

NRC's operations in Chad

Humanitarian overview

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, Chad has been a refuge for a growing number of Sudanese refugees, primarily in the eastern part of the country. Armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have escalated significantly since September 2024, particularly in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. As of 29 December, approximately 723,121 Sudanese refugees and 222,743 returnees have crossed through 32 entry points in eastern Chad. The vast majority (88%)¹ are women and children, often arriving traumatised, injured and malnourished to areas that offer few opportunities.

Chad is the second-most affected neighbouring country by the Sudanese crisis, with thousands of new arrivals each week. The most impacted areas include the Ouaddaï region, which shelters 486,900 refugees, and the Wadi Fira region, with 127,224². Despite a long-standing tradition of hosting refugees based on ethnic affinities, the flow of refugees is exacerbating the existing vulnerabilities of the 1.9 million host community members. Most were already vulnerable prior to this crisis and the new arrivals are creating increasingly unbalanced social, economic and demographic conditions. National and international actors are progressively delivering a humanitarian response in the eastern provinces, under the leadership of UNHCR and the Chadian government. Additional funding remains necessary considering the rapid deterioration of the context.

As of 31 December 2024, the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (R-RRP) was funded up to 30% only (compared to 38% in 2023) – out of which, Chad's RRP was only 30% funded (compared to 42% in 2023). The Sudanese conflict showing no signs of resolution³, and the needs in eastern Chad are expected to escalate significantly⁴ with 1.4 million projected refugees and 301,700 returnees by 2025⁵.



Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods
and food security



Shelter
and settlements



Water, sanitation
and hygiene (WASH)

NRC in Chad

Established	2023
International staff	11
National staff	46

¹ [UNHCR CHADI Influx of Refugees from Sudan \(as of 29 Dec 2024\)](#)

² Ibid

³ [Sudan crisis: risk analysis for 2025, h2h](#)

⁴ [2025 Chad Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#)

⁵ [2025 Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#)

Our areas of operation

NRC's operational base is in **Adré**, strategically close to the main crossing point from West Darfur where most refugees cross into Chad. From **Adré**, NRC is responding to the acute needs of vulnerable populations in newly established camps such as Metche, Arkoum and Alacha, as well as in host communities. NRC also provided a rapid response in the province of Wadi Fira, in Mile camp. NRC has a coordination office in the capital, **N'Djamena**, enabling donor and national-level coordination.



Our activities in detail

NRC supports populations or people affected by displacement, providing assistance, protection and concrete solutions. The Chad country programme aims to deliver a reactive and efficient first line emergency response to refugees while initiating a second line nexus resilience-oriented response for both refugees and host communities, through integrated and comprehensive programming. NRC Chad's programme interventions combine two pillars both based on a comprehensive and integrated approach.

- 1. Responding with reactivity and efficiency to emergency needs** to new arrivals from Sudan along with the re-escalation of violence in Darfur and to the relocated refugees from Adre transit camp to new ones since our presence in Chad in 2023. In 2024, NRC's focus was on the following core competencies (CC): **i) education in emergency, ii) information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA), iii) shelters and settlements, and iv) WASH.**
- 2. Responding with a resilience/nexus lens to the displacement-affected population** already settled. This second pillar initiated in December 2024 aims to improve people's living conditions and livelihoods by enhancing their resilience and linking them to longer-term solution pathways, with a systematic cost efficiency and resilience analysis. It entails **i) education activities** with a specific effort to provide sustainable infrastructures and educational systems both formal and non-formal, **ii) youth programming** and livelihoods and food security aimed at developing professional training and self-employment opportunities, **iii) ICLA** supporting work rights information and counselling related to LFS activities, while continuing LID and HLP which favours shared spaces for community dispute resolution and social cohesion, **iv) transitional/permanent shelters** made of local materials and collaborative work with both Sudanese and Chadian local actors.



11,118 people reached in 2024

Education

In 2024, NRC has made significant efforts to improve access to education for children who fled Sudan and are now living in eastern Chad. Having endured severe trauma and violence in Darfur, these children urgently need safe and protective learning environments. Through its Education in Emergencies programme, NRC

has not only created these essential spaces but has also significantly expanded its reach and impact. NRC has successfully completed the construction of 13 schools (78 new classrooms) across three refugee camps in Ouaddai: seven in Metche, three in Arkoum, and three in Alacha, making education more accessible to children in need. Understanding the importance of supporting host communities, NRC also renovated four classrooms in Arkoum host town, bringing the total number of new or rehabilitated classrooms to 82 – a major improvement for the region's education system.

To ensure quality education, NRC has trained 198 teachers across the three camps, preparing them to teach 10,920 primary school children (including 5,034 boys and 5,886 girls). The training focused on key topics such as inclusive education, teaching in crisis situations, and psychosocial support through the Better Learning Programme. This programme equips teachers with vital tools to create a safe learning environment, integrating activities for stress management, trauma recognition, psychological first aid, and social-emotional learning.

NRC's commitment to education goes beyond educational infrastructure and actively supports teachers by providing motivation and professional backing in their crucial roles. NRC has distributed textbooks for students, training guides for teachers, and comprehensive learning kits for both students and educators. These kits include essential supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, slates and maths instruments, ensuring uninterrupted learning.

Through these initiatives, NRC is helping to secure long-term access to education for Sudanese refugee children—a fundamental right and a key pathway to a brighter future.



