

Darfur and Chad Crisis Appeal Summary

The Darfur and Chad appeal was launched in May 2007 in response to the continued crisis in the region and the imminent onset of rains, which seriously threatened to affect the displaced populations who were living in aging tented camps.

Over the period of the appeal a total of £7.4 million was raised by the DEC of which £6 million was allocated to Member Agencies in the initial funding with the remainder in March 2008. Programme activities were designed to help around 284,200 households; with an average of 5-6 people per household the number supported by DEC funds is likely to be approximately 1.5 million.

Below

Creating a decent shelter before the rains arrive is a top priority for refugee families from Darfur and those displaced within Chad. In June 2007, Save the Children sent 45 tonnes of vital supplies to Eastern Chad, including enough heavy duty tarpaulins to shelter 5,000 families.



Save the Children

Background to the appeal

Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006 between the government and one rebel faction violence in all three Darfur states continues. Local communities were still being attacked by militias, with renewed clashes between Janjaweed militias and rebel forces in certain areas. Banditry and looting were widespread, along with rape and killing of civilians. This resulted in vast movements of people across the border to neighbouring Chad. It is estimated that 230,000 refugees fled to Eastern Chad from the Darfur region of Sudan between October 2003 and April 2004.

Neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR) also saw an increasing number of civilians being

killed, wounded, left homeless and destitute or being caught up in the escalating armed conflicts that spread across the northern parts of the CAR. Uprooted families fled into the bush or sought safety with host communities in Chad. Between 150,000 and 282,000 people were displaced internally with reports of population movements across the border into neighbouring countries.

Programme Progress

The following table, figure 5, sets out how the money was allocated to the Member Agencies, for use in the three countries affected by this crisis and the number of beneficiaries they expect to assist per country.

Figure 5: Allocation of funds by country and Member Agency and expected beneficiaries per country, as at February 2008.

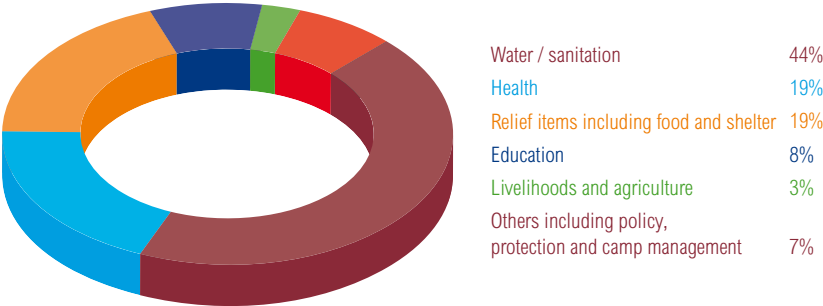
Member Agency	Sudan Darfur £'000s	Chad £'000s	Central African Republic £'000s	Total £'000s
British Red Cross	860	153	134	1,147
CAFOD	322	-	-	322
Christian Aid	215	295	-	510
CARE International UK	243	139	-	382
Concern	-	180	-	180
Help the Aged	180	-	-	180
Islamic Relief	3	232	-	235
Merlin	-	-	180	180
Oxfam	796	622	-	1,418
Save the Children UK	-	697	-	697
Tearfund	291	-	-	291
World Vision	376	-	-	376
Totals	3,286	2,318	314	5,918
Percentage of funding	56%	39%	5%	
Expected No of Beneficiary Households	189,000	70,000	25,000	284,000
Average number of members per Household	5 – 6	5	5	



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What programmes are being undertaken?

