



Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis – Dedicated Meeting on Eastern Chad

Outcomes Document

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) convened a regional virtual meeting on 25 June 2025 of the [Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis](#) focused on the response in Eastern Chad.

Established in September 2024 to attract and highlight early development support in response to the Sudan crisis, the regional DPG organizes two Senior Officials meetings a year on the Sudan regional crisis, and *ad hoc* additional meetings. During the 2nd DPG regional meeting in April 2025, development partners discussed the rapidly deteriorating situation in eastern Chad and agreed on the need to organize a dedicated *ad hoc* meeting together with the Government of Chad and development partners operating in Chad. An estimated 170 people joined the discussion.

Objectives of this meeting:

1. Exchange on the Government of Chad's newly released [National Response Plan to the Crisis in the East 2025 - 2027](#).
2. Learn from development actors about their response to the Sudan conflict and their ideas on how to scale up development action in eastern Chad.

Key take-aways:

1. At a time of great turmoil globally, **the international community must remain focused as well on the Sudan crisis**, which has provoked the largest forced displacement crisis in the world. **Chad has received 863,000 refugees since the start of the current Sudan conflict** in April 2023, which amounts to approximately 22% of the 4 million Sudanese refugees. These statistics underscore the incredible generosity of the host community, which previously opened its doors to large numbers of Sudanese refugees twenty years ago. **Chad is now the 2nd largest refugee hosting country in Africa, after Uganda**, and the 6th largest refugee hosting country globally. If forced displacement trends continue unabated,

Chad will likely top Uganda and become the largest refugee hosting country on the continent.

2. **In parts of Eastern Chad, refugees now represent over 42% of the population** - and new arrivals continue daily. This unprecedented scale of displacement is overwhelming already fragile local systems and exceeds the capacity of humanitarian actors alone to respond. The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, François Batalingaya, highlighted an element of urgency in responding to growing tensions in the east, which are leading to increasing security incidents and conflict over access to water, land and basic services, which are under immense strain.
3. **The Sudan conflict is not just a humanitarian emergency; it is a development crisis** that calls for urgent, sustained, and integrated investment in resilience, infrastructure, and livelihoods for both refugees and host communities.
4. **The Government of Chad has just launched a new National Response Plan to the Crisis in the East 2025-2027.** Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Ministry Delegate of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning and International Cooperation of Chad, highlighted in her [presentation](#) that Chad has 23 provinces, including 4 which have been severely impacted by the conflict in the East. The Minister explained that the **Sudanese refugees from Darfur and Chadians are the same people, with shared culture and language**. She underscored the acute needs of host communities, refugees and returnees, and **cautioned that without sufficient investments, communities would struggle to maintain social cohesion, leading to potential destabilization in the region, as well as onward movement to Libya and Egypt**. The Minister highlighted the five pillars of the plan¹ and indicated that **this plan would be coordinated at the highest levels to ensure whole-of-government participation**, including from Ministries, Governorates and Prefectures of areas impacted by the displacement.
5. **Development actors have responded to the crisis by scaling up their interventions in the east of Chad.** They have leveraged their technical and financial capacities to support the planning of new refugee settlements, invested in massively expanding the availability of basic services, as well as searching for ways to create market and employment opportunities to avoid dependence on humanitarian aid and enable the self-reliance of refugee and returnee populations.
6. **Germany considers the east of Chad a priority, and focuses investments on stabilization, using transitional development assistance on food security, strengthening resilience and improving the living conditions for local communities and displaced persons.** Ambassador Gregor Schotten highlighted one project from their portfolio, the [Sahel Resilience Partnership Initiative](#). Launched in November 2024 by BMZ, GIZ, WFP and UNICEF, it channels investments in critical areas of water and sanitation, health and education and could be expanded to cover additional locations, in line with the new Government plan for the east of Chad. The Ambassador acknowledged

¹ The five pillars of the plan include: 1) Humanitarian response to the crisis in the East; 2) Support for development and strengthening of resilience; 3) Community engagement, accountability, and social cohesion; 4) Securing the borders and the affected provinces; and 5) Coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

the importance of investing in critical infrastructure to support the ‘villagization’ approach, as well as modernizing the agriculture sector in partnership with private companies.

7. **The World Bank is responding to the growing fragility in eastern Chad by seeking to create medium and long-term development opportunities for both refugees and host communities from the onset of the emergency.** Mr. Boubacar Sidiki Walbani, Acting Country Manager of the World Bank in Chad highlighted a multi-pronged approach that seeks to invest in areas impacted by forced displacement by leveraging on the IDA20 Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR), support national institutions in developing public policies and leading territorial planning processes, and facilitate local economic development, particularly in cities. Mr. Walbani provided an **overview of a growing portfolio of bank-funded projects**, including its integrated territorial response project RESITCHAD (140M USD), its two social projection projects, PARCA (141M USD) and PFSAP (120M USD), as well as other sectoral interventions in eastern localities including an agribusiness project, a health project, education project (PARAEB) and an energy project (PAEET).²
8. **The Islamic Development Bank welcomed the Government’s plan for the East of Chad and highlighted its commitment to help it respond to the refugee influx as well as the needs of the host communities.** Mr. Abdi Abdullahi, IsDB Manager of Fragility and Resilience Division, highlighted the bank’s multi-level support in Chad, noting it has already reached over USD 1 billion of development financing in support of critical sectors such as education, health, agriculture as well as critical infrastructure. In response to the Sudan emergency, Mr. Abdullahi highlighted that the [Skills Training Education Program \(STEP\) program](#) **financed by IsDB, which operates in 15 countries, now includes Chad**, with the view to support refugee and host community youth to access education, skills development as well as entrepreneurship opportunities. IsDB is also launching a **new regional program in response to the Sudan emergency that is about to begin in Chad, Egypt and Libya**, developed jointly with the Saudi Development Bank and UNHCR. IsDB highlighted the importance of further exploring Islamic social financing to respond to the Sudan emergency.
9. **The European Union Delegation to Chad spoke about the importance of understanding the refugee crisis as an opportunity for development.** In addition to supporting financially the humanitarian emergency³, the EUD is focusing on building a case for economic development in the east of the country and has channeled its investments in water management and agriculture. Mr. Yorgos Kapranis, Project Manager, Resilience/Nexus, explained that **EU INTPA responded to the Sudan emergency within a few months of the conflict erupting in Sudan, mobilizing 10 million EUR, and partnered with UNHCR to build three water networks to boost agriculture productivity**, which yielded economic dividends to both refugees and hosts. These encouraging results have

