

### HIGHLIGHTS (2 hours ago)

- Renewed violence disrupts livelihoods and takes a heavy toll on local communities in the Lac province
- According to results of the "Cadre Harmonisé" (Harmonized Framework), close to 3.9 million people will suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition from June to August 2019
- The measles epidemic in Chad, declared on 30 May 2018, continues to spread
- To better understand and assist people in need of international protection IOM, UNHCR, Chad's government and the Chadian Red Cross have set up a project to monitor mixed migrations



Credit: OCHA/A. Zusanne. 20 December 2018, Yakou, Lac Province. Displaced people (mostly women and children) awaiting NFI distribution.

### KEY FIGURES

**4.3M**

People in Need

**2M**

People Targeted

**3.9M**

Food insecure people SAM affected children

**350k**

**461k**

Refugees

**133k**

IDPs (pending ongoing evaluations)

**81k**

Returnees

**\$140.9M**

Requested for the Lac province

**20.8M**

Received for the Lac province

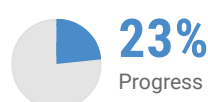
### FUNDING (2019)

**\$476.6M**

Requirements

**\$111.4M**

Funding



FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/668/summary>

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### ANALYSIS (43 minutes ago)

#### Increasing insecurity and displacement in the Lac province

The latest upsurge in armed attacks and insecurity across the Lake Chad Basin has driven thousands of civilians to seek refuge in Chad's western Lac province. Renewed violence also disrupts livelihoods and takes a heavy toll on local communities, particularly around Ngouboua, Tchoukoutalia and island areas on the border with Nigeria. Since the beginning of the year, an estimated 40,000 people have reportedly been displaced in the province - including the arrival of refugees from Nigeria, returnees from Niger and the new displacement of previously displaced communities seeking security and assistance. The situation is fluid and population movements are ongoing. Further evaluations are being carried out by humanitarian actors on the ground.



*Credit: OCHA/A. Zusanne. 20 December 2018, Yakou, Lac Province. Displaced people (mostly women and children) awaiting NFI distribution.*

#### **Upsurge in violent attacks targeting civilians**

Since the beginning of the joint military operations in Nigeria, alleged armed group incursions are recurrent in Chad, where several attacks attributed to non-state armed groups have resulted in cases of kidnappings, killings and thefts. On 22 May, two separate attacks by armed men were reported, north-west of Diamerom and close to Tchoukoutalia, killing six people and leading to the abduction of over fifty people, including women. On 16 May, an armed group also attacked the village of Selia, located about 30km south-west of Bol, killing 13 people, taking people hostage and burning several houses, making it the largest attack on civilians in 2019. These attacks, incursions and kidnappings of women have led to an increased sense of insecurity among the general population.

#### **Internal displacement increases due to clashes and insecurity**

A series of population movements have been reported in the past months, in particular of people fleeing islands and seeking refuge on the mainland. Recent clashes at the end of May between alleged members of a non-state armed group and the national defense and security forces also led to the displacement of hundreds of people who reportedly found refuge in Magar, on the way to Baga Sola. It is also estimated that around 2,000 people fled Fitiné Island after an attack on 4-5 May and found refuge in Kaya, Yakoua and Koudouboul, located around 12km south of Bol. While a multi-sector assessment mission had planned to deploy to these sites on 16 May to confirm and evaluate the needs of newly displaced communities, the newly appointed governor of the Lac province requested the mission be cancelled. According to local authorities, these newly displaced people must return home as soon as possible because measures are being taken to strengthen security around Fitiné and to protect populations. However, for displaced communities to return home voluntarily in safety and dignity, they require accurate and objective information on which to base their decisions. The authorities have a responsibility to ensure this is available as part of their responsibility to establish the conditions and provide the means for safe and voluntary return. Concerns remain regarding the security situation in island areas, as the context continues to be volatile and precarious. According to teams that had visited Kaya and Yakoua sites on 8 and 11 May, a rapid response is necessary considering several risks faced by the displaced: children are currently out of school, people are consuming water from the lake with the risk of waterborne diseases, and their food access is scarce given they are currently being hosted by other formerly-displaced communities.

In early March, some 700 people were also registered near Baga Sola, most of them women and children who fled other displacement sites. An attack in Bourboursa in February also led to 1,300 people fleeing the islands south of Bol and finding refuge in Baboul2.

