



HIAS

Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

2022-2023 Overview
HIAS CHAD

HIAS Chad

Overview 2022-2023



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Protect the refugee.**

HIAS CHAD 2022

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HIAS CHAD

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Our History

From our beginnings in the 1880s in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan providing food and shelter to Jews fleeing antisemitism in Eastern Europe, to our work nearly 140 years later providing social, emotional, legal, and advocacy support to those in need around the world, HIAS has served as a pivotal force for displaced people for generations. Indeed, HIAS began its work even before the world had a legal concept of a “refugee.”

Having helped more than 4.5 million refugees and immigrants escape persecution, HIAS is uniquely qualified to address the modern refugee situation, which has become a global humanitarian crisis. After over 100 years of serving Jews fleeing persecution around the globe, HIAS, starting in the 2000s, expanded its work in the U.S. to include assistance to non-Jewish refugees devastated by the aftermath of conflicts in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, Iran, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Tunisia, Vietnam, and the successor states to the former Soviet Union.

HIAS began a new chapter in 2002 when it established operations in Kenya to provide protection to refugees from African countries plagued by conflict, to advocate on their behalf, and to resettle the most vulnerable. Soon after, we began work in Latin America, serving people displaced by conflict in several countries. Currently HIAS works in 16 countries including Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, and Venezuela. As the only global Jewish organization whose mission is to assist refugees wherever they are, HIAS continues to protect, empower, and resettle refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from around the world.



Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity.

Mission

Drawing on our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives.

Values

Impassioned by our mission, we bring the lessons of HIAS' history and Jewish ethics and experience to our commitment to serve refugees and other displaced persons of concern around the world through the following values:

Welcome • Acogimiento • Hospitalité • הכנסת אורחים (Hachnasat Orchim)

We **Welcome** the Stranger

Justice • Justicia • Justice • צדק (Tzedek)

We Pursue **Justice**

Empathy • Empatía • Empathie • חסד (Chesed)

We Approach our Clients with **Empathy**

Partnership • Compañerismo • Coopération • חברותא (Chevruta)

We Believe in Changing the World through **Partnership**

Courage • Coraje • Courage • אומץ (Ometz)

We Act with **Courage** to Build a Better World

Resilience • Resiliencia • Résilience • רוח (Ruach)

We Adapt and Thrive, Continuously Demonstrating our **Resilience**



Photos: Glenna Gordon; Michael Datikash

Our Impact

Around the world, HIAS makes tangible changes in the lives of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, advancing their legal, social, and economic rights. Our experience and technical expertise, as well as our integration of international best practices, allows for our work to have real and sustained impact. We partner with government agencies and other humanitarian organizations to reach the greatest number of those in need. The core areas where we work include:

1. Legal Protection
2. Gender-Based Violence Response and Risk Reduction
3. Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
4. Economic Inclusion

Legal Protection

Refugees and other people forcibly displaced from home are fleeing persecution and violence. They need to be able to safely cross borders into countries where their lives are not at risk. Once over the border, they need information and legal representation to secure legal status and access their rights. Without that status, refugees are forced to live on the margins of society, sometimes for generations, without access to healthcare, education, dignified work, or safe shelter. HIAS begins by educating refugees about their rights, then secures protection by engaging in advocacy, legal representation, and strategic litigation, and working with government authorities.

Gender-Based Violence Response and Risk Reduction

Compounded by rampant gender inequality, forced migration and displacement quickly erode the limited protections women, girls, and LGBTQ populations have, even in times of stability. HIAS is driven by their voices and needs, working to empower them and engage the whole community to reduce the risk of gender-based violence. We raise awareness so survivors know where and how to get help after experiencing violence. We train advocates and support existing services so that no survivor—regardless of age, sexual orientation, or gender identity—suffers alone. We help communities begin the kind of transformative work

