ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) peaked at 641 000 (4 percent of the population analysed) during the June–August 2019 lean season. Of these, 22 000 were classified in Emergency (CH Phase 4) and 619 000 in Crisis (CH Phase 3), while 2.7 million (19 percent of the population analysed) were in Stressed (CH Phase 2). Out of 69 areas analysed, 11 were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) in the regions of Lac (four areas), Tibesti (two areas), Ennedi Est (two areas), and Borkou (two areas). Another 34 areas were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2) (CILSS-CH, March 2019).

During the October–December 2019 period, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) decreased to 564 000 with the seasonal availability of the harvest from September. However, this number was 200 percent higher than the same period in 2018 (189 000) and 77 percent higher than in 2017 (318 000). The 544 000 in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and 20 000 in Emergency (CH Phase 4) during this time were mainly in the Sahelian belt (CILSS-CH, November 2019).

Acute food insecurity among refugees

According to UNHCR, as of 31 October 2019, the country hosted about 438 000 refugees from neighbouring countries, mainly from the Sudan, the Central African Republic and Nigeria (UNHCR, accessed 16 January 2020). This includes around 335 000 Sudanese refugees, who arrived since 2003, living in 12 camps along the border with the Sudan in eastern Chad; around 90 000 Central African refugees, who arrived since 2005, living in six camps in the south and around 12 000 Nigerian refugees from the Boko Haram insurgency living in one camp and villages in the Lake Chad region (UNHRC, October 2019).

The majority of displaced people, refugees and host communities are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to satisfy their basic needs. However, as one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad’s capacity to provide assistance is limited (ECHO, June 2019).

The acute food insecurity status of refugees remained critical and deteriorating, most notably among the Sudanese refugees from Darfur in the regions of Wadi Fira, Ouaddai, Sila and Salamat, near Chad’s border with the Sudan (UNHCR, November 2019; OCHA April 2019). In Centre East, some 65.5 percent of Sudanese refugees were moderately or severely food insecure (UNHCR, February 2019 and UNHCR, December 2017). Faced with limited livelihood opportunities, refugees in the North and Centre East resorted to use of concerning negative coping strategies (in addition to food-based strategies) including onward migration to Libya and transactional sex. In-kind and cash assistance to refugees in Chad has decreased over the past four years, often falling to only 50 percent of a ration, and was well below basic energy requirements. Only a percentage of the population