² More information on the WB projects: RESITCHAD (140M USD of which 60M USD comes from WHR; target: 7 provinces, 7 cities, 769,000 beneficiaries); PARCA (141M USD of which 67.5M USD comes from WHR; target: 7 provinces, 1,670,000 beneficiaries) • PFSAP (120M USD of which 50M USD comes from WHR; target: 9 provinces, 781,000 beneficiaries); AGRIBUSINESS • Other sectoral interventions in eastern localities: health project, education project (PARAEB), energy project (PAEET).

³ ECHO has mobilized 25 million EUR in 2023 in response to the situation in the east; 53 million EUR in 2024 and 57 million EUR in 2025 (data for 2025 as of 30/06/2025).

led the **EU to replicate this model to an additional eight locations and to commission an economic study** to determine the return on investment. In parallel, the EU has contributed a 3 million EUR to a GIZ project focused on enhancing conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence between refugee and host populations and has secured an additional 40 million EUR for the East; half of which is to be contracted in 2026.

10. **UN-Habitat's intervention highlighted the human settlements dimension of the Sudan crisis and reflected on what the forced displacement trends will mean for the urbanization of eastern Chad.** Mr. Oumar Sylla, Regional Director for Africa, spoke of the territorial spatial analysis that is needed to inform the urban strategy for the east of Chad, which is critical to informing development investments. UN-Habitat is committed to supporting the Government of Chad, and to offer technical solutions, drawing upon its experience in urban planning and development as well as land management and governance.
11. **Other development actors shared further insights during the plenary discussion.** The IMF Mission Chief to Chad spoke of the new USD 630 million IMF program in Chad that is due to be presented to the board by mid-July 2025. The FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa reflected on its experience working on resilience building, as did the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Chad, who highlighted the recent launch of a 30 million AfDB project in response to the Sudan emergency.
12. **The meeting ended with the following takeaways:** 1) Promote the Government's plan for eastern Chad, in close coordination with Minister Fatima Haram Acyl; 2) Raise awareness about the [integrated refugee response plan](#); 3) Further the conversations at country-level to scale up development action in the east of Chad; and 4) Share summary with the Deputy Secretary General and other UN Senior Officials in the lead-up to the UN General Assembly to spotlight the Sudan regional crisis.
13. **More information on the Chad response to the Sudan emergency is available on the [Development Action Platform on the Sudan Regional Crisis](#).** The [dedicated pages on Chad](#) contains the latest policy and legal overview, spatial maps, data as well as a development partner mapping and videos spotlighting the engagement of development actors in the east of the country.

Annex: Agenda of the Meeting

Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis – Dedicated Meeting on Eastern Chad

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) are convening a meeting of the Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis focused on the response in Eastern Chad.

What are the key objectives of this meeting?

1. Exchange on the Government of Chad's newly released [National Response Plan to the Crisis in the East 2025 - 2027](#).
2. Learn from development actors about their response to the Sudan conflict and their ideas on how to scale up development action in eastern Chad.

Agenda: Date – 25 June 2025

11:00 – 11:10	Introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, UNHCR Regional Response Coordinator for the Sudan Situation- Mr. Yacoub El Hillo, Regional Director for Africa, UN Development Coordination Office
11:10 – 11:15	Introduction of the Minister <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. François Batalingaya, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Chad- Mr. Magatte Guise, UNHCR Representative to Chad
11:15 – 11:30	Presentation of the National Response Plan to the Crisis in the East 2025-2027 by Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Ministry Delegate of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Chad
11:30 – 12:45	Panel Discussion: Scaling up development interventions in eastern Chad in response to the Sudan crisis: Where, when, how? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Gregor Schotten, Ambassador, Germany- Mr. Boubacar Sidiki Walbani, Acting Country Manager, World Bank- Mr. Abdi Abdullahi, Manager of Fragility and Resilience Division, Islamic Development Bank- Mr. Yorgos Kapranis, Project Manager, Resilience/Nexus, EU Delegation- Mr. Oumar Sylla, Regional Director for Africa, UN-Habitat Moderator: Mr. François Batalingaya, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Chad
12:45 – 13:00	Closing remarks, takeaways and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Ministry Delegate of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning and International Cooperation- Mr. Mamadou Dian Balde, UNHCR Regional Response Coordinator for the Sudan Situation