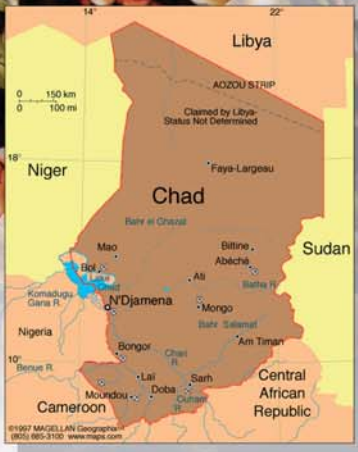


# CHAD



## Country Snapshot



Life expectancy at birth:	43.7
Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older):	
Adult literacy rate, femal.:	25.7
Adult literacy rate, female (% ages 15 and older):	12.8
Adult literacy rate, male (% ages 15 and older):	40.8
HIV prevalence (% ages 15-49):	6.0
People undernourished (% of total population):	33
People with sustainable access to improved water source:	42
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births):	117
Maternal mortality ratio reported (per 100,000 live births):	830

Source: [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com) Photo: Chad woman weaving. Chad/Sudan/Darfur crisis. © Josh Estey/CARE

## Program Overview

CARE began operations in Chad in 1975. Over the last 30 years, CARE has continuously adjusted its programs in response to the increasingly troubled political developments in Chad – most recently with the arrival of Sudanese refugees fleeing Darfur into the eastern part of the country.

Almost simultaneously, CARE became involved in the support of a new wave of refugees from the Central African Republic, at the request of United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The international visibility of the conflict in Darfur has also turned a spotlight on the many previously invisible problems within Chad.

The conflicts have led CARE to become increasingly involved in emergency humanitarian projects targeting the refugees and affected communities within Chad. This is reflected in the places we work. Geographically, CARE operates in three key areas: N'Djamena, the capital; Eastern Chad, along the Sudanese border; and Southern Chad, next to the Central African Republic.

## Humanitarian Assistance

More than 220,000 Darfuri refugees are currently living in 12 camps in eastern Chad, where they depend entirely on humanitarian assistance to survive. As eastern Chad is rife with poverty and lacking in critical resources like water and firewood, the influx of refugees adds additional strain and tension to an already fragile environment. Of the 220,000 refugees, around 70 percent are women and children. This underscores the high levels of vulnerability and very specific needs of the population. Recent heavy fighting between rebels and the government in Chad has heightened insecurity and added new obstacles to humanitarian access.

Amidst the escalating conflict, CARE has become one of the leading humanitarian organizations in the region through its management of three large camps that provide shelter to more than 56,000 refugees.

Although increased violence in eastern Chad and declining donor interest have made our work more difficult, CARE continues to provide refugees with food, water,

education and other support. We are also helping to manage potential and actual conflicts between the refugees and surrounding communities over access to resources. CARE is helping the Chadian communities improve access to clean water and sanitation, improve agricultural production and better manage their natural resources. Our programming addresses the needs of the refugees and people in host communities, who are now outnumbered by refugees by about four to one. Our specific activities to help both groups are described below.

CARE continues to distribute food rations to more than 56,000 people living in the refugee camps. Each person is provided with a 2,090-calorie-per-day ration of cereal, beans, corn-soya blend, oil, sugar and salt. We also distribute hygiene items, water containers, plastic sheeting and other non-food items. CARE has formalized a registration process, in which refugees each receive a registration card to track their receipt of food and non-food items, to ensure equitable and accurate distribution.

## Water & Sanitation

Eastern Chad's arid environment makes water a precious and limited resource. CARE manages water distribution at two camps, reaching approximately 44,000 people. We currently distribute about three gallons of water per person each day for cooking, bathing and consuming. We are working to increase water supply at the camps so that each person can receive at least four gallons of water a day. To put this in context, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average U.S. citizen uses around 183 gallons of water a day.

CARE also builds and maintains latrines, provides training on proper hygiene practices and manages waste disposal at the camps. These interventions are critical for preventing water-borne diseases and malnutrition, especially among children and pregnant or lactating women.

For the surrounding rural communities, the refugee camps have become "urban" zones that are depleting the environment of already scarce resources, water among the most important. At first, the Chadian communities welcomed the displaced Darfuris by sharing food and water, but over time relations between the groups have become more tense.

Local residents are critical of humanitarian assistance that focuses on refugees while ignoring the poverty and problems facing their own communities.

Recognizing the needs and frustrations of the host communities, CARE is helping secure access to stable water supplies for the rural and nomadic populations that live around the camps, where water scarcity is a significant problem. Our efforts include rehabilitating wells, drilling boreholes to create new water sources and training host community members in proper hygiene to reduce the incidence of water-related illnesses.

