



**CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE**



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# Operationalising the HDP Nexus in WFP Western Africa

Case Study: WFP Chad

August 2024



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# Essential highlights

- Chad is subject to a specific set of challenges, including a large population of displaced communities – which the Government has generously committed to hosting –, climate change vulnerability, difficult socioeconomic conditions and poor social protection provision. The country's socioeconomic challenges result in deep poverty and high unemployment combined with rising food prices, and access to even the most basic level of social protection is sparse.
- Demand for humanitarian assistance is extremely high and regularly exceeds the capacity and resources available to respond. Meanwhile, the capacity to graduate people from humanitarian assistance and social protection coverage is low.
- Despite its fragility, Chad presents many opportunities to sustain the positive environment for refugee protection and contribute to inclusive, sustainable development and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. There is also potential to further implement the humanitarian–development–peace (HDP) Nexus approach. The Government of Chad views integrating humanitarian response with resilience-building as essential to meeting long-term food and nutrition needs, addressing root causes of conflict, and transforming the refugee response towards more durable improvements for both displaced and host communities.
- WFP globally contributes to the HDP Nexus outcomes, aligning with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on the HDP Nexus, by :
  - » Its programmatic offering, which is centred on the needs and vulnerabilities of affected communities and anchored in national and sub-national systems. WFP's own interventions are broadly focused on local level dynamics and are aligned with national systems and strategies. It aims at improving the most vulnerable people's ability to be resilient, i.e., supporting them when crisis hits, improving access to basic services, boosting resilience to shocks and starting to build stronger livelihoods. This entails emergency response, expanded social protection through national systems, community-based malnutrition prevention, school feeding stimulating local production and consumption of nutritious foods, co-creating valuable assets, rehabilitating and expanding arable land, etc.
  - » Its approach to partnerships leverages multi-stakeholder coordination and engagement, with national and sub-national governments, civil society, academics, communities, international partners and regional organizations. This is advancing broader efforts of the UN and governments to strengthen the coherence and complementarity of humanitarian, development, and peace outcomes.
- WFP's contribution to the Government-led HDP Nexus approach includes participation in the Approches Territoriales-Nexus led by the Ministry for Economic Prospects and International Partnerships (MPEPI), the resilience coalition committee, the cash working group and the national social protection working group; capacity strengthening and knowledge sharing; and supporting the Chad nutrition sector working group. The Government and WFP strongly emphasise the importance of gathering and sharing reliable data and evidence to continuously improve the operationalisation of the HDP Nexus throughout the country.
- Various opportunities present themselves for WFP to continue to improve its support for the HDP Nexus approach in Chad. There is strong momentum to integrate approaches across the HDP Nexus, transitioning vulnerable populations

towards sustainable livelihoods. This is driven by the Government's clear commitment to making significant progress, particularly in building a social protection system that prioritizes the poorest and most vulnerable. The alignment between partners, especially the World Bank and WFP, further strengthens these efforts.

**WFP should continue to seize this momentum to identify clear priorities with the Government on the way forward and advance quickly with key engagements:**

#### **TRANSITION OUT OF VULNERABILITY**

WFP should enhance its support for the government, leveraging national systems in order to strengthen food security and increase livelihood opportunities for displaced and host communities, with a focus on ecosystem- and market-based interventions. This includes enhancing social protection systems through technical and financial support, with a focus on shock-responsiveness and multi-year programs. Establishing another Territorial Integrated Approach (ATI) in the east will improve access to basic services for all, while reinforcing social cohesion, in line with Chad's pledges to the Global Refugee Forum.

#### **PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH**

WFP must maintain a principled approach by upholding humanitarian values and integrate age, gender, disability and diversity considerations to ensure operations are centered on the needs, rights and vulnerabilities of affected communities. Also, WFP should expand and systematize community feedback mechanisms to this effect.

#### **CONFLICT AND RISK**

In order to prevent exacerbating tensions within and between communities, WFP will regularly analyze and manage risks, while actively prioritising opportunities to promote social cohesion. An internal committee could be established to continuously review and update conflict sensitivity and business continuity plans.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

WFP ought to increase the use of locally produced fortified foods, adopt CBTs, and integrate nutrition activities with local production and school feeding. Additionally, strengthening market linkages for smallholders and supporting local food systems will help, while carefully managing impacts on inflation and supply chains.

#### **STAKEHOLDERS**

In order to support transition from direct assistance to an enabling role, WFP will include budget lines in each project for capacity strengthening and organizational development to enhance stakeholder capabilities and program outcomes. Traditional authorities and government institutions will be systematically involved in activities, ensuring open communication and approval throughout the process.



# Introduction

In 2023, WFP's Regional Bureau in Dakar undertook a learning exercise to collate detailed and current information on how WFP country offices in Western Africa design and implement complementary, context specific, and agile HDP Nexus approaches. The goal is to inform and build WFP's evidence and advocacy with the latest practices from the field.

This document outlines the key findings of a case study conducted on Chad in 2023, designed to identify Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) emergent and good practices.

It was produced based on face-to-face interviews conducted in N'djamena in May and September 2023 with WFP staff and other external HDP Nexus stakeholders, virtual focus groups with WFP sub-offices, and desk review of WFP and partner documents.

## **WFP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE**

WFP has extensive experience delivering assistance in contexts of conflict, fragility, and violence.

WFP signed up to the Peace Promise at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and adhered to the OECD DAC Recommendation on the HDP Nexus in 2020.

Both these commitments oblige WFP to engage in conflict-sensitive programming, to ensure that vital crisis response programming is sequenced and layered with longer-term programming to address the drivers of humanitarian need over time, and more broadly to contribute to peace outcomes.

