

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

CHAD

DONOR UPDATE

2 MAY 2006

UNICEF URGENTLY REQUESTS US\$ 12,336,355 TO ASSIST INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CIVIL UNREST

- Over 50,000 people in eastern Chad have fled their homes due to recent violence
- UNICEF is mounting emergency operations for IDPs while support continues to refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic
- UNICEF is working with partners to assure the availability of emergency supplies and services in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education, and child protection



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Some 50,000 Chadians have been displaced from their eastern border villages since December 2005 as a result of attacks allegedly perpetrated by Sudanese and Chadian Janjaweed militia. According to the initial findings of a UN inter-agency assessment mission in March 2006, the total number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the regions of Goungour, Borota, Koloye, Dogdore/Tur and Goz Beida was estimated at 35,000, a number which has now grown to an estimated 50,000. Most Chadians have sought refuge with family and neighbors in nearby settlements where their prime concern is security.

Lack of adequate food and water supplies, as well as acute insecurity, are major causes for concern in the border region, which is already host to more than 200,000 refugees from the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan. The majority of refugees are located in 12 refugee camps; it is estimated that some 85 per cent of these refugees are children and women.

Communities in Eastern Chad have demonstrated an extraordinary willingness to accept the new arrivals—with encouragement and coordination from the local Sultan. But these communities have meager resources in the best of times, and they are now stretched beyond their capacity to support both themselves and the newly-arrived IDPs. Furthermore, the expanded communities are likely to have food shortages in the coming months, and if the new arrivals do not return to their home areas before the annual rains begin in June, they will need access to land, tools, and seeds, and will be forced to remain at least until the harvest in the last quarter of the year.

In April 2006, rebel groups attacked several towns and a refugee camp before launching an unsuccessful assault on the capital N'djamena, seeking to overthrow President Idriss Deby. There were approximately 100 civilians wounded in the fighting in N'Djamena—many of them children injured by stray bullets and artillery shells.

UNICEF is reprogramming funds from existing activities to finance the emergency response in eastern Chad and N'Djamena. These funds need to be replenished to ensure that when stability returns UNICEF can resume its programmes immediately, with the resources and physical stocks in place to reestablish the momentum developed earlier in the year with government partners at the national and regional levels.

The needs of the newly-displaced in the East emerge at a time when Chad is also facing a crisis in the South, where approximately 50,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) require urgent health, nutrition and education support.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

The current focus of action is on IDPs in eastern Chad—where over 50,000 have fled their homes to date. UNICEF is working with sister UN agencies, the ICRC, NGOs and government partners to provide immediate humanitarian support to those who have been directly affected by the current unrest. Existing programmes are being redirected to emergency IDP operations, while support continues to the Sudanese refugees in the east and CAR refugees in the south. In this emergency environment the scale of activities may need to be further expanded and UNICEF and its partners continue to monitor conditions and are prepared to act wherever needed.

SUPPORT TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN EASTERN CHAD

UNICEF is working in coordination with the Government of Chad, the sultan of Goz Beida, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, ICRC, and several NGOs to support the internally displaced. The overarching strategy is to support willing communities in relatively safe locations to assist those who have been forced to relocate. At this time IDP camps are not envisaged. UNICEF leads the cluster response in water and sanitation and education, and will share the lead with WHO in health and nutrition. The protection and shelter clusters will be led by UNHCR, and the food security cluster will be led by WFP.

When security allows, the second phase of the programme strategy for the currently displaced is to strengthen the water, health, and education services in the communities of origin to strengthen their interest to return when possible. This aspect of the emergency action will be developed in the coming weeks.

Health and Nutrition

Routine immunization coverage for measles is relatively high in eastern Chad, both among displaced children and women, as well as among the existing communities. However, strong vaccination coverage for both displaced and host populations is vital in order to prevent the spread of disease. Supplementary measles vaccination is therefore necessary, and this is being done by MSF-France with materials provided by UNICEF.

In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF will continue vaccination support and will also provide Vitamin A and de-worming drugs—two simple and low-cost interventions that can significantly bolster children's capacity to ward off malnutrition and illness. UNICEF will expand the capacity of the existing therapeutic feeding centres (established with UNICEF support) and health centres to ensure that adequate facilities exist for the communities and new arrivals. UNICEF, in cooperation with WFP and partner NGOs, is monitoring the nutritional status of children in the expanded communities and has a stock of high energy biscuits that will be distributed at the first sign of need.

