

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 the Zamzam camps, and along the El-Fasher–Tawila axis (UNHCR May 2025)¹. As of 22 June, 863,501 Sudanese refugees and 273,654 returnees have crossed through 32 entry points in eastern Chad. The vast majority (86%) are women and children², 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 497,979 refugees, and the Wadi Fira region, with 211,211. 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 16 June 2025, the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan was only 18% funded³ (compared to 38% in 2023) – out of which, Chad's RRP was only 27% funded (compared to 42% in 2023). The Sudanese conflict showing no signs of resolution⁴, and the needs in eastern Chad are expected to escalate significantly⁵ with 1.4 million projected refugees and 301,700 returnees by the end of 2025.⁶



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 | 51 |

¹ UNHCR, L'afflux de réfugiés soudanais au Tchad continue, 7 mai 2025

² UNHCR, 22 juin 2025

³ UNHCR, June 2025

⁴ Sudan crisis: risk analysis for 2025, h2h

⁵ 2025 Chad Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan

⁶ 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.



14,115 people reached since 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.

These efforts have significantly improved the quality of education in primary schools, contributing to a remarkable annual pass rate of 96.14%, including 96.35% among girls – demonstrating a positive impact on learning outcomes and gender equality.

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.

NRC is also strengthening its advocacy efforts for education, as demonstrated by its active participation in the process of having refugee camp schools officially recognised as public institutions by the Ministry of National Education in Chad.

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.



16,079 people reached since 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 is leading a study on housing, land and property (HLP) rights in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, and Sila in eastern Chad in collaboration with IOM. The main objective is to analyse the needs and access conditions related to these rights for refugees, returnees, and host communities, based on existing national and international legal frameworks. The study also aims to identify key barriers to exercising HLP rights and to assess both formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms, including their legitimacy and accessibility as perceived by the affected communities. The findings will inform humanitarian and development interventions, with the goal of strengthening protection, social cohesion, and equitable access to resources in a context under massive land pressure.

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 19,919 people from refugee and host communities (83% female) on the importance of legal identity and civil documentation and on administrative and legal procedures for obtaining civil status documents. Birth certificates have been established for 3,735 refugee children (2,051 girls and 1,684 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 and housing, land and property rights including collaborative dispute resolution.



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 is being implemented together with a national NGO experienced in value chains and food transformative processes, an INGO which is bringing 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 incorporates 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.

In addition, a study focused on a profitability analysis of value chains is being carried out by NRC and a Chadian research partner, CRASH. The study aims to identify promising economic sectors that can offer jobs or enable youth to start their own businesses. NRC and its partners will work with them to build tailored pathways to legal, social and economic inclusion.

A total of 1,305 young people will be reached by the project, 675 of whom will benefit from technical and vocational training and support in starting up their economic activities.



16,466 people reached since 2024 ▼

Shelter and settlements

NRC's response since 2024 has aimed at addressing the growing demand for shelter resulting from the continuous influx of Sudanese refugees into eastern Chad throughout the year. The response has 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 direct implementation using local contractors.

In response to the rapid deterioration of emergency shelters made of tarpaulin, which were constructed over six months ago, NRC launched a programme to progressively upgrade them into semi-durable adobe shelters, with the support of local suppliers and workers. The process involved the selection of vulnerable households, the reconstruction of their shelters using local materials (foundations, mud walls, reinforced roofing), and the training and payment of teams composed of both refugees and members of the host community. This transitional/long-term response allowed the upgrade of 503 emergency shelters into semi-durable shelters in the Arkoum refugee camp, Ouaddai province. 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.).

In addition, since January 2025, in partnership with a local NGO (RHDI), an environmental component has been integrated through the planting of four trees for each shelter constructed, promoting local acceptance and ecological regeneration. This initiative highlights the importance of continuity between immediate humanitarian assistance and longer-term development solutions, while also strengthening the resilience of displaced populations.

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).



8,850 people reached since 2024 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The WASH response was implemented in the refugee camps, particularly in schools and in the community. It focused on access to sanitation and water services (specifically in schools).

In Mile camp (Wadi Fira Province), NRC built 144 communal latrines and 144 showers for new arrivals in emergency shelters. One latrine is to be used by a maximum of four households. This first-line activity was implemented in collaboration with the WASH working group, which validated the various designs. Given the urgency of the situation, NRC opted for direct implementation through the recruitment of local companies. This intervention has significantly reduced the practice of open defecation, thus limiting exposure to diseases linked to faecal contamination especially during the rainy season.

Similar assistance has been provided to schools in the Metche, Arkoum and Alacha camps, where 96 gender sensitive latrines, equipped with handwashing stations, 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 second half of 2025. However, NRC has identified local service providers responsible for transporting water from drawing points in the camps to the school tanks so that pupils have access to safe drinking water during the day till the end of school year.

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.

Additionally, a study focused on both social and political dynamics at the regional, national, and local levels will be carried out by CRASH, NRC's partner. It aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the relationships between stakeholders related to the conflict in Sudan, localised impact in Darfur and East Chad, and ultimately host and refugee communities. This will have a focus on coexistence, refugees' access to resources, and community resilience to climate-related shocks.

Our donors

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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



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www.nrc.no