

CHAD

COUNTRY PROFILE



FAST FACTS



Chad is a landlocked country in Central Africa. Bordered by Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south Cameroon and Nigeria to the southwest, and Niger to the west.



Capital: N'Djamena



Population: 15.294 million



Total land area: 1.284 million km²



Official Language: Arabic and French



Religion(s): Islam, Christian, Indigenous beliefs



Currency: Central African CFA Franc



Climate: Hot tropical climate, temperatures vary depending on area. The southern rainy season runs from May-October and the central rainy season runs from June-September. The north has very little rain all year, whilst the dry season is often windy and cooler in the evenings



Terrain: Broad arid (dry or barren) plains in the center, desert in the north, mountains in the northwest and lowlands in the south



Natural resources: Uranium, natron, kaolin and petroleum



National day: The National day in Chad is March 17th and Independence Day is celebrated on August 11th



National symbol: Chad Coat of Arms



National anthem: La Tchadienne



Key landmarks: Lakes of Ounianga, Grand Mosque N'Djamena, Avenue Charles De Gaulle, N'Djamena Cathedral



Wildlife: Red- fronted gazelle, dama gazelle, dorcas gazelle, patas monkey, striped hyena, sudan cheetah, chadian wild dog, elephant, lion, buffalo, hippopotamus, giraffe, antelope, cheetah



CHAD ranks 186 out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI): A statistic of life expectancy, education, and per capita amongst others.

CHAD: CONFLICT AND DISASTERS



1960: Chad becomes independent. Mr Tombalbaye becomes the president. Previously Chad was a colony of France 

1963: The banning of political parties triggers violent opposition in the Muslim North, led by the Chadian Nation Liberation Front, known as Frolinat

1973: French troops help to stop the northern revolt, but Frolinat continues guerrilla operations throughout the 1970's and 1980's with the help of weapons that were supplied by Libya 

1975: Tombalbaye is removed in a coup led by Felix Malloum

1977: Libya annexes the northern Chadian Aouzou strip

1979: Malloum is forced to leave the country, a coalition government headed by a Muslim northerner Goukouni Oueddei, assumes power 

1980: Libya sends troops to support Oueddei in his fight against the army in the north, led by former Prime Minister, Hissene Habre

1981: Libyan troops withdraw at Oueddei's request

1982: Habre seizes power, he is later accused of mass political killings during his rule

1983: The Organisation of African Unity recognises Habre's government, but Oueddei's forces continue resistance in the north with Libyan help

1987: Troops from Frolinat and the Chadian Government, with assistance from France and United States, force Libya out of the entire northern region apart from the Aouzou strip and parts of Tibesti

1990: Habre toppled by former ally, Idriss Deby

1993: National democracy conference sets up a transitional government with Deby as interim president, there are calls for free elections within a year

1994: International Court of Justice rejects Libyan claims on Aouzou and rules that Chad has sovereignty over the strip 

1996: Deby wins Chad's first multi-party presidential elections

2002: January - Government and Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT) rebels sign Libyan-brokered peace deal intended to end the three year civil war. In May MDJT rebels and government forces clash, 64 people are killed

2003: Government signs peace deal with National Resistance Army (ANR) rebels who are active in the east. Chad becomes an oil exporter. In December MDJT and government sign another peace accord 

2004: In January and February thousands of Sudanese refugees arrive in Chad to escape fighting in the Darfur region of western Sudan

2005: Voters back constitutional changes which allow for a president to stand for a third term. Former president Hissene Habre, is arrested in Senegal over allegations of crimes against humanity 

2006: Rebels seeking to oust President Deby fight with government forces on the outskirts of the capital – Chad cuts diplomatic ties with Sudan – accusing it of backing the rebels. A state of emergency is imposed in eastern areas bordering Sudan's Darfur region after ethnic cleansing is reported

2007: UN refugee agency warns that violence against civilians in Chad could turn into genocide

2008: Sudan cuts diplomatic relations with Chad and Chad responds by closing its border and cutting economic ties

2010: President Deby and his Sudanese counterpart, Omar al-Bashir hold talks – their first meeting in six years. The Chad -Sudan border reopens

2011: Parliamentary elections that had to be postponed are held. Presidential elections are also held and President Deby is re-elected – the elections were boycotted by the opposition

2012: President Deby calls on countries neighboring northern Nigeria to set up a joint military force to tackle Boko Haram militants 

2014: Chad closes its border with the strife-torn Central African Republic

2015: Boko Haram attacks the Chadian shore of Lake Chad

2016: President Deby announces he will run for 5th term of office in the presidential election

2017: President Deby announces that parliamentary elections will be postponed as the country is too short of money to hold them. Nine soldiers are killed in an attack by Boko Haram 

2018: Parliament approves a new constitution expanding the president's powers

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13164690>

KEY WORDS

Coup: A sudden, violent and illegal seizure of power from a government.

