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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chad – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

January 8, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated September 25, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Widespread conflict, displacement, and limited resources have contributed to a complex emergency in Chad. 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 between late 2005 and mid-2009 have resulted in more than 168,000 internally displaced Chadians, leading to an increased need for humanitarian services. Since mid-2009, the U.N. and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have reported increased concerns for vulnerable populations and humanitarian staff in Chad, noting a significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation and increasing incidents of armed attack and kidnapping of humanitarian staff.

Displacement within Chad has occurred in the context of an existing humanitarian emergency fueled by the migration of more than 253,000 Sudanese refugees into the eastern region of Chad since the start of the Darfur complex emergency in 2003. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an estimated 321,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) resided in camps in eastern and southern Chad as of November 2009, taxing limited local resources. In addition to affecting internally displaced and refugee populations, the regional conflict continues to impact Chadian communities that host internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, affecting local agriculture, livestock rearing, and other livelihood activities.

On December 16, U.S. Ambassador Louis J. Nigro re-declared a disaster in Chad due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. During FY 2009 and FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$213 million in humanitarian assistance for IDPs, refugees, and host communities in Chad, including refugee protection and assistance; psychosocial services; agriculture and food security interventions; emergency food assistance; and health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in Eastern Chad	168,467	OCHA ¹ – September 2009
Sudanese Refugees in Chad	253,479	UNHCR – November 2009
CAR Refugees in Chad	67,709	UNHCR – November 2009
Affected Host Population	700,000	OCHA – June 2008

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN FY 2010

USAID/FFP² Assistance to Chad.....\$20,000,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Chad.....\$20,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

Throughout late 2009 and into early 2010, tensions along the Chad–Sudan border continued, exacerbating the already insecure operating environment for relief agencies and resulting in frequent suspension of humanitarian assistance programs. As of early January, humanitarian operations remain restricted due to escalating attacks on aid organizations and rising tensions among IDPs, refugees, and the Chadian host population, resulting from competition over scarce resources and routine criminality and banditry. In addition, local residents in eastern Chad continue to experience violence, including armed attacks and robbery by civilian and

military assailants, as well as sexual and other forms of violence against women. During September and October 2009, State/PRM and USAID staff traveled to the region to assess humanitarian conditions and ongoing needs and to liaise with implementing partners on the ground.

Security and Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian agencies continue to experience insecurity and poor road conditions that limit the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected areas. As of early January, frequent carjackings, attempted kidnappings, shootings, and banditry continue to impact U.N. and

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

NGO staff, programs, and beneficiaries. In addition, recurrent tensions between armed groups along the border zone and in nearby refugee camps and IDP sites contribute to limited humanitarian access to program sites and beneficiaries. According to the U.N., criminal incidents against humanitarian staff in eastern Chad during 2009 increased to the highest level in recent years, including 192 serious attacks against humanitarian staff between January and September.

Between October and December, eastern Chad experienced the impact of regional insecurity and instability, leading to several attacks on and evacuations of humanitarian staff, as well as decreased provision of services for affected populations. In late October, armed assailants targeted a clearly marked humanitarian vehicle, killing the head of the Chadian Commission National d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés (CNAR) near Kounoungo camp where CNAR and UNHCR were conducting verification exercises. On November 7, unidentified assailants in Adé, Ouaddaï Region, fired on an NGO vehicle, killing the driver. On November 9, armed men kidnapped an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) international staff member from Farchana, Ouaddaï Region. The individual remains held as of January 8.

As a result of the insecurity, several humanitarian organizations working in eastern Chad have suspended activities, while others have restricted programs and relocated staff. According to the U.N., several NGOs, including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), ICRC, and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), have shifted programs to remote management and removed international staff from project sites in eastern Chad or suspended humanitarian programs completely. In December, the U.N. estimated that approximately 96,000 individuals were at risk of deteriorating living conditions due to the continued program suspensions and reduction of operations.

In November 2009, the U.N. Mission in CAR and Chad (MINURCAT) reported that bandits had not targeted any military-escorted convoy; however, on December 20, armed men hijacked a civilian vehicle traveling with a Détachement intégré de Sécurité (DIS)-escorted MINURCAT logistics convoy between Goz Beïda and Koukou Angarana in Ouaddaï Region. Despite routine patrols and increased force levels, U.N. officials have cautioned that MINURCAT will remain unable to protect IDPs, refugees, and humanitarian staff, or to create a secure environment conducive to IDP returns without delivery of the planned complement of forces and equipment.

In late December, State/PRM staff reported that the response of the recently deployed DIS police forces stationed throughout eastern Chad to provide security for humanitarian staff, as well as local towns and camps, has improved in recent months. In addition, field sources

report fewer complaints of abuses committed by the officers. According to the U.N., the 850-member DIS provides an average of 500 escort missions and 800 security patrols around camps each month, with 122 DIS forces patrolling in Iriba, Wadi Fira Region, and 101 forces posted in Guéréda, Wadi Fira Region.

IDPs and Refugees

As of late 2009, IDPs and refugees continued to take shelter in more than 50 camps throughout Chad. During September 2009, OCHA estimated that Chad hosted approximately 168,000 IDPs living in 38 IDP sites in eastern Chad. Due to lack of livelihood opportunities, household resources, and an overall inability to sustain themselves, humanitarian assistance to the IDP population remains vital.