that leads to longer-term change. We stay connected to and raise our collective voice alongside those of displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ populations globally.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Violence, conflict, and displacement disrupt relationships and daily life, break down existing support systems, and have a devastating impact on mental health, overall wellbeing, and recovery. A supportive environment is essential to healing and recovery for refugees and other people forcibly displaced from their homes. One of the best ways to build a supportive environment is to strengthen existing relationships, networks, and practices which promote mental health and well-being and allow communities to cope and heal. We facilitate community support groups and psychological support from both lay and professional providers and ensure access to services for more intensive mental health support. Crucially, we sustain our efforts by building the psychosocial competence of HIAS personnel and stakeholders to respond to the acute distress of forcibly displaced persons.

Economic Inclusion

When refugees and forcibly displaced people arrive in countries of asylum, they often need to adapt their skills to earn sustainable and safe livelihoods. HIAS supports refugees on their road to self-reliance, helping them to find programs focused on poverty eradication, employment, entrepreneurship, and financial services. We advocate for the rights of both refugees and local host communities to access dignified, sustainable, and safe work, alongside economic development.

Emergency Response

In 2021, with the support of a transformational grant from MacKenzie Scott, HIAS embarked on an exciting new initiative to strengthen our global capacity to respond quickly to new humanitarian emergencies. HIAS' Emergency Department will work closely with country offices to create emergency preparedness plans and provide guidance to adapt core programs to emergency contexts. HIAS will also train a cadre of staff with specialized skills able to deploy quickly during emergencies for assessments, response activities, donor engagement, external communication, and advocacy. Through this multiyear initiative, HIAS will build the skills, systems, and organizational culture needed for effective coordination and response to emergencies.

Accountability to Affected Populations

HIAS' Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Framework ensures the inclusion of refugees, other forcibly displaced people, and vulnerable host communities throughout the program cycle. Informed by the Core Humanitarian Standards and the principle of "Do No Harm," the framework pillars are: communication and transparency; feedback and response; participation and inclusion; and learning and adaptation.

HIAS ensures that program design is based on evidence from needs assessments, including the annual UNHCR participatory needs assessment, and consultation with affected communities. HIAS shares information about its accountability commitments and available

services in all country offices. HIAS proactively invites affected people to provide feedback on planned and ongoing activities through context-appropriate, accessible channels, ensuring that all affected people can voice feedback, recommendations, and concerns safely and equitably. HIAS uses feedback received to adapt ongoing programs and shape the design and implementation of future programming.

Governance, Structure, and Policies

Globally, HIAS employs more than 1,300 staff in 16 countries, with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland (U.S.).

HIAS' Board of Directors is made up of 22 members, including 10 women. It meets at least four times a year. The Board has three officers and operates with six active committees that meet regularly. Board members bring a wide range of professional and business experience to their service, including law, finance, education, and non-profit and refugee advocacy leadership.

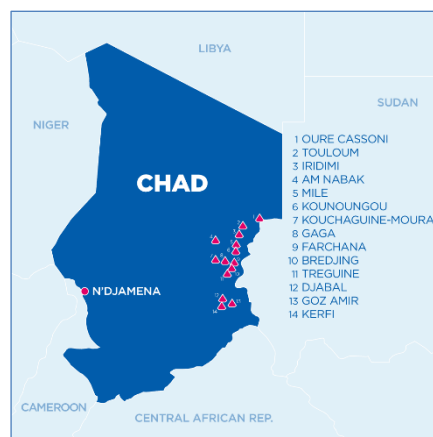
HIAS staff are subject to a robust Code of Conduct and set of internal policies, including PSEA, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment, Conflict of Interest, Privacy, Whistleblowing, Security and Emergency Preparedness, Information Security, Data Breach, Finance and Accounting, as well as others relating to procurement, travel, and reimbursements.