WFP globally frames its contributions to the HDP Nexus and peace and development outcomes in two main ways.

First, by contributing to broader efforts of the United Nations and governments to strengthen the coherence and complementarity of humanitarian, development, and peace outcomes for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Second, through WFP's own programming and partnerships across the HDP Nexus, including investments in resilience outcomes and shock responsive social protection.

WFP's HDP Nexus approach is underpinned by a number of principles that inform the design, preparation, and implementation of Nexus interventions.

These are: a) commitment to partnerships and joint vision in support of national priorities, inclusion and localization; b) conflict sensitivity; c) gender, protection and accountability to affected populations; d) humanitarian principles; e) flexibility in design and implementation.

Operationalization of WFP's global approach to HDP Nexus in practice is based on emergent practices from the field, and the outputs of existing operational and strategic HDP Nexus partnerships.

# Context for HDP Nexus operationalisation in Chad

Chad is a geopolitically and strategically important fulcrum in Africa, connecting eastern, western, and northern parts of the continent and with the potential to either stabilise or destabilise many other regions, and is also the largest refugee-hosting country in West and Central Africa, serving as a safe-haven for hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected people.

However, the landlocked nation's context is marked by a lack of access to basic infrastructure and social services, low agricultural productivity, significant gender inequality and complex inter/intra-community conflict dynamics, among other challenges.

In a context of increasing and widespread food insecurity and persistent malnutrition, combined with relative stability but high fragility,<sup>1</sup> people in Chad need multi-year investments in interventions which cut across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) to build their self-reliance and resilience.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Demand for humanitarian assistance in Chad is extremely high. Out of a population of 17.4 million people, 3.7 million Chadians are projected to be heavily affected by food insecurity and in Cadre Harmonise/ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 3 or higher, and at least one in three Chadian children are malnourished.

Chad is host to over 1,250,000 refugees (mid-2024) from neighbouring Central African Republic,

Cameroon, Nigeria, and Sudan (of which more than 600,000 new arrivals since April 2023), in addition to over 300,000 Chadians<sup>2</sup> who are internally displaced, many of whom cannot meet their food needs independently due to a difficult socioeconomic situation, deep poverty and high unemployment, combined with rising food prices.<sup>3</sup>

In the east, the new refugee arrivals from Sudan, in combination with the international and national response to it, has strained relations with resource-strapped host communities and already-present refugees that arrived mostly at the start of the previous Darfur conflict in 2003.

In some areas in eastern Chad the population multiplied tenfold in months. The scale up of humanitarian assistance to these new arrivals has caused growing tension among host communities which have been hosting refugees for over 20 years, and long-term refugees who have experienced sharply diminishing humanitarian assistance without accompanying investments to date in programming for self-sufficiency.

## LIVELIHOODS AND RISKS

The most vulnerable country in the world to climate change,<sup>4</sup> temperatures in some regions of Chad are 1.5 times above the global average. At the same time, seasonal rainfall (July to September) has exceeded the long-term average annually since 2018.

1 OECD States of Fragility: <https://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/countries/TCD/>

2 All data on refugees is from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and all data on IDPs is from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Figures available from the [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#), and [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix – Chad](#).

3 "Cereals, the most commonly consumed food in Chad, have seen a significant increase in prices, making it difficult for households to afford a balanced and healthy diet. [...] Millet prices are increasing in Abéché (38%), Moundou (41%), N'Djamena (23%), and Sarh (34%) compared to the five-year average." ACAPS briefing note, Jan 2024

4 Chad ranks 185 out of 185 countries in the [GAIN Vulnerability to Climate Change Index](#)

In a context where over 95 percent of agriculture relies on rainfall and 80 percent of the country's active population is engaged in food systems-related activities,<sup>5</sup> recurrent droughts and floods are drivers of high and recurrent vulnerability at the household level. Over 500,000 children are at risk of becoming malnourished during the lean season every year (June-September).<sup>6</sup>

Nutritious food is affordable for less than half of the population,<sup>7</sup> inflation is very high and persistent, and most Chadians do not have access to social safety nets.

In 2022 the worst floods in 40 years occurred, affecting more than 1 million people and 465,000 hectares of cultivated land, provoking a major urban crisis in the capital. In the same year Chad also experienced its worst lean season in a decade for the third consecutive year.

## CONFLICT, PEACE AND PROTECTION

Growing numbers of direct security incidents on Chad's borders and wider risks posed by non-state armed groups (NSAG) exist, mainly in the southern Lac province part of the Lake Chad Basin where NSAG activity is affecting Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Niger, and has compounded insecurity challenges and impeded productivity and substance farming.

These dynamics intersect with classical herder-farmer tensions, including the practice of transhumance. Cultural tensions, along the dividing lines of the Darfur conflict, are also present in Chad and have the potential to result in physical violence. Meanwhile, in the far northern regions especially, a separate armed conflict has been fluctuating in intensity in recent years.<sup>8</sup>

2023 saw a significant increase of incidents and the displacement of around 50,000 people<sup>9</sup> through an interaction of these dynamics with NSAG activity. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Chad has increased from 165,314 in 2018 to over 220,000 in 2024.

The Protection Cluster Protection Analysis produced in 2022 already highlighted that forced displacement is increasing pressure on scarce resources, which is impacting social cohesion - a dynamic exacerbated throughout 2023 by the increase in displaced populations. The variable number of inter-community conflicts from one year to the next has contributed to this displacement as well as destruction of assets and income-generating activities.



5 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2021. [When the desert becomes flooded – Climate Change in Chad](#).

