

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. The crisis reached a critical point in 2025, marked by two major developments: (i) a new large-scale influx of refugees in May 2025, (ii) the fall of El Fasher on 26 October 2025, after more than 18 months of siege. As of 20 April 2026, 925,960 Sudanese refugees and 392,795 returnees have crossed through 32 entry points in Eastern Chad. The vast majority (87%) are women and children, often arriving traumatised, injured and malnourished to areas that offer few opportunities¹. At the same time, Chad's humanitarian response has been significantly weakened by U.S funding cuts. With decreasing of INGO funding, the HRP was only 31% funded in 2025, down from 56% in 2024, and the RRRP² in Chad at 24% in 2025, compared with 31% in 2024.

Chad is the 2nd most affected neighbouring country by the Sudanese crisis, with thousands of new arrivals each week. The most impacted provinces include Ouaddaï, which shelters 506,923 refugees, Wadi Fira, with 231,825 and Ennedi East and Sila with 187,212 refugees. 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. While humanitarian actors, under the leadership of UNHCR and Chadian authorities, continue to provide critical assistance, the scale and complexity of needs are rapidly outpacing current response capacities. Additional funding remains necessary considering the continued deterioration of the context.



Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods and food security
and youth programming



Shelter
and settlements



Water, sanitation
and hygiene (WASH)

NRC Chad

Established	2023
International staff	13
National staff	68

Our areas of operation

NRC's operational offices are in **Adré and Iriba**, strategically close to the main crossing point from West and North Darfur where most refugees cross into Chad. From **Adré and Iriba**, NRC responds to the acute needs of vulnerable populations in camps such as Metche, Arkoum, Alacha and Aboutengue in Ouaddai, as well as within host communities. NRC is also providing an emergency response in the provinces of Wadi Fira and Ennedi Est, in both camps as well as in transit sites. NRC has a coordination office in the capital, **N'Djamena**, enabling donor and national-level coordination.



Our activities in detail

NRC supports populations affected by displacement, by providing assistance, protection and concrete solutions. The Chad country programme delivers a reactive and efficient first line emergency response to refugees while also implementing a second line, resilience-oriented response for both refugees and host communities, through integrated programming. NRC Chad's interventions are structured around two complementary pillars.

- 1. Emergency response:** Providing timely and effective assistance to new arrivals from Sudan, particularly following renewed violence in Darfur and El Fasher, and to refugees relocated from Adré, Tiné and Birak transit camp since 2023. Since April 2024, NRC has focused 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. Resilience and nexus approach:** Launched in December 2024, this pillar targets displacement-affected populations already settled, aiming to improve living conditions and livelihoods by strengthening resilience and linking communities to longer-term solutions. It includes: **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.



29,115 people reached since 2025 ▼

Education

Since 2024, NRC has expanded safe access to education for Sudanese and host communities' children in eastern Chad. Having experienced severe trauma and violence, refugee children urgently need safe, protective, and structured learning environments.

In response, NRC constructed 17 schools, comprising 102 classrooms, across three refugee camps in Ouaddai province. This support has substantially increased access to education for children in these underserved areas. Recognizing the importance of supporting host communities alongside refugee populations, NRC also rehabilitated four classrooms in the village of Arkoum, contributing to social cohesion and improved community relations.

To ensure the provision of quality education, NRC trained 224 teachers (51% women) across the three refugee camps, to support 15,012 primary school students (7,555 girls). The training focused on inclusive education in emergencies, and psychosocial support through the Better Learning Programme (BLP). In addition, 49 teachers from schools supported by Plan International in Aboutengué refugee camp also benefited from this training. The BLP equips teachers with practical tools to foster safe and supportive learning environments, including stress management techniques, trauma recognition, psychological first aid, and social-emotional learning approaches.

These efforts contributed to strong learning outcomes, with an overall annual pass rate of 96.14% at the end of the 2024–2025 school year, including 96.35% for girls – highlighting both academic progress and advances in gender equality.

Beyond infrastructure and training, NRC supported teachers and students through the distribution of textbooks, pedagogical guides, and comprehensive learning kits, helping to ensure continuity and quality of learning.

At the policy level, NRC strengthened its advocacy efforts, contributing to the official recognition of 77% of refugee camp schools as public institutions by Chad’s Ministry of National Education.

Building on these achievements, NRC’s education strategy in 2026 aims to expand activities in Ennedi East, particularly in the newly established Ouré Cassoni extension camp, where educational needs remain critical.



42,735 people reached since 2025 ▼

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. Many refugees lack or have lost official documents, limiting their access to essential services and increasing protection risks.

Competition over limited land and natural resources, compounded by climate-related pressures, continues to increase tensions and conflict risks between communities. At the same time, displaced youth face major barriers to accessing decent livelihoods and employment opportunities, limiting self-reliance and increasing dependency on humanitarian assistance. Addressing these challenges remains critical to strengthening resilience and promoting social cohesion.

Through its expertise in LID and HLP, collaborative dispute resolution, and promotion of employment rights, NRC supports authorities, partners, and displacement-affected communities to claim their rights, prevent and resolve conflicts, and improve access to sustainable livelihoods.