Adolescent girls participate in cookie-making activity at Djabal refugee camp. **Photo:** Glenna Gordon

Context for Refugees and Vulnerable Migrants in Chad

Violence and instability in Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic continues to drive people into Chad, compounding the already protracted refugee crises in the east, the south, and the Lake regions of the country. There are now nearly 500,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Chad, including 370,000 Sudanese refugees from Darfur, primarily located in the East. This is an increase from 472,000 refugees and asylum seekers in 2020. Between December 2019 and January 2020, around 16,000 new Sudanese refugees crossed the border into eastern Chad fleeing interethnic violence. In mid-January 2021, over 4,700 Sudanese citizens were forced to flee their homes and 2,500 were relocated to a new camp, Kouchaguine-Moura; to date, this camp is now hosting around 10,900 refugees. In December 2021, nearly 100,000 people fled violence in northern Cameroon, with nearly 50,000 seeking safety in N’Djamena and another 37,000 taking refuge along Chad’s Logone River. Chad is also a transit corridor for migration to Libya and onward to Europe.



Structural development challenges, high poverty rates, and successive climate related shocks have exacerbated Chad’s vulnerabilities. The conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region, together with economic difficulties linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, are increasing humanitarian needs across the country. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) September 2021 Situation Report for Chad, 5.5 million people are projected to be in high need of humanitarian assistance. COVID-19 has increased the mental health needs of populations in displacement, as the pandemic disrupted livelihoods, access to education, and other basic services and supports. Though the government continues to work closely with OCHA, UNHCR, and NGO partners to manage emergencies, resources and bandwidth for humanitarian response are extremely stretched. Armed groups continue to conduct attacks on civilians, and military operations by the Chadian army and the Multinational Joint Task Forces affect the stability of the Lake Chad area. Chad's political landscape has changed significantly since April 20, 2021 with the death of President Déby during front line clashes with rebels, instigating the installation of a transitional government and sparking frequent protests and demonstrations by different political parties.

The state of perpetual crisis suffered by refugees and host community members is compounded by systems of power that exclude individuals based on social identities, such as age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. Chad ranks 184 out of 187 on the United Nations Development Program’s Gender Inequality Index. Gender stereotypes continue to limit women and girls’ ability to exercise their rights and limits their access to justice. In complex emergencies, these power systems are magnified and levels of gender-based violence (GBV), including intimate partner violence, increase significantly. The presence of armed actors, displacement, broken social and protective networks, and lack of services create an environment where women and girls are at acute risk. The full impact of COVID-19 is yet to be fully seen, but an increase in existing gender inequality is already

being documented. Even in the context of limited funding, there is widespread support throughout the humanitarian community on the need to prioritize the GBV response for refugees in Chad.



HIAS Chad's GBV Assistant and women from Farchana refugee camp engage in activism activities during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in December 2021. **Photo:** HIAS Chad

HIAS Programs in Chad

HIAS has been operating in Chad since 2005. As a result of the crisis that emerged in Darfur in 2003–2004, HIAS interventions initially focused on Sudanese refugee populations. Gradually, these interventions expanded to the host communities living in villages around the refugee camps. HIAS Chad focuses on preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV), strengthening community-based protection networks, providing mental health and psychosocial support, distributing food and non-food items, and implementing permagardening programs. Since 2005, HIAS Chad has served over 356,000 refugees and asylum seekers and approximately 20,000 host community members. HIAS realizes people carry a diversity of experiences and intersecting identities requiring unique support and solutions. As such, HIAS takes a holistic approach to its interventions and offers integrated programming in GBV prevention and response, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, economic inclusion, and legal protection.

HIAS Chad's **community-based mental health and psychosocial support (CB-MHPSS)** programs train community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults as a result of crisis, and how to respond with empathy and respect. HIAS Chad provides multi-layered psychosocial services to support individuals and communities and enhance resilience and capacity to cope. HIAS Chad also facilitates trainings on Psychological First Aid, an intervention providing community leaders the resources to give immediate and effective support and referrals to those in need immediate support in their communities.