6 WFP analysis of Cadre Harmonisé data from March 2017-March 2023.

7 WFP. Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis: Chad 2022

8 CEDOCA-CGRA, 2024. [Tchad - Situation sécuritaire](#).

9 Figures available from the [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix – Chad](#).



# Enablers and constraints for the HDP Nexus approach in Chad

The challenges in Chad create a highly complex operational environment. Emerging and enduring challenges mean needs regularly far exceed the capacity and resources available for response.

The international community currently funds most responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, natural disasters, and displacement, while the Government plays a key role in coordination and planning, nonetheless requiring extensive capacity investments for this function, including for early warning, and adopting adaptive information systems.

The new influx of Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict in Darfur, as well as the Chadian Government's response to it, have generated a relatively high level of donor interest and goodwill. Within the Government, significant momentum appears to exist to transform the long-term refugee response, and address root causes of conflict, through resilience-building interventions in various parts of the country.

In line with Chad's national development plan, integrating humanitarian response with resilience-building activities is seen by the Government as an essential component to meeting people's long-term food and nutrition needs.

For this to work at scale, WFP and other agencies require multi-year funding for long-term investment in building human capacity, assets, and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, most international donor contributions received are earmarked, including by activity, sub-activity, beneficiary type and/or geographical area. The level of earmarking makes it difficult for humanitarian organisations to

adapt their activities to the complex and evolving context, particularly considering increasing climate shocks, and the need to balance assistance within the HDP Nexus.

WFP continuously advocates for partnerships and collaboration within the HDP Nexus approach, mobilising donors to scale up their support through high-level consultations, and during joint international advocacy and resource mobilisation visits, particularly calling for improved responses to the worsening lean season, flooding, and the increasing humanitarian needs of refugees, action to address the significant underfunding for crisis response, and emphasising the importance of providing life-saving assistance while exploring lasting long-term solutions.

Moreover, WFP advocates consistently for flexible, multi-year, and un-earmarked funding in line with the Grand Bargain and Good Humanitarian Donorship to enable a more efficient and adapted response to increasing needs and evolving contexts.



In Chad, efforts toward integrated resilience were outlined through the country's Priorities for Resilience in 2016, which were backed by the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) and form part of the national 20-year Vision for development. Chad's qualification for the New Green Climate Fund in 2021 and its participation in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative underscore its commitment to sustainability. Chad renewed commitments to the Global Compact for Refugees in December 2023, to provide longer-term support to refugees by allocating land for their use. This commitment aims to enhance the integration and self-reliance of refugees within the country, fostering sustainable solutions for displaced populations.

Additionally, WFP has committed to supporting the Government to improve capacity and ability to mobilise resources and to improve the implementation of plans and strategies, including through support to the Office of the President which is proactively seeking to bring coherence across HDP Nexus initiatives related to food systems transformation and national pathways. Notably in this regard, while Chad is a highly indebted country, in 2022 it reached a debt treatment agreement with official and private creditors under the G20 Common Framework. This agreement - the first of its kind - was specifically intended to create fiscal space, allowing the Government to pursue the country's considerable structural reform, social, and investment spending needs in order to operationalise Nexus approaches on a national scale.



# WFP's contribution to an HDP Nexus approach in Chad

## **SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT AND COORDINATION ACROSS THE HDP NEXUS FOR INCREASED CONVERGENCE AND INTEGRATION**

To enable Government-led responses to crises and shocks of small-medium scale, while simultaneously supporting the strengthening of systems towards responses at larger scale, WFP supports the development of national capacity in two broad yet complementary areas: early warning, emergency preparedness and response in view of Chad's high vulnerability to shocks; and supporting the national social protection system to become adaptive and nutrition sensitive.

WFP support includes strengthening relevant policies and legislation; enhancing institutional effectiveness and accountability mechanisms; and supporting programme design and delivery. It also entails developing joint action plans with other Rome Based Agencies, its United Nations system partners more broadly, and bilateral and multilateral partners - such as the World Bank-WFP road map concretizing their ongoing nexus discussions since 2022. As such, WFP leading several food and nutrition working groups under the interim United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2024-2026).

### **WFP contributions include:**

- **Approches Territoriales-Nexus:** WFP is an active member of the working group Approches Territoriales-Nexus, which is led by the Minister Secretary of State for Economic Prospective and International Partnerships (MPEPI) and strives to improve effectiveness of aid by combining the HDP Nexus approach with Alliance Sahel's Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI).

This working group aims to facilitate coordination between technical and financial partners and has developed a roadmap in order to align support for Provincial Action Committees (CPA) in Kanem and Bargh el Gazel. This coordinated approach enables complementarity of interventions and ensures that we are collectively able to deliver the right type of support at the right time.

### • **Capacity strengthening and partnerships:**

WFP supports institutional and community resilience through improved planning and implementation processes, and cultivating partnerships with local organizations. • There is a focus on emphasizing knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and highlighting the impact of a humanitarian-development-peace Nexus approach in reducing vulnerabilities of the affected populations.

### • **Emergency Preparedness and Response:**

in addition to supporting the government, WFP partners with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in refugee settings. In its work in IDP and returnees settings WFP partners with the United Nations Migration Organisation (IOM).

WFP also works with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure cohesive and coherent nutrition assistance in Chad. In collaboration with five UN agencies WFP developed and finalised a joint multi-agency Anticipatory Action Framework for droughts.

- **Nutrition:** With the Chad nutrition sector working group developing a joint action plan on nutrition, education, and social protection to maximize efficiencies and joint intervention impact, and delivering advocacy, policy support



and dialogue on the nutrition agenda through multisectoral platforms and networks such as the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and using the REACH platform.

