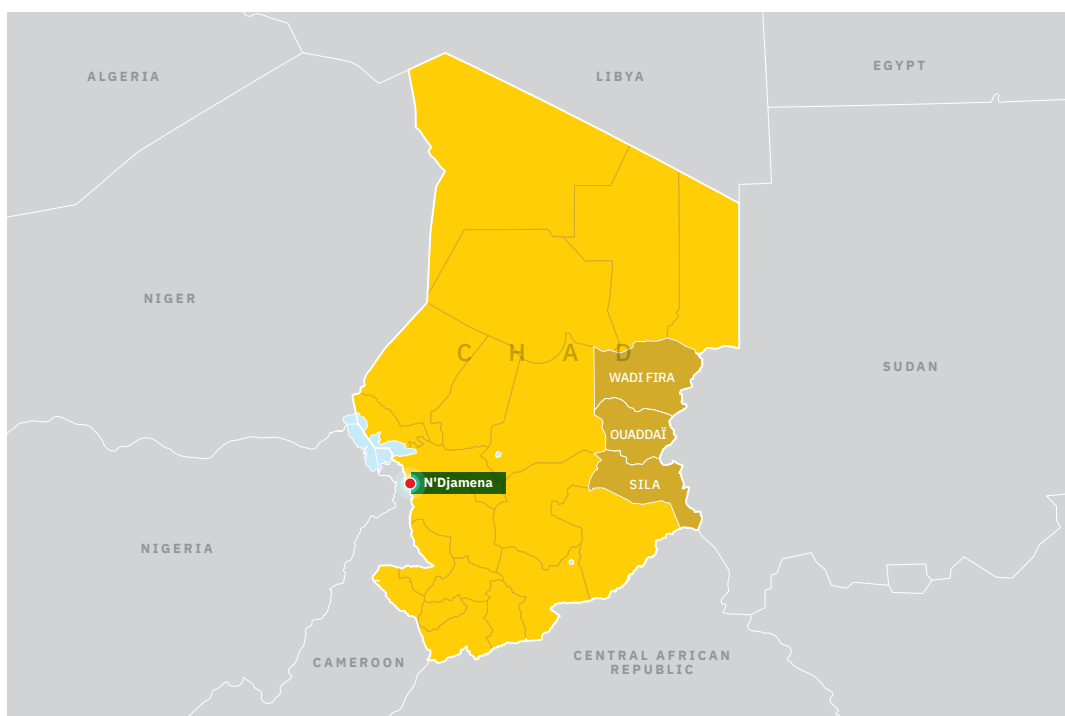


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RESPECCT: Economic and Social Resilience of Populations in Eastern Chad to Conflict and Climate Change



Background

RESPECCT is a €34.5 million five-year programme running from February 2023 to January 2028 in eastern Chad, funded by the European Union (EU), Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It builds on learning from Concern's [DIZA-Est](#) programme (2018–2023) to strengthen the resilience of communities impacted by forced displacement, climatic shocks, limited access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities and community conflicts.

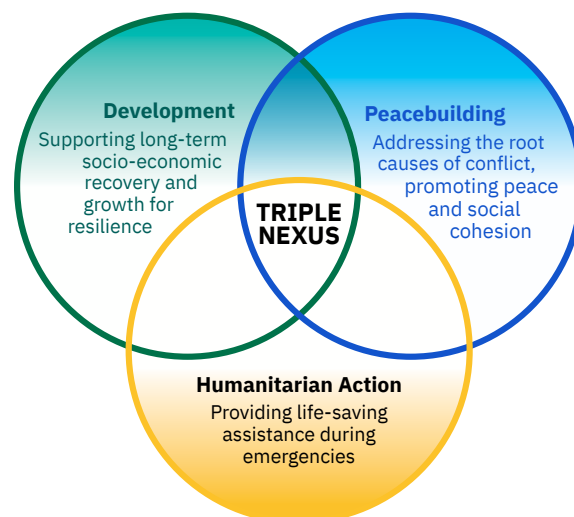
The programme works in 76 villages across the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira bordering Sudan, targeting 127,848 direct and indirect participants. RESPECCT focuses on communities that have been hosting refugees for decades and which face a multitude of humanitarian challenges.

Since April 2023, over a million people (OCHA, May 2026) fleeing violence in Sudan have arrived in eastern Chad putting pressure on already limited services and natural resources such as water, firewood for cooking and agricultural land. Flooding in 2024 affected 1,495,969 people nationwide, with the three target provinces among the most severely affected (OCHA, 2024). Nearly 600,000 people in the three provinces are expected to face crisis or even worse levels of food insecurity during the lean season from June to August 2026, according to the national food security and early warning information system. Populations are also exposed to conflict: in 2026 in Wadi Fira, fighting spilling over from Sudan led to the displacement of 8,000 households (Concern needs assessment, 2026).

Led by Concern Worldwide, in partnership with International Rescue Committee, Search for Common Ground, and three national organisations OHDEL, BCI and Ecocitoyen who lead on peacebuilding activities, RESPECCT aims to strengthen the resilience of communities through an integrated humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus approach.

