

Country – capital	Republic of Chad - N'Djamena
Population	Total population 17.4 million (est. 2022). ¹ Ethnic groups: Sara 30.5%, Kanembu/Bornu/Buduma 9.8%, Arab 9.7%, Wadai/Maba/Masalit/Mimi 7%, Gorane 5.8%, Masa/Musseye/Musgum 4.9%, and many more smaller groups. ²
Geography	African Sahel, south of Libya, betw. Niger and Sudan, north of Cameroon/ CAR ³
Languages – official / lingua franca	French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in south), more than 120 different languages and dialects ⁴
Writing system	Latin and Arabic ⁵
Education and literacy	<p>Low literacy rate: 22.3% (14% female, 31% male)⁶ Chad has a low level of schooling, half of children out of school are girls. 70 % of youth (77% of the girls aged 15-24) cannot read or write. More than 600,000 refugee children are in need of schooling.⁷</p> <p>Primary school starts at age 6 in urban areas (age 7 in the countryside) with duration of 6 years. Although in theory these and the 3 years that might follow should be free, in practice parents pay school fees and teacher's salaries too. At the end of primary school the examination for the <i>Certificat d'Etudes Primaires</i> determines whether students are promoted to secondary school, or go to technical or vocational school instead. Few children enter secondary school, many more boys than girls. After the first 3 years (of total 6 secondary education) state subsidies stop, and only children from wealthy parents most likely remain on to achieve their secondary school leaving certificate.⁸</p>
Religions	Muslim 52.1%, Protestant 23.9%, Rom-Cath. 20%, animist 0.3%, none 2.8% ⁹
Conflict history and overview	After independence (1960), instability and civil war, general Deby took power from President Habre in 1990. Chad got a constitution and held elections in 1996. Deby led the country until April 2021, a day after he had won his 6 th term, he was killed during a rebel incursion. After his death, a group of military officials - led by Deby's son - took control of the government. They dismissed the National Assembly, suspended the Constitution, and formed a Transitional Military Council, pledging to hold democratic elections in October 2022. ¹⁰
Humanitarian situation	<p>Life expectancy at birth: 59 yrs (2019).¹¹ Population below poverty line: 40%.¹² In need of humanitarian aid: 6.1 million – food insecurity due to irregular rains, floods, and droughts.¹³ HDI (Human Development index) ranking: 186 out of 189 countries (2018).¹⁴</p> <p>Chad faces widespread poverty, an economy severely weakened by low international oil prices. Northern Chad has seen several waves of rebellions since 1998. The Lake Chad Basin is suffering from multiple attacks and serious human rights violations by Nigerian terrorist groups Boko Haram/ISWAP. Over 400,000 people were internally displaced in the region (Sept. 2021).¹⁵</p>
Human rights situation	Repression of government critics; authorities arbitrarily detained human rights defenders and civil society activists; violated right to freedom of expression. ¹⁶
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	<p>Maternal mortality rate: 1140 deaths per 100,000 live births (2017)¹⁷</p> <p>Child marriages: 24% of girls are married by age of 15, 60% by age 18.¹⁸ Due to school closure (COVID-19) the rate of early and forced marriages of girls increased. Widespread discrimination and violence against women and girls.¹⁹</p> <p>FGM prevalence: 38.4 % (2015) types I and II, mostly in southeast.²⁰</p>
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex sexual relations are punishable with 3 months to 2 years prison (Penal Code 2017). Limited info on law enforcement. ²¹
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	IDPs within Chad: 400,000 (as of Sept. 2021), due to natural disasters and conflicts in Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. ²² Malta Chadian sea arrivals: 2020 and 2021 unknown.

- ¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/chad-population/>
- ² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ³ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/chad/education>
- ⁸ <https://www.scholaro.com/pro/Countries/Chad/Education-System>
- ⁹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹³ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/chad/> ; <https://www.unocha.org/chad>
- ¹⁴ <https://countryeconomy.com/hdi/chad>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad> ; <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/chad>
- ¹⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/chad> ; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/chad/report-chad/>
- ¹⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹⁸ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/chad/report-chad/>
- ²⁰ <https://www.28toomany.org/country/chad/> ; <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR317/FR317.pdf>
- ²¹ <https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>
- ²² <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/chad> ; <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/chad>

© BDE 2022

This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.