

## HIGHLIGHTS

- After three years of assistance at the Gaoui site, the humanitarian community advocates for durable solutions to facilitate the reintegration of returnees.
- The Oslo Humanitarian Conference allowed the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to receive pledges of US \$ 672 million, including US \$ 458 million in 2017.

## FIGURES

Population	13.2M
Literacy rate	37.3%
GDP / capita	US\$2,171
Life expectancy	51.6 years
<5 mortality rate	133/1,000
Maternal maternity rate	860/100,000
Affected people	8.1M
People in need	4.7 M
Access to drinking water	52%
IDPs (of which registered on 31/01/2017)	127,000
Refugees	393,985
Returnees	86,901
Third-country nationals	322

## FUNDING

**589 million**  
requested (US\$)

**0.41%** funded



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## Toward sustainable solutions for Gaoui returnees

### Decreasing humanitarian response in the site

Some 5,000 Chadian returnees (57% women and 43% men) who have been arriving in Chad since January 2014, after decades spent in the Central African Republic (CAR), were installed in Zafaye site, Gaoui (about 15 km north-east of N'Djamena) by the authorities with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

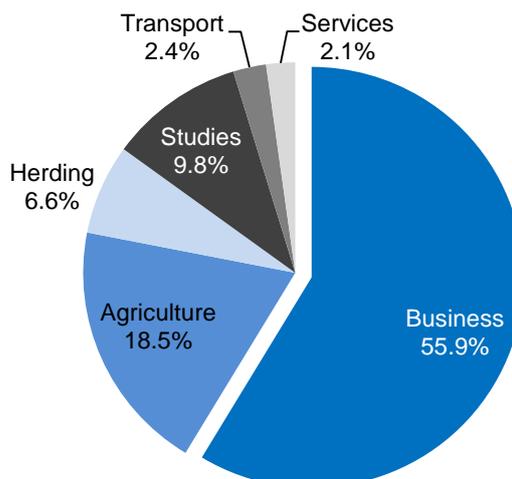
After three years of assistance, almost all humanitarian actors withdrew from the site due to a lack of funding, resulting in deterioration of the living conditions of returnees. Food distributions are sporadic; half of the 700 shelters are seriously dilapidated; lack of livelihoods weakens access to health care at the centre located three kilometres from the site and less than half of the 18 boreholes on the site and only 40 per cent of the latrines are functional. In addition, 40 per cent of children enrolled in N'Djamena schools off-site were dismissed for non-payment of school fees. UNICEF, however, continues to support the site's school by covering the teachers' salaries via the national NGO CDVT (*Comité pour le Développement du Volontariat au Tchad*). For the 2016-2017 school year, UNICEF intends to innovate, by developing income-generating activities with pupils' parents, so that over time, teachers' salaries are entirely borne by them.

Since 2016, the humanitarian community has been advocating for durable solution oriented assistance in order to facilitate the reintegration of Gaoui returnees. Indeed, the majority of the returnees wish to leave the site to integrate the city of N'Djamena and resume a normal life. This is reflected in the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s survey conducted in 2016 in collaboration with the NGO ADES (*Agence pour le Développement Economique et Social*). Priority needs include access to housing and livelihoods followed by access to education and employment. The majority of returnees, made up of former merchants, want to resume income-generating activities that will allow them to take care of themselves and thus elude dependency on humanitarian aid.



Credit: OCHA/Naomi Frérotte : According to the survey carried out by IOM and the CCCM cluster, 55.9% of the returnees living in the Gaoui site wish to invest in business.

## Activities aspired by the returnees as part of durable solutions



Source : CCCM Cluster, OCHA

*ECHO is planning to help support the reintegration of returnees – in partnership with NGO ACTED – by providing access to housing in the city of N'Djamena and elsewhere, and developing income-generating activities and non-formal education training.*

### Returning to normal life

With the Ministry of Women, Protection of Early Childhood and National Solidarity, the Government has developed a socio-economic reintegration plan for Gaoui returnees. The plan was designed in line with the Government's Global Response Plan for Chadian Returnees (2015-2019) from CAR, which aims to "move from humanitarian assistance to sustainable empowerment". It is within this framework that the European Union Humanitarian and Civil Protection Office (ECHO) is planning to help support the reintegration of returnees. The support, which will be implemented by the NGO ACTED, is divided into two parts: support for housing in the city of N'Djamena and elsewhere, and support for income-generating activities and non-formal education training. Thus, activity starting kits will be given to the returnees. The phases of awareness-raising and enrolment of candidates wishing to voluntarily leave the site is due to start in March.

