

## Expected Outcomes Learning Brief

May 2025

Economic and Social Resilience of Populations in Eastern Chad to Conflict and Climate Change.

### Context

Covering 1,284,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Chad is the 5th largest country in Africa, sharing borders with Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, and Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria to the west. Due to its geographical position, Chad is marked by a heightened continental dimension, as it is doubly landlocked, one of the consequences is its economic stagnation. The country has a population of over 19.5 million, where poverty and vulnerability are pervasive in the country. The World Bank (2021) estimates that 42.3% of people live below the national poverty line, while extreme poverty also remains high with 15% of the population unable to meet their essential daily nutritional requirements. Chad's security situation continues to be precarious, worsened by the political, socio-economic, health and climatic challenges as well as the ongoing crises in the surrounding countries.

In 2024, the Lac Province experienced incessant attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) against State Defence Forces and civilians, resulting in the displacement of 200,000 people to IDP sites and 65,000 to surrounding communities. Furthermore, since the start of the Sudanese crisis in April 2023, more than 700,000 people fleeing violence in Sudan have arrived in eastern Chad, among them, around 240,000 are Chadian returnees.

Between July and September 2024, heavy rainfall in Chad led to extensive flooding across all 23 provinces nationwide. As of September 2024, 1,495,969 individuals were affected (with 341 fatalities), 164,079 homes destroyed, 249,332 hectares of agricultural land ruined, and 66,728 livestock lost. While the flooding has affected all provinces in Chad, the eastern provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira were particularly severely affected due to the pre-existing crises.

Chad is often described as one of the world's poorest countries despite also being one of the world's oil producing countries. Its economy has long been dominated by agro-pastoral activities, which employ nearly 80% of the working population. The main cash crops are cotton, gum arabic and groundnuts. However, this sector is extremely weak, since agriculture is still poorly mechanized and in 2023 accounted for only 25.1% of [GDP](#).

The humanitarian community continues to support the Chadian government in its response to this crisis in the eastern provinces settling the refugees in camps. Eastern Chad is now home to 20 refugee camps, compared to 14 before 2023: Ouaddaï (10), Sila (5), Wadi-Fira (5) and Ennedi Est (1). However, UNHCR estimates that it will need at least two additional spaces to relocate 262,000 refugees from the spontaneous site of Adré by 2025. According to Food Security perspective by FEWSNET (October 2024 to May 2025), the continued influx of Sudanese refugees is maintaining acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) in eastern Chad. Areas of concern are the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, Wadi Fira, and Ennedi East, where Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees are hosted. FEWS NET estimates that 1.5 to 2 million people will need food assistance between February and May 2025.

### Main Threats

- **Conflict:** In the southern provinces, insecurity stems from attacks by non-state armed groups in the Lake Chad Basin, the activities of rebel groups on the borders with Libya in the north, conflicts in Sudan, and

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internal community conflicts, are affecting people's livelihoods as well as the supply and functioning of markets.

- **Refugee Crisis:** The ongoing crisis in Sudan continues to drive an influx of Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees into the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, Wadi Fira, and Ennedi Est.

- **Flooding:** Heavy rains during the rainy season in 2024 caused flooding in all provinces of Chad. With the effects of climate change, periods of severe drought and flooding are likely to continue to ravage communities and the livelihoods of the country's population.

## Programme Overview

The Economic and Social Resilience of Populations in Eastern Chad to Conflict and Climate Change<sup>1</sup> programme (RESPECCT) began in February 2023 and will run until January 2028. It is funded by the EU and AFD for a total of €33m over a period of 60 months. The programme builds on lessons learned from Concern's Inclusive Development Program for Host Areas in Eastern Chad (DIZA-Est) completed in January 2023. RESPECCT adopts a triple nexus approach combining humanitarianism, development and peacebuilding.

