

31 March 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

3.8 / 5	7 million	5.5 million	\$1.45 billion	5.3%
Inform severity index (unclear from which year)	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP January 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HNRP January 2025)	Required to reach the target (HNRP January 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HRP 2025 March 2025)
101 MSEK	-	2.4 MSEK	103.4 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Chad faces several complex and interlocking crises, related to conflict in neighbouring countries and within the country, and recurring natural disasters. The country is severely affected by climate change and acute crises occur against a background of chronic underdevelopment, extensive poverty and drastically underfinanced basic services.

The humanitarian situation in Chad is dominated by the spillover from the war in Sudan, which erupted in April 2023. Over 900,000 people have crossed the border into eastern Chad since the start of the war, mostly Sudanese refugees (700,000) but also Chadian returnees (200,000). Since the beginning of 2025, refugees continue to arrive from Sudan in tens of thousands on a monthly basis with a projection of 250,000 new arrivals at the end of 2025. Elsewhere in the country, protracted conflict continues to cause recurring bouts of internal displacement and seasonal flooding is becoming increasingly intense. Taken together, the humanitarian situation in Chad has deteriorated drastically since 2023, and is set to deepen further in 2025 as the conflict in Sudan continues to drive displacement and the protracted conflict in the Lake Chad Basin remains active. In total, some 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (compared to 7.8 million in 2024), and the inter-agency response plans targets 5.5 million people (compared to 5.6 million in 2024). The reduced figures for need and target do not reflect an improvement in the situation but rather a change in methodology.

The humanitarian community has largely been able to mount an effective baseline response to displaced people in eastern Chad. There are both opportunities and a necessity to pursue more durable approaches to programming and collaborate across the nexus throughout the country.

Success will depend on adequate financing and effective coordination to make the most of limited resources and balance a geographically disparate humanitarian operation. Many humanitarian actors report observing a re-allocation of resources from the West / Lake Chad Basin towards the East / Sudanese refugee crisis, increasing expectations and pressure to use an effective resilience approach in the West, amidst drastic cuts in US funding.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Humanitarian needs in Chad are multi-faceted and geographically widespread. High levels of poverty and deprivation and accelerating climate change means that indicators around food security, access to healthcare and protection are worrying country-wide. However, the most acute needs are located in three zones: the East, the Lake Region in the west, and the South.

In the East, needs are primarily driven by the spill-over of the conflict in Sudan. Hundreds of displaced people cross into Chad every day, and refugees, returnees and host communities all face acute needs across all sectors. In addition to immediate needs for shelter, water and sanitation and food, there is an enormous need for protection services and psychosocial support, due to the high level of violence that many people faced as they fled Sudan. The pressing need to establish formal camps for refugees and returnees, and to ensure basic service provision in multiplying sites, is also a major priority.

A vast majority of the displaced population in the East – some 80 per cent - are women and children. This creates wide-spread and specific protection needs in the camps, in particular related to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. There are also thousands of unaccompanied or separated children, who face particularly acute needs for protection and family tracing and reunification support.

In the western Lake Region, needs are primarily driven by protracted conflict involving non-state armed groups, including what is still referred to as ‘Boko Haram’. Armed groups frequently attack villages, causing suffering and displacement. Over 220,000 people are currently internally displaced in the Lake Region plus an additional 40,000 returnees. State armed forces frequently clash with non-state armed groups and the conflict appears to intensify with likely ramifications for civilians in the area. In the South, needs are driven by recurring inter-communal clashes, which disrupt lives and livelihoods. The region is also home to some 140,000 refugees from the Central African Republic.

In addition to the specific needs of displaced people, communities across crisis-affected areas of Chad have high needs related to, among other things, food security, nutrition and protection. Some 3.7 million people faced severe hunger (IPC category 3 to 5) according to the Cadre Harmonisé from November 2024 - a clear deterioration compared to previous years - and the situation is likely to increase as violence and climate change threatens agricultural livelihoods. The country is also susceptible to disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles and hepatitis-E.

Life for children is particularly hard. One in 10 children die before their fifth birthday, and only about half of primary school age children are enrolled in school. In displacement sites, education services are almost completely lacking.

Climate change causes recurrent cycles of drought and flooding, and impacts fishing and agricultural livelihoods, including livestock breeding, around the receding Lake Chad. While people adapt to changing circumstances, harsher conditions risk depleting people's coping mechanisms, creating more acute needs in parts of Chad that have previously not been seen as humanitarian situations.

