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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Emergency assistance to returnees and displaced persons in ChadReport of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 40/136 of 13 December 1985, entitled "Emergency assistance to returnees and displaced persons in Chad", the General Assembly, recalling its urgent appeal made during its thirty-ninth session for international emergency assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad afflicted by natural disasters, reiterated its appeal to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support by generous contributions the efforts being made by the Government of Chad to assist and resettle the voluntary returnees and displaced persons. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of resolution 40/136.

1. BACKGROUND

2. Chad lies within the arid Sahelian zone, landlocked in the centre of the African continent. The closest port, Douala, Republic of Cameroon, lies at a distance of 1,700 km by land. It is one of the least developed countries of the world, with an estimated population of about 5 million.

3. Chad became independent of France in 1960 and has known sporadic fighting almost continuously since 1965. The war has devastated the natural resources and disrupted the economy of the country, compelling thousands of people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

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4. In addition to the war, Chad's fragile economy and infrastructure have been further eroded by the worst drought (1983/84) in living memory, resulting in failed harvests, a large cereal and food deficit, and a huge migration of large parts of the population, while livestock herds were brought further south than normal to find grazing land and water-holes.

5. The national reconciliation policy and the general amnesty that was proclaimed on 13 November 1985, as well as improved climatic conditions, favoured the return to Chad of a large number of refugees. However, owing to environmental degradation and hostilities in the northern region, the fate of a large number of displaced persons hangs in the balance for the immediate future.

6. Many appeals drawing attention to the gravity of the food and health situation in Chad have been made by the Government of Chad and by humanitarian organizations. The General Assembly adopted resolution 39/106 on 14 December 1984 and, one year later, resolution 40/136 calling for emergency assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad.

7. In response to the above-mentioned appeals, various actions have been taken by donor Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and these are described below.

II. DISPLACED PERSONS

8. The Government has estimated that, in 1984-1985, about 220,500 out of 269,504 displaced persons have been relocated through agricultural projects that have been implemented mainly by Secours Catholique au Développement (SECADEV), a local non-governmental organization, by CARE-Chad and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

9. The relocation projects, set up to deal with the massive displacement of the Sahelian population stricken by the latest drought, witnessed a gradual decrease in the number of persons receiving assistance during the first months of 1986. Many farmers went back to their home villages once it was possible to do so, and cattle-raising families rejoined their herds, which returned to their traditional pastures once the rains resumed.

10. These relocation projects are generally well implemented. However, they failed to integrate most of the nomadic populations of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti and northern Kanem Prefectures. These nomads have lost their livestock, have been displaced as a result of war and drought, and now find themselves in precarious circumstances and in need of emergency assistance.

11. According to government estimates, some 160,000 displaced persons from Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti have been relocated in Chari-Baguirmi, Kanem, Batha and Biltine Prefectures and in certain areas of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti under government control. Considering the official projections of the Chadian population of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti Prefecture at 104,000, a more realistic assessment indicates that an estimated 60,000 displaced persons from the region are in need of assistance.

TableSummary of the census with regard to the programme of assistance
to displaced persons in Chad in 1984-1985

<u>Region</u>	<u>Displaced population</u>	<u>Relocated population</u>	<u>Fixed population</u>
Chari-Baguirmi	63 000	83 000	42 000
Kanem	31 000	27 500	175 600
Lac	15 000	-	81 000
Batha	42 959	45 000	112 700
Guéra	20 000	15 000	37 000
Ouaddai	50 045	40 000	36 750
Biltine	25 000	-	7 000
Salamat	15 000	10 000	9 000
Moyen-Chari	-	-	92 000
Mayo Kebbi	7 500	-	-
Total	269 504	220 500	593 050

12. Today, apart from the above-mentioned displaced persons from Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti and northern Kanem Prefectures and those refugees remaining outside the country, there can no longer be said to be any other truly displaced persons in Chad.

