

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

CHAD

Provision for Humanitarian Air Service in Chad

Project Number	200785
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation

Project Approval Date	14 Dec 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2015
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2015
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	34,031,986
Direct Support Costs	2,175,023
Indirect Support Costs	2,534,491
Total Approved Budget	38,741,500

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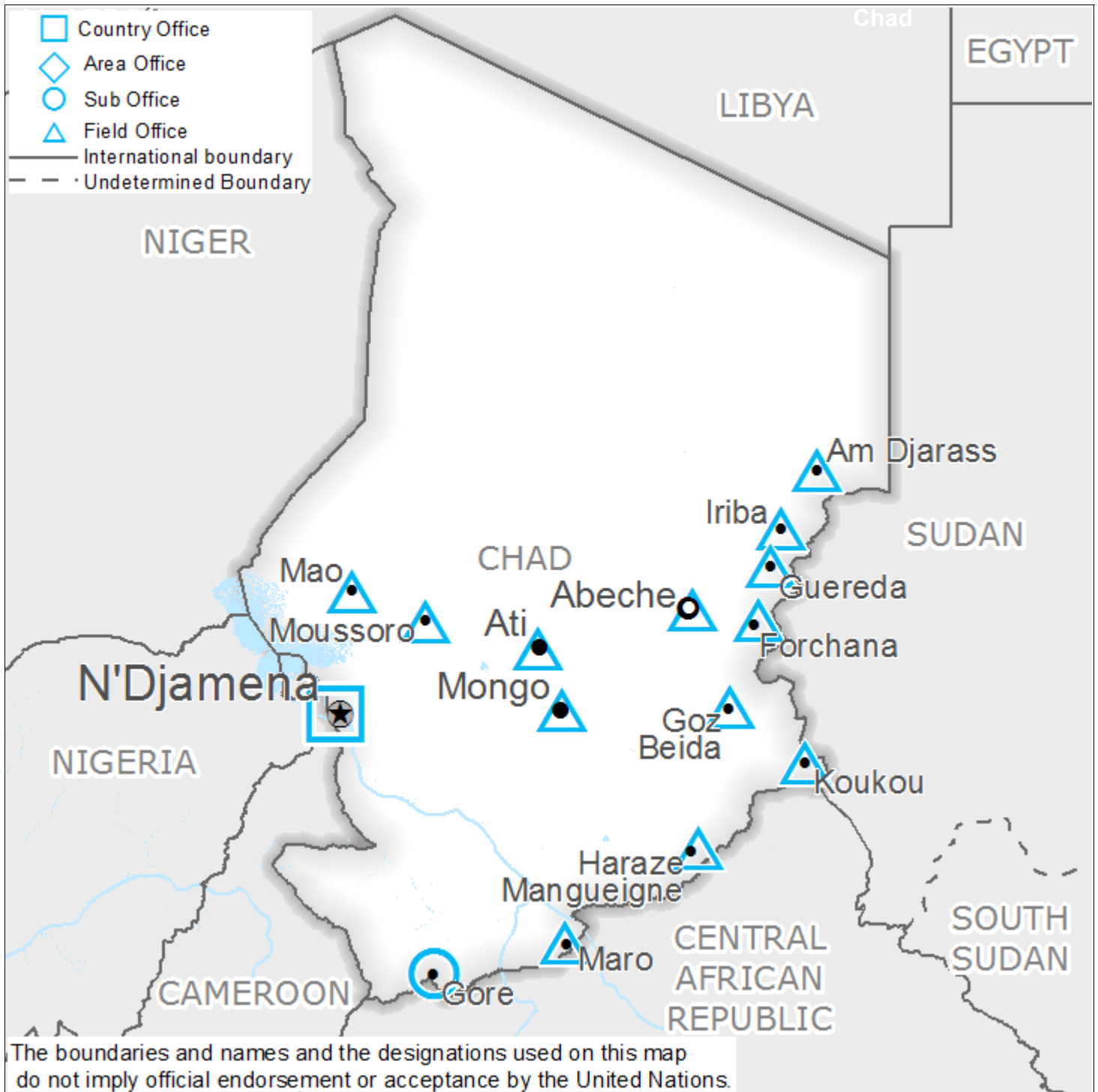
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

A low-income, landlocked, least-developed country, Chad has a predominantly rural population of 12 million. In 2015, Chad ranked 185th out of 188 countries in the human development index and 116th out of 117 countries in the global hunger index. While Chad has fallen short of the targets set in the MDGs, some progress has been made, with an increased attention to basic services in recent years.