#### **Increasing number of people fleeing bordering countries**

Armed attacks and population movements persist across the Lake Chad Basin prompting movements across borders. Following attacks on Baga Kawa in Nigeria, 4,048 people crossed into Ngouboua and were registered in Dar es Salam refugee camp in early January. Upon their arrival, WFP distributed high-energy biscuits and provided them with food vouchers. They have since benefitted from UNHCR's multi-sector assistance. Another 300 people arrived in Kegua in March, having reportedly come from Niger. Already in January, 4,000 people arrived in Diamerom and claimed to have fled from Niger, while authorities have yet to clarify their status.

**Protection of civilians remains of utmost importance**

In the context of ongoing military operations and the increasing number of reported attacks, the humanitarian community is concerned about the protection of civilians must remain at the centre of response. According to the protection monitoring system in the lake province, 153 cases of gender-based violence were reported in April as well as 57 protection incidents – a probable under-estimation of the total number of cases given the difficulty for protection monitoring agents to access affected communities due to security conditions and geographical constraints. Providing holistic care for victims is also a persistent challenge. This include a lack of legal support, linked to insufficient legal structures in the region, the lack of knowledge of the procedures by victims, and the fear of reprisals and stigmatization, which often pushes victims to decline legal assistance.

**Aid delivery continues despite access challenges**

Since March, the prevailing insecurity in the province has also led to temporary aid delivery suspensions and movement self-restrictions by several humanitarian organizations in areas around Kaiga Kindjiria, Diamerom, and Boma – affecting programmes which target some 40,000 registered beneficiaries. Despite challenges of access in these areas, humanitarian actors continue to operate in the Lac province to the best of their ability, to ensure delivery of vital aid.

**Food insecurity is on the rise again as the lean season begins**

Despite ongoing humanitarian assistance, people are still severely affected by the food and nutrition crisis because they have not been able to resume their agricultural activities to meet their needs. In addition, the forthcoming June to August lean season requires anticipating and extending support to displaced populations as well as their host communities in the Lac province, where 133,338\* displaced people and 15,915 refugees rely on humanitarian assistance to survive and risk facing worsening levels of food insecurity. Closed borders with Nigeria and Niger, as well as ongoing insecurity, continue to limit access to food markets and trade for populations in the Lac province, despite the reduction of market prices throughout the country.

**The humanitarian response continues to be severely underfunded**

Increased donor funding is essential to sustain and expand humanitarian operations and save lives. Of the US \$476 million required for the whole country, only 23 per cent have been met to date. US \$140.4 million are needed to respond to the most urgent needs of over 340,000 people in the Lac province, including 133,000 IDPs, host communities, returnees, and refugees whose population stands at around 15,000. So far this year, only \$20,8 million of the funding needed to assist affected families and communities in the Lac province has been provided (15%). In addition, aid agencies have already used much of Chad's limited contingency stock to respond to the needs of newly-displaced people.

\*Source: Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round 8, May 2019 (pending further evaluation results and inclusion of new displacements)

## Close to 3.9 million people expected to be food insecure in Chad during the next lean season

The official report from the Harmonized Framework ("Cadre Harmonisé") highlights that despite good harvests during the 2018/2019 agricultural season, close to 3.4 million people will suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition during the next lean season (June-August 2019). Cereal production has increased by 11,2% compared to last year and by 12,6% compared to the last five-year average. Among the 3.4 million people to be affected by food insecurity, 640,874 will suffer from severe food insecurity (in crisis and emergency phases). An additional 461,716 refugees and 81,300 Chadian returnees must also be taken into account, bringing the total up to close to 3.9 million people facing food insecurity. The southern provinces, however, saw a 4 % decrease in their cereal production compared to last year and 5% decrease compared to five-year average – in particular rice production.



*Credit: OCHA/E.Sabbagh. 27 February 2018, Brim, Lac region, Chad: Internally displaced women are watering vegetables produced jointly by Chadian internally displaced persons and members of the community hosting them in the village of Brim.*

According to the food security cluster it is important to anticipate and extend support to areas that are currently in phases 3 to 5 and those that will be in these phases during the lean season. Planning is ongoing to deliver resources where they are needed the most. Food assistance is also recommended for all affected persons during the lean season and malnutrition interventions must continue. In particular, the report indicates that the prevalence of MAG has reached 17,8% in Borkou province, and 11,6% in Kanem, both above the WHO 10% alert threshold. Seven provinces are also expected to face high malnutrition rates during the upcoming lean season, especially in the Sahel and Sahara belts.