3. The humanitarian response

The Humanitarian Response Plan for Chad targets some 5.5 million people in 2025. Of these, around two thirds are Chadian communities which either host displaced people or are otherwise affected by crises. The remainder are people who have been forced to leave their homes, either as refugees, internally displaced people or returnees. While operations are focused on areas with more severe needs, all provinces have some humanitarian support, given the populations' overall vulnerability. However, given expected severe funding constraints in 2025 - following the drastic cuts in US funding - the response is likely to increasingly target the most severely affected regions. The Humanitarian Country Team in Chad is currently undertaking a re-prioritization exercise, the result of which is now yet known. The HRP was funded to 58 per cent in 2024, of which US funding stood for 43 per cent, which may mean that the HRP 2025 will only be funded up to 25 per cent. Beyond August 2025, the uncertainty is extremely high since there is limited visibility on US funding for 2025/26.

Since the outbreak of the war in Sudan in 2023, the humanitarian response in Chad has gravitated significantly to the East, to respond to the refugee crisis in the provinces of Wadi-Fira, Ouaddai and Sila. Working with local Chadian authorities, humanitarian actors quickly mobilised to mount a response to the influx of thousands of people every day, and have succeeded in providing a minimum level of services while managing to avoid major disease outbreaks or catastrophic food insecurity. While entirely appropriate in light of the severity of needs, the pivot to the East risks stripping resources from crisis-affected communities in other parts of the country. This is compounded by a general lack of funding which is becoming even more severe in 2025 following the drastic cuts in US funding.

The need to prioritise has also forced a rethink around approaches to chronic needs, with organisations looking to move away from short-term assistance in areas with protracted but less severe needs. Work on climate-resilient livelihoods will be important to end cycles of deprivation and ensure that the departure of humanitarian actors does not plunge additional populations into crisis. These more long-term approaches require collaboration across the Humanitarian-Peace-Development nexus; increased leadership and engagement by development actors in areas such as the Lake Region and the South. Across the country, however, basic services such

as health and education are chronically underfunded, and local authorities have very limited capacity, if at all present, which challenges the sustainability of resilience programming.

The response to displaced people in the East is facilitated by Chad's generous asylum law, allowing refugees to settle where they want and to work. This allows for more sustainable approaches also in the refugee response, and there is broad interest in activities focused on livelihoods and transition away from humanitarian assistance, as well as engagement with development actors around these priorities. The relatively high degree of education and capacity among parts of the Sudanese refugee population is also an opportunity that should be seized, through employment of refugees in the response and support to refugee-led initiatives. The immediate priority, however, is to establish sufficient camp capacity and basic services. In the face of underfunding, securing an acceptable minimum level of response in the East will continue to be a major challenge for humanitarian organisations and donors in 2025.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's allocation will be primarily focused on humanitarian organisations with strong operational presence in the East, to respond to the acute needs of refugees, returnees and host communities. As needs are high across all sectors, priority will be given to organisations that provide multi-sector response, in particular related to WASH, Nutrition and Health. Sida will prioritise support to partners that have shown ability to integrate protection across interventions and targeted services for people with specific protection needs, including children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Given the increased needs among refugees, and the efforts required to help refugees relocate to more appropriate sites while providing immediate assistance to new arrivals, Sida will increase its allocation to UNHCR, compared to 2024.

Considering the overall vulnerability of Chad, and the presence of pockets of severe humanitarian needs in parts of the country, flexible and adaptable programming is crucial. Underfunding and tight earmarking hampers partners ability to respond to breaking crises and cover sectoral gaps. To mitigate this situation, and support a more coherent and nimble response, Sida will continue to provide programme-based support to all partners. Flexibility in funding will be accompanied by continuous dialogue around prioritisation, to ensure that the most severe needs are met first in this complex and geographically dispersed context.

Finally, the chronic nature of needs in Chad, and the recurring cycles of acute crises, requires new thinking around more sustainable approaches to supporting vulnerable communities. Sida will therefore prioritise partners that demonstrate an ability to create lasting impact, for example by working on livelihoods for people with acute needs, refugee-led initiatives, or climate-resilient programming.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	Nutrition, WASH, food security	17,000,000
IRC	Protection, health, livelihoods	17,000,000 ¹
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH, child protection, education	17,000,000
OXFAM	Protection, WASH, livelihoods	15,000,000 ²
UNHCR	Multi-sector refugee response	35,000,000
TOTAL		101,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ³	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
MSB ⁴	2,413,000	-
TOTAL	2,413,000	-

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Already committed in 2023

² Of which SEK 10 million already committed in 2023

³ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

⁴ Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.