If funding is secured, communities and new arrivals will be provided with impregnated bed nets to reduce the incidence of malaria, which is the number one cause of death of children under five in Chad. The bed nets, along with the provision of treatment drugs to health units, will have a significant public health benefit for a population that has already had considerable added stress in their lives this year.

UNICEF is also preparing for the control and treatment of meningitis, hepatitis, and cholera outbreaks—three conditions that are greatly exacerbated by concentrations of people. There is an elevated risk of meningitis in Chad and elsewhere in the Sahel this year, and this risk is compounded in high density areas (there are already confirmed outbreaks in southern Chad). The same is true of hepatitis and cholera, which occur virtually every year during the rainy season in Chad. In coordination with MSF-Luxemburg, treatment drugs and immunization supplies have been pre-positioned and meningitis vaccine has been ordered. Stocks of water treatment and storage materials are also in place for distribution if needed.

Water and Environmental Sanitation

UNICEF is the lead agency responsible for ensuring access to water for the internally displaced. As such, UNICEF's first role is to quickly expand the number of communities that have adequate water supplies in order to support expanded populations. If this is not done, the few communities with adequate water will be overrun, leading to severe water shortages, increasing illness, and a high potential for disputes between the settled communities and their guests.

UNICEF has identified existing high-yield water sources and is already increasing their pumping and storage capacity to serve the existing communities and new arrivals. Temporary low-cost water points are being established in locations with accessible groundwater; these points will be washed away in the June-August floods, but they provide water now when it is needed. Communities and new arrivals are also supported with jerry cans for water transport and storage.

The new arrivals quickly establish new homes from reeds and grasses, which are adequate until the June rains. But the new arrivals and the existing communities have very low rates of latrine usage, which is problematic in the best of times, but could lead to severe health problems with the increased population density.

UNICEF is supporting the establishment of household and community latrines, applying designs developed with partner NGOs in the Sudanese refugee camps. Soap is being distributed to all families in the newly expanded communities and hygiene education is underway.

Education

Conflict and displacement present particular threats for children, such as separation from their families, recruitment by fighting forces, or exposure to targeted violence or landmines/UXOs. At the same time, pre-existing threats – such as sexual and gender-based violence, labor exploitation or malnutrition and disease – often increase.

Education is a fundamental right of every child, even in emergencies. In addition, however, experience shows that education greatly reduces children's exposure to the threats posed by conflict,

and thereby serves as one of the most important protection tools for children. Schools and recreational activities can bring physical protection to children by providing a safe place to play, offering an alternative to destructive behaviour, giving access to nutritious meals and providing regular adult supervision. Structured educational activities also help identify children in need of special care; even follow-up work to find children who do not attend school helps to identify those at risk. Educators from the community are often best placed to identify children facing threats such as separation from their families, susceptibility to military recruitment or experience of sexual exploitation. In terms of a child's psychosocial health, education offers a regular routine, opportunities for self-expression and the chance to engage with peers – all vital elements of normalcy for children whose lives have been disrupted by conflict and displacement.

In eastern Chad, most of the schools are rudimentary shelters, with teachers who have little or no formal training and students who lack learning materials. The protection value of these education facilities needs urgently to be strengthened. As cluster lead in education, UNICEF will be responsible for coordinating this support.

In the areas of displacement, UNICEF will accelerate its established school improvement programme, and will support the communities to expand the quality and physical capacity of their primary schools—for the benefit of existing community members and the new arrivals—through fast-construction schools following a model developed in the refugee camps. UNICEF will also provide school-in-a-box kits, plastic mats for sitting, black boards and other learning materials and equipment. WFP will establish school feeding programmes in the same locations.

Child Protection

UNICEF complements UNHCR's overall protection lead by providing support in child protection. The new arrivals are fleeing insecurity and many have witnessed or been direct victims of attacks by Chadian Janjaweed. Thus far almost all children are accompanied and supported by their families, or by community members known to the children. There is, however, significant stress associated with the violence and migration, and there is the potential for dispute between communities and new arrivals, especially if resources are further strained by the number of arrivals and the duration of their stay.

In coordination with the ICRC, sister UN agencies, and NGOs that are registering the displaced, UNICEF will identify children who are unaccompanied/separated/orphaned, and will assist in the implementation of ICRC's family tracing efforts. Child-friendly spaces will be established (in coordination with education activities) that will be open to all children in the existing and expanded communities to promote interaction. Psychosocial services will be available to children who have been severely affected by the events that led to their relocation.

N'DJAMENA - SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CIVIL UNREST

UNICEF has provided water storage facilities and soap to hospitals caring for those who were wounded due to violence in the capital. High energy biscuits are also being provided, as hospitals do not provide food and many of the wounded do not have family support in N'Djamena.

