



CHAD

**A TRADE UNION
FOCUS ON THE SDGs**

#HLPF2024

**WORKERS
DEMAND A
NEW SOCIAL
CONTRACT**

WORKERS NEED DURABLE RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE CRISES

Multiple crises, including humanitarian and security challenges, arising from both the Russia-Ukraine war and climate change – which caused serious flooding in 2022 – have affected SDG progress in Chad. The government declared a state of emergency in response to severe food insecurity and malnutrition in 2022 and 2024. Relief measures included a National Solidarity and Support Fund to increase food stocks, and fiscal reductions, primarily on food products. A national Covid-19 plan was adopted in response to the pandemic, and water and electricity were provided free-of-charge for a limited period during 2020. Trade unions were not associated with any of these measures, however.

Trade unions report that while there is no government policy specifically aimed at achieving SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work), other policies and strategies do contribute to it. These include the Master Plan for Industrialisation and Diversification of the Economy (PDIDE), the African Continental Free Trade Area implementation strategy, and national strategies on social protection and private sector development. A programme to boost entrepreneurship launched in 2023 provides CAF 30 billion in funding, as well as tax relief measures, for small businesses.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Chad's long-term national development strategy Vision 2030 is implemented through national development plans (NDPs) that integrate the SDGs into national priorities. The first NDP ran from 2017 to 2021, but was extended to 2023 due to delays in implementation. The Ministry of the Economy, Planning and International Cooperation has the overall responsibility for the NDP, implemented through the sectorial ministries.

In 2022, petroleum export receipts were expected to double, and Chad reached an agreement with its creditors under the G20 Common Framework that will reduce its risk of debt distress to a moderate level by the end of 2024. However,

these developments have not yet translated into increased funding for the SDGs. Following the death of former President Idriss Déby in 2021, roadmaps for political transition have focused on restoring constitutional order, security and electoral stability, thus diverting resources from development programmes.

Civil society organisations are in theory involved in formulating and evaluating national policies to implement the SDGs, as required by development partners. However, this is not always effective. Consultations are centralised within ministries, with no local coordination to encourage trade union participation. There is no national dialogue with the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



No involvement of social partners by the national government on SDG national plan definition and implementation

IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

With a human development index (HDI) of 0.394 and ranking 190th out of 191, Chad is one of the world's least developed countries. At least one third of the population live below the international poverty threshold of USD 2.15 a day. The country is not on track to meet **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)**. Social protection systems (target 1.3) are almost non-existent. **Access to essential services (target 1.a.2)** is low but improving: in 2022 the proportion of the population using basic drinking water services increased to 52 per cent and sanitation services to 12.9 per cent. The proportion of total government spending on essential education services increased to 15.1 per cent in 2021.

Chad has enshrined gender equality in the transitional constitution and ratified international and regional treaties. However, major challenges remain in practice: too many females are married before 18; experience violence including genital mutilation; and cannot complete their primary education. For many indicators, including **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, recent data are unavailable. The ratio of female to male labour force participation was 68 per cent in 2022. Progress is being made on **target 5.5 (women's full and effective participation)** as the proportion of women in the National Transitional Council increased to 25.9 per cent in 2022.

In 2022, 76 per cent of Chad's population were estimated to live in rural areas. With regard to **target 8.3 (support decent job creation)**, 90 per cent of non-agricultural jobs were deemed informal in 2018, and 91 per cent of all jobs were deemed precarious or vulnerable in 2021. Latest national statistics under **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** show that the official unemployment rate stands at 2 per cent, the expanded unemployment rate at 18.5 per cent, and underemployment at 4 per cent. Chad has a young population with 81 per cent under the age of 34. On **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)**, the NEET

rate for 15- to 24-year-olds was 37 per cent in 2018, with a higher rate for females (46 per cent) than males (25 per cent). Much work remains to meet **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)**. The latest figures indicate that 39 per cent of children aged 5 to 17 are engaged in child labour. On **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, no recent data are available on the number of accidents or labour inspectors. Chad has ratified ILO conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

On **SDG 10**, the labour income share as a percentage of GDP decreased to 42.4 per cent in 2020, indicating there is still much to be done to achieve **target 10.4 (progressively achieve greater equality)**. Chad has a statutory minimum living wage of CAF 60,000. The governance framework to meet **target 10.7 (migration and mobility)** is evolving positively, with action plans in place. Chad faces a wide range of migration flows, including displaced people from neighbouring countries, and human trafficking is a particular challenge. Progress is hampered by insufficient migration data and there is scope for greater involvement of social partners in migration policies.

Chad's geographical and landlocked location makes it especially vulnerable to climate change. Under **SDG indicator 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into policies)**, Chad has a UN-supported National Adaptation Plan in place.

On **SDG 16**, with regard to **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)** in 2023 Chad was deemed to have systematic violations of rights under the ITUC Global Rights Index and its press freedom score had decreased to 54 out of 100.

TRADE UNION ASKS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Trade unions repeat their call on the government of Chad to:

- Consolidate social dialogue processes and structures for the implementation of the SDGs and in crisis response strategies.
- Provide specific support to MSMEs and informal economy units, particularly in the Agri-food sector.
- Implement the national strategy for the elimination of the country's internal and external debt.
- Strengthen and extend social protection and ensure universal access to health care.
- Integrate SDG funding for each ministry concerned into the State's general budget.
- Provide for open participation in the national coordination structure on the SDGs to trade unions as well as local and rural organisations to promote ownership and local non-governmental participation.
- Decentralise the parliamentary commission on the follow-up and evaluation of the SDGs to bring the Goals closer to the local level throughout the country.
- Implement the communication strategies to promote the SDGs.
- Prioritise partnership agreements on development projects which promote sustainable development.

