



Republic of Chad : EFSA South 2018, following new refugees' influx from Central African Republic—February 2018

Context and methodology

Late December 2017, fighting between rival armed groups intensified in northern Central African Republic (C.A.R). Prevailing violence forced thousands of people to flee their homes with many of them crossing the border into Chad in the search of asylum. By the end of January 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered more than 20,000 new refugees in 44 different villages in southern Chad, particularly in the region of Logone Orientale in the departments of Mont de Lam and La Nya Pendé.

This population faces important challenges to meet its basic needs in most sectors (food, nutrition, health, water, hygiene, shelter...). Though it is critical for newly arrived refugees to immediately cover their food and nutritional needs for survival, host communities are also struggling due to limited resources that they must share now. Reacting to reports on the scarce availability and quick depletion of food at households level, a number of partners, under the leadership of the Food Security Cluster, carried out an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) to better understand the situation. Data collection took place between 26 February and 3 March 2018 at three levels (household, community and market levels) in the three cantons hosting refugees. 897 households (including both refugee and local populations) out of the 900 originally planned were interviewed in 19 villages. The analysis specifically targeted refugee-receiving villages, where there are three types of household: (i) local households hosting refugees, (ii) refugee households in isolated/dispersed settlements in host villages (iii) local households not hosting refugees. Several differences among these households are outlined below.

How many households are food insecure?

Food insecurity is particularly worrying among **isolated refugee households in host villages**. Among these households, 22% are severely food insecure and 59.5% are moderately food insecure. A total of 84% of refugee households representing about 13 000 persons are affected. **Local households hosting refugees** also register high rates of food insecurity: almost two thirds are food insecure and 2.1% are severely food insecure. Likewise, the situation is of concern among **local households which are not host refugees** as 47.5% are also food insecure (3.7% severely food insecure). More than 20 000 persons in the host communities are also suffering from food insecurity.

Where are food insecure households?

Refugee households living in isolation in host villages in the *canton* of Began register the highest food insecurity rates: 95.6% of these households are food insecure and 29% suffer from severe food insecurity. In the *canton* of Oudoumian, 11% of refugee households living in isolation in host villages are also severely food insecure.

The situation among **local households hosting refugees** is also of concern even though the deterioration is less important. Despite the relocalisation of many refugees in the camps of Dosseye and Doholo, 85% of the households in the *canton* of Kaba-Roangar are food insecure (2% in its most severe form).

Who are the most food insecure people?

Overall, **food insecurity affects female-headed households** more than those headed by men, both for local or refugee households. Refugees were mainly accommodated in households headed by men as female-headed households have a reduced capacity to accommodate these new arrivals due to their structural vulnerabilities. However, those female households who are hosting refugees face more food-related difficulties than others.

Single-parent families (widows, separated, divorced...) are also more vulnerable to food insecurity than households with two spouses. There is no co-relation between the age of the head of household and its level of food insecurity. At the same time, large households are more vulnerable to food insecurity than those with fewer members.



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Livestock ownership does not have an impact on food consumption among households hosting refugees and among refugee households living in isolation in host villages. However, the food security situation is better among local households which do not host refugees and also own cattle. Households within this group that were involved in agricultural activities during the last agricultural season show higher rates of food insecurity because of **poor crop performance during the agriculture season**.

Households that were affected by a shock during the last three months register the highest rates of food insecurity. Among the reported shocks, refugees were most often affected by the violence that led them to flee their homes and the loss of a household member. Among the local population, factors that influenced this year's agricultural production (**flooding, drought/early cessation of rains and crop pests**) and the influx of refugees were most often mentioned.

Why are they food insecure?

The rates of food insecurity observed during this EFSA survey are mainly due to a **non-diversified** diet and **household expenditures allocated almost entirely to food**. Several factors explain the deteriorating situation among all types of household. On one hand, the 2017/2018 agricultural campaign in the department of Nya Pendé was impacted by an excess of rainfall that flooded crops in the area, which was followed by an early end of the rains in September. Scarce production resulted in limited food availability among producers and, since December 2017, in the increase of local cereal prices. This in turn has affected household food access. The latest influx of people from C.A.R in December and January has also put additional pressure on local households hosting refugees, which share their already meagre resources to help the new arrivals.

In the *canton* of Kaba-Roangar, where refugees were relocated to the camps of Dosseye and Doholo, the survey's results shows that local households hosting refugees were significantly affected in terms of household food stocks. In the *canton* of Bekan, refugee households registered by UNHCR received food assistance in January and February. However, their rates of food insecurity remain high because their numbers have more than doubled with the arrival of new refugees who have not yet been registered. Sharing food rations in large households led to a early exhaustion of stocks, therefore leaving households in a difficult situation for the rest of the month to feed themselves.

How can food assistance contribute to improve their situation?

The food security situation among newly arrived refugees from C.A.R and host (or former host) Chadian communities is rapidly deteriorating, as shown by the results of the EFSA. Thus, a rapid and adequate response is needed. Priority actions include:

- **Continue providing unconditional food assistance**, in the form of a full ration using either voucher or in-kind food modalities until the next harvest (September).
- **Register all new refugees** living in households, so that all persons in need of assistance are supported.
- Support households, both Chadian and refugee, to **prepare for the next agricultural campaign**, through the provision of tools, seeds, inputs and technical assistance. Creating storage facilities, such as cereal banks, could help with the conservation of agricultural production.
- Promote resilience-building and **livelihood** activities (vegetable gardening, fishing) for all households.





Table 1: Food insecurity in refugee households

Indicators		Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Food consumption score		Acceptable 40.4%	-	Borderline 33.6%	Poor 26%
Coping capacity	Economic vulnerability (portion of income used to purchase food)	Less than 50% 2.8%	50%-65% 5.4%	65%-75% 11.1%	75% and more 80.7%
	Asset depreciation (livelihood strategies)	None 28.4%	Stress 3.1%	Crisis 62.3%	Emergency 6.2%
Food insecurity		1%	17.5%	59.5%	22%

Table 2: Food insecurity depending on the type of household (%)

Canton	Type of household	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Kaba-Roangar	Households hosting refugees	0.0	15.0	83.0	2.0
	Refugee households in isolated/dispersed settlements in host villages	2.9	41.7	50.5	4.9
	Local households which do not host refugees	2.0	48.0	48.0	2.0
Békan	Households hosting refugees	9.5	31.6	57.6	1.3
	Refugee households in isolated/dispersed settlements in host villages	0.0	4.4	66.7	28.9
	Local households which do not host refugees	7.5	50.0	40.0	2.5
Oudoumian	Households hosting refugees	3.9	46.1	45.1	4.9
	Refugee households in isolated/dispersed settlements in host villages	3.0	42.6	43.6	10.9
	Local households which do not host refugees	4.1	49.5	38.1	8.2

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