Given the availability of food on the markets, with the exception of the northern part of the country – where the closure of the border with Libya has decreased food availability and led to increased prices -, the cluster recommends using a cash-based transfer approach to support livelihoods and communities in addition to supporting all affected persons with food assistance. (Sources: Official Harmonized Framework report from March 2019, Food Security Cluster)

## BACKGROUND (2 hours ago)

### Clashes over access to resources across Chad

In a context of increasing desertification, insecurity and the loss of grazing land to expanding settlements, the southward migration of Chad's herders is causing tensions over land and water with local farmers.

#### Nomadic herders and farming communities in land access disputes in the central and southern regions

Chad is facing a resurgence of deadly communal conflicts between nomadic Arab herders and local farmers. Land use rights and access to water are the leading causes of these inter-communal clashes, especially during the arid and dry season, where water sources and pastures become very scarce. Farmers who do not allow cattle to graze in these areas are attacked by herders who destroy their fields and huts. Drought and desertification degrade pastures, drying up many natural water sources and forcing large numbers of herders to migrate southward in search of grassland and water for their herds. These conflicts quickly escalate and aggravate relations among communities and clans. On 19 May, an inter-communal conflict, between Arab herders and local



farmers, was reported near the village of Abdi, in Sila province, eastern Chad, claiming the lives of 31 people. According to local sources several houses were burnt down and the situation in Abdi area remains tense, with sporadic clashes reported in Biyere, a village 38 km away from Abdi. The Governor of Sila and various administrative and security authorities deployed to the area. Following the attacks, an indeterminate number of people were arrested, and several weapons were seized. The clashes reportedly erupted after local farmers refused to let herders use their pastures, leading to the herders setting fire to local crops. On 16 May, the same situation led to a conflict in Marfa, Ouaddai province, which resulted in 12 people being shot dead and several wounded.

Similarly to eastern Chad, southern Chad is also experiencing a surge in inter-communal conflicts between farmers and herders. On 21 May, following the destruction of a peanut field in Nala village, located 25 km outside of Doba, a conflict between farmers and herders resulted in three people killed. The same day, a person was killed in Donia, located 60km away from Gore, as a result of another clash between farmers and herders. The perpetrators were reportedly arrested. Conflicts between herder and farmer communities are a recurrent cause of death in southern Chad. Across southern Chad, 12 conflicts were reported in 2017, resulting in four deaths and nine injuries, while 17 conflicts were reported in 2018, leading to 12 deaths and more than 18 people wounded as well as several hectares of plantations destroyed and animals killed. By the end of April 2019, four incidents had already been recorded, resulting in five deaths and six injuries. These incidents were recorded in areas when humanitarian actors are present and where access to this information is possible. They do not offer a complete overview of these conflicts in the region.

#### **Water and polders at the center of inter-communal tensions in the Lac province**

In the midst of the Sahel belt, Lake Chad is a vital water resource for fishermen, herdsman and farmers. It used to be one of the biggest lakes in the world, but its volume has been reduced to a tenth of what it was in the 1960s. The water levels of the lake have always fluctuated, as previous studies have shown. As a result, the shoreline people have developed a significant capacity to adapt, alternating between fishing, and raising various crops through the use of sophisticated irrigation techniques.

The use of polders - traditional dams constructed across narrow inlets formed by the shoreline – allow for agricultural production and access to water. A vital resource for shoreline communities, polders are one of the only sustainable means by which they are able to grow food and maintain their livelihoods. In particular, these allow for the production of corn, rice and cowpea, as well as provide water and grazing land for cattle.

Due to their value, they sometimes become the center of conflicts between communities in the Lac province, where the use of land and resources is a recurrent source of tension, sometimes leading to losses in life.

In January, an inter-communal conflict over access to resources reignited and caused one death in the village of Walawa, located about 25 km south of Bol. Two communities had been fighting over the use of a polder for several years.. Due to the lingering inter-communal conflict, authorities had consequently suspended the right to use this polder, including grazing animals. On 22 January, tensions arose and clashes with security forces ensued when one community brought their cattle into the polder

In 2018, conflicts over access to resources in the Lac province led to a total of eight deaths and 137 injuries. It is estimated that over 30 polders are currently held by the judicial authorities to avoid clashes. These access restrictions to high-yielding cropland has negative impacts on food security and livelihoods.

