

Chad Fact Sheet

April 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

Violence, political instability, and climate change in neighboring countries continue to drive people across the border into Chad, compounding the protracted crises in the east, the south, and the Lake regions of the country. Since mid-April 2023, more than 400,000 people have crossed into Chad from Sudan, fleeing the war and renewed ethnic violence in Darfur. Now, Chad hosts nearly 1 million refugees. Though Chad welcomes refugees, the country has extremely limited resources to meet their basic needs and facilitate durable solutions.

HIAS Programs and Focus

HIAS protects and supports refugees to build new lives and reunite with family members in safety and freedom. Working with refugees since 2005, HIAS Chad focuses on strengthening community-based protection networks, providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), distributing food and non-food items, and implementing permagardening initiatives. HIAS also partners with the government and other humanitarian actors to provide protection and address basic needs in emergency situations.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

HIAS community-based mental health programs train community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults caused by crisis and to respond with empathy and respect. HIAS Chad provides multi-layered psychosocial services to individuals and communities to enhance resilience and their capacity to cope. We also facilitate trainings in psychological first aid.

HIAS Chad has reinforced its partnership with community-based protection network members, including faith and religious leaders (men) and seidates (women faith leaders), to encourage them to continue to serve as emotional support providers and facilitators of change in attitudes in their communities.



Newly arrived refugees from Sudan receive monthly assistance next to a HIAS distribution center at the Arkoum refugee camp in eastern Chad, August 14, 2023. (Monim Haroon/ HIAS Chad)

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

Our GBV programming helps forcibly displaced women and girls pursue their potential free from violence and gender-related oppression. HIAS Chad trains refugees to be community mobilizers who can help HIAS identify and help GBV survivors. Mobilizers can refer survivors to different service providers (ex. psychosocial support, material assistance, legal assistance, medical care) and prevention programs and initiatives, including income generating activities for those vulnerable to sexual and



Food

Our permagardening methodology allows refugees to diversify their diet and sell goods in markets.



GBV Response

We train refugees to be community mobilizers who identify and help GBV survivors.



CB-MHPSS Support

We partner with faith leaders to serve as emotional support providers and facilitate local change.

gender-based violence. Community mobilizers also help to implement prevention activities and initiatives in close collaboration with other community-based protection networks.

Emergency Response

HIAS works in refugee camps and sites in eastern Chad and continues to respond to the influx of refugees from Sudan. We conduct protection monitoring and identify at-risk individuals at registration and transit sites, supporting peaceful coexistence between host communities and refugees, enhancing community-based protection structures, and providing mental health and gender-based violence response services. HIAS staff are on site to provide newly arrived refugees with psychological first aid counseling. Our emergency response in the east is supported by PRM.

Economic Inclusion

Our methodology enables refugees, vulnerable migrants, and host communities to find opportunities that will increase resilience, regain dignity, and provide opportunities to build independent and meaningful futures. In 2017, HIAS launched a program focusing on permagardening, a small-scale agricultural technique that maximizes soil fertility and water management using local resources. The gardens allow refugees to diversify their diet and harvest vegetables for their household and sell them in local markets. HIAS also empowers women and girls through tailoring, bread making, knitting, and perfume-making activities in various camps. The projects promote self-reliance and strengthen the economic resilience of vulnerable populations like survivors of GBV.

HIAS in Africa and Eurasia

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities in Africa and Eurasia. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS' programming in the region is focused on protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and economic integration and community engagement.

HIAS currently has programs in three countries in Africa (Chad, Kenya, and South Africa) and six countries in Eurasia (Greece, Israel, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine). Across the region, HIAS partners with a wide range of government agencies (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State Bureau for Populations, Refugees and Migration), UN entities (UNHCR, World Health Organization), the private sector (Moderna), and other non-governmental organizations and local partners.

Contact

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