Figure 6: Use of funds by sector of activity



Headline achievements (9 months)

Education

101 community teachers trained
6,000 children have access to safe play areas
5 community based child protection networks established reaching over 7,000
Construction of 3 permanent schools plus another supported with equipment and books

Water and Sanitation

12 water supply networks set up
44 boreholes drilled and 16 wells dug with a further 10 chlorinated
104 water points built &/or repaired and fenced
16,409 latrines constructed or rehabilitated
1008 wash stands constructed
Community water committees trained and employed to manage the water points and numerous public health hygiene promotion activities carried out
21 geophysical surveys conducted

Health

1 health clinic and 1 paediatric ward reconstructed with a further 11 rehabilitated and supported
Primary Healthcare provided in 4 communes in Central African Republic
Around 36,000 households have improved access to health care including surgical support to 99 weapon wounded patients
2 nutrition stabilisation centres constructed plus 6 feeding programmes established and/or supported
8,738 mosquito nets distributed
53 health personnel and 28 traditional birth attendants trained
Over 16,712 health education sessions undertaken

Protection and Camp Management

Curriculum for training on sexual and gender based violence developed and training provided with 326 people
3 internally displaced persons camps managed with camp committees established
8 child friendly spaces constructed
5,000 households sensitised on conflict mitigation

Livelihoods

24,158 households received fodder for animals or seeds and tools; 60,000 tree seedlings were distributed
15 para-vets received training
300,000 animals vaccinated
90 people received skills training plus 600 trained in building fuel efficient stoves
100 donkey carts provided to women headed households
8 flour grinding machines provided

Shelter and Relief Items

More than 63,620 households provided with shelter materials and/or household items
2,049 people supported with food baskets
273 people received new shelters
788 hygiene kits distributed

Challenges faced by the Member Agencies

Many of the Member Agencies faced challenges in implementing their intended programmes, the greatest one being the continued insecurity across the region. Attacks on humanitarian staff, vehicles and premises have made it difficult for the Member Agencies to reach project areas. In addition, during the very heavy rainy period roads became impassable and some areas were cut off. At times it became necessary to use helicopters for transporting staff and relief items, greatly increasing the cost of the programmes.

The difficulties of working in the hostile environment of Darfur, Chad and CAR are clear. Four Member Agencies that started up new programmes in Chad and CAR were not fully operational after 3 months. Furthermore, at the end of the 9 month disaster response period 6 out of 12 Member Agencies sought a 3 month extension in order to complete their planned activities.

Although access to clean water is a major need, and many Member Agencies planned to drill boreholes and sink wells, some have been hampered by the lack of adequate competent contractors to complete the work. Where this has been the case, community hygiene education has been carried out to assist households to make the best and safest use of the available water.

Review activity and lesson learning

An independent Monitoring Mission to Chad was undertaken in August 2007. The consultant found that Member Agencies that were already operational were able to scale up activities with the help of DEC funds. Five Member Agencies set up new programmes and although skilled in rapid response, faced huge difficulties. Despite that, DEC Member Agencies had on the whole arrived in time to distribute the essential items before the rainy season.

The report stressed the complexity of the context, with conflict and a harsh environment. The key issues for improvement were that coordination mechanisms between Member Agencies and other bodies such as the UN needed to be strengthened; one Member Agency had staff isolated due to the impassable roads; and whilst security of staff was paramount, Member Agencies should endeavour to avoid cutting themselves off from the population through over cautious security procedures and protocols.

Through their own monitoring of the programmes Member Agencies have identified a number of lessons such as:

- the need to distribute mosquito nets to women in Chad, as the society is polygamous, men may have several households
- people have used tarpaulins to dry cassava rather than for shelter, so additional tarpaulins have been provided
- for water and sanitation projects it is important to employ more women as community mobilisers and to increase the hygiene training for the community in order that the programme is effective
- water hand pumps are more likely to be durable rather than motorised systems, as they require less maintenance.

Conclusion

From the beginning of March 2008 six Member Agencies are utilising the remaining appeal funds of £1,085,000 with 24% allocated to programmes in Darfur and 76% to Chad. These activities should be completed by the end of November 2008.

In light of the difficulties experienced by the Member Agencies and identified by the Monitoring Mission, the Board will consider commissioning a review to establish whether the criteria for launching an appeal should be further defined to ensure that all Member Agencies wishing to participate in the appeal are able to respond in good time and whether the 9 month timeframe is applicable in all situations.