



Chad's Lac Province

2023-2026 | Making local integration a shared government priority in Chad's Lac Province

A durable solution means being able to rebuild a life without displacement continuing to block access to rights, services or a livelihood. It may involve returning home, settling elsewhere in the country or integrating where people already live. In Lac Province, the emphasis is on connecting displaced families and their neighbors to functioning services, economic opportunities and accountable local institutions.

Case study



At a glance

Country and focus	Chad, Lac Province -departments of Kaya, Mamdi and Foul.
Displacement context	Protracted displacement driven by armed violence, compounded by flooding and pressure on livelihoods. The zoning strategy used a baseline of 220,610 internally displaced people across 240 sites and 50 villages.
Government partners	Lac provincial administration; Provincial Action Committee; Provincial Council; departmental, municipal and traditional authorities; national ministries responsible for planning and social action; and the national refugee and returnee commission.
Solution pathway	Local integration through convergence areas: neighbouring displacement sites and communities planned together around shared services, while preserving household choice.
Main challenge	Dispersed settlements and fragmented investment, alongside insecurity, weak services and limited income opportunities.
United Nations contribution	Joint assessments, displacement data, protection and shelter support, government-led planning, and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace efforts.
Headline results	An 11-zone planning framework approved by March 2025; provincial planning refined with local input in July 2025; and November field reporting documenting 197 durable shelters at Magar and a small piped-water system at Ngorerom. In total, between 2024 and 2025, UNHCR and partners built 1,540 durable shelters in the six prioritized convergence areas (+ in the only refugee convergence area). In 2025, UNHCR also implemented livelihoods assistance as follows: 200 households received support in agriculture, 1,000 households in fishing, 20 households in commerce. In addition, WFP and UNICEF joint up this collective effort to enhance access to livelihoods and essential services in those areas.
Remaining gaps	Reliable financing, teachers and health staff, service maintenance, safe access to land and livelihoods, and evidence of sustained improvements for individual households. 6 zones de convergence which were not prioritized still need substantial support.



Key displacement challenge in Chad

In Lac Province, many families fled attacks on island and lakeside communities but remained close to places where they hoped to farm, fish or trade. Others arrived across international borders as refugees. These groups lived alongside host communities whose schools, health and water systems and livelihoods were also under pressure.

Hundreds of settlements were dispersed across a difficult operating environment. The zoning strategy described most sites as hosting fewer than 2,000 people. Delivering separate projects to each location made coordination and the use of limited resources difficult.

An assessment conducted in October 2024 revealed stark service collapse: For example, in Ngorerom area hosting approximatively 5 200 displaced persons, only six of nine boreholes functioning, all 181 previously constructed latrines out of use and a school serving 446 pupils in 2023-2024 with only three teachers and offering only the first three primary grades. A mobile clinic visited weekly; at the other times, residents had to cross the lake to reach health care.

Yet, resilience was visible: fishing groups, women's savings associations and local construction skills offered entry point for recovery. Rebuilding lives meant reliable services, opportunities to earn an income and institutions able to sustain both. .

A common map backed by government

To overcome scattered settlements and fragmented investment, the zoning strategy proposed convergence areas: a central site with some existing infrastructure, linked to surrounding sites within an indicative 10-15 km radius. The intention was to organize investment around connected communities rather than treat every site as an isolated project. In 2024, the strategy defined 11 areas.

Following this important mapping step, in March 2025, the Government's Delegate General for Lac Province formally endorsed the zoning strategy and the prospective durable-solutions pilot with six priority areas, proposed by UNHCR. These decisions gave the approach an official provincial foundation for coordinated investment.

The endorsement programme was ambitious: US\$119 million targeting 43,470 households – nearly 186,000 people, across displaced, refugee and host populations.

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Nationally, 2023-2024 were marked by important milestones: The 2023 law on protection and assistance for internally displaced people provided a legal foundation ; An interministerial committee and technical working group were set, connected solutions planning to government responsibilities ; broad consultations at national and in provinces led to the elaboration of the national strategy for durable solutions, technically approved end 2024. This document – despite being still waiting its political endorsement - makes the link between provincial initiative and national ground.

Early 2025, at provincial level, the Provincial authorities under the leadership of the Delegate General convened government services, humanitarian organizations, development partners and security actors under a shared consultation framework. Commonly called the humanitarian-peace-development nexus, this means linking immediate assistance with longer-term services, livelihoods, and efforts to support peaceful coexistence. One of the objectives of this coordination framework is to facilitate the operationalization of durable solutions in the convergence areas.

Beginning July 2025, central government trainers supported technically and financially by IOM and UNDP, worked with provincial actors in Bol - the province capital. Participants refined locally specific actions on protection, basic services and integration. Their suggestions were incorporated directly into the provincial action plan: a planning result beyond attendance at a training event. Stakeholders complement each other to support this initiative for durable solutions: UNHCR supported the convergence approach, assessments, protection and shelter, and financed workshop with provincial authorities in November 2025 to enhance provincial ownership. IOM supplied displacement data and livelihood assistance; UNDP supported government capacity and the connection to stabilization and development planning. OCHA supported the mapping of interventions and dialogue between partners.