#### **Access to justice and the settlement of disputes**

In the case of the conflict in Marfa, Ouaddai province, a large number of assailants and accomplices were allegedly arrested and the situation is now under control.

However, in many instances, communities revert to customary conflict management and resolution practices, especially in places where judicial institutions are largely absent. The Minister of Territorial Administration has warned the provincial, traditional and customary authorities however of the risks related to the “dia” and formally prohibited its practice. The “dia” is a customary religious practice that allows communities to settle disputes that have resulted in deaths by paying a large sum of money or attributing livestock to the victim community, sometimes without any other form of criminal prosecution. These settlements sometimes lead to revenge and further conflict.

#### **Insecurity as a propeller of these tensions**

The closure of the border between Chad and the Central African Republic has limited transborder transhumance and led to increased concentration of herds along the borders and in the southern parts of the country in general.

In the Lake Chad basin, the closure of borders and movement restrictions have also undermined agriculture, livestock and fishing activities, and limit trade between Chad and neighboring countries. Prior to the border closing, Baga in Nigeria was a major trading point for herders, who are now concentrated in Chad.

For the time being, despite the recent clashes in eastern Chad, no transborder tensions are perceptible. However, because of the unpredictability of the situation in Sudan and Libya, close monitoring is necessary.

#### **Strengthened security and regulated access to land is necessary**

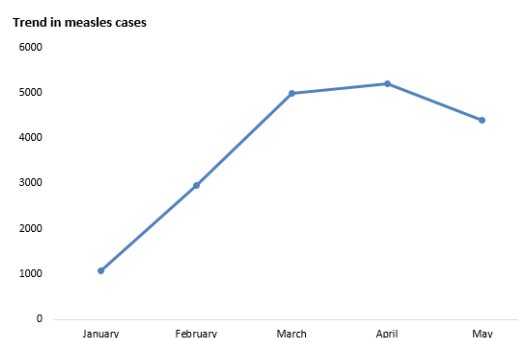
To prevent the crisis from escalating, national authorities should strengthen security for herders and farmers, implement conflict resolution mechanisms, promote social cohesion and guarantee herders and breeders access to land as well as ensure food self-sufficiency.

There is also concern regarding the non-respect of transhumance corridors, by both farmers and herders, and the non-application of texts governing transhumance corridors by local authorities.

## **TRENDS** (2 hours ago)

### **One year on, the measles epidemic continues to persist**

According to the *Comité Technique National de Lutte contre les Epidémies* (National Technical Committee for Epidemic Control, CTNLE), the number of measles cases has been on a constant rise in Chad since the beginning of the year. With over 1,000 cases in January and nearly 3,000 in February, the situation continued to worsen in March (4,994 cases) to reach the peak of 5,197 in April. While a drop to around 4,396 in May has been reported, health actors are concerned the situation is not yet under control. Measles epidemics usually begin in the middle of the dry season and decline with the onset of the wet season, however the 2018 outbreak is still persisting. As of 31 May, a total of over 18,682 cases with 191 deaths have been recorded since the beginning of the year 2019.



*Trends in measles cases*

N'Djamena (4,869 cases), Chari Baguirmi (2,719), Mayo Kebbi Est (1,989), Salamat (1,843), Logone Oriental (1,236) and Logone Occidental (1,205) are among the most affected.

To ensure measles immunity, 95 per cent of children need to be vaccinated. The current situation is worrying, with only one in three children under the age of five vaccinated against measles in Chad (37%) and only one in four fully immunized against common childhood diseases. In the north of the country, these figures fall as low as only 10 per cent of children vaccinated against measles.

To deliver a concerted response, a Measles Task Force has been set up by humanitarian and health actors with the aim of insuring nationwide vaccinations of the 6 million targeted children aged between 6 months and 9 years old. This campaign will cost an estimated US\$ 9.3 million.

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease that can lead to serious complications and remains a leading cause of death in children, especially as it can worsen malnutrition and children who are malnourished face a higher risk of developing severe complications. In the context of a widespread malnutrition crisis, measles becomes an even bigger threat.