Adam Isaac, a 109 year old returnee, no longer wants to stay in the site. "Living conditions are difficult here. People suffer a lot. I live only by God's grace. Everyone prefers to leave the camp. I thank the government who got us out of the crisis and brought us here, as well as humanitarian organisations. We appreciate the programs they want to implement for us," said the former Imam, a native of Mongo (Guera region), who said he spent almost 70 years in CAR.



Credit : OCHA/Naomi Frerotte : Despite his advanced age (109), Adam still hopes for a better tomorrow.

An essential aspect of the implementation of durable solutions is the issuance of identity documents for the returnees. Without these documents, it would be impossible for these people to access the labour market, studies and certain services such as microfinance and banks. They were forced to leave CAR under urgency, without being able to take all their belongings. The Government has committed to meeting this need in early 2017. The

issuance of identity documents has been set as a sine qua non condition for implementing the accompaniment program to help returnees exit from Gaoui site.

The need for durable solutions does not only concern returnees in Gaoui, but also some 82,000 returnees from CAR, whose majority is in the south of the country. It is essential that donors and development partners support the Government's Global Response Plan for returnees from CAR, which has been waiting for implementation for two years now due to lack of official launch and therefore lack of funding.

## Oslo Humanitarian Conference for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin Countries

*Some 20 partners met in Baga Sola, in the Lac region, to identify priority needs and possible solutions around the themes of food security, education, protection and humanitarian access.*

### Renewed collective mobilization for affected populations

On 23 and 24 February 2017, a humanitarian conference for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin was organized jointly by Norway, Nigeria, Germany and the United Nations in Oslo, Norway. The conference brought together 170 representatives from 40 countries, the United Nations, regional organisations and civil society to draw attention to the humanitarian crisis and the need for durable solutions in the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin.

Chad was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation, Mr. Brahim Hisein Taha, accompanied by the Director of Legal Affairs of the same Ministry, Mr. Tordeta Ratebaye. Humanitarian Coordinator Stephen Tull also attended the conference to voice messages from the humanitarian community in Chad.

### Civil society involved in the preparatory phase

Prior to the Oslo humanitarian conference, civil society consultations were held in the four countries affected by the crisis. In Chad, in early February, some 20 partners met in Baga Sola, in the Lac region, to identify priority needs and possible solutions around the themes of food security, education, protection and humanitarian access. These discussions then fuelled the consultations in N'Djamena, during which key messages from the Chadian civil society were finalized. Mr. Abdelkerim Kodbe, Country Coordinator of the national NGO OHD (*Organisation Humanitaire et de Développement*), was then chosen as the civil society representative to present these messages during the day dedicated to the civil society organized in Oslo on 23 February and during the 24 February Conference.



Credit: OCHA/Naomi Frerotte : Highlights of civil society consultation in Baga Sola.

