

## HEALTH SITUATION

### *COVID-19 update*

As of 23 February, there have been 3,882 reported cases and 136 deaths in 17 provinces. Between 18 and 23 February, 186 new cases were reported in seven different provinces and in the capital N'Djamena. Of particular concern is the Logone Oriental province, where 43 cases were recorded in one day alone, on 20 February. Overall, the past two weeks have seen a slow increase in weekly new cases: respectively 156 and 204 new cases per week.

*(WHO situation reports)*

## FUNDING

### *Ouaddaï*

EU allocates 160.000 EUR for Sudanese refugees: Since 15 January 2021, intercommunal violence led to the displacement of thousands of Sudanese people fleeing into Chad in a state of grave distress. On 24 February, the European Union (EU), through its European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations service (ECHO), allocated 160.000 EUR (105 million XAF) in humanitarian aid to Sudanese refugees who fled to Chad following intercommunal clashes. This humanitarian assistance targets more than 800 households (4.000 people) in the Assoungha and Ouara departments (Ouaddaï province). This funding will allow the Chadian Red Cross to address the most pressing needs of these refugees for at least four months: shelter, health services, non-food items and water. Washable facemasks will also be distributed to fight against the propagation of COVID-19. It is expected that the number of new refugees might increase in the coming weeks. *(ECHO)*

ADB funds an 11.5 million USD literacy project: On 24 February the Ministry of Economy, Development planning and International cooperation, and the African Development Bank signed an agreement on strengthening human capital for women and girls in the amount of almost 11.6 million USD (6.2 billion XAF). This agreement aims at improving the school environment and offer for girls' education ; strengthening the girls' quality of education and functional literacy ; and diversifying the sectors taught in the Commercial Technical High School in connection with the private sector, including the integration of practical work. This project is funded under the bank's Support to Transition Facility and will be implemented by the Chadian Ministry of Education, in cooperation with partners in the education sector, including civil society and youth. *(ADB)*

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator visits the East of the country. A UNHCR-led mission comprising the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the Heads of Office of OCHA, UNFPA and UNHCR visited the Ouaddaï province from 23 to 26 February. Due to previous Covid-19 movement restrictions, this was the first visit of the HC to the East of the country, providing an opportunity for her to meet with provincial authorities, including the Governor of the Ouaddaï province and the Prefect of Adré, as well as with humanitarian partners operating in the region. The exchanges reflected the considerable challenges afflicting the East, a region chronically affected by food insecurity and malnutrition due to the combined effect of droughts and climate change, with limited income-generating opportunities and restricted access to social services. Government representatives stressed the needs of host populations, welcomed initiatives to promote the humanitarian-development nexus in an

identified zone and looked for increased presence of development actors, and highlighted environmental concerns. In Abeche, the delegation visited Abeche hospital and the Bagarine site where WFP runs a resilience project called Integrated Resilience Technologies and Training Center (INTEREST). This brings together 10 villages in the area to learn and put in practice farming practices. At the same site, UNICEF runs complementary nutrition-related activities benefiting children and pregnant women in six neighboring villages. The delegation also visited the refugee camp of Kouchaguine-Moura, which currently hosts some 8,500 Sudanese refugees, including new arrivals fleeing the recent conflict in Darfur. Discussions with representatives of the camp highlighted specific needs in health, food security, access to water and to prevent Gender-Based Violence. In a working session with UN and NGO staff, the RC/HC emphasized on the importance of respecting PSEA guidelines at all levels. She also reiterated the need to share information between all humanitarian actors in order to maintain high security standards. In the context of on-going conflict in Sudan impacting on their ability to return, the refugees underlined the importance of durable shelters, employment opportunities, capacity building and training, and access to documentation, all enabling self-sufficiency and supporting livelihoods for the future. In Farchana, the delegation visited the refugee camp, currently hosting more than 30,000 refugees, and met the SGBV committee of the site, before visiting the refugee entry point in Adré and the refugee transit center. The HC commended the leadership role of the Government vis-à-vis the refugee arrivals and asylum, as well as the strong relationships humanitarian partners have established with local authorities. The positive working environment and the support from the Government remains crucial to the success of humanitarian operations in the region. (OCHA)

#### *Lac province*

Complex attack around an IDP site, civilians abducted: On 23 February, a Chadian patrol hit a double IED in the village of Kandoul, Kaiga-Kindijiria sub-prefecture. According to security and Government reports, at least 1 member of the military patrol died and 7 others were wounded. This attack was followed by a NSAG incursion to Wadraroum Gagna village, in the vicinities of Tchoukoutalia, where more than 20 people were kidnapped. These events form part of a trend of increased security and protection incidents in the Lac Province: in February alone, 89 protection alerts have been reported. On 24 February, humanitarian partners operating in the area met urgently to review rumors of possible attacks to Fourkoulom IDP site and define steps that might help ensure the security of humanitarian personnel and the affected population. Humanitarians had scheduled NFI and food distributions in the area in the coming days and humanitarian stock is also stored at the site. Amid concerns that a delay in distributing much-needed assistance could also raise tensions within and between communities, operations are not being suspended. Instead, the reinforcement of mechanisms for additional area security is being sought through engagement with military and government actors. Last month, at least 15,000 people were newly displaced following NSAG attacks in the province, increasing the estimated (pending confirmation) total number of IDPs to almost 400,000. (OCHA, Government, humanitarian partners)