republic. During the latter part of 2009, the Ugandan Lord's

Resistance Army (LRA) moved into that area. This followed earlier attacks by the LRA in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Southern Sudan which prompted massive internal displacement and triggered an influx of some 15,000 Congolese refugees into Southern Sudan.

## Achievements and impact

While 32,000 Sudanese refugees were able to return to Southern Sudan in 2009 with UNHCR's assistance, there have been no positive developments in other parts of the operation, notably with respect to returns from Chad to Darfur.

Within Darfur, the protection cluster was established under UNHCR's leadership and contributed significantly to the drafting and finalization of the 2009 UN Framework on Returns, which was endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team, as well as the draft Terms of Reference of the Joint Verification Mechanism on Returns. UNHCR's protection role was strengthened following an understanding with the State authorities in southern Darfur.

The main protection challenge in Chad was related to threats to the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps and the recruitment of refugees, including children, by armed groups. In September, the relocation of the Ouré Cassoni camp population away from the Sudanese border had been agreed with the Chadian authorities, but had to be deferred to 2010 given the difficulties in identifying adequate water sources.

In both Chad and Sudan, UNHCR supported the respective governments to fulfil their responsibility to protect and assist refugees, including new arrivals in southern Chad and Southern Sudan. In Sudan, efforts were

made to strengthen the capacity of the national Commissioner for Refugees to conduct registration and refugee status determination (RSD), provide documentation and protect asylum-seekers and refugees, in line with international standards.

UNHCR continued to advocate for the enactment of Chad's asylum law, which was drafted in 2008. It is expected that the law will be adopted in 2010. A draft law for the protection of IDPs is on hold pending the ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa. UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Justice in Sudan to comment on the draft asylum bill and also began to develop an urban refugee policy for the country.

UNHCR contributed to a safer environment for IDPs in camps and supported the return of IDPs to their areas of origin in Chad. In Southern Sudan, UNHCR collaborated closely with other UN actors to prevent new displacements through community-based reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts. To sustain returns to the south, UNHCR continued to address prioritized reintegration needs among Sudanese refugees and IDPs with a growing focus on livelihoods interventions. Returnee monitoring continued, as well as participatory assessments in areas of displacement and of return.

UNHCR made progress in increasing the self-sufficiency of refugees from the CAR in southern Chad by helping them find farming opportunities, which led to a reduction in direct food assistance. Efforts to support self-reliance among camp based refugees in eastern Sudan have been redoubled, but remain constrained by the limited presence of international NGOs.

## | Constraints |

Political and social tensions in Southern Sudan and Darfur made it difficult to provide physical protection to refugees and IDPs. Meanwhile, the ability of communities to seek

justice was hampered by an inadequate justice system and deep-rooted impunity. The expulsion and deregistration of NGOs in March 2009 adversely affected operations in the northern part of Sudan, while disputes around the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement generated instability in Southern Sudan. As a result at the latter, refugee returns to the south in 2009 lagged behind projections.

In terms of staff safety, the country operations in Chad and Sudan remain high-risk given the extreme levels of insecurity, including banditry and criminal attacks directed against humanitarian workers. On several occasions security incidents resulted in the relocation of staff and a temporary suspension of activities. In both Chad and Sudan, the humanitarian space within which UNHCR protects and assists beneficiaries has been shrinking.

## | Operations |

Details of the operations in **Chad** and **Sudan** are described in separate chapters.

## | Financial information |

In 2009, the three supplementary budgets for the IDP situation in Chad, the IDP situation in Darfur and the return and reintegration operation in Southern Sudan were funded at levels ranging between 60 per cent for Chad and 84 per cent for Darfur. In the case of Chad, some key services had to be reduced as a result of the funding shortfall. In Southern Sudan, restrictive earmarking of some multi-year contributions reduced the budgetary flexibility to shift resources between repatriation and reintegration activities. However, in eastern Sudan additional resources were made available in 2009 to meet specific needs in the health sector.