Since 2008, between 20,000 and 25,000 IDPs have returned to areas of origin, fueled by food insecurity, lack of land access, and lack of income sources at IDP sites, according to OCHA. Despite the limited returns to areas around Goz Beïda, Assoungha, and Koukou zones in Ouaddaï Region, humanitarian agencies caution that local conditions remain unstable and large-scale returns are not yet a viable option. In response to current needs in areas of small-scale return, particularly protection needs, humanitarian actors plan to meet with U.N. Development Program (UNDP) staff to discuss enhancement of protection activities, access to basic social services, and development of income-generating activities for returnees. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to implement several activities, including protection programs, for displaced persons and host communities in Goz Beïda. USAID/OFDA continues to support humanitarian interventions and community infrastructure activities for displaced and local populations in IDP sites and surrounding communities.

In late October, UNHCR announced plans to classify Chadian villages as red, yellow, and green, marking the level of safety for potential IDP returns. According to the UNHCR plan, individuals from areas classified as green will no longer be considered IDPs, and will not receive food assistance or emergency relief commodities distributed at IDP sites; although individuals will be eligible to utilize site schools, health services, and water points. As of early January, the timeline for the UNHCR project remains unknown.

Although GoC officials agreed in late September to relocate the Oure Cassoni refugee camp in the Bourkou–Ennedi–Tibesti Region away from the volatile border with Sudan, following subsequent evaluations, UNHCR reported that the proposed site for the new camp, 45 km northwest of Bahaï town in the Bourkou–Ennedi–Tibesti Region has proven unviable, with an inadequate water supply. As a result, UNHCR's plans for the proposed relocation remain on hold, pending identification of a new site. To date, GoC officials continue to insist that

any replacement site be located within the Bourkou–Ennedi–Tibesti Region, thus rejecting humanitarian staff suggestions to relocate Oure Cassoni residents to several smaller refugee camps and subsequently close down humanitarian operations in Bahaï. Located 7 km from the Darfur border, Oure Cassoni camp hosts approximately 28,000 Darfuri refugees, and the border-area camp experiences recurrent issues including water and firewood shortages, recruitment of child soldiers, and militarization, according to relief agencies. During FY 2009, State/PRM provided more than \$20 million to UNHCR for refugee support in eastern and southern Chad.

Food Security and Emergency Food Assistance

During late 2009, IDPs, refugees, and local populations in Chad continued to experience significant food insecurity. According to an October 2009 U.N. World Food Program (WFP) report, 40 percent of the estimated 11 million individuals in Chad were suffering from food insecurity. Humanitarian agencies note the impact of several factors, including floods, destruction of food stocks, and an irregular and below-average rainfall during the 2009–2010 agricultural season that led to decreased cereal production and poor pastoral conditions. Preliminary findings of a joint assessment by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), WFP, and the GoC show a net cereal deficit of 637,000 tons and a decline in gross production of grain by 34 percent compared to the five-year average. In addition, as of early January, cereal prices remain higher than the five-year average and are the highest in the region, according to FEWSNET.

Chad may experience an early hunger season as soon as April 2010, according to FEWSNET reports. During the hunger season, typical coping strategies will be insufficient to meet food gaps, and nutritional and livelihoods assistance will be necessary until September 2010. In response, WFP is planning to strengthen current nutrition-focused activities in Bahr El Ghazal Department and other areas of the Kanem Region affected by chronic food insecurity.

Despite increased insecurity, WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) in eastern Chad continues to reach more than 250,000 Sudanese refugees in 12 camps with general food distributions. During the November food ration distributions, WFP provided approximately 4,844 metric tons (MT) of food aid, a total of 30-day rations for more than 252,000 Sudanese refugees. December food distributions were scheduled to commence during the first week of December.

WFP has extended its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) targeting CAR refugees in southern Chad through March 2010, to prevent any interruption in

the food aid delivery while the organization plans for the next phase of the relief operation.

During FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 100,950 MT valued at more than \$138 million to WFP programs in Chad, including 44,070 MT as an early FY 2010 contribution to the WFP EMOP. To date in FY 2010, USAID/FFP has provided 13,370 MT valued at \$20 million to the WFP EMOP.

Nutrition

Despite the recent harvest season and availability of food aid, significant rates of malnutrition have continued in some areas of Chad. Between November 21 and December 4, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted a nutritional survey in Bahr El Ghazal Department in western Chad. The preliminary results reveal global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 26.9 percent and 4.5 percent respectively, in excess of the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 1 percent. In response to the elevated GAM and SAM rates, WFP plans to reinforce its monitoring system in all 28 supplementary feeding centers in the affected area, and liaise with stakeholders to develop an integrated strategy to improve overall food security and malnutrition in the regions. In addition, USAID/FFP staff continue to monitor the situation to determine additional humanitarian needs.

In Eastern Chad, a joint nutritional survey led by UNHCR, with the participation of WFP, UNICEF, and NGO partners, commenced on November 23. The assessment plans to cover all 12 refugee camps in eastern Chad and will provide information on the overall nutritional status of Sudanese refugees in Chad.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE¹			
WFP	13,370 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$20,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$20,000,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2010			\$20,000,000

¹ Estimated value of food assistance.