In addition, UNICEF launched a sensitization campaign on 24 March for teachers, parents, and children to strengthen the resolve of adults to remain responsible for the children in their care, and to promote dialogue between parents and children on what they will do in times of emergency. The programme—which is based on school visits by administrators and mass information through the radio—is already reaching over 125,000 school children and their parents and teachers. In the aftermath of the fighting in N'Djamena, over 300 kg of unexploded ordnance (UXOs), including 55 rockets, were left in the streets. UNICEF, in cooperation with government and other partners, expanded its information programme to include UXO risk awareness information.

ONGOING SUPPORT TO SUDANESE REFUGEES FROM DARFUR

UNHCR is the overall lead agency for support to refugees. Based on agreements with UNHCR, UNICEF is the lead agency for education and nutrition in the refugee camps and host communities of eastern Chad, as well as lead agency for water and sanitation in the host communities. In protection, where UNHCR has the overall lead, UNICEF complements UNHCR's role by co-chairing the

interagency working group on child protection, and by providing direct support to child protection activities in all 12 refugee camps. In addition, as agreed with UNHCR, UNICEF has sole responsibility for water supply in one of 12 camps, and is responsible for sanitation support in 6 camps.

Health and nutrition

UNICEF is supporting vaccination activities directed to refugee and local children in eastern Chad, and has increased the usage of impregnated mosquito nets and blankets in refugee camps and host communities. Routine vaccination activities are ongoing in a number of camps and in host communities, reaching 94 per cent of children under one. Catch-up vaccinations and outreach programmes are planned for 2006. More than 45,000 impregnated mosquito nets were distributed in 2005 to vulnerable children and mothers from refugee camps and host communities

UNICEF has also carried out nutritional surveys in refugee camps and host communities, and actively screens for malnourished children. UNICEF also sensitizes populations on good nutritional practices, and focuses on improving services delivered through therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers. De-worming of children older than one year is ongoing, and UNICEF is supporting the training of health workers, social workers and community networks.

HIV/AIDS

In 2005, sensitization centres were implemented in 12 refugee camps and four host communities in eastern Chad, and additional HIV/AIDS activities will continue in the camps as long as refugees remain there. UNICEF is focusing on continuing sensitization on HIV/ AIDS issues by peer educators; on strengthening capacities of health and social workers; and on providing medical care for sexually transmitted diseases and for victims of sexual violence.

Water and environmental sanitation

A total of 200,000 Sudanese refugees (including 120,000 children) and 30,000 people in Chadian host populations (including 11,000 children) are targeted for interventions in 2006. UNICEF is supporting the operation and maintenance of existing water supply infrastructures in 12 refugee camps, and will construct or rehabilitate water points in 40 schools from host communities directly affected by the refugee influx. In sanitation, UNICEF will construct or rehabilitate approximately 1,500 family latrines, and will engage in hygiene promotion and training on proper use and maintenance of latrines and water points. UNICEF is also distributing basic family water and hygiene kits for 15,000 households in refugee camps and host communities.

Education

Advocacy for increased school attendance is ongoing, with a special focus on girls' enrolment. UNICEF is ensuring the set-up and maintenance of physical structures appropriate for teaching and learning, and ensuring the provision of sufficient teaching and learning materials in refugee camps. UNICEF also supports training and monitoring of teachers in refugee camps and host communities, including training in gender-sensitive approaches to teaching, HIV/AIDS prevention and child development. Within the framework of the integrated package for 40 schools in host communities, UNICEF is providing water points and latrines in schools, as well as school materials, furniture and training for children and teachers in host communities.

Child Protection

UNICEF will set up and manage a total of 72 child-friendly spaces in the camps, as well as an additional 12 child-friendly spaces in the nearby host communities. Recreational materials are already being provided. UNICEF is supporting the training of security personnel, NGO staff, child-friendly space animators and community leaders on children's rights and prevention of and response to abuse. For adolescents, UNICEF is providing life-skills training and relevant materials and equipment. Finally, UNICEF is working to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence through sensitization, training and psychosocial support.

ONGOING SUPPORT TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEES

Health and nutrition

UNICEF support will include material assistance, technical support and capacity-building for governmental and non-governmental organizations acting in the sector. Specific UNICEF support will

be directed to malaria prevention and treatment, vaccination activities, nutrition activities, and HIV prevention.

