HIGHLIGHTS (8 Jun 2020)

- The Government strengthens health measures to limit the spread of the virus
- The humanitarian community in Chad supports the Government's efforts to cope with the impact of COVID-19
- Some challenges remain to be overcome
- Security crisis in the Lac: a hidden war waged against local populations by non-state armed groups
- Towards an improvement of the living conditions of IDPs from Diemerom to Amma

January 2020, N'Djamena, Chad. At the nutritional unit of the "Hôpital de l'Amitié Tchad-Chine" run by the NGO ALIMA, a technician presents the nutritional situation. An example of good Government-United Nations-NGO collaboration. Photo credit: OCHA/Federica Gabellini.

KEY FIGURES

- People in need: 5,3M
- People targeted: 3M
- Refugees: 448K
- Returnees: 117K
- IDPs: 171K
- Host population in need: 690K

FUNDING (2020)

- Required: $671.8M
- Received: $92.2M
- Progress: 14%

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE (8 Jun 2020)

COVID-19 in Chad: The Government and the humanitarian community join forces against the pandemic

On 19 March, Chad reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19. Three weeks later, a first local transmission was reported in N'Djamena. Since then, the number of infections has increased exponentially and, as of 30 May, Chad reports 778 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 65 deaths in 11 provinces. Extreme poverty and limited health infrastructures exacerbate the vulnerability of the population. The mortality rate is currently 8.35 per cent, one of the highest in the region and in the world, partly explained by a shortage of tests, only performed on people with severe symptoms. The spread of the virus has rapidly accelerated since the beginning of May.
The Government strengthens health measures to limit the spread of the virus Since the beginning of the health crisis, the Government has taken a series of measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus, including: declaration of a state of health emergency, closing of borders, establishment of a curfew, restrictions on movement between provinces, ban on gatherings of more than 50 people, closure of worship places, schools, as well as cabarets, bars, casinos, game centres and restaurants.

On 16 May, a Health Crisis Management Committee (Comité de gestion de la Crise Sanitaire, CGCS) was created and placed under the authority of the President of the Republic, Idriss Déby. Composed of eight members, the Committee is in charge of leading the fight against COVID-19, in particular through the establishment of a national health response coordination led by scientists and dedicated to the fight against COVID-19, the creation of five specialized, inclusive sub-committees (on awareness raising, finance and orders, assistance to the poor, resource mobilization, and defense and security), the urgent request for essential medical equipment supplies, the acquisition of at least five mobile laboratories, the implementation of a strengthened action plan to support the 2020 agricultural campaign, the launch of food distribution operations for the poor, and the now-free distribution of masks.

The humanitarian community in Chad supports the Government’s efforts to cope with the impact of COVID-19 Under the leadership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in supporting the Government’s efforts and coordinating the overall health response to COVID-19, United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have started to implement various activities and initiatives on the prevention and response to the pandemic, in accordance with the updated 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the contingency plan prepared by the Government of Chad.

For example, awareness-raising initiatives for the population both in the capital and in the provinces - including IDP sites and refugee camps - direct awareness-raising campaigns for health representatives, training of trainers for health personnel on infection prevention and control (IPC) / WASH, as well as IPC / WASH assessments of health facilities in the capital and in the provinces. Efforts have also been made to ensure that official communications on prevention from the Ministry of Public Health are translated into local languages and disseminated through various community outreach channels, including radio.

Population movements related to COVID-19 have been monitored, in particular along land entry points, and assistance in food, health and non-food items for students returning from Cameroon has been provided during their stay in quarantine centers.

Epidemiological research capacities in the capital and in certain regions (e.g. Abéché) have been strengthened as well as the capacities of different laboratories in the country in identifying cases. Similarly, surveillance teams monitoring suspicious contacts have been expanded. As to the responses previously planned, humanitarian organizations have adapted their activities to comply with COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Particular emphasis has been placed on raising awareness at community level, providing hygiene kits and handwashing stations in public places, training healthcare workers on COVID-19 and providing unconditional cash transfers, among others.