The programme aims to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by forced displacement, climatic hazards and community conflicts in Eastern Chad in the short, medium and long term. Specifically, the programme helps to improve the living conditions and resilience of indigenous populations, refugees and returnees in host areas, through support for inclusive local development, to minimise the factors contributing to tension between communities, instability and the risk of increased forced displacement and conflict. In the Sahelian context, particularly in eastern Chad, significant climatic variations, particularly rainfall, are key issues in current and future population movements. The RESPECCT programme integrates the possibility for populations to prepare for and cope with these changes, but also to respond urgently to them in the event of a crisis. This possibility is achieved through the implementation at local, regional and national levels of sustainable and joint Early Warning Systems with the state and other partners, the creation of environmental infrastructures and the training of communities on best agro-sylvo-pastoral practices that constitute resilient approaches to climate change. In case of crisis, joint quick response is provided to affected communities through a crisis modifier fund and other social initiatives.

## Methodology of Implementation

The programme is implemented through a consortium of three international organisations: Concern Worldwide (CWW) as the lead, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG). Each organisation is focused on one outcome with interlinking activities to maintain the nexus links of the programme.

IRC leads on the first outcome: *'The most vulnerable have access to resources to meet their basic needs in crisis situations'*; CWW leads on the second outcome: *'Households' economic and environmental resilience is strengthened'* and SFCG leads on the third outcome *'Capacities and systems for the management, prevention and transformation of inter- and intra-community conflicts are strengthened, taking specific account of GBV and gender inequalities.'*

Three local or national organisations will join the consortium in August 2025, playing a key role in achieving the third outcome focusing on peace building and social cohesion activities in the targeted communities.

The RESPECCT programme is implemented in 3 provinces of Eastern Chad via a total of 76 villages: 28 villages in Ouaddaï, 25 villages in Sila and 23 villages in Wadi Fira. The programme does not work in refugee camps but in communities hosting refugee camps. This was motivated by the fact that many NGOs are already operating in these camps, leaving the host communities to feel abandoned, in turn resulting in inter-community tension and conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> RESPECCT = **R**ésilience **É**conomique et **S**ociale des **P**opulations de l'**E**st face aux **C**onflits et **C**hangements Climatiques au **T**chad

## Expected Outcomes

### 1. The most vulnerable have access to resources to meet their basic needs in crisis situations.

To reach this outcome, the programme developed several key activities:

- **Unconditional cash transfers**, to 9,000 households.

During the first year of the programme, a targeting methodology was developed and used to identify the most vulnerable beneficiaries through a Household Economy Asset (HEA) approach. This approach allowed community participation to identifying the most vulnerable household. In total, 9000 poor and vulnerable households have been selected, among them 8,296 (91%) are hosts and 704 (9%) are refugees living among in host communities. The 9,000 households will receive 8 cash distributions with the aim of improving their food consumption scores and food diversity. As of January 2025, 3 round of cash distributions have taken place; a total of around 1,024,125 euros have been distributed. These distributions significantly contributed to meeting the basic needs of beneficiary households, particularly for the purchase of food, payment of children's school fees, and access to water. In addition, they enabled some households in the three provinces to launch income-generating activities, thus strengthening their economic autonomy and resilience. After the recovery, the households will receive resilience activities defined in outcome two.

- **Strengthening the Early Warning System (EWS)**, to be implemented at local level.

Concern has trained and established provincial clusters that work closely with the *Système d'Information sur la sécurité Alimentaire et d'alerte Précoce* of Chad (SISAAP), a government institution. This institution produces and disseminates real-time information useful for decision-making to anticipate food, nutritional and pastoral crises; proposes measures to mitigate their effects and guides development actions. This strategy aims to empower local communities to collect information and monitor a crisis to inform authorities via SISAAP for relevant organisations and stakeholders to intervene with timeliness. Prior to implementation, this strategy was presented and approved by SISAAP. The programme has revived and strengthened structure that implement the strategy. It has established 10 cantonal clusters (1 in Ouaddaï, 4 in Sila, and 5 in Wadi Fira) to strengthen early warning system. These clusters, established in the cantonal levels, serve as an interface between the village-level community action committees (CCAs) and the government technical services involved in early warning issues in their respective areas. In addition to these cantonal structures, 76 community action committees have been created in the RESPECCT programme villages located in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila, and Wadi Fira. Each committee is composed of 5 members, both men and women.

Based on the strengthening actions carried out, some of the structures established have played a crucial role in transmitting alerts to local authorities and contributing to the good management of floods that affected many people.

- **Emergency response**, which is an activity linked to the EWS.