Reactive vaccination campaigns that have been ongoing since the beginning of the epidemic are continuing in affected areas. However, vaccine conservation remains a challenge because of the weak cold chain availability in remote health centers where repeated shortages in vaccines affects routine immunization campaigns. Only 46 per cent of health centers in the country are equipped with a cold chain that complies with international standards. Limited access to health services across the country as well as low school attendance also contribute greatly to the persistence of the measles epidemic. Also noteworthy is the atypical nature of this epidemic, which has been affecting people beyond the 0-9 years old age range.

The fact that free patient care in health centres is not assisted by humanitarian partners remains a major concern for the Ministry of Health, which has recommended mapping the areas covered by partners to better identify and address this gap.

## TRENDS (46 minutes ago)

### Mixed migrations in Chad

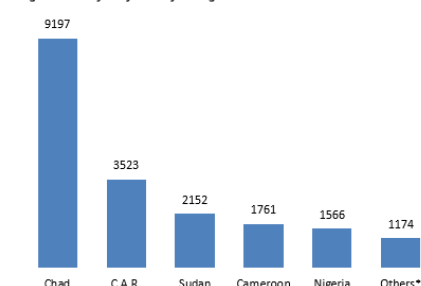
The International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High-Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Chadian government, in partnership with the Chadian Red Cross, have set up a project to monitor mixed migrations (when refugees and migrants travel along similar roads) in order to better understand and assist people in need of international protection.

**The majority of people surveyed by the mixed migration project are originally from Chad and do not have refugee or asylum seeker status**

In 2018, close to 200 relays were set up in strategic places in Chad and surveyed a total of 19,569 people (81% men, 17% women, 2% children, 1% elderly). Most people surveyed are originally from Chad (47%), followed by people from the Central African Republic (18%), and people from Sudan (11%). A smaller caseload came from Cameroon (9%), Nigeria (8%), Niger (5%) and Mali (1%). Among all persons surveyed, 18 per cent are asylum seekers, 5 per cent are refugees and another 8 per cent intend to ask for asylum. The majority, however, do not have refugee or asylum seeker status (69%).

**Most migrants hope to find employment opportunities in Libya or in Chad**

Migrants surveyed by country of origin



\*Niger and Mali  
Source: UNHCR/OCHA

Migrants surveyed by country of origin

When interviewed, 36 per cent stated that they intend to reach Libya, while 25 per cent stated they will stay in Chad and 13 per cent hope to reach Europe. Among those who were identified as potentially needing international protection, 48 per cent say they fled for political reasons, 6 per cent for environmental reasons and 2 per cent due to conflict.

#### **Voluntary repatriation offered to refugees**

Nine people were voluntarily repatriated to Ethiopia and 24 cases were referred to IOM. Seven Sudanese refugees who had been located in Niger received assistance to return to Chad, their first asylum country, where they were readmitted as refugees and received a reinsertion kit and will benefit from a livelihoods support program. Another 11 Sudanese refugees who had traveled to Niger, Tunisia and Libya will also receive assistance and be readmitted as refugees in Chad and will benefit from the same readmission package.

The border with Libya has been officially closed since March 2019 due to security threats. This could negatively impact market supplies as Northern Chad relies heavily on southern Libya for food and basic commodities. Around 410,000 people live in the northern provinces (Borkou, West and East Ennedi, Tibesti), representing 2.6 per cent of the total Chadian population.

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## **TRENDS** (2 hours ago)

### **Voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees and return of Chadian refugees from Sudan**

Since April 2018, nearly 4,000 Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad have voluntarily returned to their country of origin. As of 23 April 2019, a total of 3,824 refugees have been repatriated half of whom were born in Chad. These refugees are part of some 20,000 refugees who accepted to return to their country of origin. The UN Refugee agency (UNHCR) and the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (the National refugee Commission, CNARR) are facilitating voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Chad to Sudan since April 2018. The governments of Chad, Sudan and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement in May 2017 to allow the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees living in Eastern Chad. Chad hosts over 342,000 Sudanese refugees representing nearly 74 per cent of the total refugee population in Chad.

At the same time, the voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees from Darfur, Sudan, continued. As of 30 April 2019, a cumulative number of 5,093 Chadian refugees were reintegrated in the Sila region according to UNHCR. Chadian refugees in Sudan are estimated at about 40,000 individuals according to UNHCR Sudan.