Security issues affecting neighboring Nigeria have spilled across the border, displacing as many as 100,000 within Chad. Beset by violence and terror, this crisis has developed into a complex interwoven humanitarian and development emergency. The expected rainfed harvest in Lac region (the administrative region which includes Chad's portion of Lake Chad, including a number of islands) has been substantially reduced due to conflict-related displacement, which has led to the abandonment of thousands of hectares of maize. There is also pessimism with regard to harvest prospects in the south of the country.

This year, the falling price of oil - the principal source of government revenues - has forced the government to introduce a budget involving a substantial degree of austerity. In addition, border closures with Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR) have devastated the livestock sector, which is the second largest source of export earnings in Chad.

Results from the national food security assessment indicate that the food security situation in the entire country deteriorated significantly since 2014. Approximately 25 percent of the population (around 3 million individuals) was estimated to be moderately or severely food-insecure, an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2014. Due to rainfall deficits and a delayed start of the agricultural season compounded by the crisis in the lac region, the 2015-2016 agro-pastoral campaign was very poor. The market situation was extremely volatile with a deterioration of the livestock-cereal terms of trade and high cereal prices.

Nutrition surveys also revealed a critical situation with several regions in the Sahel belt above the emergency threshold of 15 percent for acute malnutrition among children under five years of age. Nationally, the study showed that 13 percent of children under five are currently facing acute malnutrition, 2 percentage points away from the emergency threshold. This represents more than 365,000 affected children nationwide.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

During 2015, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance in Chad under a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), a development project (DEV), and two regional emergency operations. WFP also provided humanitarian flight services through UNHAS, under a special operation (SO). WFP shifted its approach from a primary focus on relief to an increased emphasis on promoting resilience by addressing short term and long-term vulnerabilities affecting food insecure Chadians, refugees, returnees and nutritionally vulnerable groups.

As part of this strategy, WFP is implementing a joint program with UNHCR to develop long-term solutions for the Sudanese and Central African Republic refugees located in the camps of the east and south of the country. Assistance to these populations is increasingly based on vulnerability rather than status as refugees. The targeting process which allowed for the distribution of differentiated rations based on the vulnerability status of these refugees was carried out in nine of the 19 camps while the rest will adhere to this approach in 2016.

The PRRO also assisted returnees in the south of the country, through voucher distributions, as well as food insecure local populations in the drought-prone Sahelian band through general distributions and asset creation activities. Nutritional programmes for children under five and pregnant and lactating women, including targeted and supplementary feeding, also benefited local populations, refugees and returnees. A community-based delivery approach which focused on the prevention of malnutrition was also rolled out in 2015.

WFP strengthened its partnerships with the government, development donors and NGOs during 2015. WFP engaged in advocacy and provided technical support to the government in early warning, food security assessments and nutrition policy development. The Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and undernutrition (REACH) initiative was also an important mechanism for cooperation. Through the PRRO, markets were used to a much further extent in 2015. The increased use of market-based mechanisms including the continued use of food vouchers and the increase in local purchase of commodities promoted the development and integration of markets.

Activities under regional EMOP 200777 (Nigeria crisis) originally focused on refugees from Nigeria fleeing violence in that country, as well as Chadian returnees and households temporarily displaced by insecurity. Eventually, the largest group of beneficiaries were households whose livelihoods were severely affected by the conflict, followed by IDPs leaving the Lake Chad lakeshore and islands due to insecurity. Under regional EMOP 200799 (focusing on the Central African Republic crisis), activities targeted additional returnees and host communities which are currently not being attended through the PRRO.

The development project targeted school children in the food insecure areas of Chad, particularly in the Sahel. The project ended in December 2015, and an extension of the project has been prepared for one year. The objective of the extension is to allow the country office and the government to work together to right-size the programme and explore new approaches such as cash-based transfers.

UNHAS facilitated air transport of humanitarian personnel and light relief cargo. During 2015, a regional operation was launched in light of the Nigeria crisis, which was based in Chad and connected to both Cameroon and Niger.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	152,061	165,729	317,790
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	286,476	258,817	545,293
Number of adults	152,907	224,321	377,228
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	591,444	648,867	1,240,311
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	605,362	684,467	1,289,829
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	699,919	789,270	1,489,189

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	34,232	2,602	6,587	5,977	524	49,923
Regional EMOP	3,877	321	647	48		4,892
Development Project	2,014	254	380		126	2,774
Total food distributed in 2015	40,123	3,177	7,614	6,025	650	57,589

Total food distributed in 2014	36,679	4,562	5,565	4,654	670	52,131
Total food distributed in 2013	64,405	3,313	9,270	10,004	1,408	88,400

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) special operation plays a vital role in Chad. There are no commercial air service providers in Chad that conform to international aviation standards. Further, due to poor road conditions and the prevailing insecurity in the country, travel by road is extremely lengthy and risky. For example the distance from Ndjamená to Abeche is 749 km, Ndjamená to Amdjarass 950 km, Ndjamená to Haraze 923 km, and Gozbeida to Haraze is 372 km with most of these roads being impassable during the rainy season. It is particularly vital to highlight that due to the limited medical facilities in some of the areas in which the humanitarian community is operating, UNHAS plays a critical role in carrying out medical evacuations, as evidenced by the significant number of evacuations over the last two years.

