

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## CHAD: CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEES

2 March 2006

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time.**

**The Federation has been operating in Chad, under the auspice of the refugee operation, in cooperation with UNHCR since 2003. A joint Red Cross of Chad/Federation assessment will be conducted to identify existing uncovered needs. Based on the outcome of the assessment, the Federation delegation in N'djamena may propose further action.**

**Activities undertaken are aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".**

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- **Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**
- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

#### For further information please contact:

- **In Chad:** Andreas Koumo Gopina, Secretary General, Red Cross of Chad, N'Djamena; Email: [crt.tchad@intnet.td](mailto:crt.tchad@intnet.td); Phone +235.523.434
- **In Chad:** Bogdan Marian Dumitru, Federation Head of Delegation, N'Djamena; Email: [bogdan.dumitru@ifrc.org](mailto:bogdan.dumitru@ifrc.org); Phone: +235.522.339; Fax +235.522.399; Mobile +235.360.822
- **In Cameroon:** Daniel Sayi, Federation Acting Head of Central Africa Sub-Regional Office, Yaoundé; Email: [daniel.sayi@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.sayi@ifrc.org); Phone +237.221.74.37; Fax +237.221.74.39
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org); Phone. +221.869.36.41; Fax +221. 860.20.02.
- **In Geneva:** Helene Ruud, Regional Officer for Central Africa, Africa Dept; Email [helene.ruud@ifrc.org](mailto:helene.ruud@ifrc.org); Phone +41.22.730.49.14 ; Fax +41.22.733.03.95

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## The Situation

The UN refugee agency, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has declared that men, women and children from the Central African Republic (CAR) continue fleeing into Chad daily, with at least 4,000 crossing the border in recent weeks so as to escape violence which- according to them- has killed 50 people in February 2006 alone and shows no signs of subsiding. UNHCR is presently racing to relocate more than 3,000 people registered while 2,000 others are expecting their turn.

The refugees argue that the CAR government soldiers are attacking civilians who are suspected of being linked to rebel groups. Daily random attacks by armed bandits and rebels as well as government soldiers in the areas of Paoua and Bemal in northern CAR have, for long, jeopardized security in the region with no hope that efforts to restore stability will succeed soon. The CAR government's reprisal attacks against the rebels in Bema on 11 February 2005 destroyed more than 10 villages and caused the deaths of about 50 villagers. The civilians' ordeals include repeated raids by rebel groups who loot cattle and food as well as forcibly recruiting young men as combatants. [Click here to go directly to the UNHCR map of the affected area](#)

Since because of lack of security many areas in northern CAR have no permanent UN or international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) presence, it is presently difficult for UNHCR to verify the exact numbers of refugees. However, latest influxes are obviously confirming that violence continues in northern CAR. It has subsequently increased the number of CAR refugees in Chad to about 45,000, now relocated in three different camps: Danamadji (15,500 residents); Amboko (23,672) and Gondjé (27,744). Before the arrival of the new caseloads, some 30,000 CAR refugees were already living in two camps in southern Chad.

Due to the new influxes, UNHCR is considering setting up a fourth camp in the area as the three existing camps (one was just opened in December 2005) are nearly stretched beyond their limits and available resources are not sufficient. The head of UNHCR office in Goré said that continuous flow of CAR refugees in the south is creating a considerable financial burden with serious constraints on the institution's budget. Unfortunately, the situation in the south has not attracted much attention from the international community. Very few non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are operating in the area. These include: GTZ, Care International, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Médecins Sans Frontières- Holland (MSF-Holland), African Concern and the World Food Programme (WFP).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Federation and the Red Cross of Chad conducted a four-month emergency operation for relocating the first caseloads from the border into Amboko camp from July to October 2005. Seven M6 Red Cross trucks loaded with 20 tonnes of food and non-food items (including plastic sheeting and blankets) were then mobilized from the Sudanese refugee operation zone in eastern Chad and redeployed into the affected zone in Goré. The Federation/Red Cross of Chad also deployed a team of 50 volunteers who were led by a Federation logistics delegate and his Chad Red Cross counterpart. The team carried out distribution activities supported by the transport support package (TSP) programme of the Federation and the Red Cross of Chad. With the support of the Federation, an emergency welcome centre was also established in Amboko camp by the Red Cross of Chad, which together with its volunteers, contributed in transferring and relocating refugees from the border into the camp.

During the operation, WFP mobilized the necessary food resources while UNHCR supplied additional non-food items to provide basic emergency support to the caseload. UNHCR also deployed a logistics capacity of four trucks, two hardtops, one water tanker, one fuel tanker and a five-person emergency team to the area to coordinate the operation with partner agencies.

The Red Cross of Chad has, since 2002, been working with UNHCR and WFP in responding to the humanitarian needs of thousands of refugees in the south and eastern regions of Chad. It is anticipated that a further influx may be registered in the coming weeks and the national society's contribution may be required to provide support for relocating the refugees into camps and to assist partner agencies in delivering emergency relief and other services. A joint Red Cross of Chad/Federation assessment mission is planned to take place from 7 March 2006 with the aim of identifying any existing uncovered emergency needs so as to allow further action to be taken- if considered necessary.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)