



EU Trust Fund for Africa – Sahel & Lake Chad



EUTF PARTNER:
Concern Worldwide

COUNTRY: Chad

BUDGET:
EUR 6.8M

**From 01/2019
to 01/2023**

Objective of the project

To improve the living conditions and resilience of host communities, refugees and returnees in host areas, through support for inclusive local development.

Key successes

- > 3,837 vulnerable households benefiting from unconditional cash transfers.
- > 258 village savings and loan associations created.
- > 12 local development plans supported.

DIZA East¹ was part of the larger DIZA programme, which focused on inclusive development in host areas in Chad's southern and eastern regions. The project's budget included €6.8M from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) on migration and €3.25M from the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD), the latter allowing implementation to continue into a fourth year until January 2023. DIZA East's three strategic objectives (SOs) were to: improve access to basic services and social protection (SO1); create economic and employment opportunities (SO2); and strengthen consultation mechanisms among local actors (SO3). The project was implemented in the regions of Ouaddaï, Sila and Salamat, which are characterised by high levels of food insecurity and high numbers of Sudanese refugees.² The implementation consortium was led by Concern Worldwide and included six NGOs: one international NGO and one national NGO for each province. DIZA East pursued a triple nexus approach, linking humanitarian, development and peace/social cohesion interventions.

How did the EUTF help?

At the end of the project, food consumption across the target regions had increased and meals were more diversified, reflected in higher food consumption and dietary diversity scores.³ Among the beneficiaries of unconditional cash transfers and income-generating activities (IGAs) support, a significantly higher proportion of people were able to hold productive assets (90% vs.

47% before the project), send children to school (76% vs. 33%), have diversified meals (87% vs. 38%), and have a regular source of income (93% vs. 55%). Qualitative interviews conducted during the final evaluation also confirmed that project interventions were instrumental in abandoning survival strategies and diversifying meals.

DIZA East implemented a set of activities targeting household resilience in the short and medium terms and aimed at improving local governance.

- **Immediate humanitarian relief for the most vulnerable populations:** As a result of the project, 3,837 households received unconditional cash transfers of 15,000 FCFA⁴ per month for one year, which most of them spent on food (23%), productive assets (23%), WASH (16%), schooling of children (15%), and small enterprises (11%). In addition, 2,578 people benefited from cash-for-work schemes, building or renovating 54 community infrastructures (granaries, rural roads, irrigation channels, schools, etc.). Similarly, beneficiaries spent the money on schooling for children (23%), food (23%), productive assets (18%), and WASH (15%).
- **Strengthened medium-term living conditions:** The project enabled 559 people to benefit from professional training and receive starter kits to use in their profession (e. g. agriculture, livestock farming, mechanics, carpentry, processing of local products).

In addition, it created 258 village savings and loan associations (VSLA), benefiting 5,179 members through access to microcredits and allowing them to acquire productive assets (e.g. seeds, livestock) or to start small businesses. Finally, 1,963 households, or 11,778 people, participated in local value chains (sorghum, sesame, peanuts, millet, onions, garlic, maize) by gaining access to seeds and transformation units (e. g. oil press, cereal mill), both of which were provided by the project.

- **Improve local governance:** The project supported 1,146 people to participate in good governance workshops and helped local authorities develop 12 local development plans, defining priorities for local investments and service provision. As a result, people's awareness of and contact with local authorities and consultation mechanisms increased, fostering public trust in state institutions. Finally, the project supported conflict prevention activities for 82,436 people and organised 16 inter-community forums among young refugees, returnees and local people.

Keys to success

Household-level beneficiary targeting: Household targeting was key for a successful implementation of the nexus approach. In a first step, the project identified villages which hosted many refugees or returnees, or which were located close to refugee camps in the three target regions. Based on this preliminary geographic targeting, a survey of 25,810 households identified the most vulnerable people who would receive unconditional cash transfers, particularly those without access to income and without external support, including elderly people, people with disabilities, chronically ill people, widows, etc. Important criteria to select target households included household composition (particularly single parent households), dietary diversity score or size of the cultivated area. The survey results were also shared with the Chadian statistics institute to strengthen the national statistics systems. Village assemblies approved the final list of households set to receive cash transfers.

Linking humanitarian and development interventions at the household level: While household targeting took significant time (more than

1.5 years instead of the eight planned months), it was key to fully exploit the nexus approach; the most vulnerable households not only received unconditional cash transfers but also benefited from IGAs. That way, they were able to stabilise food consumption and develop more long-term sources of income. Moreover, the targeted households were systematically included in VSLAs, which provided them access to microcredits. A group of slightly less vulnerable households were selected for the project's cash-for-work scheme. It is noteworthy that interventions did not differentiate between host communities, refugees, and returnees, but were exclusively based on the household vulnerability assessment (inclusive approach).

Locally embedded implementation strategy: One international NGO partnered with one national NGO to implement activities in each of the three target regions. This implementation strategy helped leverage local knowledge and build the capacities of local actors, thus contributing to the project's sustainability.

Building on success

The triple nexus approach developed by DIZA East provided a good foundation for further support to refugees and host communities in eastern Chad and could be an example for interventions in other conflict-affected regions. As a result of the household-level targeting approach, DIZA East's interventions were tailored to the individual needs of the respective household. This strategy not only strengthened the project's effectiveness; it also paved the way for interventions which built upon each other – from securing basic needs to providing access to credit for entrepreneurial activities.

After the new outbreak of violence in Sudan in April 2023, almost half a million refugees fled to eastern Chad⁵, multiplying humanitarian needs in the regions along the border. Continuing the successful approach of DIZA East, the follow-up programme was able to react quickly. By building upon established structures and experiences, the project was able to immediately provide support for fleeing, returning, and hosting populations along the Sudanese border in Chad.

¹ *Programme de développement inclusif dans les zones d'accueil.*

² At the beginning of the project, 18% of the population of Sila were refugees/returnees and 12% of the population of Ouaddai were refugees.

³ The average Food Consumption Score across the three regions increased from 39.3 to 57.6, the Household Dietary Diversity Score from 7.0 to 9.3, and the reduced Coping Strategies Index decreased from 17.5 to 13.7.

⁴ Equivalent of EUR 22,94.

⁵ UNHCR, 'Chad: Influx of Refugees from Sudan (as of 8 December 2023)', 11 December 2023. Retrieved [here](#).



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Disclaimer

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The research for this success story was conducted from January to April 2024, was based on project documentation, and presents the situation at that moment.

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