



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Chad
Main subject	The regions of Barh El-Gazel and Mayo-Kebbi Ouest
Question(s)	Information on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the regions of Barh El-Gazel (regional capital, Moussoro) and Mayo-Kebbi Ouest (regional capital, Pala) from 2015 to 2018 In particular, information on the existence of any armed conflict(s) or armed attacks, the presence of armed groups and any other factor having an impact on the security of civilians.
Date of completion	12 July 2018
Query Code	Q92
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	

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The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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*The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities.
The answer was finalised on 12 July 2018. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.*



COI QUERY RESPONSE

Information on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the regions of Barh El-Gazel (regional capital, Moussoro) and Mayo-Kebbi Ouest (regional capital, Pala) from 2015 to 2018

In particular, information on the existence of any armed conflict(s) or armed attacks, the presence of armed groups and any other factor having an impact on the security of civilians.

Among all sources consulted and within the timeframe allocated to respond to this query, no specific information could be retrieved on the existence of armed conflict(s), the occurrence of armed attacks and the presence of armed groups in the Chadian regions of Barh El-Gazel and Mayo-Kebbi Ouest from 2015 to 2018.

Among sources consulted, the only reference to a factor impacting on civilians' lives is related to malnutrition, in particular in Barh El-Gazel region. The Directorate-General of the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) reports, in its 2017 factsheet on Chad, that:

'Barh-el-Gazal was the region of Chad most hit by the food insecurity crisis in 2016. With a Global Acute Malnutrition rate above 17.8% and global food insecurity affecting 40% of the population, it was imperative to provide timely assistance. EU funds enabled Oxfam to provide food assistance to over 140 000 people among the poorest households during the lean season. Children from these households also receive fortified food to prevent them from falling into malnutrition. Seasonal safety nets – assistance during a period in which the needs are especially high, like the lean season – allow families to meet their basic needs. They also prevent them from getting in debt in order to feed themselves or resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as cutting down trees to sell wood, which in turn makes droughts more likely and severe'¹.

Concerns on children's malnutrition have also been raised by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), which has been committed to providing emergency aid in the country and reinforce resilience by offering social services to the local population. In its 2016 Chad Humanitarian Situation Report, the UN fund reports that '[f]rom January to November 2016, 166,830 children with SAM [Severe Acute Malnutrition] were admitted and treated in nutritional units, amounting to 86% of the annual target (highest performances reported in Barh-El-Gazel, 151%, Batah, 119% and Kanem, 169%)'².

In the same document, UNICEF also reports a 16.1% prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition among children in Bahr El-Gazel in 2016, thus exceeding the critical emergency threshold (15%) set by the

¹ DG ECHO, *ECHO Factsheet – Chad*, January 2017, p. 3 ([url](#)).

² UNICEF, *Chad Humanitarian Situation Report*, 31 December 2016, p. 4 ([url](#)).



World Health Organization (WHO)³. It also describes a generalised situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in the region, partly due to a 5% decline in cereal production recorded in the same year⁴.

Such a critical situation is confirmed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which provides on its webpage an overview of the country's food security situation. According to FAO's estimations:

'80 percent of Chad's rural population relies on agriculture as their main source of food and income. While cereal supply in markets is generally above-average (+54 percent) thanks to a successful outcome of the 2016/17 campaign, this is not the case in certain regions (Bahr el-Ghazal, Lac, Kanem and Wadi Fira) due to insecurity. Food security has deteriorated in these areas given the depletion of stocks, early pastoral lean season and reduced household purchasing power as a result of a decrease in animal prices'⁵.

The same organisation also reports that a real pastoral crisis has been declared in 2017 in the regions concerned, including that of Barh El-Gazel. As reported in its 2017 Global Early Warning – Early Action Report on Food Security and Agriculture:

'The early lean season has resulted in a significant drop in livestock prices, straining the resources of thousands of pastoralist already affected by the Nigerian livestock export market halt. Livestock conditions deteriorated atypically in Kanem, Bahr El Gazel, Batha, Ouaddaï, Borkou, East-Ennedi, West-Ennedi and Wadi Fira regions. In this areas, water points have dried up and pasture is scarce, with increased livestock mortality. The situation was declared a pastoral crisis in June 2017'⁶.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) drafted a short paper on prospects about social security in Chad from June 2018 to January 2019. As stated in the paper, most of the poor families in six regions (including Bahr El Gazel) will not have, until September 2018, the minimum income needed to ensure their own livelihood, as a result of the recent pastoral crisis⁷. However, the food situation in the areas concerned is reckoned to slightly improve as of mid-August this year, shifting from a 'crisis' to a 'stress' situation⁸.

Among the sources consulted, no specific information could be found on the existence of a similar situation of pastoral crisis and food insecurity in the region of Mayo-Kebbi Ouest from 2015 to 2018.

³ UNICEF, *Chad Humanitarian Situation Report*, 31 December 2016, p. 3 ([url](#)).

⁴ UNICEF, *Chad Humanitarian Situation Report*, 31 December 2016, p. 2 ([url](#)).

⁵ FAO, *Chad*, n.d. ([url](#)).

⁶ FAO, *Global Early Warning – Early Action Report on Food Security and Agriculture*, July-September 2017, p. 21 ([url](#)).

⁷ FEWS NET, *Perspectives sur la sécurité alimentaire – Tchad juin 2018 à janvier 2019*, June 2018 ([url](#)).

⁸ FEWS NET, *Perspectives sur la sécurité alimentaire – Tchad juin 2018 à janvier 2019*, June 2018 ([url](#)).



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