

# CHAD

On the frontlines of climate change and conflict

## KEY FACTS

Population: **16.4 million**

**4.8 million** in need of humanitarian assistance (in 2020, 2021 figures are still being finalized)

**1 million** expected to be facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+)

**336,000** people internally displaced

**483,000** refugees hosted, including 370,000 from Sudan, 95,000 from Central African Republic and 16,000 from Nigeria

**150th** (of 195 countries) capability to prevent and mitigate epidemics

**67%** of women and girls married before age of 18  
**156th** (of 167 countries) for women's equality

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**181st** (of 181 countries) for resilience to climate change

**3/5** score for severity of access constraints

**43%** of funding received for 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan

Above: A child receives treatment at an IRC health center in Mangalmé, Guéra region, Chad where over 1 million children suffer from acute malnutrition and IRC is piloting a new malnutrition solution designed to increase access to treatment and nutrition services.

## PROBABILITY

**7** HUMAN THREAT

**5** NATURAL THREAT

## IMPACT

**10** CONSTRAINTS ON COUNTRY RESPONSE

**9** EXISTING PRESSURES ON POPULATION

**COVID-19, climate change and rising conflict are all driving up the humanitarian risks facing Chad in 2021.**

Chad is a major host of refugees from other countries on this year's Watchlist, particularly from Sudan, Central African Republic and Nigeria ([UNHCR](#)). The country is also itself affected by the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region, which includes Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon (all on Watchlist 2021) as well as several more localized conflicts that are often driven by struggles over resources. Instability may well worsen ahead of planned presidential elections in 2021. At the same time, Chad is the most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. As climate change and the economic impacts of COVID-19 put ever greater pressure on the population, food insecurity may rise in 2021.

"Chad is facing multiple endemic and complex crises, and a resurgence of violence which has resulted in increased poverty and food insecurity and a major spike in humanitarian needs. Child acute malnutrition is rising, with a more than 30% increase since 2019. The IRC is helping Chad work towards long lasting, durable solutions to help people living in crisis not only survive but also rebuild and recover for the future"

- Francis Sala-Diakanda  
Country Director, IRC Chad



## HUMANITARIAN RISKS IN 2021

- ▶ **The economic impacts of COVID-19 have triggered a massive increase in needs that is likely to deepen over the coming year.** Economic conditions were already precarious for many Chadians; there is chronic poverty and [UNDP](#) ranks the country at 187 out of 189 globally for human development. Surveys conducted in mid-2020 showed that the pandemic had already led to reduced incomes for many households, contributing to a 155% rise in the number of people facing food needs ([OCHA](#)).
- ▶ **COVID-19, insecurity and flooding all mean that malnutrition and health needs will remain widespread in 2021.** Both chronic and acute malnutrition rates have remained at critical levels for more than ten years. Of the country's 23 provinces, nine are seeing critical rates of severe acute malnutrition ([SMART Survey 2019](#)). Nearly two million people are affected by health emergencies, the most vulnerable of whom are children under the age of five, pregnant and nursing women, people with disabilities and the elderly. Children are likely to be particularly affected; between 2019 and 2020 the number of children under five with Severe Acute Malnutrition jumped by a third to 461,000 and COVID-19 is only likely to worsen this delicate situation ([IPC](#)).
- ▶ **Instability in the wider Lake Chad Basin region is driving rising violence in Chad.** At the point of writing, 2020 is already Chad's deadliest year for conflict and political violence in over a decade. 44,000 people were displaced due to conflict in the first half of the year alone ([IDMC](#)). Data from [ACLED](#) shows that the key cause of conflict-related fatalities in Chad (70% of deaths) is instability in the western Lac region, which borders the other Lake Chad Basin countries. Violence in Lac has led to 336,000 IDPs by October 2020 - a 93% increase compared to 2019 - and is likely to persist in 2021 ([IOM](#)).
- ▶ **Climate change means that Chad is increasingly exposed to unpredictable weather patterns that cause drought and flooding.** In fact, Chad is the most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change ([ND-GAIN](#)). Chad saw major flooding in August 2020 in 20 out of Chad's 23 provinces that affected 388,000 people ([UNHCR](#)) and displaced nearly 120,000 ([IOM](#)). Seasonal flooding also damages critical infrastructure, like sanitation systems, needed to help prevent COVID-19 and increases the risk of cholera and malaria outbreaks. Damage to agricultural land may also cause longer-term damage to food security and nutrition.

### THE IRC IN CHAD

The IRC began its humanitarian program in 2004, when we responded to refugees from Darfur to eastern Chad. Over time, IRC has extended its action and influence in country with the implementation of integrated interventions in response to humanitarian needs in Health (including Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Mental Health), in Women's Protection & Empowerment (with a focus on the fight against Gender-Based Violence), and in Economic Recovery (with an emphasis on Cash transfer and Income-Generating Activities) to reinforce the resilience of refugee populations, internally displaced peoples and host communities, in particular girls and women, in the East, West and Central regions. Learn more about the [IRC's Chad response](#).



N'DJAMENA