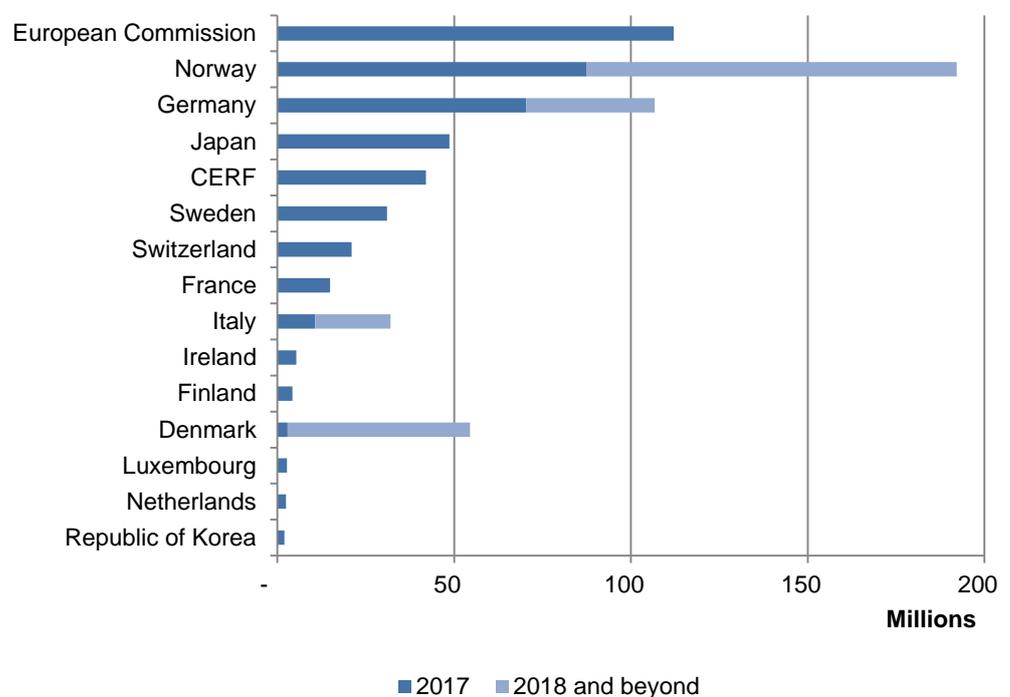
## Key themes

In Oslo, participants stressed the urgent need to step up efforts to ensure food security and nutrition for vulnerable people, as well as the centrality of protection in humanitarian response, with particular attention to the fight against sexual violence. Participants also agreed on the essential role of education in emergencies to promote peace and development. An event on health response highlighted the importance of reproductive health and access to healthcare, both in the short and long terms.

In addition, adopting a new way of working in the Lake Chad Basin has been identified as a priority. In line with the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, there is a need to strengthen the link between humanitarian and development interventions in order to enhance resilience, identify durable solutions and reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities.

## Funding pledges by donor for the Lake Chad Basin in 2017, 2018 and beyond

*Pledges totaling US \$ 672 million have been announced by 14 donors, including \$ 458 million for 2017 in the Lake Chad Basin countries, and \$ 214 million for 2018 and beyond. The disaggregation of these pledges by affected country is not yet known.*



Source : Oslo Conference, OCHA

## Financial commitments

Pledges totalling US \$ 672 million have been announced by 14 donors, including \$ 458 million for 2017 in the Lake Chad Basin countries, and \$ 214 million for 2018 and beyond. The disaggregation of these pledges by affected country is not yet known. As a reminder, in Chad, the humanitarian response plan in the Lac region requires US \$ 121 million in 2017 to assist 233,000 people.

In addition, a consultative group on preventive action and stabilization measures in the Lake Chad Basin was set up to deepen cooperation and mutual consultation on the underlying causes of the crisis, thus reinforcing the evolution towards an integrated humanitarian and development approach.

## Resumption of military operations in the Lac region

### Possible humanitarian consequences: protection and access

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which operates in the Lake Chad Basin countries under the aegis of the African Union, has announced the start of new military operations in the region since February 2017. The security situation remains relatively calm in Chad, despite the ongoing operations, but these could have an impact on humanitarian access in the coming weeks. Humanitarian access is generally good in the Lac region in Chad but remains very difficult in the border areas of Nigeria and Niger. As these areas are targeted by future operations, humanitarian access will be severely restricted.

The humanitarian community is preparing for potential new population displacements and protection incidents in connection with these new operations. Since the beginning of the crisis, violence, protection incidents and military operations in the Lac region have caused the displacement of over 127,000 people (internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees) with multisector humanitarian needs.

During operations from June to August 2016, an increase in security incidents was reported, particularly in the island and border areas with Niger and Nigeria. However, the low number of protection partners in the Lac Region and the limited capacity to cover the region as a whole make it difficult to monitor issues of protection (Violence, sexual violence, illegal taxes, etc.), particularly in the potential military operation areas.

Today, the remaining populations in island areas who could potentially be affected by military operations in localities and islands neighbouring Nigeria and Niger appear relatively small. As a result, potential population movements caused by future operations should be relatively small. However, recent analyses reveal that some people move back and forth between their places of displacement and their islands of origin to farm, fish and look after livestock, which could expose them to major protection risks (risk of being arrested or targeted by the armed forces or exposed to possible attacks by combatants). In this context, the humanitarian community reiterated the importance of the principle of distinction between combatants and non-combatants according to International Humanitarian Law.



Credit: OCHA/Naomi Frérotte : February 2017, Kafia, Chad. Amne and her family say they fled their village in an attack. Today she is dreaming of peace and durable solutions: "In addition to peace, we want to receive support for activities such as trade, to feed our children and live better."

### People having allegedly surrendered

Since July 2016, over 1,200 people have allegedly surrendered to the authorities in the Lac region. The Baga Sola site, where these people were held, has been empty since 20-21 February. The men who were still in the site reportedly received written authorizations from the authorities to return to their areas of origin. Their status remains undetermined and must be clarified by the competent authorities.