HIAS Chad facilitates training on Problem Management Plus, a psychological intervention for common mental health problems to help adults impaired by distress in communities exposed to adversity. HIAS Chad contributes to the coordination of the MHPSS working group and the strengthening of partnerships among actors involved in the delivery of mental health services in Chad.



A HIAS caseworker while visiting community members in Farchana refugee camp. **Photo:** Glenna Gordon

Reducing vulnerability to GBV and meeting the needs of survivors is critical to overall protection for displaced people. HIAS Chad's **GBV prevention and response programming** helps forcibly displaced women and girls pursue their potential, free from violence and gender-related oppression. HIAS Chad uses a survivor-centered approach to provide direct support to survivors in the form of psychosocial support, safe spaces, and assistance in accessing essential services for their health and wellbeing. HIAS Chad's whole of community approach involves engaging women and girls as well as men and boys in risk mitigation and prevention of GBV, fostering community-wide support for and participation in GBV programming. HIAS Chad's integrated approach to MHPSS and GBV prevention and response are lifesaving services for the most vulnerable refugees in Chad. HIAS Chad's community mobilizer program identifies and helps those vulnerable to GBV, including at-risk women and children. HIAS Chad's community mobilizers are refugees who live in the camps. They support those at highest risk of exploitation and with the greatest need for protection and care. Community mobilizers conduct public education programs to address protection concerns within the refugee community as well as challenges that arise from interactions with the host community. HIAS Chad continues to strengthen its partnership with community-based protection networks, including male faith and religious leaders and

women faith leaders, known as *seidates*, to encourage them to continue to serve as emotional support providers and facilitators of change in attitudes in their communities. HIAS Chad is the first NGO in Chad to partner directly with faith leaders on GBV and MHPSS programming.

HIAS Chad's GBV and MHPSS programming also includes projects that promote self-reliance and strengthen the economic resilience of vulnerable populations including survivors of GBV. In 2017, HIAS Chad launched a new program focusing on the "permagardening" methodology, a small-scale agricultural technique that maximizes soil fertility and water management using local resources. Within three months, HIAS Chad trained 20 lead gardeners and less than two weeks later, the lead gardeners trained an additional 300 refugees. All 300 have since started their own household "kitchen gardens," contributing to efforts to strengthen food security in the region. By the end of 2022 HIAS Chad will have reached nearly 5,000 individuals with training the use of locally available resources for permagardening. HIAS Chad also empowers women and girls through tailoring, bread making, knitting, and perfume-making activities in various camps.



HIAS distributes food every month to thousands of refugees at Djabal refugee camp in Goz Beida.

Photo: Glenna Gordon

Chad is surrounded by countries in which peace, security, and stability remain precarious and volatile. Chad also faces internal displacement because of communal conflicts arising from competitions over natural resources. In addition to responding to the needs of the protracted refugee caseload in Chad, HIAS has been providing **emergency assistance** to

newly arrived refugees. Since the start of 2020, HIAS Chad has worked closely with partners to rapidly respond to emergency influxes of new refugees fleeing Darfur and other neighboring regions, by dispatching staff and lifesaving support, including food, clothing, personal protective equipment, and other core relief items. HIAS Chad staff are on site to provide the newly arrived refugees with psychological first aid counseling and hot meals. HIAS, in partnership with UNHCR, the World Food Program, and the government of Chad, distributes food to refugees throughout eastern Chad. **Food distribution** is a lifesaving activity that is particularly important in the context of COVID-19, as many refugees are currently unable to engage in livelihood activities.

HIAS is also the lead UNHCR partner on community-based protection and mobilization in eastern Chad. HIAS Chad works in very close collaboration with refugees, host communities, and various partners (according to their areas of expertise) on community sensitization campaigns and other activities in camps and host villages. HIAS Chad facilitates peace building and social cohesion activities to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in a context where limited natural resources often fuel tensions.