Chad is a vast country and the populations in need of humanitarian assistance live far away from the field offices of the UN agencies and NGOs. The objectives of the UNHAS special operation were:

- to provide safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites for NGOs, United Nations agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions;
- to transport light cargo such as medical supplies, high energy foods and information and communications technology equipment; and
- to provide timely medical and security evacuations for the humanitarian community in Chad.

The above objectives are linked to WFP's Strategic Results Framework and contribute to WFP Strategic Objective 1: Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies.

This operation SO 200785 started in 2015 to ensure a continuation of the air services provided since 2004.

RESULTS

Outputs

With its operational bases in N'Djamena as a hub for Western and Southern Chad, and in Abeche and Goz Beida for Eastern Chad, UNHAS covered all relevant destinations in the country. It operated three aircraft (2 x 37-seat Dash 8-100 and 1 x 208 Grand caravan-11 seats) until July and from August 2015, added to its fleet a second 208 Grand caravan-11 seats based in N'Djamena in order to cover the needs arising from the emergency situation in the Lake Chad region.

The continued need of UNHAS, for the implementation of humanitarian activities in Chad, was recognized during the user group meetings on 6 May and 7 October 2015 and the steering committee meetings in N'Djamena on 16 April and 13 May 2015. It was predicted that humanitarian activities in Chad will increase in the future and, consequently, the current UNHAS fleet size has been increased to 4 aircraft which should be maintained in 2016. The demand for the continuation of UNHAS was also confirmed through passenger needs assessments such as passenger satisfaction surveys, provision of access satisfaction surveys and bilateral consultations with various users.

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Regular and scheduled flights were provided to 20 destinations within Chad and recently, connections to neighboring UNHAS operations were introduced with a flight to Maroua twice a week. Special or unscheduled flights were provided as required, but on a full cost-recovery basis.

Approximately 102 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions relied on UNHAS to implement and monitor humanitarian air service activities in Chad. In 2015, 37,875 passengers, and 108 mt of cargo were airlifted. UNHAS also carried out 89 medical evacuations. All the requests for medical evacuations were fulfilled.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1:				
Average number of passengers transported monthly	number	3,900	3,156	80.9%
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	number	120	102	85.0%
Number of locations served	number	19	20	105.3%
Number of needs assessment carried out	number	4	2	50.0%
% of passenger bookings served	%	95	94	98.9%
Response to medical and security evacuations duly requested	%	100	100	100.0%
Tonnage of light cargo transported monthly	Mt	10	9	90.0%

Outcomes

Due to the increased activity of Boko-Haram in the Lake Chad region and the consecutive afflux of refugees, UNHAS has added a fourth aircraft to its fleet in August 2015 and therefore increased the frequency of the flights, now 3 times a week, to this area.

As a result of enhanced advocacy in 2014, UNHAS was able to secure the required resources to rehabilitate the Goz Beida airstrip that had become unusable due to the poor condition it was in. The airstrip was completed during the second quarter of 2015.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Augmentation of essential aviation infrastructure has been an important part of UNHAS' work plan in Chad. Goz Beida is UNHAS Chad's third main hub and connects several key destinations in south-eastern Chad. Maintenance and rehabilitation of the airstrip was therefore required to ensure uninterrupted access.

In the long-term, the goal of UNHAS is to hand over the maintenance responsibilities of the airstrips to the Chadian authorities, but for now a handover plan has not been agreed upon.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP first established UNHAS Chad in 2004 to facilitate air transport of humanitarian personnel and light cargo for NGOs, UN agencies, and donor organizations operating in Chad. Since then, UNHAS has been recognized as the safest and most reliable air service through which humanitarian staff can gain prompt access to fragile populations in the country. The interests of the humanitarian community were represented through the User Group Committee (UGC). The Terms of Reference for the UGC focused on administrative matters and included decisions on the destinations to be served, weekly flight schedules and matters relating to the quality of service.

In 2015, two steering committees (SC) were set up to provide strategic guidance to UNHAS. The SC helped establish administrative policies that detailed eligibility of organizations for transport, priority of passengers and cargo, cost recovery procedures and determined service management based on upcoming needs.

Lessons Learned

The cost-recovery contributed to 20.5 percent of the UNHAS operational cost. This contribution to the budget was very welcome as the cost of the UNHAS operation is generally high in Chad due to high fuel prices, as well as high costs related to the aircraft rentals.