It should be noted that on 10 May, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) signed a provisional agreement with the Ministry of Public Health to allow its team to provide epidemiological monitoring of COVID-19, promotion of health and hygiene, and the treatment of cases in public health centers in N'Djamena and other regions in order to relieve some of the burden from the public health system.
Some challenges remain to be overcome The Government is supporting the continuation of humanitarian action during this crisis. Current preventive measures do not, in principle, affect the transport of humanitarian goods. However, as restrictions on movement are tightened, it has become more difficult to ensure humanitarian access in some areas. Certain activities have been suspended due to the stricter application of confinement measures in certain provinces, which has made it difficult for humanitarian personnel to move outside of urban centers, including N'Djamena.

In order to ensure the essential running of humanitarian actors’ operations in the field, the Government has granted special authorizations allowing the circulation of United Nations agencies and international NGOs to support critical programmes in each province: health emergency, food distribution, WASH and shelter programmes, and vaccination campaigns. Humanitarian actors ensure all necessary precautions are taken and follow appropriate standard operating procedures during their movements and programme implementation, in order to reduce any potential transmission of COVID-19 through humanitarian action itself. Although the emergency response to COVID-19 warrants special attention, the existing challenges faced by the Chadian population should not be neglected. The rainy season has begun and already caused some population displacements following floods and destruction of shelters. Food insecurity is expected to worsen during the upcoming lean season. The Lac province is experiencing an increase in criminal activity by non-state armed groups, which could result in new population movements in the province and across the borders. The measles epidemic remains a major concern, since 1 January 2020, 8,026 cases and 37 deaths have been reported: 28 districts (out of 126) have been confirmed to be in an epidemic situation since the beginning of the year.

For more information, please consult:

Documents and useful links on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Chad
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/chad/covid-19

WHO situation reports on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Chad
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/op%C3%A9rations/chad/documents/themes/covid-19/organizations/world-health-organization

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (8 Jun 2020)

Situation Report #3 – Internally displaced people crisis in the Lac (15-31 May 2020)

Security crisis in the Lac: a hidden war waged against local populations by non-state armed groups The security situation in the Lac province remains worrying, in light of the intensification of attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) in the Lake Chad Basin region, despite military interventions such as the Operation “Wrath of Boma” conducted by the Chadian army from 31 March to 8 April 2020, in response to the attack on Boma of 23 March. During the month of May, several attacks were reported in the province, including the killing of some 20 fishermen committed by NSAG in various villages of the sub-prefectures of Ngouboua and Kaiga Kindjiria. In addition, the state of emergency measures in place affect the civilian population, particularly farmers and fishermen, who are forced to leave their living environment suitable for pastoral and fishing activities and risk being associated with NSAG by the Defense and Security Forces. This situation is likely to cause even more population displacements, destabilize the local economy, exacerbate nutritional crises and directly increase the vulnerabilities of populations in the provinces of Lac, Kanem and Barh-el-Gazel.

December 2018, Lac Province, Chad. Displaced people during an OCHA field mission. Photo credit: OCHA/Naomi Frerotte.
Internal displacement crisis and COVID-19 in the Lac The results of the 11th round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) carried out by IOM between 16 and 30 April 2020 reveal that 298,803 people are internally displaced in the Lac and scattered over 204 localities including 162 sites and 42 host communities. This situation is the result of the ongoing insecurity related to the activities of armed groups and military operations in the Lac. For security reasons, in the insular border areas of Niger and Nigeria, severely impacted by security incidents, 40 per cent of the localities were assessed by telephone, to respect the restrictive measures taken by the authorities to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. A 13 per cent increase in the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) was observed compared to the previous round, due to the displacement of people from the insular border areas of Niger and Nigeria towards the mainland, following military operations launched by the Government against the armed groups in the region. These displacements put people at greater risk of being infected with COVID-19.