- **Social protection:** As co-chair for the Chad resilience coalition committee and member of the national social protection working group, WFP supports the Government in strengthening key pillars of its social protection system and expanding the coverage of its social protection programmes. WFP supported the Government in revising its national social protection strategy, at the request of the Ministry of Economy and development Planning. The strategy defines the country's vision for social protection, to provide support to the most vulnerable and WFP has also been supporting the set-up and roll-out of the Social Registry, which is a key pillar to expand adaptive social protection.

- **Cash-Based Transfers:** WFP is coordinator of the Cash Working Group in Chad.

## **GATHERING AND SHARING EVIDENCE FOR BETTER JOINT OUTCOMES, COHERENCE, AND COMPLEMENTARITY**

For WFP, the Government, and other actors to implement interventions most effectively and efficiently, reliable data is vital.

Local planning, implementation, and monitoring by WFP in Chad always involves decentralized authorities and community organizations, other Rome-based Agencies and United Nations and civil society partners, and trader's associations.

WFP's work strengthening food security, livelihoods and resilience for refugees, returnees, and host communities is also linked to the UN Country Team Chad Emergency Development Response and the UNSDCF.

WFP has extensive experience strengthening the capacities of Chadian institutions in policy, data collection and analysis in food security, nutrition, and social protection.

- The Government's Food Security and Early Warning Information System (SISAAP) leads food security assessments, with technical and financial support from WFP. The results feed into the Cadre Harmonisé analyses, in line with the regional framework for food security monitoring led by the Inter-state Committee Against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS). Results are used to support developing the national response plan to combat increased food insecurity during the lean season. Additional activities, such as the household economy approach analysis and the assessment of the agricultural season, measure the extent to which households have engaged in crop production. These analyses project the most likely evolution of the food security situation during and after the lean season.

- Using the results from the food security assessments and the Cadre Harmonisé analyses, WFP refines its geographic targeting methodology (using Geographic Information Systems - GIS and satellite imagery) to enable the objective of selecting the smallest geographic units (villages) for the lean season response on a vulnerability basis. Versions of this methodology have been shared with key government institutions, including the national institute of statistics (INSEED), SISAAP, the National Office of Food Security and the sub-national level government actors.

- In addition to the collaborative analysis mentioned above, WFP conducts nutrition hotspot assessments and surveys to inform programme design, including the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Also, WFP's integrated context analysis offers evidence for national programme strategies, such as resilience-building, disaster risk reduction, and social protection for vulnerable populations facing food insecurity.

- WFP also collaborates closely with the Department of Agricultural Statistics (DPSA) to strengthen market monitoring and eventually contribute to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis. Through this collaboration, WFP scales up the market functionality assessment to enable evidence-based selection of transfer modalities. The assessment covers hundreds of markets across the country, including those used by refugees.
- WFP has also replicated market analysis conducted with DPSA to strengthen the evidence on the effectiveness of different transfer modalities, i.e. food, cash-based transfers and cash during the lean season, to ensure that using cash-based transfers does not distort food prices in the areas where its beneficiaries reside.
- WFP collaborates and coordinates extensively on enhancing evidence generation and analysis, including with national Chadian universities and research institutions, and Johns Hopkins University, especially for the consolidation and harmonisation of existing food security and nutrition data, supporting the establishment of critical and standard procedures and

parameters such as vulnerability-based targeting, transfer value analysis, design of community feedback mechanisms, and broader monitoring and evaluation systems.

- WFP in Chad is implementing a comprehensive monitoring system, enabling the Government and stakeholders to track progress towards achieving SDG2 and SDG 17. Baselines are being established through support to a national food security assessment disaggregated by gender, age and disability and cross-checked against post-distribution monitoring data.
- Capacities of national institutions are also being strengthened through this work, including technical assistance on conducting robust hazard, risk, and vulnerability analysis; the establishment of risk monitoring, forecasting and early warning mechanisms; strengthening climate analysis by the National Meteorological Authority; and the development of a national emergency preparedness and response plan. WFP emphasises the establishment and strengthening of multi-stakeholder coordination platforms embedded within all relevant policies and legislation.

## WFP EVIDENCE AND JOINT OUTCOMES IN ACTION

When in 2022 Chad experienced unprecedented flooding across the country, affecting 1.2 million people, WFP used its food security analysis and targeting expertise to support Chad's Ministry of Family, which was designated to lead the flood response and identifying the most vulnerable people affected.

Targeting methodologies based on satellite imagery analysis and pre-existing food security data were developed for rural and urban areas. WFP also collaborated closely with other partners such as IOM, UNHCR and the Chad Red Cross/Red Crescent to register displaced persons in the sites in Chad's capital, N'Djamena. This facilitated timely assistance to the most vulnerable.

WFP has also conducted joint analysis on the impact of Covid 19 and the crisis in Ukraine on food security in Chad with INSEED, SISAAP, and the Ministry of Finance, which are critical resources in advocacy efforts. This work builds sustainable national capacity for operational implementation and ownership of national social protection and food security and nutrition surveillance.

WFP also provided the Ministry of Health with technical and financial support to conduct the SMART survey for 2022, which includes data on the prevalence of malnutrition that WFP and partners use to inform the evidence-based planning and prioritisation of assistance.



## PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

WFP in Chad is committed to working with affected people and national stakeholders to create and support an enabling environment for peace and development which enables equitable access to resources and services and strengthen social cohesion. Accordingly, WFP's targeting methodologies and analyses support a people-centered approach.