## Education

CARE provides education to children and adult refugees at the Chadian camps to help expand their future opportunities and, just as importantly, to help create a sense of normalcy, routine and social support, which are critical for their emotional and psychological health. CARE has reached 18,584 students – 55 percent of them girls – through our formal education program and an additional 4,826 adults in literacy classes. As the camps lack school infrastructure, CARE has built 240 classrooms in partnership with UNICEF and has trained 368 teachers, who are Sudanese refugees as well.

## Income-Generating Activities

CARE is helping refugees earn an income by training them in skills such as soap making, baking, livestock breeding, hairdressing, metal making, shoe repair, butchery, radio repair and carpentry. Products are sold both within the camps and in surrounding villages, and CARE purchases some items as well. These activities not only help generate revenue for families, but they also provide them with a sense of self-sufficiency and empowerment.

## Psychosocial Support

The Sudanese families living in refugee camps in Chad lost all that they had – their homes, land, animals, tools, clothing and livelihoods – and many lost family members, friends or neighbors as well. CARE conducts psychosocial support activities in the four camps to help survivors deal with the extreme trauma they have experienced. The activities include providing counseling to vulnerable persons, including girls and women who have been victims of rape and other gender-based violence. Group discussions, sports and games, theater and other community events are also organized. These group activities are critical for normalizing the environment and strengthening community support networks. Our education and income-generating programs also indirectly provide psychosocial support to refugees as they give people a sense of control and predictability, promote self-reliance and provide a safe space in which they can share their experiences.

## Agriculture & Natural Resource Management

Since the beginning of our interventions in eastern Chad, we have focused on resource management and addressing the concerns of host communities regarding the impact of refugees on the local environment. CARE has provided refugees and host community members with agricultural tools, seeds and technical support, enabling them to establish vegetable gardens within the camps and in surrounding villages. The gardens serve as a sustainable source of food in an area where food insecurity is a chronic problem.

A serious concern at present is the dwindling supply of firewood in the area, a problem that has manifested itself in increasing incidents of violence against refugees during wood-collecting trips. To resolve this issue, CARE has organized meetings between camp residents and local community members to find equitable solutions for sharing resources. We also transport wood from unpopulated areas farther from the camps, but this only covers about 25 percent of total need. CARE is now working to introduce alternatives to firewood in the camps such as paper bricks, improved fuel-efficient stoves and solar stoves.

## Gender-Based Violence

The task of collecting firewood in Chadian refugee camps falls primarily on the shoulders of girls and women, who are increasingly being subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence during their trips. CARE is working in three and the surrounding villages to put a stop to these attacks. As the assaults stem in part from hostility between the host communities and refugees over the scant supply of wood, we are introducing energy-efficient stoves in the camps and bordering communities to reduce demand for firewood and helping Chadian residents reforest their land. At the same time, we are raising awareness among refugees and Chadians on the growing problem of gender-based violence and bringing key leaders from each community together in dialogue to promote a peaceful coexistence. CARE also provides counseling and support to victims of rape and sexual assault and promotes community activities designed to prevent gender-based violence in the camps.

## Assistance to Central African Refugees

CARE has been amongst the first humanitarian agencies to respond to the Central African Republic refugees' crisis by providing humanitarian relief to refugees as these entered Southern Chad.

Around 30,000 Central African nationals who fled their country for camps in southern of Chad. There is no prospect for immediate repatriation as the security situation

in the CAR remains unpredictable.

CARE manages two of the three camps where CAR refugees are hosted, providing water and sanitation, food, shelter, education and other services.

This operation also takes into account the needs of local populations in some of the most underserved villages near the camps through providing clean drinking water and educational assistance. Considering the needs of host communities is a strategy that aims to avoid an imbalance and tensions between CAR refugees and host communities share their limited resources with refugees.

## Urban Programming

A long-time partner of the municipality in Chad's capital, N'djamena, CARE provides support to local "sanitation committees" at the neighborhood level to better manage solid waste and garbage disposal.

CARE also works at enhancing access to safe and potable water, also through community-based groups, through small infrastructure work but also by helping them better manage this scarce resource.

## Major Donors

UNHCR, UNICEF, The US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), OFDA, The Canadian International Aid Agency (CIDA-IHA), ECHO, , French MOFA, German MOFA, European Union, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), DEC (UK)

### CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Canada, CARE US, CARE France, CARE UK, CARE Deutschland

Photography:

Chad group of women and girls gathering water at taps. Chad girl with large silver tray on head, Iridimi transit camp. Chad group of women and girls carrying water on head.

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