

CHAD: FOOD SECURITY

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The Disaster

In the aftermath of last year's drought and devastating floods in Chad, 558,000 people in the regions of Tandjilé, Mayo Kebbi, Logone Oriental and Logone Occidental had lost their harvest and planting seeds. The Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) and WFP closely monitored the situation of the affected population. The Red Cross of Chad (RCC) participated in an evaluation mission in May this year to the affected areas where they found the following levels of child malnourishment: 16% severe, 46% moderate, and 38% slight. There were also indications of the population being forced to live off wild plants, and most of the population have already sold their livestock. As the next harvest is only expected in October, the population in the 4 regions urgently require food assistance. In co-ordination with the government, WFP recommends distributing 3,000 Mt. of cereal to the most affected families, to sell 7,000 Mt. of cereal at a subsidised price, and to motivate the village seed-banks to set up a system of "seeds on loan" for the most vulnerable groups. Some 53,689 persons have been identified as most vulnerable: female heads of families, widows, elderly people, handicapped persons, and poor families with many children.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The RCC has committed themselves to contributing 307.75 Mt. of cereal and 22.25 Mt. of local beans to distribute to the most vulnerable. WFP is now distributing food assistance, and the RCC will follow with a second distribution in September. The RCC also recommends distributing 10,000 agricultural tools and 10 Mt. of sorghum seeds to the families who have lost or sold everything. All items can be bought locally. Transport to the affected areas will be a significant challenge as this year's rainy season has already turned the mainly sandy roads into almost impassable pools. The RCC will use all available means of transport, including pirogues, to distribute the food aid to the most vulnerable.

The Federation will assign a relief delegate to assist the RCC in the beginning of the operation to organise the purchase of assistance and logistics, and distribution plans, as well as to facilitate evaluations and reporting once the operation is well underway.

Needs

CHF 190,070 is needed to allow the RCC to purchase and distribute food, tools and seeds in 11 areas of the 4 provinces.

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