Community members in Farchana refugee camp in Eastern Chad. **Photo:** Glenna Gordon

HIAS Chad implements HIAS' global **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Framework** and staff are trained on AAP principles and standard operating procedures. HIAS Chad displays the Code of Conduct in each office location and shares information about its accountability commitments and available services in N'Djamena through written information and through standard operating processes for case management with clients.

HIAS Chad uses feedback and response mechanisms that are accessible and context appropriate, including anonymous suggestion boxes in each office location, a dedicated email address, and an online reporting platform for submission of feedback, concerns,

and suggestions. HIAS invites community leaders in Chad to serve as contact points during activity implementation, creating a link to the community and ensuring that all affected people can access services. Part of HIAS Chad's workforce is comprised of refugee-led community-based networks that serve as a key link between HIAS and the refugee community. This system includes GBV committees, Youth for Human Rights Clubs, and Community Mobilizers. Community-based structures were an integral part of remote service delivery during the pandemic, when regular programmatic implementation was disrupted.

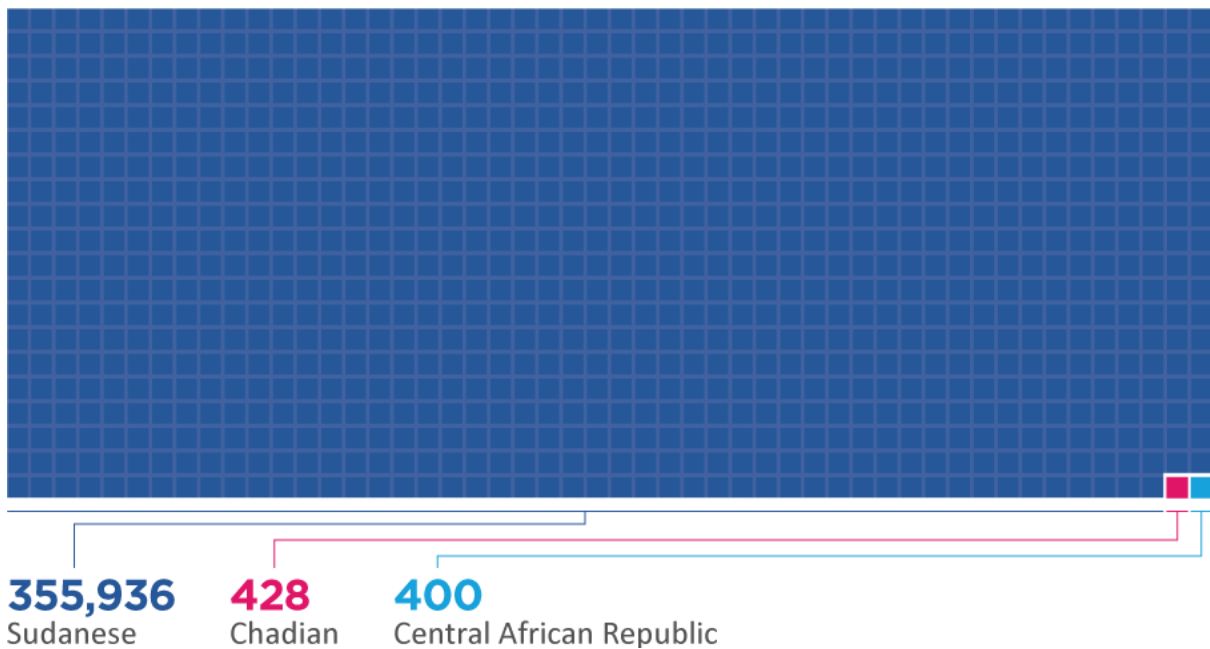
Looking ahead at programs, HIAS Chad plans to expand its interventions to other localities, particularly in the south to respond to the emergency constituted by the influx of refugees from Central African Republic (CAR). HIAS Chad also plans to expand its intervention to the Lac region to meet the needs of refugee populations from Nigeria as well as displaced populations fleeing abuses by non-state armed groups. Given the urgent needs faced by displaced women and girls, it is critical that HIAS Chad grows its GBV risk reduction and response interventions in all locations to maintain the progress made to date and serve new arrivals. Recognizing that positive mental health outcomes require sustainable support systems and services that go beyond the interventions of humanitarian actors, HIAS Chad will also focus on strengthening government institutions and the capacity of local community structures.