The RESPECCT consortium has a special fund under the 'crisis modifier' to be used to ensure a timely response in the event of an unexpected crisis in the targeted communities. By monitoring the EWS, the programme has a certain capacity to assist people impacted by crisis, natural disaster or displacement due to conflict.

Since the beginning of the programme, three emergency responses have occurred. The first, in April 2023 following an outbreak of hostilities in Soudan. In the province of Sila, the programme assisted 250 household with emergency shelters. The second response took place after a wave of Sudanese refugees arrived at the refugee site in Kerfi. The programme provided 450 households with WASH kits, a solar water point and a rehabilitation of other surrounding water points on this site. The third response took place in August 2024 following the floods In Wadi Fira and Sila where 1,635 households were assisted, each with a cash transfer of 42 000 FCFA. 500 households of Iriba also received blanket to respond to reduced temperatures.

### 2. Households' economic and environmental resilience is strengthened.

To achieve this outcome, several activities are being implemented: Income Generating Activities (IGA), Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), building of community infrastructures and environmental infrastructures and vocational training of youth.

- For the IGA, all 9,000 households will be targeted and supported to run at least an IGA. Prior to asset distribution, all households are being trained on the following 17 rules of IGA:

1	Don't mix business and private portfolios	10	Take care of your possessions
2	Make the community your ally	11	Be disciplined
3	Build your business network	12	Honor your contracts
4	Know your customers	13	Know your risks
5	Know your competition	14	Sell enough to cover your costs
6	Pay attention to quality	15	Keep a record
7	Charge the right price	16	Manage your money wisely
8	Location is important	17	Choose the best way to finance your business
9	Knowledge is power		

- The training manual contains images that show how to properly manage an IGA for programme participants with lower literacy skills, this has been developed by Concern for the training of beneficiaries. A market survey was carried out to identify IGA with high economy potential in the area to advise beneficiaries the one to prioritise in their elaboration. The same beneficiaries are being trained on VSLA methodology and have been enrolled into 360 VSLA groups (with an average of 25 members per group).
- To identify and prioritise infrastructures in each province, the programme conducted a diagnostic of Local Development Plan (LDP) in Sila and Ouaddai and designed local development plans in Wadi Fira. A total of 40 infrastructures across the 3 provinces will be established throughout the programme duration following a feasibility study. These will likely include a community stores; boreholes; nursery production sites; livestock vaccination points and spreading sils.

All environmental infrastructure will be overseen by Concern and the non-environmental will be realised by IRC.

- Concern will target 900 youth who will benefit from vocational training. A study will be carried out in the three provinces to identify the qualifying vocational training in which young people will be trained. These are likely to include tailoring, mechanical, computer technology and driving. Following the completion of the training, each individual will receive a grant/kit of materials to start their business.

### 3. Capacities and systems for the management, prevention and transformation of inter- and intra-community conflicts are strengthened, taking specific account of GBV and gender inequalities.

This outcome will be achieved via three main activities.

- An-depth conflict analysis was carried out in 2023 at the start of the programme in the three provinces. The analysis identified the cause of conflicts, the actors to the conflict and the local organisations who would accompany actions to build and consolidate peace. Together these local NGOs will work under the technical supervision of SFCG and Concern to implement peace-building activities.
- SFCG also developed a peace strategy, outlining activities to be implemented in the Peace building framework. It developed also a Conflict Sensitivity Strategy for the consortium members which defines how the programme activities would be implemented without exacerbating existing or causing, further conflict.

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- Promotion of a gender transformative approach in the implementation of the programme activities led by Concern. A study on gender will be carried out across all intervention areas to define and adapt the gender activities to be carried out, starting in 2025. The programme will also build on the achievements of Concern's DIZA-Est, working with model couples to promote the gender attitudes in their respective villages. Each Consortium member mainstream gender equality and conflict sensitivity into their day-to-day activities.

Bringing communities together around common interests and preventing and managing conflicts around works and resources.

## Baseline vs. Midline – Progress to Date

At the time of this draft, we are over 40% through the grant implementation period.

During the first year of the programme, at the end of November 2023, a baseline survey was conducted before the targeted households received assistance to assess the level of vulnerability in terms of food consumption, dietary diversity and use of negative coping strategies. The same survey was carried out the second year of the programme to evaluate the progress made on these indicators.

