



Chad: Food Security EMERGENCY

*The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) issues periodic **Emergency** alerts when a significant food security crisis is occurring, where portions of the population are now, or will soon become, extremely food insecure and face imminent famine. Highest priority should be given to responding to the crisis highlighted by this **Emergency** alert.*

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Food aid deliveries to some camps are being disrupted by recent rains

Conflict in Darfur (Sudan) has displaced more than 1 million people, of which 200,000 refugees fled to Eastern Chad. More than 35% of these refugees are outside camps and are extremely food insecure. The relief operation is entering into its most difficult phase as the crossing of the *ouaddis* (river beds) becomes temporarily impassable with heavy rains.

- Between 180,000 to 200,000 people fled Darfur into Eastern Chad, of which about 126,000 were transferred to 9 camps. Humanitarian assistance (food aid distribution) on the other side of the border has resulted in fewer people fleeing towards Chad.
- Food distribution is becoming almost routine in camps, but there is still a lack of nutritional balance. It is difficult to send food to certain camps since roads have become inaccessible due to rains covering all of Chad and Darfur, Sudan.
- Since July 13, 2004, medical and food assistance have been suspended in Farchana (11,766 refugees) and Bredjing (27,718 refugees) Camps due to threats by refugees on those delivering humanitarian assistance. At Brejing Camp, wells are built, but access to water is still limited since the part of the well that lifts water has not been put in place.
- Mortality rate in children varies by camp (from 2.38 to 2.77/10,000 per day). The main causes of morbidity are diarrhea and chronic malnutrition. 24 cases of measles have been identified, with 2 deaths in children under 5 years old.
- Child malnutrition remains high in the Bahai Camp; with a global malnutrition of 30%, of which 3% are severely malnourished.
- In refugee camps, there are currently no cholera kits. These are urgently required.
- Refugees' presence has started causing tensions for land with the local Chadian population. The camels and cattle owned by the refugees are competing with local cattle for both water and pasture. With the start of the rainy season (early July), the search for land by refugees has intensified.
- Approximately 5,675 MT of food aid is available in WFP warehouses. Around 10,000 MT is in the pipeline from Douala, Cameroon and Europe. With the state of roads and rains, WFP and the UNHCR are evaluating whether the Libyan corridor can be used to deliver food coming from Europe (4,300 MT).
- Food, sanitary and nutritional conditions of refugees living outside the camps are deteriorating as coping strategies become exhausted during this hungry period.
- Sources of revenue generated by small secondary income-generating activities by local populations have been reduced during the beginning of the hungry period; which will worsen their food insecurity status.
- In addition to the placement of certain refugee camps in local farms, refugees' animals have strayed from some camps to local fields. This has already started to be a source of conflict between the two populations. If this continues, it may affect the agricultural production and livelihoods of some households in the region.