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## **FEATURE** (2 hours ago)

### **The resilience of Sahel belt communities rests on self-sufficiency**

Across the Sahel region, the most vulnerable communities face significant challenges during the lean season. To help communities gain in autonomy while reducing dependence on humanitarian aid, particularly food assistance, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched an integrated convergence programme in October 2018 in Chad's central and eastern provinces.

This programme has three components including resilience, nutrition and education, with an emphasis on school feeding. The activities are carried out on three sites: Chawir (Guéra province) Zobo and Brégué-Birguite (Batha) benefiting ten villages. WFP is implementing this programme with its local partners, the Evangelical Community-based Development Project (ECDP) in Batha province and Moustagbal in Guéra province. On 17 March 2019, after nearly six months of implementation, WFP, accompanied by OCHA, went to see the progress of the activities.



#### **Building household resilience and keeping children in schools**

In Chawir, in the Guéra province, a gardening project is being implemented by the national NGO Moustagbal. Four hectares of land have been made available for market gardening and millet production. On site, 246 households work and are paid through a food assistance programme for asset creation. The products are consumed by households and students benefiting from school canteens, while guaranteeing their access to schooling. As soon as market gardening activities end at the onset of the rainy season, the space is used for the school crops. This year, the latter produced about 7,800 kg of cereals (78 bags). Chawir also benefits from a community forest project. As in Zobo, 400,000 trees of have been planted.

Another resilience project in Brégué-Birguite supported 157 farmers in 2018. Thanks to WFP, they were able to use a 250-hectare plot of land for the production of 173.35 tonnes of beré-béré, a variety of sorghum. This operation is based on a water retention system through the construction of dams and half-moons. Based on its success, an additional 873 hectares will be harvested this year during the rainy season. Dams are being built and three weirs to prevent water loss.

#### **Countering deforestation, malnutrition and unemployment**

The Zobo site focuses on the fight against deforestation in Batha province. Out of 400,000 expected seedlings, 129,000 have already germinated thanks to the provision of an 18 m3 water network. These seedlings will be ready in July during the rainy season, and will eventually be used to create a community forest and develop public service spaces such as the town hall, sanitary facilities and schools. These are not ordinary plants but a species of plants with multiple functions. They have nutritional and soil protection values and can contribute to improving food security. In addition, the project creates jobs for 200 people, including 157 women. Finally, three out of five school gardens have already been created for the production of cereals and market produce in the area.

#### **Employment opportunities for men and prevention of an exodus**

Before this project, men left the villages in search for work, leaving women with dependent children behind. For women, these resilience projects have not only encouraged men to stay home but also resulted in small savings for their households. These resources will enable them to establish small businesses. Men now feel that they can assume their responsibilities as heads of households and attempts to migrate to the north of the country to work in gold mining sites are reduced. Thanks to the project, they can ensure the health care of their families and their children's access to school.

#### **A community learning process**

Participation is an essential element for ownership and continuity of these projects. In Zobo, two villages have provided 9,749 m2 of land for the project. In Brégué-Birguite too, the 873 hectares come from the community. Residents collaborate and feel involved in the development of their communities.

The two sites also offer training in techniques related to tree planting, compost production, water retention and the use of organic pots to protect the environment. This community learning is essential for the sustainability of projects. At the Chawir School Garden in the Guéra, students and parents practice and learn to garden and grow off-season cereals. "It takes at least three years to complete and depends on predictable resources to avoid



*Credit: OCHA/I. Moussa Saleh. Zobo, Batha Province. Preparation of seedlings for the creation of a community forest and the development of public service spaces.*

wasting what has been achieved," said Alemu Mekonnen Gebre, WFP's Resilience Programme Manager. In a context where the eastern provinces of Chad are facing a protracted crisis, resilience programmes represent one of the best approaches to help people escape humanitarian dependency.

**For more sustained resilience**

During the focus group discussions organized by OCHA, the communities of Zobo and Bregué-Birguite expressed their needs. For men, support is needed for the acquisition of small ruminants. Women, for their part, are calling for the building of halls to store their products for sale, as well as mills and financial support to develop their small businesses and handicrafts (weaving). However, other initiatives should be put in place to fill the gaps in the project, particularly in terms of support (e.g. teaching them how to save and store their products). This will allow the populations to really take charge of themselves at the end of the project.

WFP identified 240 villages with the potential to integrate food security, nutrition and education activities, with the aim of strengthening the resilience of 188,336 people. This will help reduce their dependence on emergency food assistance when the lean season strikes again.

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