Overview of displacements following the operation "Wrath of Boma" Military operations launched by the Chadian army against a NSAG in Chad following the attack on Boma of 23 March, as well as the establishment of a state of emergency declaring the departments of Kaya and Fouli as “war zones”, forced 20,806 people to move from the islands to the mainland, eventually finding refuge in Diamerom, a town located 95 km northwest of Baga Sola. The newly displaced joined around 10,000 existing IDPs on the site who had previously moved to this area due to armed incursions on their insular villages in 2019. To ensure the protection of the new IDPs, the authorities organized their relocation to the Amma site, considered safer, located 30 km from Diamerom and 20 km from Liwa, in the department of Fouli. The Amma site had already been hosting a community of around 2,000 IDPs since 2017. On 11 May 2020, the relocation of the new IDPs to the Amma site began under the leadership of the local Government, which coordinated logistics and security aspects. For their part, humanitarian partners undertook all the preliminary measures to guarantee the relocation was done on a voluntary basis, and to ensure peaceful coexistence with the existing IDPs of Amma. Humanitarians also ensured the relocation was done in compliance with protection standards and COVID-19 preventive measures, through awareness-raising sessions with traditional authorities and the provision of more than 30 handwashing stations and soap to curb the spread of the pandemic. The operation ended on 23 May with the transfer of 12,463 people (4,706 households), which is lower than the initially estimated number of 20,000 internally displaced people. This is explained by the fact that some people did not want to move too far from their district of origin, mainly due to agricultural and pastoral concerns.

Towards an improvement of the living conditions of IDPs from Diamerom to Amma Humanitarian partners in the Lac province have mobilized resources for the IDP relocation from Diamerom to Amma. Sectoral assessment missions strove to enable optimal mobilization of resources, albeit these remain insufficient, to meet minimum standards. An important work of spatial delimitation and reorganization of the site of Amma carried out by a team comprising the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Red Cross of Chad (CRT) allowed parcels of 16 blocks of 100 plots each. Regular communication between the humanitarian community and the administrative authorities helped reduce difficulties and constraints during the process.

CLUSTER STATUS (8 Jun 2020)

Shelters / NFI

Needs

In addition, 800 shelters will be built to assist people with specific needs, such as single parents who represent 10.2 per cent of the displaced, unaccompanied or separated children (2.3 per cent), people with disabilities (0.3 per cent)

Response

https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/chad
Downloaded: 9 Jun 2020
2,595 kits consisting of essential household items and tarpaulins were distributed to the displaced but did not cover all identified needs.

**Gaps**

No gap identified

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**CLUSTER STATUS (8 Jun 2020)**

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs**

There is an urgent need of family latrines to prevent the spread of disease as the rainy season approaches.

**Response**

In addition to the nine operational wells in Amma, the RRM programme installed two 20 cubic metres and 10 cubic metres bladders with 12 taps to increase the water supply on the site. The installation of 38 handwashing stations with soap has been completed.

**Gaps**

Also, the construction of additional water boreholes on the site is necessary to strengthen the water capacity and prevent possible technical problems with the generator that could interrupt water production.

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**CLUSTER STATUS (8 Jun 2020)**

### Health

**Needs**

A minimum package of primary health care and treatment of malnutrition is needed. The package includes mental and reproductive health.

**Response**

A mobile clinic operated by the NGO ALIMA has been stationed at the site since the beginning of the operation offering basic services in primary health care and malnutrition treatment. The service also includes mental and reproductive health.
**COVID-19 preventive measures:** An inter-agency team comprising HCR, CRT and OCHA put in place a health committee for the management of handwashing stations to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on the site. A major awareness campaign involving administrative, traditional and military authorities is underway. Training of community liaisons and awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 preventive measures for the new IDPs are being implemented by IRC.

### Gaps

In order to cope with the medical needs of the local population, an additional nurse and a wider reception area for the patients at the health post (COVID-19 prevention) are necessary.

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**CLUSTER STATUS (8 Jun 2020)**

**Food security**

### Needs

The newly displaced have expressed their urgent need for food. WFP is planning a new food distribution in June-July.

### Response

The distribution of a two-month emergency food supply by WFP and its partners on 6 April 2020 saved the lives of many displaced people who lacked any means of subsistence. A sectoral evaluation of the Amma site, held from 14 to 17 May, found the land suitable for millet culture and vegetable production, subject to land development and rainfall since the land hasn’t been used for 43 years. Local representatives of the IDPs from Diamerom and Amma worked together to reach an agreement on the use of arable land in Amma.

### Gaps

Distribution of agricultural inputs for the upcoming lean season is essential.