Building on the success of projects like permagardening, HIAS Chad hopes to launch comprehensive economic inclusion programming. Going forward, HIAS Chad will capitalize on opportunities presented by the Asylum Law adopted in December 2020 to promote greater social and economic integration of refugees. With new resources and in coordination with the headquarters-based emergency team, HIAS Chad also aims to develop a Rapid Response Team to assess and deploy to new emergencies as needed. In the coming year, HIAS Chad will also establish partnerships with local organizations in locations where new emergencies and humanitarian needs are likely to emerge in the Lac and Chari Baguirmi regions, including N'Djamena, and the southern regions.



Participants of HIAS' permagardening project in Djabal refugee camp prepare vegetable beds.
Photo: Amoula Rene

Graph 1: Populations Served in 2021

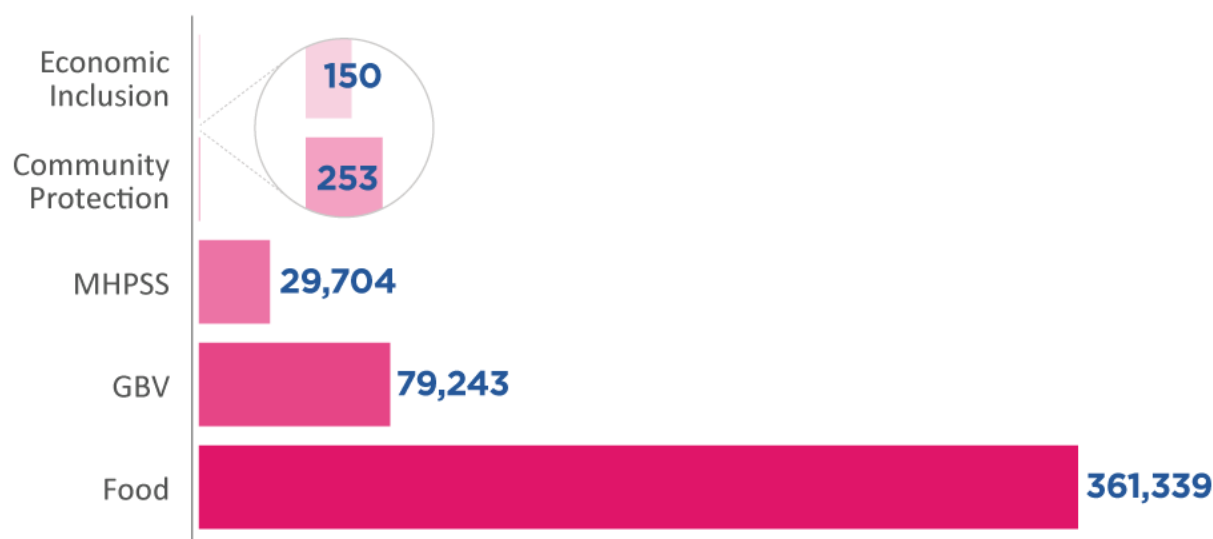


Coordination: Partners & Peer Networks

HIAS Chad recently mapped its existing partnerships and will prioritize several key stakeholders with whom to strengthen or build new collaborations in the coming year. HIAS Chad is also exploring new ways of working with national authorities to integrate humanitarian activities into government programs and will continue to coordinate closely with development actors and longer-term funding initiatives.

