



Community-Based Responses to Climate Mobility and Urban Conflict in Moundou, Chad

Climate Mobility Context

In Chad, rapid rural-to-urban migration driven by drought, land degradation and resource scarcity is reshaping cities such as Moundou. The resulting influx of people strains urban infrastructure, contributes to informal settlements with limited access to services, and heightens social tensions – particularly between host communities, displaced populations and refugees.

Moundou, Chad's economic capital and second-largest urban centre, is a major destination for agricultural labour, mainly in the agricultural sector ([Mbaipago et al., 2022](#); [IOM, 2022](#)). The influx of rural populations fleeing degraded farmland has fuelled rapid and unplanned urban growth. Within this context, women play a central role in sustaining households, managing informal markets, and mediating neighbourhood disputes.

“As places of vulnerability but also of creativity, our future stability will be determined in our cities. By placing security, conflict sensitivity, and gender equality at the heart of our responses, we can transform these challenges into opportunities for resilience and social cohesion.”

Alhadj Tchoroma Adoum Soumain
National Coordinator and member of the National Assembly, Chad

Approach

The response in Moundou has focused on strengthening community dialogue, inclusive resource management and local conflict prevention - with particular attention to the participation of women, youth and local authorities in building social cohesion and resilience. Key interventions include:

- **Mixed committees** of local authorities, women's associations, and youth leaders, responsible for managing water points and preventing conflicts.
- **Training** in mediation and climate change, using a gender-sensitive approach and documented in municipal reports, field surveys and local testimonies.
- **Urban micro-projects** such as community vegetable gardens and women's cooperatives, to strengthen economic and social resilience.

Key stakeholders

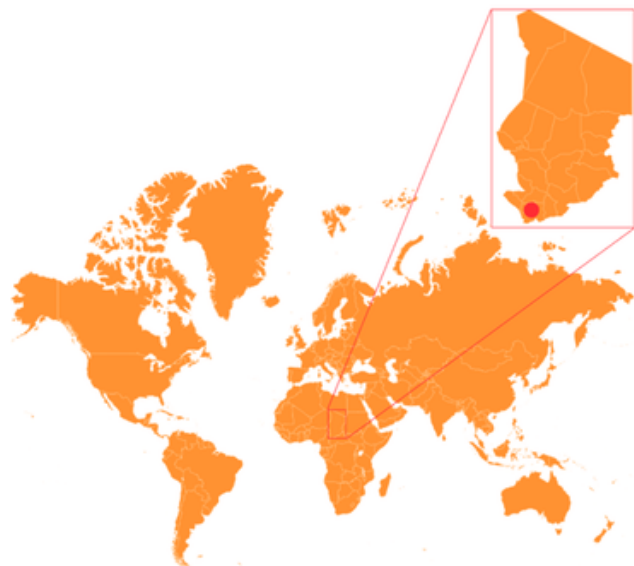
- **Local authorities:** Moundou Town Hall and the municipal technical services approved joint committees and facilitated access to infrastructure, providing institutional legitimacy.
 - **Community associations:** Women's and youth groups mobilized residents, organised initial meetings, and proposed shared management rules, securing community buy-in.
 - **Technical partners:** GIZ and local NGOs provided methodological and financial support, supplying the tools and expertise to structure and strengthen the committees.
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Impact to Date

Joint water management committees: Mixed men's/women's committees established in outlying neighbourhoods led to a 35% reduction in reported water-point conflicts by 2023. In Ngolo, equitable water distribution helped prevent clashes between displaced and host families.

Training and local mediation: Thirty women leaders were trained in social mediation and conflict management, easing tensions between displaced and host populations – particularly over market garden plots. In Moundou Nord, a dispute over well access was resolved through local mediation, avoiding the need for security force intervention.

Women-led urban micro-projects: Women's clubs launched soap and eco-friendly brick production, giving 15 women a regular income and strengthening their role in family and community life. In the Dombao neighbourhood, soap production has helped fund the education of 20 children and reduce families' economic dependence.



Learnings

Climate mobility is also an urban issue, not just a rural one. Displacement strains urban infrastructure but also drives local innovation - housing cooperatives, community water management systems, and sustainable transport. Cities must build the capacity to integrate mobile populations and strengthen their resilience.

Women are strategic actors in resource management and mediation, not just victims of climate impacts. Their role in managing natural resources and preventing conflict is central to resilience outcomes – projects with strong women's participation in local governance tend to be more sustainable. This participation should be institutionalised through targeted training and inclusive management committees.

Urban security and climate resilience are inextricably linked. Unaddressed resource tensions – over water, land or energy – can escalate into conflict, especially in informal settlements. Resilience policies should integrate community mediation mechanisms, dialogue spaces between authorities and displaced populations, and stronger social protection systems.

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For specific questions and further inquiry on the case study, please contact alhadjtchoroma@gmail.com

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