In December 2025, NRC, in partnership with IOM, concluded a multi-provincial study in Eastern Chad to inform targeted programmatic responses. Based on the findings, NRC is implementing interventions to strengthen HLP rights for displaced populations and vulnerable host communities, while reinforcing community-based mechanisms for dispute resolution.

NRC provides legal assistance, counselling and information to facilitate access to civil documentation (including birth, marriage, and death certificates), enabling individuals to access basic services and secure land tenure for their livelihoods. Capacity-building activities further enhance the ability of duty bearers and key stakeholders to support refugees and vulnerable host communities in exercising their rights.

Since 2024, NRC has reached a total of 34,577 individuals from refugee and host communities with legal information and counselling on LID, HLP, and employment rights. Among them, 7,223 individuals with specific legal needs received tailored counselling and support to obtain civil documentation, access decent employment, and secure cultivable land.

As a result, 7,907 birth certificates were issued through declaratory judgments, benefiting 7,507 refugee children and 400 children from host communities. In addition, 481 local and traditional authorities and community leaders were trained on LID, HLP rights, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. Basic working materials were also provided to strengthen local protection and service delivery capacities.



37,505 people reached since 2025 ▼

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 1,933 emergency shelters for newly arrived refugees in Ouaddaï and Wadi Fira provinces, through strong coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners, particularly in Wadi Fira, where needs were most acute.

In support of the transitional response, especially in Ouaddaï, 620 shelters were upgraded into semi-durable structures, benefiting 2,735 individuals. This approach promoted sustainability by using locally available materials within a circular economy approach. Environmental mitigation measures were also implemented, including tree planting for 611 households in partnership with the local NGO RHDI³, contributing to increased environmental resilience. In 2026, a new partnership with Nirvana, another national NGO, will enable the expansion of this approach in Ennedi East through reforestation activities integrated into emergency shelters currently under construction.

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. 17 durable schools (six classrooms, nine stances of latrines and water network each), the rehabilitation of existing schools for the host community, and the establishment of nine vocational training centres (TVET) equipped with water and sanitation facilities. Out of

these, six schools have benefited from reforestation, along with three TVET centres where activities are currently ongoing, ensuring the provision of shade.



44,198 people reached since 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WASH interventions complemented NRC's Shelter and Settlements response in both emergency and transitional phases, contributing to improved hygiene conditions and reduced public health risks. For emergency response in Wadi Fira, NRC constructed 496 emergency latrine and shower units to serve newly built shelters, ensuring that each latrine is shared by no more than four households. In addition, 1,055 household WASH kits and 275 maintenance kits were distributed.

Hygiene promotion activities reached 5,177 individuals, supporting behaviour change and improved hygiene practices. These efforts significantly reduced open defecation and limited exposure to waterborne diseases, particularly during the rainy season. Emergency water trucking further improved access to safe water in Goudrane and Touloum camps, increasing availability from virtually zero to 9–13 litres per person per day. A total of 1,745 m³ of potable water was delivered, benefiting 8,630 people.

As part of the transitional response, NRC also supported 50 households benefiting from shelter upgrades in constructing durable latrines.

WASH support was extended to public infrastructure in Metche, Arkoum, and Alacha camps. Gender-sensitive latrines equipped with handwashing facilities were constructed in 18 schools (17 new and one rehabilitated) and in 9 vocational training centres (TVETs). All schools and 6 out of 9 TVET centres were connected to a permanent water supply network.

Finally, during the cholera outbreak, NRC further contributed to the response through the pre-positioning of essential supplies and targeted

³ Resilience Développement Humainitaire Intégré

hygiene awareness campaigns, helping to mitigate the spread of the disease.



1,774 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security (LFS) and youth programming

Since 2024, NRC reached 1,774 young people aged 15–25 through an integrated approach combining functional literacy, life skills development, and technical training in soap making, tailoring, solar energy, and pastry, alongside support for economic inclusion (VSLA). The intervention was further strengthened through the distribution of 35 start-up kits, the establishment of nine fully equipped training centres, and the construction of 35 shops, providing safe, inclusive, and youth-friendly environments for learning and business development.

To ensure the sustainability of income-generating activities, NRC provided entrepreneurship and marketing training, complemented by coaching and mentoring to support young people in developing and consolidating their economic initiatives.

Two key studies were conducted in the Ouaddaï province: a value chain analysis that identified high-potential sectors (small ruminants, cowpea, groundnuts, and solar energy), and a socio-cultural dynamics study that highlighted generally peaceful relations between refugees and host communities, while also documenting ongoing tensions related to access to natural resources and economic opportunities. The studies provided practical recommendations to strengthen social cohesion and sustainable peace.

Finally, operational partnerships with national organisations such as CRASH and Al Barka favoured local contributions to the response. In parallel, Ideas Boxes⁴ were deployed and enriched with educational content, including pilot e-learning pathways developed in partnership with Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF).

This achievement incorporates a strong integration component with other programmes including ICLA for refugee youth employment

rights and HLP, education for vocational training, and shelters and settlements for creating safe, secure and inclusive spaces where youth can benefit from vocational and technical training as well as professional coaching and mentoring in various professional categories highlighted from the study.

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.

⁴ [link](#)

Our donors since 2024

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