

HEALTH SITUATION

COVID-19 update

As of 9 September, 1,051 cases have been reported cumulatively, with 79 deaths in 15 provinces. The new cases of this week were reported in four different provinces (Logone occidentale, Mayo-Kebbi est and ouest, Moyen-Chari) and in the capital N'Djamena. New cases still concern travelers (incoming and prospective), including students from Cameroon, and contact cases. The epidemiologic curve - which had flattened in June and July - has been rising again for the past eight weeks, with 133 reported cases in this period, compared to 77 during the eight weeks prior. (WHO situational reports)

Ouaddaï

Reported cases of chikungunya in the east have doubled in a week: Since the first case of chikungunya was reported in the Abeche district on 14 August, there have been 19,579 reported cases as of 10 September, with no death so far. All affected people come from three districts in eastern Chad: Abeche (Ouaddaï province), Biltine (Wadi Fira) and Abdi (Sila). The Ministry of Public Health held a virtual meeting with the WHO country and regional offices and the Geneva HQ on 9 September to monitor the response to the crisis and identify gaps and needs. Local authorities have deployed community workers to sensitize the community on the disease and continue to disinfect entire neighborhoods and public transportation. While this disease normally has a low mortality rate, the combination with other health risk factors is a concern, it further increases the vulnerability of the population and stretches further health response resources and capacity. (WHO situational reports)

Deteriorating health situation at refugee camp leads to death of four children in 10 days: After four children, aged between 2 and 10 years old, died at the Kouchaguine-Moura camp between 19 and 31 August, a joint mission with local authorities and humanitarian actors (WHO, UNICEF) was conducted on 3 September to assess the situation. According to the mission report, the children's deaths are due to the difficulty of access to health facilities because of heavy rains overflowing the wadis surrounding the camp. Humanitarian partners UNHCR and IRC are taking immediate action to deploy health teams at the camp to monitor the situation on a weekly basis, set up an ambulance at the camp to refer patients, and to distribute mosquito nets to prevent malaria and chikungunya. Recent floods in the province have made living conditions at the camp even more precarious, which could trigger important health risks. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 18,500 new Sudanese refugees have fled to Chad following inter-communal clashes in Darfur, resulting in important population movements to the Kouchaguine-Moura refugee camp. This particular camp now hosts nearly 10,000 refugees. (OCHA)

SECURITY

Tibesti and Lac provinces

Six Chadian soldiers killed in two separate terrorist attacks over 24 hours: On Friday 4 September, a vehicle from the intelligence services was stopped in broad daylight in Kouri, near the Libyan border. Three gunmen killed three passengers of the vehicle and wounded two others, according to the Governor of Tibesti province. Northern Chad is known to be an unstable region, due to the presence of illegal gold miners, armed bandits and rebel groups hostile to President Deby.

On a separate incident and in line with the escalating trend of violence in the Lac province, an army vehicle hit an IED in Kaiga Kindjiria (Fouli district) on 5 September, killing three soldiers and wounding seven, according to the Minister of Communication. Despite the operation “Wrath of Boma” conducted last March against non-state armed groups in the Lac province, attacks against Chadian army and civilians have continued to occur in the area. President Deby reacted to the latter incident in a tweet, stating “nothing will deter our determination to defeat the terrorist threat”. (Chadian authorities)

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE ON FLOODS

Batha, Sila and Salamat provinces

Update on recent floods in eastern and central Chad: Following heavy rains and floods in Batha, Sila and Salamat provinces, the Chadian Red Cross reported further deterioration to the situation of flood-affected people. In Oum-Hadjer (Batha), a mother and her two children died because of their house collapsing following heavy rains on 6 September. UNICEF has provided some WASH response, and cash assistance and donations from the local community were collected for the affected people but it remains insufficient. In Kerfi (Sila), where 154 households were affected in two villages, the population has still not received assistance from partners or from the Government. In Mouraye (Salamat), part of the assistance collected by the Government is still underway. The situation has worsened in Am-Timan with collapsed houses, increasing the number of affected people. In Haraze, several households left the flooded areas for the Central African Republic and have urgent needs in WASH, food security, health and shelter. Flooding seriously impacts humanitarian access, making entire villages inaccessible to partners and authorities and therefore making assessments only partial. (OCHA)

N’Djamena

Flood-affected people in the capital receive assistance in food and NFI. In N’Djamena, nearly 32,000 people have been affected by recent floods in 15 neighborhoods of the city. Floods destroyed 5,250 houses and killed 10 people. Those affected found shelter in their own neighborhood or nearby ones; some are hosted by family members but many remain homeless. 1,694 households were identified in eight different sites in N’Djamena for food and NFI assistance in the week beginning 7 September. A combined Government and international distribution, organized through the Ministry of Health-chaired Crisis Committee, started on 09 September involving humanitarian partners UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, Chadian Red Cross and the Government National Food Security Office (ONASA). On the first day of distribution, 546 affected households in Kabe received food and NFI supplies. Each household received 50 kg of cereals, 25 kg of beans, 10 kg of sugar, 10 liters of oil, 10 soap bars, 2 blankets, 2 mosquito nets and 1 bucket. Due to incessant and unpredictable rains, the roads leading to many distribution sites are damaged and difficult to access, causing some delays and rescheduling and requiring considerable flexibility in planning. On 10 September, for example, it took over three hours to reach the site of Tamokessa, hosting 337 households. (OCHA)