A UNHCR implementing partner since 2005-2006, HIAS Chad staff are fully integrated into the range of GBV coordination groups organized by UNHCR in each camp. Staff members attend relevant UNHCR and Chadian government coordination meetings and are members of the community services, psychosocial, child protection, GBV, and HIV/AIDS Working Groups. HIAS Chad led the development of an MHPSS Working Group to promote coordination and amplify advocacy efforts and continues to co-lead that working group. HIAS Chad coordinates its activities with many other international and local organizations serving refugees. HIAS also holds its own coordination meetings with partners on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis, dependent on the situation in each respective camp. The purpose of these meetings is to seek ways to improve services to the refugee community by identifying and addressing critical unmet needs and avoiding duplication. Going forward, HIAS Chad will continue to partner with and build the capacity of community leaders to promote resilience and empowerment at the community level. HIAS Chad will also advance strategies in support of localization by establishing partnerships with local organizations to reinforce and build their capacity for current and future funding and programming opportunities.

Graph 2: People Reached by Program Area in 2021





Individuals receiving food distribution from HIAS staff in August 2021. **Photo:** Adam Hissein Tegune

Operational Support for Programs

As HIAS’ programs expand to meet new global needs, HIAS remains committed to delivering the highest quality of services to those it seeks to support and empower. To enable country teams to succeed and thrive, HIAS will invest new operational resources in our programs, processes, and people.

Representing one of HIAS’ largest and longest-running programs, the HIAS Chad team is comprised of roughly 120 staff members who work in N’Djamena and across 14 other locations. HIAS Chad also works with 253 community mobilizers supporting activities across 13 refugee camps along the eastern border with Sudan: Amn Nabak, Bredjing, Djabal, Farchana, Gaga, Goz Amir, Iridimi, Kouchaguine-Moura, Kounoungou, Mile, Oure Cassoni, Touloum, Treguine; and one site, Kerfi. The Country Director oversees a Senior Management Team made up of key team leaders. Each HIAS Chad staff member abides by HIAS’ Code of Conduct and other policies and procedures in line with global best practices. All staff members have completed trainings on **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**. These trainings are updated and repeated regularly to ensure both prevention and response to any reported incidents of SEA. HIAS applies a gender lens when analyzing, planning, and making decisions across all its operations, in order to ensure the safety, security, and wellbeing of the entire organization’s staff.

HIAS invests in the skills and capacity of staff worldwide, supporting a wide range of local, national, regional, and international trainings for staff. Going forward, HIAS will ensure that all international staff have diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) training. HIAS Chad will request additional training resources in line with emerging programming and operational needs including professional development and skills building. In the next year, HIAS Chad will establish an improved human resources management system and implement HIAS' annual performance reviews to meet staff development needs, improve productivity, and recognize high performing staff. To promote **staff wellbeing**, HIAS has a global contract with the Konterra Group, which provides support both for work-related and personal issues. The goal of these efforts is to enhance program outcomes as well as improve staff satisfaction, retention, and wellbeing across the country team.

HIAS is committed to developing an effective, sustainable **safety and security** risk management system that is in line with its values and mission. The HIAS Chad team and participants face threats such as riots or looting during distributions, political protests and conflict, carjackings, criminality and generalized violence, and civil unrest. To mitigate these and other potential risks, HIAS Chad is focused on developing a security culture among all staff, fully involving community leaders, and strengthening staff capacity through training. HIAS Chad also plans to expand the N'Djamena main office, rehabilitate field offices, and reinforce office compound security systems and physical infrastructure.

Globally, HIAS is rolling out a **Digital Transformation Strategy** to ensure that participants' personal information is digitally secured and protected. The strategy will also create one universal source of information and collaboration; ensure all organizational knowledge is standardized, digitized, organized, and discoverable; ensure data around inputs, outcomes, and impact is readily accessible; help employees collaborate on gathering and building resources on this information platform; and easily share and leverage data from partners and affiliates. HIAS will be providing annual refresher training to all country offices on IT tools and procedures. HIAS Chad is continually exploring how to leverage new technology to improve service delivery and strengthen communication across all programs.