To have more accurate data available on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Lac province, WFP has collaborated with IOM and INSEED on a data collection exercise developed with the support of the Food Security Cluster, co-led by WFP and FAO, the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR), and endorsed by the United Nations Country Team.

For resilience activities, geographical targeting is extensively informed by the 3PA (integrated context analysis, seasonal livelihoods programming, and community-based participatory planning) to ensure the full participation and engagement of beneficiaries as well as local partners, community leaders, municipalities and national institutions.

Through its Training for Nutrition (FORMANUT) project, WFP supported the establishment of a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics at the University of N'Djamena's Faculty of Health Sciences and supported the process of creating a similar course at the University of Abéché, all in close collaboration with the Ministries of Higher Education and Health. WFP also supported developing, revising and validating nutrition curricula and training guides for higher, secondary, primary and preschool education.

WFP also has an active agreement with the University of N'djamena and with the INTEREST research centre to share good practices, develop curricula, provide training platforms and support disseminating innovative practices. Through this collaboration, Sahel University Network (REUNIR) students were deployed to WFP's project sites, and the West African Universities Network published their consolidated research. Lessons learned included the introduction of the UN PORTAL- a platform that enabled WFP to establish a more robust process to identify and shortlist potential national partners to support WFP in implementing its integrated resilience and food system programmes.



# WFP's programmatic offerings across the Nexus

While operationalising an HDP Nexus approach is not just about what WFP does by itself, WFP's own interventions are broadly aimed at influencing the local-level dynamics and improving the most vulnerable people's ability to be resilient in the face of continuous shocks from climate-related disasters and violent conflict, thereby reducing their dependence on humanitarian support.

## **TRANSITION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS:**

In a context of increasing needs due to neighboring conflicts and climate change, and dwindling humanitarian funds, many households recurrently find themselves in a situation of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity. With the major new refugee influx, this dynamic is bound to be exacerbated. Therefore, in collaboration with the Government of Chad and UNHCR, and in line with its pledges to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) from 2023, WFP aims to transition displaced populations and host communities into durable solutions throughout several stages: (i) starting with unconditional emergency humanitarian support when crisis hits, (ii) deploying school feeding and shifting to conditional activities to support livelihoods and the transition to self-reliance, (iii) implementing social protection to further boost their resilience to shocks, (iv) starting up integrated resilience programming with the intent to build stronger livelihoods and, finally, (v) connecting to more longer-term development programmes to consolidate gains through partnerships.

As affected populations stabilize WFP aims to shift gradually from status to vulnerability-based assistance, and, when feasible, in parallel introducing them to the longer-term resilience pathway to rebuild self-reliance. This gradual transition of beneficiaries is designed to mitigate the risk of leaving behind vulnerable people no

longer eligible for emergency assistance, to reduce overall humanitarian needs, and also to build social cohesion, trust, and inter-connectedness at the community level, including through inclusive engagement of the community in planning and implementing operations.

In eastern Chad, in the context of the large refugee influx from Darfur, a government-led effort for responding with a Nexus-based approach is already aiming to transition households out of vulnerability. Accordingly, WFP is elaborating a Nexus framework through which to coordinate its activities in the area. The government-funded Resitchad project - which, in a first phase, aims for quick-impact activities to improve access to basic services, infrastructure and economic opportunities for host and refugee communities - as well as WFP's own Haguina initiative - aiming to transform a hectare of land per family for selected households from refugee and host communities - are also a part of this strategy. Leveraging its comparative advantages in restoring degraded lands and installation of water harvesting infrastructure, WFP will work closely with the Government, UNHCR, and partners to enable the transition of people into self-reliance through the Government's allocation of productive agricultural land which is anticipated to be granted in 2024 and beyond.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

Life-saving and complementary measures can prevent and mitigate the risks of severe food insecurity and reduce food and non-food stresses that expose individuals to violence while also enhancing intra-community relations. WFP addresses the needs of the most vulnerable and affected households and communities in Chad through unconditional and targeted emergency assistance, while remaining responsive to continuing displacement and influxes of refugees.

Scaling up and down integrated assistance adapted to the needs of the most vulnerable beneficiaries and use of CBT at a large scale especially allows for flexibility and speed of response, while also reinforcing WFP support for local and national economies through its work.

As soon as the situation allows it, WFP aims to implement emergency school feeding programmes as a safety net for transitioning to more long-term approaches, while also switching to conditional CBT activities such as Food Assistance for Assets (FFA).

### **EXPANDED SOCIAL PROTECTION:**

WFP is supporting the design, scale-up and operationalisation of a national social safety net programme in Chad. WFP is committed to gradually aligning emergency interventions with national safety net programmes, for instance for value transfers beyond the initial emergency phase. In collaboration with the World Bank, UNICEF, and other stakeholders, WFP is supporting the government in developing and adopting a new national social protection strategy. This includes expanding the Unified Social Registry (RSU), the national social safety net programme, and implementing approaches to operationalize the social protection strategy. WFP will progressively use the RSU as the primary targeting tool for its crisis response activities, whether for lean season responses or in the event of natural disasters.

### **SCHOOL FEEDING:**

WFP supports Chad's commitment to the global School Meals Coalition. As such, it is directly involved in implementing the national school feeding programme, which is a catalyst for local development and to spur renewal of productive assets, local production of nutritious foods, and to drive positive nutrition outcomes, as well as broader education, health, and girls' school retention indicator gains. Ensuring that girls and boys stay in school and are able and ready to learn is an investment in the human capital of the future.

