



Zara Ellie is the treasurer of the 'Hanoune' ('charity') Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) group in Koudoul, Chad, which was formed as part of CRS' SILC programming. Created in 2021, this 30-member saved more than 1,668,000CFA (USD\$2,700). Ellie sells seasonal vegetables, rice and condiments at the local market and she uses the loans from the SILC group to buy her stock in bulk. © Jennifer Lazuta / CRS

CRS in Chad

WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) started its activities in Chad in 1984, by supporting the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace from the Cameroon office. In 2002, in response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the Chadian Bishops' Conference invited CRS to open an office in N'Djamena. Currently, CRS' interventions in Chad include emergency response, microfinance, livelihoods and agricultural activities, child protection, and capacity-strengthening activities. The CRS country program in Chad implements all these projects for communities living in vulnerable conditions in the west, east, and south of Chad in partnership with the local government and local partners including diocesan Caritas.

KEY PROGRAMMING AREAS

- Emergency Response and Recovery
- Microfinance
- Livelihoods
- Child Protection
- Local leadership

63,678

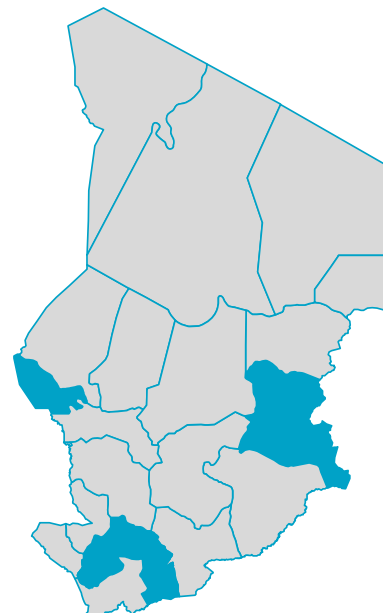
PEOPLE REACHED IN FY2023

\$2.27 million

RESOURCES SPENT IN FY2023

4 partners

WORKING ACROSS CHAD



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



Emergency response to Sudanese refugees, Chadian returnees, and host communities in eastern Chad. Since September 2023, with

funding from Caritas Internationalis, CRS and Caritas Moundou have provided food aid and household items to 1,500 Sudanese refugees, Chadian returnees, and host communities in eastern Chad. From 2018 to 2019, CRS provided food assistance to 2,410 households (14,460 individuals) via cash transfers in three divisions in the Lac province. With funding from Caritas Germany, CRS disbursed six cash transfers via an electronic transfer platform, with each participating family receiving a total of 198 euros. With CRS private funds, during the first half of 2022, CRS and Caritas N'Djamena also implemented a rapid response food assistance for 4,123 Cameroonian refugees who fled inter-community violence in the Far North of Cameroon.

Stabilization and Reconciliation in the Lake Chad Region (STaR) Phase II. The project plans to reach 16,000 people with activities that improve access to basic infrastructure, equip households with tools and skills to establish or improve livelihoods, strengthen social cohesion, and improve local governance. In the livelihood component, CRS and Caritas N'Djamena provided seeds and farming tools to 1,500 participants, as well as training in crop management. The Savings and Internal Credit Communities (SILC) & Social Cohesion savings groups, saved over \$11,000, which they can use to take out loans and invest in small businesses or cover urgent needs. The STaR team also trained 24 Young Ambassadors for Peace and 24 Social Cohesion Facilitators in CRS's 3B/4D (Binding, Bonding & Bridging - Discover, Dream, Design & Deliver) approach to social cohesion. The facilitators use these skills to strengthen positive inter-community relations. In the infrastructure component, the project distributed a total of \$46,397 (\$21,581 to women) to 1,062 participants (487 women) for Cash for Work (CFW) activities, and through this approach, the project built 13 infrastructures.

MICROFINANCE



Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) & Social Cohesion. Through this privately funded

project, CRS aims to strengthen economic security and social cohesion in communities at risk or already affected by conflict in the dioceses of Goré, N'Djamena, Doba, Lai and Pala. CRS provides technical and financial support to the diocesan Caritas of Goré and N'Djamena (BELACD Goré and Caritas N'Djamena) to implement the CRS SILC approach and social relationship-building activities. By 2023, CRS and its partners had created 398 SILC groups in Goré and N'Djamena, and all groups across Chad had over 13,000 members. These groups have accumulated over \$362,892 in savings, which have been lent to group members to start small businesses or contribute to social needs. In terms of social cohesion, the project organized training sessions with local conflict management

committees. For example, following conflicts between herders and farmers in southern Chad, BELACD-Goré organized meetings to bring together 85 participants, including herder camp leaders, representatives of conflict management committees and traditional authorities, to resolve contentious issues.

CHILD PROTECTION



Community Child Protection Systems. Funded 91% by UNICEF, the CRS child protection project was officially launched on November 16, 2023, in the presence of the ministerial authorities in charge of child protection. The 18-month project is being implemented in partnership with Caritas N'Djamena in the Lac province and N'Djamena and Caritas Moundou in the Logone Occidental province. Through a community-based approach to child protection, the project aims to directly reach 5,000 participants, including 900 boys and 600 girls.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP



Partnership and Capacity-Strengthening. The aim of

this project, funded by CRS, is to improve the organizational capacities of Caritas Chad and its diocesan members so that they can better respond to humanitarian emergencies, promote development, and build community resilience. In 2023, the project carried out an evaluation of Caritas Chad and Caritas N'Djamena. Following this assessment, both organizations developed capacity-building action plans to address the areas for improvement identified. This approach enabled the Caritas Chad network to have a common vision of their intervention, a dynamic for change and a strategic plan (2023-2030). Following the work at Caritas National level, CRS and the National Caritas are supporting network members for their organizational and institutional reform, as requested by the National Caritas Forum. In this light, Caritas Moundou and Caritas Doba will receive intensive support for 2 years.

EDUCATION



Education and WASH Infrastructure. In

September 2021, with funding from Latter-Day Saints Charities, CRS and Caritas N'Djamena have built or rehabilitated 13 classrooms for 3 schools in Chad's Lac province. The project built a borehole and 8 latrines in each school to provide students and teachers with access to clean drinking water and hygiene facilities. Each school received supplies to improve the learning environment. School management and parent-teacher committees took part in training to improve their ability to maintain the new infrastructure and equipment, and to proactively manage and collect resources to meet the schools' future needs.