Interpretations of the consequences of this situation vary: if some believe that this will facilitate reintegration, this sudden return of men to their islands of origin could also

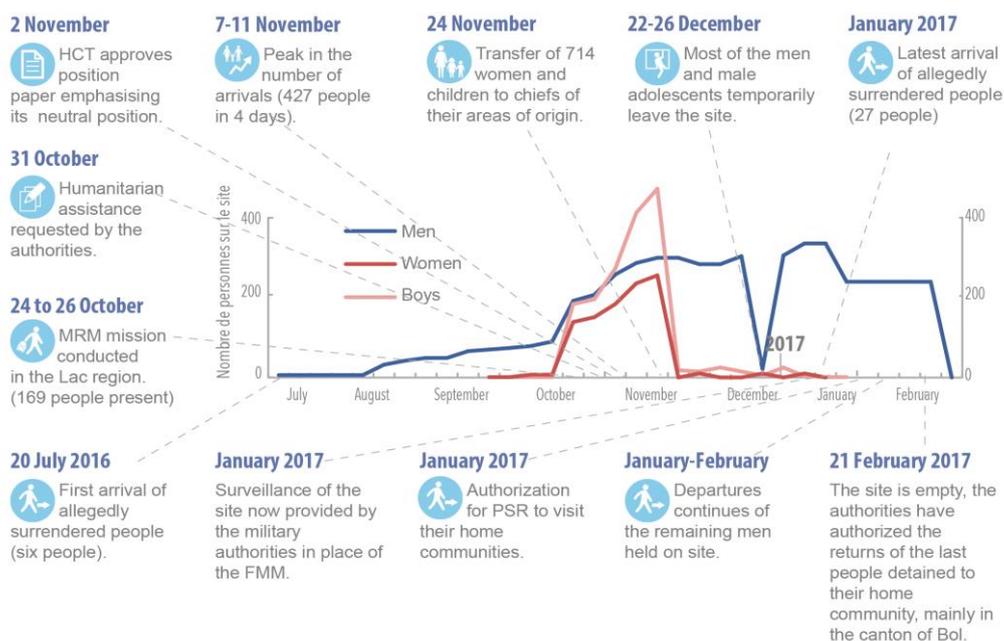
*Since the beginning of the crisis, violence, protection incidents and military operations in the Lac region have caused the displacement of over 127,000 people (internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees) with multisector humanitarian needs.*

create additional protection problems, particularly in the current context where the majority of military forces left the southern basin of the lake to move to the border areas, creating a security vacuum.

From 10 to 15 February, a multisector assessment mission was carried out in areas where approximately 730 women and children having allegedly surrendered had been transferred since late November 2016. The mission aimed at identifying vulnerabilities and potential protection risks that returnees face in their villages of origin and the humanitarian needs of the host communities.

Comprising of United Nations agencies, international NGOs and the Chadian Red Cross, the mission visited five villages and nine islands in Bol canton, home to about 40,000 people. The results highlight multisector vulnerabilities, particularly in island areas, where over 20,000 people live.

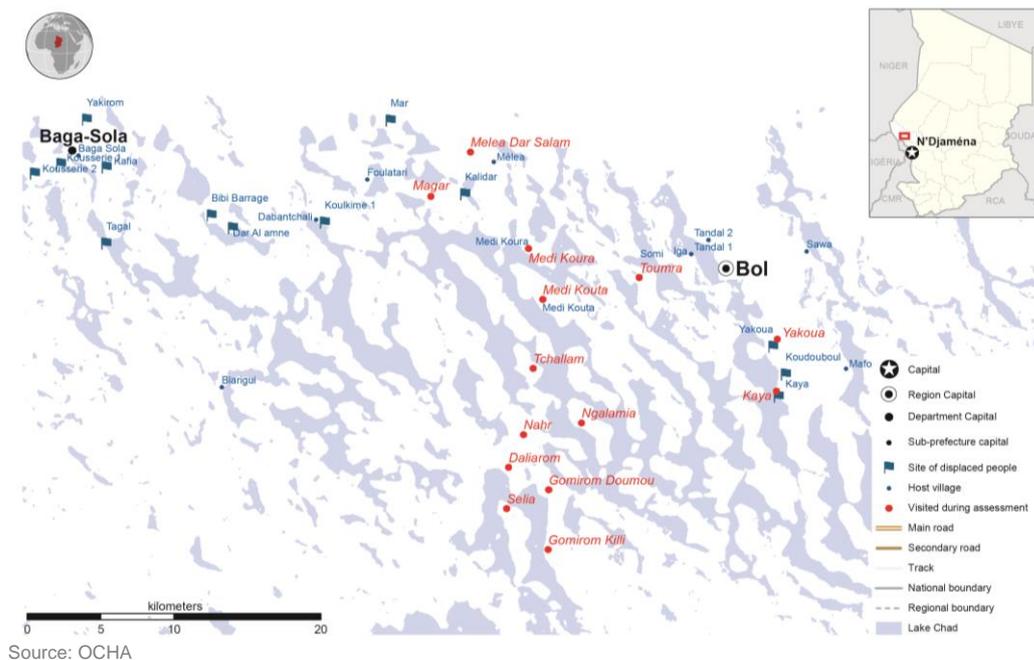
*The food security response has started in the island regions, since 17 February, to meet the needs of 19,000 people over the next two months. A joint response plan for the southern lake basin is under development by partners.*