This is especially the case for home-grown school feeding programmes, connecting the school feeding initiative to local food systems and utilizing community school gardens to educate on nutrition, which WFP is currently supporting the national authorities in scaling up. Meanwhile, in areas with recently arrived refugees, the ongoing expansion of emergency school feeding plays a vital role in encouraging the return of refugee and host community youth to school, signaling a semblance of normalcy and stabilization, while tackling high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This programme also provides relief to communities struggling to maintain or rebuild livelihoods and, most importantly, represents an investment in the next generation with their skills and capacities rebuilt as national development continues.

The involvement of Parent Teacher Associations or other school governance bodies in a school feeding programme implementation could be a platform to build relationships among divided groups. The platform provides an opportunity for contact, where parents can help nuance adverse conceptions of the "other," build trust and engage in changing attitudes.

### **INTEGRATED RESILIENCE PROGRAMME:**

The goal of the resilience programme is to rebuild people's capacities for self-reliance and reduce humanitarian needs, while empowering and improving the future prospects of the most vulnerable people through diversified and enhanced livelihoods, and also building national capacities for the deployment of long-term resources in support of context-specific activities.

Activities are grounded in a food systems approach, clustered into agricultural productivity enhancement; creation of market linkages; policy dialogue; and social inclusion. They center on bolstering gender-equitable livelihoods and safety nets for the most at-risk individuals and communities. These efforts involve promoting

diversification of production activities, and linking communities to the national social protection programme, as well as combining cash-based transfers to participants with assets creation for land rehabilitation, ecosystem rehabilitation and water management.

The resilience-building role of WFP is reinforced and complemented by the impact of its natural resource management activities on disaster risk reduction and management, and supporting farmers with climate adaptation, mitigation, and management measures such as providing access to micro-insurance, marketing services, anticipatory action, and/or forecast-based financing.

Where feasible WFP ensures synergies between smallholder farmers included in integrated resilience programmes and the school feeding programme. This approach provides an opportunity to support the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and local communities by generating stable and predictable market for their products. Connections for producers with consumer markets and other stakeholders in the value chain are also facilitated, and income generation opportunities related to food transformation introduced or reinforced where feasible.

## **USING WATER AS AN ACCELERATOR OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:**

WFP interventions in Chad support the construction of different water harvesting and impounding structures, such as multi-purpose dikes, water spreading structures and micro dams, multi-purpose ponds, and different soil and water conservation measures.

By introducing these measures, people benefit from the restoration and cultivation of degraded land, thus doubling their production and increasing their incomes. These assets together offer an opportunity to address the challenges of climate change while fostering economic growth and development in the agricultural sector.

Peace dividends from these climate resilience activities accrue from supporting resource management which reduces the incidence of drought and flood-induced mobility and displacement.

### **INTEGRATED RESILIENCE PROGRAMME HDP NEXUS OUTCOMES<sup>10</sup>**

WFP monitoring has found while the overall food security of the general population has drastically deteriorated since 2019, participants in the WFP resilience programme 2019-2022 had stable or improved food consumption scores.

More than 400,000 people in Chad in this period had more regular, more frequent, and more diversified diets due to the resilience programme. Over 75 percent of participants reported that assets created had reduced day-to-day hardships, improved the natural environment, and improved their access to markets and basic services.

In addition, WFP resilience programming has aimed to prevent and manage inter-community tensions in refugee hosting areas through improved access to and rational management of natural resources. WFP, with the Government of Chad, UNHCR, and partners, has helped strengthen peaceful cohabitation and trust through joint and inclusive activities emphasising significant participation of women and youth.

<sup>10</sup> Evidence from WFP's integrated resilience programme in the Sahel (December 2022 update – internal report)



## **COMMUNITY-BASED MALNUTRITION PREVENTION:**

For lasting solutions and as part of the Nexus approach supporting resilience through economic inclusion, enhancing social cohesion, and reciprocity, WFP has strengthened the integration of its interventions through which targeted communities benefit from a package of asset creation, education access, nutrition interventions, and capacity-strengthening training at community and household levels.

This also includes integrating the promotion of good nutrition and hygiene practices, using a social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) approach at household and community levels. Strong partnerships with government institutions at central and decentralised levels, NGOs, and UN agencies contribute to WFP's effectiveness in this approach.

Furthermore, capacity-strengthening activities are carried out with government partners on nutrition assessment and reporting, as well as sensitisation sessions organised at health centres and communities attended by mothers, fathers, and community resource persons. Promoting adequate health and nutrition practices for children and mothers includes local formulation and preparation of nutritious foods and hygiene, among other good practices, and creates areas of encounter and cooperation for fostering dialogue and trust at the community level.

## **WFP'S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING PROJECTS**

Since 2019, WFP Chad has been involved in five projects, several of which with a cross-border dimension, with the specific aim to directly address root causes of conflict. WFP contributes to these projects as part of a consortium of agencies ensuring that each of them contributes to the outcomes on the basis of their respective comparative advantage - further improving the integration across the HDP Nexus.

By implementing the activities of WFP's programmatic offerings within the peacebuilding logic of these projects, they are designed to contribute to social cohesion which, in turn, contribute to the sustainability of investments. Concretely, some of these activities bring various societal groups together - pastoralists, farmers, different ethnic groups or people from across any locally relevant dividing lines - while others improve authorities' inclusivity - especially working with women and youth - and or support peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms.

## **DIVERSIFYING PIPELINES OF SPECIALISED NUTRITIOUS FOODS:**

WFP is also increasingly focused on stimulating local production and consumption of nutritious foods, particularly through support of women and smallholder farmers, to scale community-based malnutrition prevention approaches.