What is the Triple Nexus Approach?

The Triple Nexus refers to the deliberate integration of humanitarian action, development cooperation and peacebuilding in fragile or crisis-affected contexts. In RESPECCT, this means combining immediate support for people affected by shocks with longer-term investments in livelihoods, services and local systems, while also addressing the drivers of conflict and exclusion that can undermine recovery.



The Triple Nexus approach is especially relevant in eastern Chad, where climate hazards, displacement and social tensions overlap. Rather than treating these challenges separately, RESPECCT links emergency assistance with long-term recovery and locally led peacebuilding. The programme is built around three pillars:

1. Humanitarian assistance stabilises households during shocks

Multipurpose cash assistance, livestock support, early warning and emergency response help families meet basic needs and protect food security in times of crisis.

2. Development through livelihoods support and community infrastructure, that strengthens long-term resilience

Income-generating activities, village savings and loans associations, vocational training, environmental and agricultural initiatives, and community infrastructure improve access to livelihoods opportunities, essential services and management of natural resources, helping households strengthen their resilience over time.

3. Community-led peacebuilding reduces tensions and strengthens social cohesion

Local peace committees lead dialogue, mediation and awareness raising to prevent and manage conflict, including around shared resources, while approaches including role model couples and gender discussion groups strengthen gender equality.

Conflict Sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is a core principle of RESPECCT rather than a stand-alone activity.

The programme operates in areas where displacement, competition over natural resources, and unequal access to services can intensify tensions between host communities, refugees and returnees. To reduce these risks, RESPECCT integrates ongoing conflict analysis to understand how activities may affect local dynamics and inclusion, and to adapt programming accordingly. Conflict-sensitivity focal points monitor risks linked to programme activities and support mitigation planning across all sectors.

The programme also includes strong accountability mechanisms which recent evaluations found are widely known by communities (94%) and viewed as helping to resolve disputes and reduce tensions.

Results so far

Improved food security

- 61% of households had an acceptable food consumption score (FCS) in 2025, up from 52% at baseline. Acceptable FCS has peaked as high as 78% shortly after cash distributions
- Dietary diversity score (meaning a balanced healthy diet, especially important for children and pregnant and lactating women) nearly doubled, improving from 3.3 at baseline to 6.3 in 2025
- Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) scores improved from 19.1 (crisis level) to 14.1 (stressed) in 2025, meaning people were using fewer harmful strategies to cope with daily shocks.

Increased economic and environmental resilience

- Income generating activities improved the household asset score from 2.54 at baseline to 3.58 in 2025, meaning households owned more productive assets such as livestock and small business equipment
- 366 village savings and loan associations enabled 9,000 households to save more than €130,000 within 10 months
- 93% of participants were able to recall key climate adaptation and environmental messages from trainings and awareness raising

Social cohesion and gender equality

- Positive perceptions of social cohesion increased from 65% at baseline to 71% in 2025
- 98% of women are now involved in decision making on the use of cash assistance, up from 68%

*Intisar Mahamat Chimère, a participant in the RESPECT programme at a savings distribution in the village of Abgoun, Wadi Fira Region.
Photo: Kouakaine Moundji/Concern Worldwide*



Case Studies

Aché Issa, a 27-year-old mother of three living in Sila province, relied entirely on subsistence farming to support her family. Recurrent climate shocks including irregular rainfall, pests, and crop losses left her household struggling to meet basic needs, especially during the lean season.

Aché received financial support and training through the RESPECCT programme to start an income-generating activity. She invested in small livestock while also covering urgent needs such as food and school fees.

This combination of immediate assistance and livelihood support helped her stabilise her household while building a sustainable source of income, as the goat's offspring can be sold to generate cash when needed. Today, her family can access food, healthcare, and education more reliably, and she highlights the importance of community cohesion in sustaining these gains.

“Managing my family was a daily struggle. The harvests were not enough to feed my children, care for them, and send them to school.”

“Thanks to this support, we can now eat better, access healthcare, and buy school supplies for our children.”



Ismael, a 40-year-old father of eight living with a disability in Sila province, faced significant barriers to earning a living. His only source of income came from repairing shoes, but this was not enough to meet his family's needs, leaving him dependent on others for support.

Through RESPECCT, Ismael received cash assistance to cover immediate needs and develop a small business. He was able to build an extension to his shop, allowing him to better display his goods and increase sales. He also purchased a donkey for mobility and invested in improving his home. These investments enabled him to grow his income and regain independence.

Today, his family's living conditions have improved significantly, demonstrating how inclusive livelihood support can transform dignity, autonomy, and wellbeing for vulnerable individuals.

“As a person with reduced mobility, I had little choice. I often depended on help from relatives. Today, my family eats three meals a day, and they are good meals.”



COVER IMAGE: RESPECCT programme participants in the village of Ordjoron, Wadi Fira Region.

Photo: Kouakaine Moundi/Concern Worldwide

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