With support from headquarters, HIAS Chad will also continue to review and strengthen procedures and tools related to data and reporting as well as finance and compliance, in line with donor requirements and international standards. HIAS Chad will work with headquarters to establish an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The ERP system will improve alignment of operations, finance, programs, and human resources, allowing for more efficient and cost-effective country operations.

Donors and Development

HIAS is committed to growing and diversifying its donor base in each country of operation. With support from headquarters, HIAS Chad is developing a resource mobilization strategy to sustain, increase, and diversify funding sources, building on its longstanding reputation for comprehensive and flexible programming in a challenging operating environment. HIAS Chad gratefully acknowledges the support of UNHCR, State/PRM, and Jewish World Watch (JWW). Unfortunately, due to new crises emerging in other countries and the protracted nature of displacement in Chad, humanitarian funding and donor support for refugees and displaced people in Chad has declined over the last decade, even though needs have not diminished. With recent cuts in UNHCR funding in Chad resulting in reductions in staffing and activity budgets across the country, there are now significant gaps in the areas of GBV prevention and response. The World Food Program has also made funding cuts to its Chad program, which will create significant challenges addressing food security for highly vulnerable populations. To address these and other needs, HIAS Chad will map and identify private sector, philanthropic, and government donors to advance new partnerships and programs in the coming years. With the establishment of the HIAS Europe office, HIAS Chad will focus on building relationships with European funders including EuropeAid and ECHO and other donors which may be available to support humanitarian and development programs in Chad, as well as establishing collaborations with other organizations already receiving European support.



Community Mobilizers in Bredjing refugee camp wear orange scarves as an awareness raising action during the 16 Days of activism against GBV. **Photo:** Edith Madjingar

HIAS Chad will continue to build its capacity and reputation as an organization uniquely positioned to respond across the humanitarian-development nexus in new emergencies and protracted displacement crises alike. HIAS Chad will also develop new proposals that build on core expertise while appealing to different donor priorities, including around economic inclusion and climate-related drivers of displacement. With additional resources, HIAS Chad will be able to expand to new locations with critical unmet needs. HIAS Chad will focus on improving operational and technical capacity as well as strengthening partnerships with local organizations to deepen and sustain impact in a challenging funding environment.

Communications, Policy, and Advocacy

HIAS Chad engages in advocacy at multiple levels to advance protection and integration for refugees and other displaced people in Chad, as well as to improve wellbeing for returnees and host communities. Currently, HIAS Chad's priority is deepening public support and awareness of the Asylum Law passed in December 2020 (Law No. 027 on Asylum in the Republic of Chad), and the implementation of accompanying measures promoting local integration for refugees living in Chad. This includes Sudanese refugees who face the impossibility of voluntary return and lack of access to resettlement opportunities. In addition to working to secure passage of the Asylum Law, HIAS Chad has also joined with other stakeholders to support other critical laws and policy reforms including the adoption of the law to prohibit early marriage. HIAS Chad will continue to build on relationships and expertise developed over nearly two decades in the country to further generate public and community-based support for these and other key reforms.

Moving forward, HIAS Chad will work with key partners through participation in the protection, GBV, and mental health working groups to press national authorities and the international donor community for critically needed resources and attention for vulnerable displaced populations. HIAS Chad also plans to join the Humanitarian-Development Nexus platform in Chad to help ensure that refugees, internally displaced people, returnees, and host populations are included in longer-term development initiatives.

HIAS Chad currently uses traditional and social media to share critical information and messages with participants and national, regional, and global audiences. In the coming year, HIAS Chad will develop a strategic communications plan in support of programmatic, advocacy, and resource mobilization objectives. This plan will include an assessment of current communication tools and gaps to be addressed with additional resources. Regionally, HIAS will work to ensure that people traveling across Africa and Eurasia are aware of HIAS services and locations and other available resources across different countries through digital and other information tools.

Cover Photo: Glenna Gordon
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