This is further complemented by the scale-up of cash-based transfers for beneficiaries of WFP's prevention interventions. WFP's objective is to provide more stable assistance and avoid delays inherent to the international procurement of commodities. It is anticipated that this will enable the continued promotion of locally available and produced nutritious foods while supporting local livelihoods and markets.



## COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD FORTIFICATION:

Community-level fortification of maize, cowpea, soybean, and groundnut into MANISA (a flour for infants) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the WHO, has shown the potential of local production to enhance the productive and transformative capacity of farmers, and to improve the nutritional status of children aged 6 to 23 months.

Local and national industries and small or artisanal producers close to target populations receive WFP support and capacity development, to increase the fortified and nutritious foods available in markets. CBT approaches linked with SBC are used to increase target populations' access to and consumption of locally produced nutritious foods.

### SD3C - BUILDING RESILIENCE, ENABLING PRODUCTION, REDUCING CONFLICT<sup>11</sup>

A notable project is one which the Government of Chad financed and jointly implemented with WFP, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as part of the Joint Sahel Programme (SD3C) to build the resilience of communities in the Lac.

The projects in agricultural development and improving ecosystem services reached 16,000 people in the Lac Region by constructing three dikes, unlocking 1,620 ha of cultivable land and enabling communities to produce 5,920 mt of cereals and vegetable crops.

This generated a gross revenue of over USD 2.1 million in the first year alone - amortising the project investments. Even without considering benefits from dry biomass, carbon sequestration and other socio-economic benefits, such as reductions in conflict and migration, the return on investment for this kind of project is estimated at 1-1.5 years.



<sup>11</sup> [WFP Chad Annual Country Review 2022, page 27](#)

# Further opportunities for operationalizing the HDP Nexus approach

While considerable efforts have been devoted to implementing and HDP Nexus approach, resulting in emerging good practice and impact, there are a number of opportunities that would build on the current success and accelerate efforts to meet immediate needs while reducing the humanitarian caseload over time

## TRANSITION OUT OF VULNERABILITY:

There is strong momentum to integrate approaches across the HDP Nexus in Chad, transitioning vulnerable populations towards sustainable livelihoods, thanks to the clearly signaled will of the Government to make important strides in this respect and in building a social protection system for Chad favouring the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society - as well as the alignment between partners, especially World Bank and WFP. WFP should continue to seize this momentum to identify clear priorities with the Government on the way forward and advance quickly with key engagements.

**1.** Continue to pursue the framing of Chad strategy and programming with a more effective approach for the lean season response, which leverages national systems, timely interventions through, among others, shock-responsive social protection, anticipatory action and climate insurance, and long-term structural activities and policies to strengthen resilience against food and nutrition insecurity during future seasonal crises. Target “buffer zones”, looking at how IRP investments reduce humanitarian needs in areas of high recurrence of acute forms of food insecurity and potentially holding large numbers of displaced people. In presenting this work it is important to avoid binary discussions of either

saving or changing lives, in order to demonstrate how maintaining the two pillars are mutually reinforcing rather than at the expense of one another. Additionally, ensure support to the Government of Chad to establish a strategy and a programmatic approach for Durable Solutions to internally displaced people and Chad’s 2023 Global Refugee Compact pledges.

**2.** Align with the Alliance Sahel’s ATI strategy to underscore a cohesive and collaborative approach to addressing the country’s challenges. Establish another ATI in the east to ensure stronger access to basic services to both host communities and displaced people - including refugees and returnees - and reinforce social cohesion between communities.

**3.** To avoid national capacities from continuing to be overwhelmed by complex and overlapping shocks, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection systems through sustained technical and financial support to strengthen the shock-responsiveness and expand the coverage. This can be achieved through strategic and new partnerships to scale and sustain multiyear programmes including around food fortification, improvement of specific value chains, integrated resilience, home-grown school feeding, women’s economic empowerment, and capacity strengthening for nationally led emergency preparedness and response.

**4.** For chronically food insecure people affected by recurrent crises in the lean season, mostly in the Sahel, further emphasise ecosystem- based activities; market-based interventions; capacity building activities; and providing opportunities to reduce gender inequalities.

Leveraging WFP's comparative advantages in restoring degraded lands and installation of water harvesting infrastructure especially, working closely with the Government, traditional authorities, women's groups, UNHCR, and partners WFP can enable the transition of people into self-reliance through the Government's allocation of productive agricultural land to long-term displaced people and host communities with agriculture experience, and which is anticipated to be granted during this CSP period.

### **PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH:**

**5.** Maintain the principled approach to WFP action, with an emphasis on putting people at the centre and promoting the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and operational independence.

**6.** Continue to integrate age, gender, disabilities, and diversity inclusion across the operation in accordance with WFP corporate strategies, with the aim of ensuring that programmes and approaches are conflict sensitive, protective, and inclusive.

**7.** To meet WFP's ambition to ensure affected populations are at the core of its work, and that programming and decision making are informed by and sensitive to their needs and priorities WFP should continually invest in expanding, systematizing, and conducting monitoring and evaluation of the results from the Community Feedback Mechanisms. This is key to maintaining trust between communities at large (beyond community leaders) and aid providers including WFP.

### **CONFLICT AND RISK:**

**8.** To further ensure that activities and interventions do not inadvertently create, perpetuate, or aggravate tensions within and between communities, undertake regular prevention, human rights, and conflict risks analysis, and identify and implement relevant risk management measures.

**9.** Continue to prioritise reducing tensions and improving social cohesion in the displacement settings in the context of new arrivals. To ensure the stabilising impact of food and nutrition assistance are maximised, especially in the east, analysis of and reflections on conflict sensitivity and market functioning in Chad should be regular and institutionalised, with risks relevant to WFP affected households, and partners incorporated in the risk registry. Where opportunities are identified through this analysis for peace-promoting activities these can be elaborated with existing or new implementing partners or other stakeholders in Chad's sustainable development, where appropriate.