Departmental and traditional authorities helped convene communities and identify local priorities. The Chadian Red Cross and other partners delivered 1,540 durable shelters with UNHCR funding in the six pilot convergence areas; Concern Worldwide provided mobile healthcare; and the Jesuit Refugee Service supported school infrastructure at Magar. The WFP joint the collective effort by developing polders at the Magar and Ngorerom sites, thereby creating areas for agricultural production. In Ngorerom site, UNICEF also contributed to provide access to essential services (WASH, nutrition) UNDP and IOM completed those efforts in 2026 by supporting job creation, providing public lighting. The National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees contributed to site administration and displacement data collection.

The Ngorerom assessment consulted leaders from displaced, refugee and host communities. Women expressed a preference for family latrines and residents requested a piped-water system. July participants to the training highlighted the pressure on host families, while the November workshop included representatives of displaced people and refugees. These contributions brought practical priorities into planning, although the recommendations from July workshop also called for wider participation by displaced people.

A common map backed by government

The November 2025 workshop linked responsible institutions to recommendations on teachers, security, data and local markets. During the subsequent field mission to convergence areas, provincial leadership instructed services to report activities through the Provincial Action Committee, strengthen departmental coordination, establish working agreements with partners and review 2025 activities when preparing 2026 plans.

Reports from the government's November 2025 visit to the convergence zones detail the infrastructure and services established in certain convergence areas. These investments provide tangible foundations for local integration.

For example, the Provincial Action Committee recorded 197 durable shelters constructed by the Chadian Red Cross with UNHCR financing in a convergence area. The same mission called for 798 additional durable shelters in the same area.

In October 2024, residents of Ngorerom identified a small piped-water system as a priority to address queues at water points. On 18 November 2025, a community representative acknowledged a partner-installed water system, and the provincial mission recorded it among the site's infrastructure. This is a documented improvement in the service infrastructure available.

During the November 2025 visit, Magar's community representative described residents undertaking income-generating activities with IOM cash assistance. He also said the community was living in peace where it had settled. Yet his requests stressed the need for food support, help for vulnerable people and more land prepared for cultivation.

The central result is therefore a combination of an endorsed framework for coordinated investment, stronger government direction, and concrete housing, water and education provision in selected places.

The prioritized convergence areas have now achieved a level of services and infrastructure comparable to existing developed villages in the province. Sites in the convergence areas benefit from these services. When new displacement occurred, the authorities asked the newly displaced to settle near the existing zones to benefit from the investments made and receive support from the community and those earlier displaced.



What is needed to make these gains durable

Safety remains a fundamental challenge. OCHA's bulletin for May-June 2026 reported more than 60,000 people forced to leave their homes in Lac in connection with government-decreed military operations. New emergencies reinforce the need to maintain life-saving assistance while investing in longer-term solutions; new arrivals should not be counted as people who have achieved a solution.

Services require not only infrastructure but also staff and maintenance. Recommendations from late 2025 visits to convergence areas repeatedly called for teachers, health personnel, borehole repairs and stronger water-management committees. The next financing step is clear: **to match investment with funded operating responsibilities in government systems.**

The governance of convergence areas also requires stronger institutional anchoring to ensure sustainability. Administrative authorities need to play a leading role in coordinating and managing these areas, ensuring that investments are embedded within government planning and budgeting, and service-delivery systems. Clear institutional ownership, supported by community participation, is essential to maintain infrastructure, oversee services and sustain results beyond project funding.

Economic recovery depends on safe access to cultivable land, fishing equipment, markets and transport. An assessment in Ngorerom area recorded flood damage to agricultural areas in 2022 and 2024. Future investment needs to address these risks alongside documentation and protection barriers.

Progress towards durable solutions must also be measured systematically through data collection to assess whether the displacement-related vulnerabilities are decreasing over time and whether affected populations are achieving sustainable access to services, livelihoods, documentation and protection. Protection Monitoring through community-based mechanisms will be essential to understand and respond to protection risks. Continued investment in government-led monitoring systems and durable solutions analysis is also needed to provide evidence supporting policy decisions, target resources effectively and adjust interventions.

The path forward is therefore twofold:

- Institutional anchoring — provincial initiatives must connect to national validation and financing, ensuring that durable solutions are not pilot projects but government led systems;
- Community empowerment — local voices, from women's associations to displaced leaders, must continue shaping priorities so that integration reflects lived realities;
- Scaling up the approach in all convergence areas in the Lac, since only six were prioritized as beginning (pilot). The positive effects of such an area-based coordination for durable solution should serve as a catalytic example to mobilise adequate resources

The challenge now is to transform pilot gains into sustained progress: coordinated investment, accountable institutions, and resilient livelihoods that withstand insecurity and climate shocks. Only then will local integration in Lac Province become not just a shared priority, but a durable reality.