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BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)

## Chad – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

April 11, 2008

### BACKGROUND

Since the end of 2005, inter-ethnic conflict, fighting between Government of Chad (GOC) forces and armed opposition groups, and cross-border raids from Sudanese militias based in neighboring Darfur have intensified in eastern Chad. In 2006 and 2007, increased inter-ethnic conflict within Chad led to the internal displacement of thousands of Chadians, resulting in an increased need for humanitarian services. In February 2008, armed opposition groups entered the capital city of N’Djamena and surrounded the presidential palace before being repelled by GOC forces. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that the February violence killed approximately 500 people, wounded nearly 1,000 individuals, and forced thousands of civilians to flee N’Djamena. Approximately 37,000 Chadians fled to Cameroon and Nigeria, while 2,800 individuals fled to other areas of Chad.

Since 2003, displacement within Chad has occurred in the context of an existing humanitarian emergency fueled by the migration of more than 250,000 Sudanese into the eastern region of Chad since the start of the Darfur complex emergency. An estimated 309,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) reside in refugee camps in eastern and southern Chad, straining local resources. In addition to affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee populations, the conflict continues to impact communities that host IDPs and refugees, affecting agriculture, livestock raising, and other livelihood activities.

On October 10, 2007, Chargé d’Affaires Lucy Tamlyn redeclared a disaster in Chad due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. Following a January 2007 USAID assessment to evaluate the needs of IDPs and host communities, USAID opened a field office in Abéché, eastern Chad. USAID field staff based in Abéché coordinate relief efforts with USAID-funded U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and monitor humanitarian conditions of affected populations. Since FY 2004, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$360 million in humanitarian assistance to eastern Chad.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs in Eastern Chad	180,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – August 2007
Affected Host Population	700,000	OCHA – September 2007
Sudanese Refugees in Chad	250,000	UNHCR <sup>2</sup> – March 2008
CAR Refugees in Chad	59,000	UNHCR – March 2008

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2008)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Eastern Chad.....	\$1,154,919
USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Eastern Chad .....	\$57,255,700
State/PRM <sup>4</sup> Assistance to Eastern Chad .....	\$15,489,999
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Eastern Chad.....</b>	<b>\$73,900,618</b>

### CURRENT SITUATION

On March 16, Chadian President Idriss Deby lifted the nationwide state of emergency and curfew imposed on February 15 after armed opposition group attacks. Although the majority of USG personnel and humanitarian relief staff evacuated N’Djamena during the February clashes, relief operations in N’Djamena and eastern Chad have since resumed a normal level of activity.

During the month-long state of emergency, GOC authorities demolished nearly 2,000 homes throughout N’Djamena, according to a report issued by Human Rights Watch (HRW) on April 3. HRW estimates that the destruction left more than 10,000 people homeless. The U.N. reports that some of the displaced individuals fled into nearby Cameroon, while others camped near demolition sites. According to USAID field reports, the

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>3</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

rubble from demolished buildings was used to construct barriers throughout the city, particularly along the river and surrounding the presidential palace. According to the GOC, the presence of illegal settlements on the state-owned land, as well as demands for space for GOC construction projects, determined which areas would be targeted for demolition. Government-sponsored infrastructure projects include a horse-racing track, library, and women's hospital. Although the initial demolition ended in mid-March, USAID staff reported new demolition of homes in other areas throughout N'Djamena in April.

On March 15, the European Union Force (EUFOR) reached initial operating capacity, with 1,790 soldiers deployed in Chad, including 1,150 French soldiers. Although the violence in February delayed EUFOR's initial deployment, the 3,700-member force will likely be fully operational by late May. On April 9, the U.N. Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) launched a program to train 77 Chadian police and gendarmerie commanders on law and order and respect for human rights. Following completion of the four-week course, the officers will become part of the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS)* and work in refugee camps, IDP camps, and towns in eastern Chad. According to the U.N., EUFOR is responsible for providing a security umbrella in areas where MINURCAT conducts activities. MINURCAT is responsible for selecting, training, and advising officers and providing support to the DIS. MINURCAT is targeting a total of 850 personnel to compose the DIS. State/PRM is providing USG support to MINURCAT by contributing \$2 million for police salaries and stipends.

On April 1, armed opposition groups entered the border town of Adé in eastern Chad, and GOC forces responded by repelling the armed groups back across the Chad–Sudan border into West Darfur. NGO reports indicate that the fighting killed seven civilians and injured 47 people. Despite banditry persisting in eastern Chad, the security situation throughout Chad has improved since February. In April, access to humanitarian operations in eastern Chad continues to be on a day-to-day basis, and banditry and petty crime remain significant threats to humanitarian personnel in the region.

USAID has maintained a presence in Chad since 2007, and a USAID field officer has been posted in N'Djamena since February 26, 2008. On March 18, the field officer traveled to Abéché to speak with USAID implementing partners and assess the humanitarian situation.

### ***IDPs and Refugees***

The violence in February created a security vacuum that affected humanitarian operations in eastern Chad, where 12 refugee camps host approximately 250,000 Darfur refugees and 180,000 IDPs. Carjackings and banditry increased during the fighting in N'Djamena, affecting the humanitarian community and resulting in further

evacuations of NGO staff from Abéché and outlying field offices. Humanitarian staff also reported increased tension in camps in eastern Chad as defeated rebels moved through the region.

During February, a resurgence of violence in West Darfur forced an additional 13,000 Darfuri refugees into Chad. Many of these individuals congregated in the town of Birak near the Chad–Sudan border. Although the GOC denied UNHCR's initial requests to relocate the refugees to camps further from the border, USG and UNHCR diplomatic efforts proved successful in early March. The GOC permitted UNHCR to relocate the refugees—mainly women and children with few supplies—to nearby Kounoungo and Milé camps. On April 2, State/PRM reported that UNHCR had transferred 6,000 Sudanese refugees to Kounoungo Camp in Guéréda, which is now at full capacity. Any additional refugees to be moved from the border will be relocated in Milé camp.

### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

Despite security concerns, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) completed food distributions for refugees in all 12 camps in eastern Chad in February and March, although at reduced ration levels. WFP delivered more than 2,800 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to approximately 234,000 Sudanese refugees. Despite WFP's distribution, the February violence interrupted critical supply chains between N'Djamena and eastern Chad, compounding existing complications of increased food prices and inaccessibility of supply routes. The April general food distribution continues in 10 camps, and the distribution in the two remaining camps is planned for April 15. Throughout the month, WFP plans to provide more than 242,000 Sudanese refugees with approximately 4,000 MT of food assistance.

### ***Health***

In response to concerns about potential meningitis cases among CAR refugees in southern Chad, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR, and the local Ministry of Health completed a round of meningitis vaccinations in refugee camps at the Chad–CAR border. In March, WHO and UNHCR partnered to install solar-powered, high-frequency radios in the Bahai and Iriba districts of eastern Chad to strengthen the outbreak early warning system.

In 2007, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.6 million to the MENTOR Initiative and International Medical Corps (IMC) for the provision of health care services to IDPs and host communities in Guéréda and south-eastern Chad. USAID/OFDA is also supporting the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO to provide emergency health assistance for IDPs and host populations in eastern Chad. In FY 2007, State/PRM provided more than \$2.5 million to IMC and International Rescue Committee for primary health care services in five refugee camps as well as \$652,000 to MENTOR for malaria prevention and treatment in eastern and southern

Chad. State/PRM also provided \$1.5 million to UNICEF for nutrition and health interventions.

### ***Nutrition***

In early April, ICRC reported that malnutrition rates remain stable throughout program areas. As the June through August hunger gap approaches, NGOs are concerned that malnutrition rates will increase as early as May and June when IDPs and host communities deplete food supplies from last year's harvest. Although the rains have already begun in some areas, fresh vegetable supplies are still insufficient.

In an effort to prevent malnutrition, USAID/OFDA is contributing more than \$1.2 million to vegetable garden programs organized by World Concern Development Organization and International Relief and Development. The programs assist vulnerable populations in the Goz Beida area by providing off-season produce, particularly during the period leading to the hunger gap. WHO continues to supervise and support health workers in the surveillance and management of malnutrition. In March, WHO trained 13 health center managers in Adre district and reinforced the district hospital laboratory.

### ***Food Security and Agriculture***

Transport delays along the Libya corridor continue to hamper food commodity deliveries to eastern Chad. As a result, WFP has taken measures to augment the organizational logistics capacity in eastern Chad prior to the rainy season. Using internal resources, WFP is establishing a logistics hub in Faya, northern Chad, which will provide direct delivery to the northern refugee camps throughout the rainy season. WFP is also targeting ongoing deliveries from Douala, Cameroon, directly to southern IDP and refugee locations that are cut off from overland access during the rainy season.

In late March, WFP secured an agreement from the Government of Libya to subsidize fuel for WFP-contracted transporters. Food convoys from WFP's warehouse in Al Kufra, Libya to eastern Chad began on March 29. USAID/WFP remains the largest donor of emergency food assistance to Chad, and has provided

nearly 47,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$57 million, in FY 2008.

As planting season approaches, USAID/OFDA and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are working to promote greater food security for IDPs and host communities in eastern Chad. FAO plans to provide seeds and tools inputs for IDPs; however, if the rainy season arrives in May rather than in June, IDP planting capacity will be affected. On April 3, USAID staff reported that some IDPs have already started moving toward villages of origin in order to begin planting. USAID staff are uncertain whether IDP populations will remain only throughout the planting season or for the longer term. In addition, USAID staff report increased tension regarding land access, including incidents of IDPs renting arable land from host communities and receiving suboptimal plots. In July 2007, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$673,000 to FAO to support agriculture and livestock activities through June 2008.

### ***Protection***

According to Save the Children/US (SC/US) and ICRC, forced child recruitment continues to occur throughout eastern Chad. In April, State/PRM and NGO partners reported the presence of Sudanese armed opposition groups in the area surrounding Kounoungo camp in Guéréda. As a result, the camp has become increasingly militarized, and partners report that opposition soldiers have frequently ignored UNHCR's requests to leave.

In an effort to provide greater protection for IDP and refugee populations in eastern Chad, USAID/OFDA has provided a \$500,000 grant to SC/US for child protection programs in IDP and host communities in Goz Beida, in September 2007. The programs help children and youth recover from trauma and increase the safety of the camp population. State/PRM supports the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) with \$399,999 for protection programs in eastern Chad. CCF refugee camp programs increase awareness of child protection, gender-based violence, and women's rights through community activities in Am Nabak, Iridimi and Touloum camps. State/PRM has also made an initial contribution of \$13 million to UNHCR for multi-sector assistance and protection activities.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Eastern Chad	\$500,000
ACTED	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Eastern Chad	\$31,980
AirServ International	Humanitarian Air Service	Eastern Chad	\$36,483
USAID Stockpile	Relief Commodities	Eastern Chad	\$78,900
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Eastern Chad	\$97,880
World Concern Development Organization	Agriculture and Food Security	Eastern Chad	\$409,676
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,154,919</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	46,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$57,255,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$57,255,700</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
CCF	Psychosocial and Protection	Eastern Chad	\$399,999
MINURCAT	Protection and Police Activities	Eastern Chad	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$13,090,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$15,489,999</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD</b>			<b>\$58,410,619</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD</b>			<b>\$73,900,618</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 11, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 11, 2008.




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