**10.** In light of the fluid and fragile nature of the security situation in Chad and neighbouring countries, put in place an internal committee to continuously review conflict sensitivity and protection risks, refine risk identification, and update business continuity plans.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

**11.** For prevention of malnutrition, gradually use more locally-produced fortified foods as alternatives to specialised nutritious foods (SNF), and adopt CBTs, to enable integration, minimize dependence on SNFs, as well as improve dietary diversity by facilitating access and affordability of fresh and/or nutritious locally available foods. Also, WFP should continue to leverage community-based platforms for the integration of nutrition activities with local production and school feeding, and CBT approaches linked with SBC to increase access to and consumption of locally produced nutritious foods. As well as creating productive assets for the whole community's benefit, this also allows for the inclusion of all community members and promotes women's and girl's decision making and empowerment.

**12.** Through an enhanced focus on promoting solutions that strengthen market linkages for smallholders, enhance the economic



contribution of food and nutrition assistance to Chad's food system and national and regional value chains. Ideally, WFP can also dedicate resources to increased monitoring and support to local food markets, increasing where possible local food procurement, and implementation of a voucher programme with local retailers, which will also help to offset continued fluctuations in global, regional and national supply chains, and to account for possible destabilising impacts of WFP interventions on national inflation and markets.

**13.** Further support the expansion, national funding and institutionalisation of school feeding - and especially home grown school feeding. Where feasible, this activity can be linked to local food systems and integrated with other resilience and community- based malnutrition prevention activities and programmes, enabling nutrition education through community school gardens, and integration of other activities such as deworming and micronutrient supplementation. By working together in school management committees, displaced and host community beneficiaries can minimise tensions, and integrate inter-communal awareness and informal bonds into their livelihoods.

## **STAKEHOLDERS:**

**14.** Gradually transition support to stakeholders from providing direct assistance to advisory and enabling roles, facilitated by improved government capacity in programme coordination and implementation.

**15.** To reinforce and strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders, allow budget lines for capacity strengthening and organisational development in all projects and partnership agreements. This includes having long-term agreements with stakeholders, retaining the quality and experienced staff, and improving programme outcomes.

**16.** Implicate traditional authorities as well as national and decentralised government institutions in all activities in a more systematic and institutionalised manner, communicating openly and seeking knowledge on and approval of activities.



# Conclusion

Chad is a context which both requires and can also be well adapted to HDP Nexus approaches.

It is impacted by numerous acute crises with cyclical dynamics on the humanitarian side, while it is also among the least developed countries globally, with huge needs for development investments, in a context with security at a level which allows access almost entirely countrywide, and also with strong international, regional, and national engagement in stabilisation and operationalisation of HDP Nexus approaches.

In the current context there is also potentially conducive interest on funding, with partners looking to the region for stable contexts in which to invest at scale.

Under the umbrella and leadership of Chad's national and local governments, WFP has for several years delivered services to stakeholders ranging from vulnerable cattle farmers to internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and host communities in support of the Nexus agenda.

WFP has numerous major programming components which can be further evolved, scaled, and refined as vehicles for Nexus programming, leveraging WFP's extensive experience addressing acute needs and development needs through investments in ecosystems, markets, social interconnection of communities around inclusive value chains, and government capacity strengthening.

WFP is increasingly positioning resilience programmes, anticipatory actions, and shock responsive social protection including home-grown school feeding, as more sustainable responses to recurrent, chronic, and persistent food insecurity, particularly during the lean season.

As well, WFP is investing in country capacity strengthening for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, and nutrition management.

While the potential for taking WFP's HDP Nexus approaches in Chad to scale is considerable, this window can easily close. Urgent measures are needed to maintain social cohesion in Chad amid influxes of newly displaced people and increasing pressure of scarce resources to ensure productive and market-based activities can continue.

It is anticipated that the refugee operation for new arrivals from Sudan in eastern Chad will need to continue at scale if not expand further, and the tensions arising from humanitarian programming in this context are immediate and significant.

Despite the evident fragility, there are many opportunities to support Chad in sustaining the positive environment for refugee protection which has been created in Chad; to advance further and faster down the path to inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful development; and to improve the country's peace outcomes by operationalising the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus approach in Chad.



# Acronyms

<b>APP</b>	Accountability to Affected Persons
<b>ATI</b>	Integrated Territorial Approach
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CBPP</b>	Community-based Participatory Planning
<b>CBT</b>	Cash-based Transfer
<b>CFM</b>	Complaints and Feedback Mechanism
<b>CILLS</b>	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>CNARR</b>	National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees
<b>DAC</b>	Development Assistance Committee
<b>DPSA</b>	Department of Agricultural Statistics
<b>FAO</b>	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation
<b>FFA</b>	Food Assistance for Assets
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>HDP Nexus</b>	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
<b>ICA</b>	Integrated Context Analysis
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>INSEED</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>IOM</b>	United Nations Migration Organisation
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>IRP</b>	Integrated Resilience Programme
<b>MPEPI</b>	Ministry for Economic Prospects and International Partnerships
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>REUNIR</b>	Sahel University Network
<b>SBC</b>	Social and Behaviour Change
<b>SD3C</b>	Joint Sahel Programme
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SISAAP</b>	Food Security and Early Warning Information System
<b>SLP</b>	Seasonal Livelihoods Programming
<b>SNF</b>	Specialised Nutritious Foods
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations Refugee Agency
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

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