Source: UNICEF, Social Affairs Regional Delegation, OCHA

The priority needs expressed by the populations are food, livelihoods and non-food items. The identified vulnerabilities relate to the context of low generalized access to basic social services (health, education, drinkable water and sanitation) and to the crisis, as livelihoods have been destroyed or severely constrained by insecurity and the state of emergency.

As a result, the population needs a joint approach that combines humanitarian assistance with resilience building activities in order to foster local development. The food security response has started in the island regions, since 17 February, to meet the needs of 19,000 people over the next two months. A joint response plan for the southern lake basin is under development by partners.



Source: OCHA

Current and future military operations could amplify the surrender phenomenon, while the Government has not yet clarified the status determination process, thus making it difficult to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants. This could generate significant protection risks, particularly for non-combatants associated with armed groups, particularly vulnerable persons such as women and children.

### Civil-military coordination

Civil-military coordination in Chad, under OCHA's leadership, continues to promote the exchange of information between humanitarian and military actors. Given that insecurity leads to deterioration of humanitarian access, it is important to maintain a dialogue with military forces in order to better understand the operational constraints of each party and to constantly inform military personnel of the location of humanitarian assistance activities in order to limit the exposure of humanitarian workers to risks. During periods of military operations, it is all the more important to ensure respect of humanitarian principles and the principle of distinction between humanitarian and military personnel.

## In brief

### Persisting hepatitis E epidemic in the Salamat region

As of 8 March 2017, nearly 1,200 cases of hepatitis E have been registered, including 15 deaths. The epidemic was officially declared on 14 February by the Ministry of Public Health. This disease, spreading via the faecal-oral route, has been raging since September 2016 in the Salamat health district since September 2016, where sanitary facilities and hygiene practices are poor. For example, less than a third of the region's population has access to safe drinking water, according to the local NGO Association pour l'Assainissement Total Piloté par la Communauté au Salamat (ATPCS). Involved in the response since September 2016, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been treating cases, sensitizing communities on hygiene, and purifying water sources and distributing WASH kits in the city of Am-Timan. The NGO has called for the other partners to take over the water, hygiene and sanitation activities in order to be able to focus on the medical response. But the current response to the epidemic remains less active due to

the insufficient number of humanitarian actors in the Salamat region, particularly in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

WHO supports the regional health delegation in terms of coordination, epidemiological surveillance and data analysis. In addition, WHO deployed a socio-anthropologist in the field for a study aimed at increasing the population's adherence to hepatitis E control measures. Secondly, it contributes to raising awareness of the different social groups on hygiene and will report on a weekly basis on communication activities. ECHO should finance the positioning of partners for the response in the near future.

### **Further reducing the distance between aid and affected people in the Lac Region**

Instead of landing in Bol and reaching Baga Sola by road, the humanitarian community has expressed the need to establish a new link between N'Djamena and Baga Sola (Lac Region) for a quicker access to internally displaced people, refugees or host populations. To be able to provide this assistance, it is important to rehabilitate the Baga-Sola airstrip. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) plans to carry out this rehabilitation as soon as possible but lacks the necessary funding. WFP / UNHAS is in contact with various donors to find the necessary resources for this work (US\$ 1 million). UNHAS dedicates staff and resources for the rehabilitation of airstrips, the safety and security of airstrips throughout the country, to ensure that the service is uninterrupted and that humanitarian access is optimal. Of the 19 destinations served by UNHAS, only four are maintained by national authorities, including the *Autorité de l'Aviation Civile* (ADAC), in collaboration with the *Agence pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Aérienne en Afrique* (ASECNA).

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