Guerrilla warfare: A style of fighting/ tactics used in warfare. It normally consists of a military group of irregulars or civilians, involving irregular military actions (such as harassment and sabotage) carried out by small usually independent forces.

Diplomatic relations: An arrangement between two countries by which each has representatives in the other country.

The world must work together to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 6, 13 & 16 in Chad.



GOAL 2 ZERO HUNGER: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Children all over the world including in Ireland go to bed hungry every day. *What action do you think you could take in your school to raise awareness about goal 2?*



GOAL 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING: Ensure that people have access to healthcare, vaccines and medicines and help countries manage risk. For many people living in Chad access to health care is not available. Have a conversation in the classroom about the importance of good health and wellbeing. Life expectancy in Chad is 53-55 years of age- think about how young a person is at 53 years old. *What age are your grandparents?*



GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Access to safe water and sanitation is essential to human health. *Think of ways in your school/ group that you can raise awareness about the importance of water and sanitation.*



GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION. Natural disasters will continue to disrupt the lives of the Chadian people if Climate Change is not tackled globally. Urgent action is needed to combat climate change and its impacts. *What can be done to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?*



GOAL 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS: The promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development at all levels. Chad has a long history of political unrest which has led to outbreaks of violence with neighbouring countries whose conflicts often spill over into Chad. *What can be done to build stronger institutions and promote peace?*

CONFLICT IN AND SURROUNDING CHAD

Chad faces a variety of complex issues. There has been significant violence between government and antigovernment forces based in different parts of the country. Conflict in neighbouring countries, Sudan and the Central African Republic has led to hundreds of thousands of refugees entering the country which has put further strain on an already strained economy. Chad continues to suffer from the effects of widespread conflict in the Lac region in the West, and the spillover from neighbouring crisis in Sudan, Nigeria, Libya and the Central African Republic creates increased competition for already scarce resources. Land conflicts and issues surrounding water have exacerbated food insecurity for the very poorest. The lack of infrastructure, education and access to health care, as well as high levels of illiteracy in these already overstretched areas mean that the malnutrition crisis continues. The Chadian army has also contributed troops to several peacekeeping missions and pledged support to help combat Boko Haram.

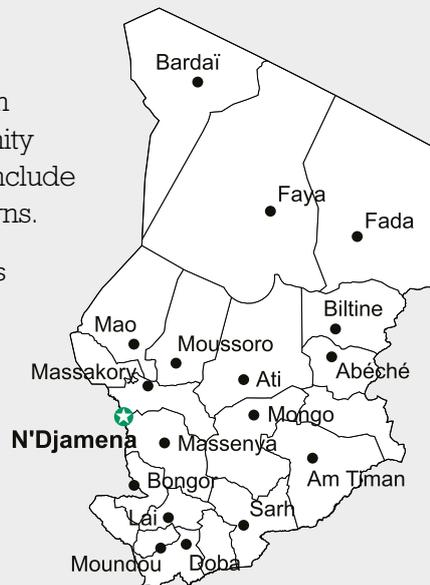


What are Concern doing?

Concern has been working in **Chad** since 2007. Our work in the Sila region of eastern Chad focuses on building community resilience to counter potential shocks and disasters, which include the effects of climate change caused by erratic rainfall patterns.

We are responding to the humanitarian needs of displaced populations in western Chad, implementing health and nutrition programmes to deliver life-saving assistance. Concern works between agro-pastoral, pastoral and farming communities to avoid conflicts on the use of resources.

The Lac region is home to around 118,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as well as vulnerable host communities. Concern has constructed two health facilities and provided them with maternity medical equipment. Using a community based approach, we are working to prevent malnutrition through a network of 104 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) that work in 39 villages and four IDP sites. In the Sila region in eastern Chad, an effective emergency response to a Cholera outbreak in 2017 helped prevent major loss of life and stemmed the epidemic within a three-month period. Working in 20 villages in partnership with UNICEF, we disinfected homes, chlorinated water in wells and boreholes and led community sessions on hygiene and sanitation reaching over 133,000 people to prevent further spread of the disease. Concern is working in 91 villages to enhance local communities' resilience in the Sila region. In 2017, we reached 37,515 people directly. Concern also has programmes which aim to improve health and tackle malnutrition and a programme for promoting gender equality – by placing women at the heart of the community structures that we support, we are promoting female leadership and decision-making. We are engaging men through community dialogue to help foster relationships of mutual respect and ensure that women's voices are listened to. In 2017, we held training sessions on women's life skills in 14 villages for adults and adolescents.



Want to Learn MORE?

Concern Worldwide's Active Citizenship team run workshops for students during the academic year. If you are interested in exploring and critically examining global issues in the classroom please contact us on schools@concern.net

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READ



<https://www.globalgoals.org/>
to learn more about the SDG's

WATCH



Videos of the programmes we deliver and projects we are working on -
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2afDH0501x0

ACT



Raise awareness about Chad in your school and local community

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