The possibility of a new influx of refugees from CAR exists, a scenario that could stretch the resources that UNICEF had designated for health and nutrition interventions in southern Chad in the 2006 CAP beyond their limit. Since the preparation of the project sheets for the 2006 CAP and the Humanitarian Action Report (HAR), the number of newly arrived refugees has already overcome initial forecasts. Support to the CAP now will provide the assistance needed by the present refugees, and will provide a base for any additional support that may be required if significant numbers of new refugees cross the border.

Activities

- Provide cold chain equipment and vaccines for the routine immunization of children under 1 in the three existing refugee camps in southern Chad and in the new camp to be opened in 2006
- Conduct a maternal and neonatal tetanus vaccination campaign at the refugee camps in southern Chad
- Conduct a measles vaccination campaign, including vitamin A supplementation
- Provide support to Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) at the refugee camps in southern Chad
- Purchase and distribute 2,500 impregnated mosquito nets to families with children under 5 and to pregnant women.
- Establish a buffer stock of 5,000 impregnated mosquito nets in the event of new arrivals of refugees from CAR.
- Train health centre staff serving refugee camps in southern Chad
- Information, education and communication regarding the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases and HIV transmission

Education

Assessment missions to southern Chad in January and February 2006 have identified the need for school structures in the newly-established camp of Gondje. Enrolment figures are as low as 28% in the 2 camps near Gore; teaching and learning materials are missing; and teachers lack training.

As in the east, the protection value of education facilities in the south needs urgently to be strengthened in order to protect children from exploitation and abuse or other violations of their rights. Refugee children urgently need structured education activities to provide them with constant adult supervision, a safe place to learn and play, and the normalcy so crucial to their psychosocial wellbeing.

In the context of the similarity between CAR and Chadian curricula, UNICEF's emergency education strategy will focus on bringing all children into school and on building the capacity of local education authorities to implement the Chadian curriculum in the camp schools. UNICEF will support the construction of semi-permanent classrooms in the newly opened camp of Gondje, the purchase and distribution of learning and teaching materials in all camps for CAR refugees, and the training of refugee teachers when needed.

It is difficult to estimate how long the CAR refugees will remain in southern Chad. However, in the unlikely event of an early departure, semi-permanent structures will benefit the local population. And if UNHCR establishes a fourth refugee camp in southern Chad – a scenario that seems likely – UNICEF's support will be needed to build schools, provide teaching and learning materials and train teachers at the new location.

Activities

- Construction of schools in the camp of Gondje, and rehabilitation of facilities in other camps
- School furniture and teaching materials to the targeted schools for all CAR refugee children in southern Chad
- Train teachers and Parent-Teacher Associations in all camps
- Provide treatment for intestinal worms and nutritional supplements in all camps in southern Chad

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Current UNICEF funding requirements total US\$ 15,930,825. The response from the donor community has been limited thus far, with only US\$ 2,409,640 received.

Table 1: Funds received by Donor – for Sudanese refugees and Chadian host populations only – as per CAP/HAR 2006

Donor	Funds Received (US\$)	Sector
Government of Sweden	1,505,640	Education
Government of the Netherlands	904,000	Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation
Total	2,409,640	

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 12,336,355 to be able to respond to the current emergency situation. Of this, the \$2,414,500 needed for support to IDPs in the East is most critical. Subject to adequate funding, UNICEF will be able to provide emergency inputs by airfreight rather than by sea (which can take six months or more). Funding will also allow UNICEF to rebuild its supply stocks to maintain the national programme in this country which ranks 173 of 177 on the Human Development Index. Insufficient funding or late receipt of funds would significantly slow down UNICEF's emergency response and have a negative impact on the already precarious situation of children and women.

Table 3: Urgent priority requirements

URGENT PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS As of April 2006	
Sector	Amount Required (US\$)
Eastern Chad– IDPs	
Health and Nutrition	627,000
Emergency Education and Protection	1,078,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	709,500
	2,414,500
Eastern Chad – Sudanese refugees	
Health and Nutrition	1,989,900
Water and Environmental Sanitation	1,968,395
Education	3,094,360
Child Protection	1,962,000
	9,014,655
Southern Chad – CAR refugees	
Health and Nutrition	285,600
Education	621,600
	907,200
Total Priority needs	12,336,355

Details of the Chad emergency programme can be obtained from:

Steve Adkisson UNICEF Representative N'Djamena Tel: + 235 29 60 60 Fax: + 235 51 74 65 Email: sadkisson@unicef.org	Olivier Degreef UNICEF EMOPS Geneva Tel: + 41 22 909 5655 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902 E-mail: odegreef@unicef.org	Gary Stahl UNICEF PFO New York Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Fax: + 1-212 326 7165 Email : gstahl@unicef.org
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