8,818 people reached in 2024

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

In Chad, housing, land and property (HLP) and legal identity (LID) rights are some of key rights affected by displacement. Access to civil documentation is particularly challenging for refugees who either never acquired documentation or misplaced their documents during displacement. Lack of documentation limits refugees' access to essential services and increases protection risk issues surrounding access to agricultural land, water, and adequate housing, which is critical for both humanitarian agencies to deliver quality assistance, and for community cohesion. NRC's expertise in LID and HLP rights as well as its knowledge of collaborative dispute resolution support actors and displacement-affected communities to claim basic rights and prevent and resolve community conflicts.

NRC provides legal assistance, counselling, and information to help people obtain identity and civil status documents (birth, marriage and death certificates) which allow them to access basic services and land with tenure security for livelihood purposes. Our capacity-building activities will strengthen duty bearers and key stakeholders' capabilities on assisting vulnerable refugees to exercise their rights.

NRC has provided information and counselling to 15,418 refugees (81% female) on the importance of legal identity and civil documentation and procedures for obtaining documents. Birth certificates have been established for 2,267 refugee children (1,147 girls and 1,120 boys). 481 local and traditional authorities and leaders from refugee and host communities have been trained on legal identity rights and registration of civil status events.



300 people reached in 2024

Livelihoods and food security (LFS)

Based on activities and analysis from a first step study led by NRC with young Sudanese refugees and young Chadians aged between 15 and 25 to investigate both their aspirations and opportunities in terms of employment, NRC has designed a pilot project focused on social and economic resilience in November 2024 which will start in early 2025.

This pilot will be implemented together with a national NGO experienced in value chains and food transformative processes, an INGO which will bring its digital expertise and equipment to be more attractive for a young audience and with a national think tank and research centre connected with European universities to focus on conflicts, social and economic dynamics.

This pilot will incorporate a strong integration component with other programmes including ICLA for refugee youth employment rights and HLP, education for vocational trainings, and shelters and settlements for creating safe, secure and inclusive spaces where youth can benefit from vocational and technical trainings as well as professional coaching and mentoring in various professional categories highlighted from the study.

Additional studies are expected to be led to provide additional knowledge regarding youth specificities and their employment opportunities to play a social and positive role as well as being active economic agents and income providers for themselves and their family. This will enhance programme design and will focus on the alignment between youth aspirations and main categories of professional opportunities.



3,556 people reached in 2024

Shelter and settlements

NRC's response in 2024 aimed at addressing the growing demand for shelter resulting from the continuous influx of Sudanese refugees into eastern Chad throughout the year. The response focused on both recent arrivals (within the past six months) in need of emergency aid and individuals seeking more sustainable solutions to help them achieve self-reliance.

NRC provided protection to vulnerable families by constructing dignified shelters. As part of its first-line emergency response to new arrivals, NRC built 570 emergency shelters in the Alacha camp/Ouaddai province (250) and Mile Camp/Wadi Fira province (320) through community engagement, employing a cash-for-work methodology. The transitional/long-term response allowed the upgrade of 237 emergency shelters into semi-durable shelters in the Arkoum refugee camp, Ouaddai province. The tarpaulin walls, most of which were damaged, have been replaced with adobe brick walls, which are more environmentally friendly, providing better thermal comfort and greater durability. Construction was carried out using a cash-based approach, with the involvement of both refugees and the host community (provision of bricks, recruitment and payment of local workers, etc.).

The S&S response has also enabled the construction of community infrastructure, including temporary learning spaces/classrooms to provide quality education for refugee children and young people, as well as local communities. As a result, 13 schools were built/rehabilitated, including a total of 82 classrooms, four teachers' offices, 98 latrine doors, 13 water

points and four technical and vocational training centres (TVET).



2,880 people reached in 2024

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The 2024 response focused on the "sanitation" component, both in refugee camps for first-line assistance and in schools. In Mile camp, for example, NRC built 144 latrines and 144 showers for new arrivals in emergency shelters. This intervention has significantly reduced the practice of open defecation, thus limiting exposure to diseases linked to faecal contamination.

Similar assistance has been provided to schools in the Metche, Arkoum and Alacha camps, where 96 gender sensitive latrines, equipped with handwashing facilities, have been built in 14 schools (13 new ones in the camps and one rehabilitation in the host community). Some 13 drinking water stations have been installed, and connections to the water supply network in the various camps are scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.

Coordination and advocacy

The emergency in eastern Chad is already a neglected crisis with limited resources and lack of global attention. NRC has a pivotal role in using its advocacy and media expertise to highlight unmet needs and bring global attention to eastern Chad and the broader Sudan crisis. NRC has invested in content collection, a Secretary General's visit, and context analysis work to be able to show and voice the immense needs in eastern Chad.

- Highlighting unmet needs through media and communications work.
- Engaging with community leadership and authorities at the sub-national level, and within UN-led humanitarian coordination mechanisms and sectoral working groups.
- Actively supporting coordination among humanitarian actors as a member of the Chad INGO Forum.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:



Co-funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Avec la
participation
de



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Contact NRC in Chad



Country director: Dermot Hegarty



dermot.hegarty@nrc.no



(+235) 96039889 / (+235) 64794925 (WhatsApp)



www.nrc.no/chad



Address: Street No. 3255 Porte 0113, Quartier Klémat, Hillé Rogué, 2^{ème}
Arrondissement, N'djamena

NRC

NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

www.nrc.no