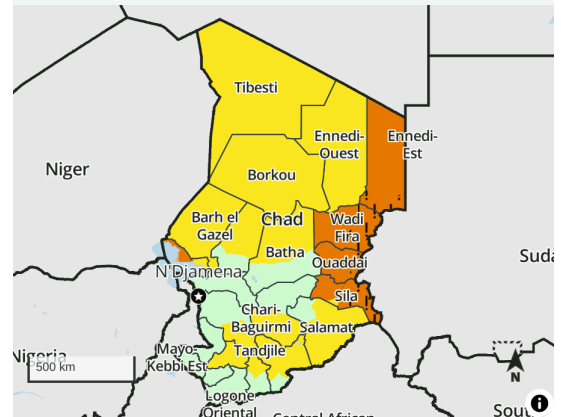


## Persistent insecurity deteriorating food security conditions in eastern and Lac provinces

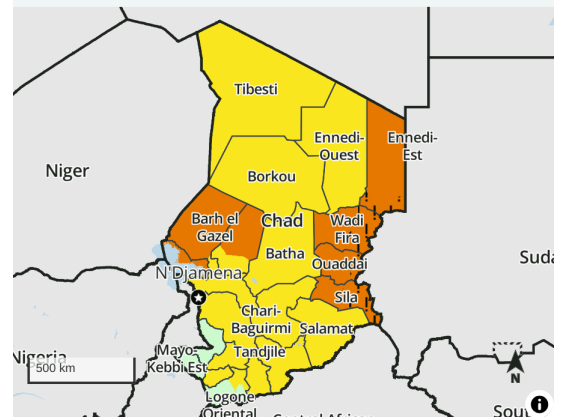
### Key Messages

- Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!) outcomes are expected to persist between May and September in the provinces of Ennedi-Est (Wadi Hawar), Wadi Fira (Dar Tama, Kobé), Ouaddaï (Assoungha), and Sila (Kimiti).** Refugees continue to arrive without livelihood assets. With worsening insecurity along the Sudan border and the onset of the pastoral and agricultural lean seasons, work and income-generating opportunities are extremely limited for refugees, further constraining their access to food. Refugees face food consumption deficits and are increasingly dependent on food assistance. Food access for host households will also deteriorate due to worsening security conditions, depleted food stocks, rising prices, and declining income caused by competition with refugees for limited livelihood opportunities. As a result, host households will increasingly resort to borrowing, which will be insufficient to cover their food consumption deficits.
- Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to persist through September 2026 in Lac Province, and in Kanem and Barh El Gazel provinces beginning in June.** Attacks by armed groups in the Lake Chad Basin, along with the resulting forced population displacements, have caused a continued deterioration of livelihoods, particularly fishing and livestock production. In Kanem and Barh El Gazel, these outcomes are driven by depleted food stocks, declining income from wild food collection, and heavy dependence on markets, combined with high staple food costs during the lean season. Food access will become increasingly difficult, especially on islands threatened by insecurity and livelihood destruction. Consumption deficits will be most severe among displaced households and poor host communities.
- The influx of refugees and returnees into eastern Chad continues, although a slowdown has been observed since April 2026.** Only **1,674 new Sudanese refugee** arrivals were recorded in April, compared with 2,221 in March and 5,900 in February. According to **UNHCR**, as of May 17, 2026, a cumulative total of 927,915 refugees, of whom 87 percent are women and children, had arrived in the eastern provinces since April 2023. These arrivals increase market demand and place additional pressure on local livelihoods and host community resources. Humanitarian agencies and the Chadian government have successfully relocated 67 percent of refugees to camps where they are receiving humanitarian assistance.

Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, May 2026



Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, June - September 2026



#### IPC 3.1 acute food insecurity classification

##### Sub-national level data

|             |              |           |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1: Minimal  | 3: Crisis    | 5: Famine |
| 2: Stressed | 4: Emergency |           |

##### Symbols

! Would likely be at least one phase worse without current or planned humanitarian food assistance

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.

Source: FEWS NET



- **The security situation has deteriorated since March in the eastern and Lac provinces.** According to ACLED, 20 security incidents occurred in the country between April 15 and May 15, 2026, resulting in 101 deaths, including 67 in the eastern provinces and 23 in Lac Province. These incidents affected the livelihoods of 92,040 people. Direct clashes between Chadian forces and elements of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have exposed border communities in the eastern provinces to insecurity and population displacement, increasing pressure on local resources. In Lac Province, fighting between the Chadian military and armed extremist groups led the **government** to declare a state of emergency on May 7, significantly disrupting market functioning during a period when poor households are most dependent on markets.
- **In April 2026, local cereal prices remained below 2025 levels while continuing their seasonal upward trend that began in February.** In a context of average market supply, millet and locally produced rice recorded an overall monthly price increase of 4 percent in April, contrasting with the declines observed during the same period last year: 17 percent for millet, 23 percent for sorghum, 30 percent for maize, and 11 percent for local rice. In contrast, imported rice and wheat flour showed opposite trends, declining by 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively, compared with March 2026. However, prices remain exceptionally high, exceeding the five-year average by more than 51 percent for imported rice and 62 percent for wheat flour.
- **Livestock markets are highly active due to preparations for Tabaski (Eid al-Adha), and livestock prices are increasing, except in conflict-affected areas.** Demand exceeds supply because of strong buyer presence from Cameroon and Nigeria in export-oriented livestock markets. Compared with April 2025, cattle, sheep, and goat prices in Wadi Fira increased by 8 percent, 9 percent, and 7 percent, respectively. As a result, sheep-to-millet terms of trade remain favorable for pastoralists in more secure areas. In contrast, prices are generally declining in areas where insecurity limits buyer attendance. For example, at Mamdi market in Lac Province, cattle, sheep, and goat prices fell by 17 percent, 8 percent, and 7 percent, respectively, over the same period.

*Recommended citation: FEWS NET. Chad Key Message Update May - September 2026: Persistent insecurity deteriorating food security conditions in eastern and Lac provinces, 2026.*

\* FEWS NET classification is **IPC**-compatible with limited exceptions. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. As of IPC 3.0, the IPC no longer assesses the impact of food assistance on classification and thus no longer maps the (!). However, FEWS NET continues to produce food security maps inclusive of the (!) as well as maps compatible with IPC 3.0/3.1, which include the mapping of food security assistance bags. In rare cases, FEWS NET classification is IPC-aligned but not IPC-compatible. IPC-aligned analysis is evidence-based but some types of evidence required for IPC-compatibility were not available.

#### Key Message Update

This Key Message Update provides a high-level analysis of current acute food insecurity conditions and any changes to FEWS NET's latest projection of acute food insecurity outcomes in the specified geography. Learn more [here](#).