III. RETURNEES

13. The Chadian authorities have estimated that, during the first half of 1986, at least 80,000 people have returned to Chad from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Sudan and Nigeria. The following details have been provided:

From the Central African Republic

(a) Moyen-Chari: 30,780 persons returned in 1986, of whom 5,000 came with the assistance of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Bangui. The Sub-Prefectures concerned are Maro, Moissala and Kyabé;

(b) Logone-Oriental: (Prefect's estimates) 37,377 persons returned, including 10,623 in Goré Sub-Prefecture, 22,088 in Baibokoum Sub-Prefecture and 4,666 in rural Doba Sub-Prefecture;

(c) Logone-Occidental - no official data.

From Cameroon and Nigeria

In 1986, 2,478 persons were registered at N'Djamena.

From the Sudan

Approximately 10,000 persons are estimated to have returned to Chad and been relocated in eastern Ouaddai and Biltine Prefectures.

14. An estimated 15,000-20,000 persons are awaiting repatriation from the Central African Republic, 35,000 from the Sudan, and 2,000-3,000 from Cameroon. It is also possible that some 5,000-6,000 Chadian nationals may return from Nigeria.

IV. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS
BY UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Assistance to returnees from the Sudan

15. Currently, returnees from the Sudan are being helped through joint action by non-governmental organizations (SECADEV, Agro Action Allemande and the League of Red Cross Societies) and the World Food Programme (WFP). This action consists of registration upon arrival, food assistance for those requiring it and resettlement in an agricultural project for the development of farming in the wadis in Adré and Guereda Sub-Prefectures. The project, begun jointly in 1984 by SECADEV and the National Rural Development Office, is to be financed by the fund set up by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, which has earmarked \$500,000 for it.

B. Assistance to returnees from other countries

16. There is no specific assistance for returnees from Cameroon and the Central African Republic; however, several non-governmental organizations operating in the field (Caritas International - Bureau d'Etudes et de Liaison des Actions Caritatives de Développement, CARE-Chad, World Vision and others) are providing whatever assistance is required as returnees are relocated in the areas where these organizations operate, with no distinction made between returnees and the inhabitants of the region in question. WFP has provided important logistical assistance (furnishing of vehicles) and food assistance.

C. Main recent assistance delivered or to be provided to displaced persons and returnees

17. Recent assistance has included the following:

(a) "Farming for Displaced Persons" project, costing \$250,000, financed and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) over 12 months ending July 1986, and involving ad hoc actions aimed at the relocation of different displaced persons/groups and support to non-governmental organization projects in the same sector;

(b) "Integrated Rural Development in the Ouaddai Region" project, costing \$500,000. As previously noted, the project is financed by the fund set up by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. It is executed by the Office for Projects Execution of UNDP, subcontracted to SECADEV, and will start in September 1986. It is aimed at facilitating the return from the Sudan and the relocation of Chadian refugees;

(c) Project for the return of 7,000 displaced persons to home villages in the regions of Batha, Kanem, Ouaddai, Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti, Guéra and Lac from N'Djamena, financed by USAID (CFA 96 million) with logistic contributions by UNDP and FAO transport projects, executed by the Office for Projects Execution (UNDP)/FAO/SECADEV;

(d) Rural development projects for displaced persons: pilot activities are supported by UNICEF with the Office of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture in three villages of the Chari-Baguirmi region. It is planned to expand these projects considerably during 1986-1987. A similar ongoing project in the Sahel zone is presently being evaluated with a view to increased support for mothers and children.

18. Finally, to cover possible shortages during the growing season and prevent further displacement of the population, a project aimed at bringing 20,000 tons of grain into Chad was proposed to international donors. The project involved the financing of transport and maintenance costs in the amount of \$2.4 million, but the requirement was not met in full.

D. Proposed UNHCR mission

19. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has decided in principle to send a technical mission to Chad whose terms of reference are to evaluate the situation and living conditions of the Chadian repatriants. In this connection, the UNHCR Representative for Central Africa at Kinshasa has already undertaken a mission to Chad to inform the Chadian authorities officially of the High Commissioner's decision and to establish an itinerary and a programme for the visit. Because of the rainy season in Chad, the technical mission can take place only at the beginning of October 1986. A date will be fixed through the UNDP office at N'Djamena in collaboration with the Chadian authorities. The mission will meet with the Chadian authorities and have discussions on all matters of mutual interest relating to the situation of the repatriants. It will also visit the sites where they are living to evaluate their actual needs.
