

## HEALTH SITUATION

### *COVID-19 update*

The COVID-19 epidemic was declared on 19 March 2020 by the Government, a year ago this week, following confirmation by the laboratory of a first case, arrived on 15 March by a TCHADIA Airlines flight from Cameroon. As of 16 March, there have been 4,344 reported cases and 155 deaths in 17 provinces. The Wadi Fira province, relatively spared since the beginning of the pandemic, has seen a significant increase in the number of new cases recently: over 50 in a month. Among newly reported cases: health personnel, UN staff and refugees from the Amnabak camp. On 18 March, the Ministry of Public Health and National Solidarity announced in a press release that Chad has decided to abandon the scheduled delivery of the anti-COVID vaccine, following contradictory scientific information, coupled with the various questions about the type of vaccine offered in Chad. The country, which was initially scheduled to receive its first vaccine delivery last February, is waiting to obtain irrefutable documented guarantees on the vaccine's effectiveness and safety. "The national health situation being under control for the moment, the vaccine which will be chosen by our country must present a maximum benefit and a minimum possible risk", the Ministry declared.

(WHO situation reports, OCHA, press)

## HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS ENVIRONMENT

### *Sila*

NGO motorcycle hijacked on the way back from cash transfer activities: According to local sources, on 12 March around 7pm, an NGO staff member on a motorcycle was held at gunpoint by four men on the road between the Kolegne canton and the Ade sub-prefecture. The armed men stole his motorcycle and took it across the Sudanese border. The NGO staff member was returning from a cash transfer activity while his colleagues were riding in a separate car with an armed escort, but the distance between the motorcycle and the rest of the convoy was too big and the perpetrators took advantage of it to carry out the attack. An investigation led by the provincial authorities is ongoing. The NGO in question says the incident will have a negative impact on its activities. (OCHA)