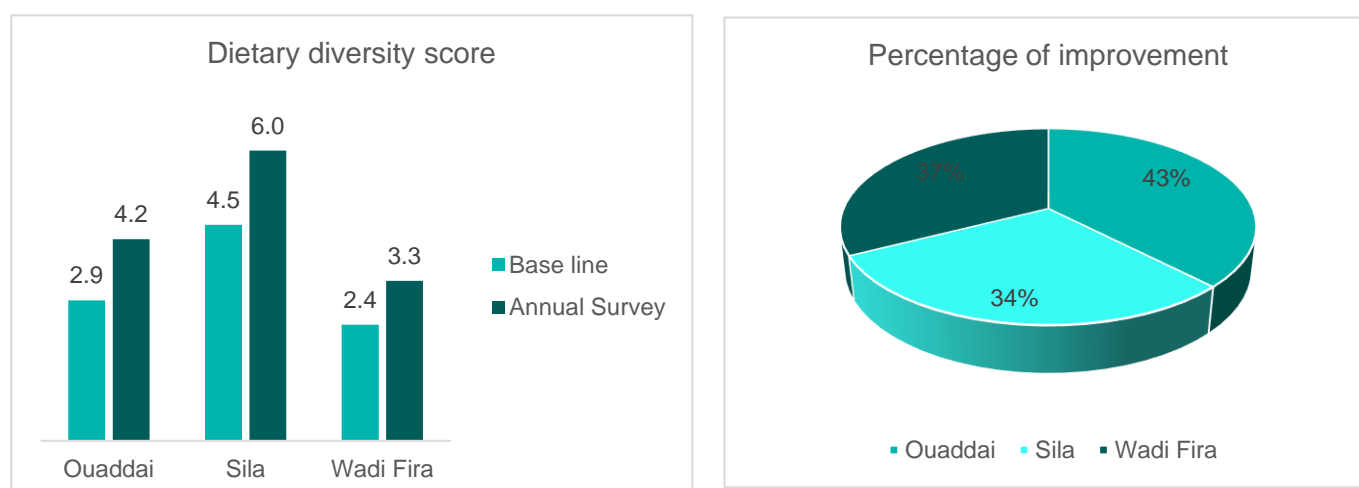
### a) Food consumption score

It is the programme's aim to reach 80% of beneficiaries with an acceptable food consumption score i.e. greater than 42 in line with the recommendation of the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) and the food security cluster in Chad, by the end of the programme. Following the results of the baseline and the annual survey, the food consumption score has increased by 10% and the percentage of households with an acceptable food consumption score has increased from 52% to 59%.

Despite this increase, it is worth noting that in the province of Wadi Fira the percentage has rather slightly decreased. This result may be because this province was impacted by severe floods during the rainy season in 2024.

### b) Dietary diversity score

This score is calculated from a set of 12 food groups consumed by household members in the last 24 hours prior to data collection. If a household consumed foods from more than 6 food groups, it is classified in the "Acceptable" category.



When comparing this indicator to the baseline survey, an overall improvement of 38% is noted. In the Ouaddai province it improved by 44.8%, in Sila by 38%, whilst in Wadi Fira it improved by 37%. This improvement is likely linked to the cash distribution and will hopefully continue to improve as the programme begins to deliver other assistance packages such as income-generating activities.

### c) Negative coping strategies

Negative coping strategies are mechanisms used by a household to survive when there isn't enough food. For example, the household may reduce the number of meals per day, reduce adult consumption in favour of children, and so on. The 'reduce strategy index' or rCSI was used for data collection. The result between the baseline and annual surveys shows an improvement of this indicator. Overall, the use of negative strategies decreased by 18% between the baseline and annual surveys. However, 28% of households surveyed continued to use these strategies despite receiving assistance.

rCSI	Baseline	Annual survey
<b>Average score</b>	19,10	15,7
% of reduction of rCSI	18%	
<b>% of Household with an index &gt; 19</b>	28%	

With the ongoing assistance, our aim is that the negative strategies will be reduced to a score of 6 by the end of the implementation of the programme, as per the target.