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Chad at 60

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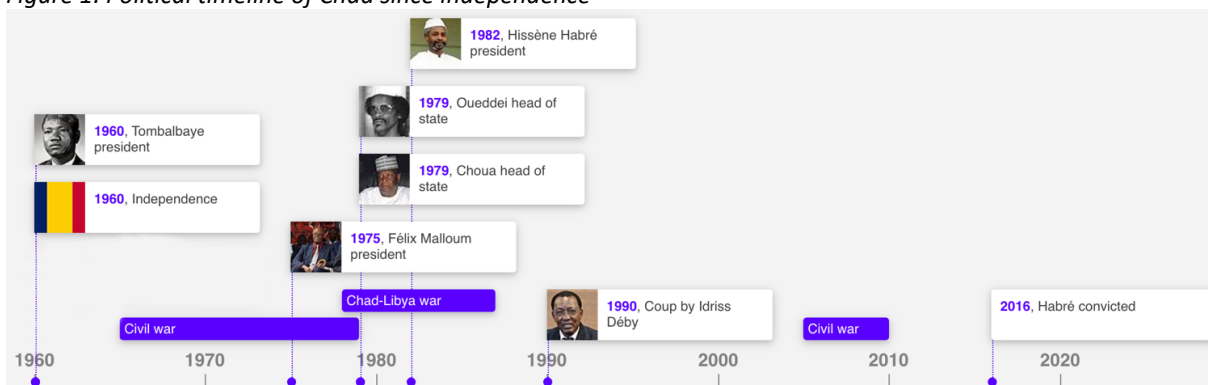
Chad at 60

Political history

1960 was the ‘Year of Africa’: many former colonies in Africa became politically independent. Of the seventeen colonies gaining independence in that year, Chad was the

eleventh one: on August 11. Colonial rule under the French began in 1900, in 1910 it became part of French Equatorial Africa (see Figure 1 for a political timeline).

Figure 1: Political timeline of Chad since independence



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

A large measure of autonomy was conceded under the constitutional law of 1957, when the first territorial government was formed by Gabriel Lisette, a West Indian, who had founded the Chad Progressive Party (PPT). But it was N’Garta Tombalbaye who served as the country’s first President on independence. As the 1960s wore on, however, the guerrilla movements Frolinat (Front for the National Liberation of Chad) and FNT (Chad National Front) formed an opposition to the government, ushering in a first period of civil war between 1966 and 1979. A period of political instability followed, with the conflict expanding to include Libya in the 1980s. Heavy fighting, including forces not only from Chad and Libya but also from France and the United States, occurred throughout this period, until a truce was called in 1987, effectively ending the regional conflict. Political tensions within Chad, however, continued, as Idriss Déby organised a powerful resistance against Hissène Habré, who had seized power in 1982 and put in place a brutal regime.

Déby’s coup in 1990 marked a turning point in Chad’s political history; he has been firmly in power since that time. Under the first 15 years of Déby’s rule, multiparty elections were introduced and Chad became an oil-producing country. Security, however, remained fragile, tested by rebellions and political tension. His regime,

meanwhile, also became increasingly repressive. Rebellion and tensions with Sudan escalated into civil war in the mid-2000s, which was only ended in 2010 with the signing of a peace agreement between Chad and Sudan in January of that year. Several years later, Hissène Habré was taken into custody by a special African Union court in Dakar, Senegal, and convicted three years later of crimes against humanity. The past years have seen an increase in militancy and violence by Islamic groups in Chad’s border regions, for example by Boko Haram; with considerable international support, Idriss Déby has become a pivotal figure in the regional fight against this violence.

Conflict, state fragility, and travel risks

For African standards Chad is in the very risky range on the ‘security risk’ indices. Before the COVID-19 crisis, in December 2019, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs had put more than half of the country in the ‘red’ zone, including all border areas (= don’t travel). The other parts of the country were placed in the ‘orange’ zone (= only travel if really necessary) [Currently, August 2020, all ‘danger zoning’ has been disturbed by the global COVID-19 crisis].

The State Fragility Index of the Fund for Peace puts Chad in the 'high alert range', with 108.5 points (most negative score would be 120.0 points; for Africa, 'high alert' is almost the highest risk category) (<https://fundforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/9511904-fragilestatesindex.pdf>). The index consists of twelve variables, and Chad has the least negative scores for group

grievances (but still a very high score of 8.2 out of 10), but extremely problematic scores for factionalised elites (score: 9.8), and for state legitimacy (score: 9.6). The country has had long periods of civil war, first from 1965 to 1996 (also with massive involvement of Libya), and then again from 2003 to 2008, related to the violence in the Darfur region in Sudan, see before.

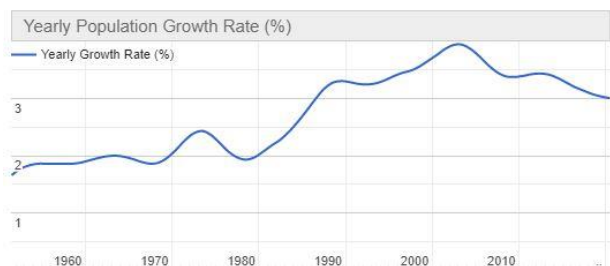
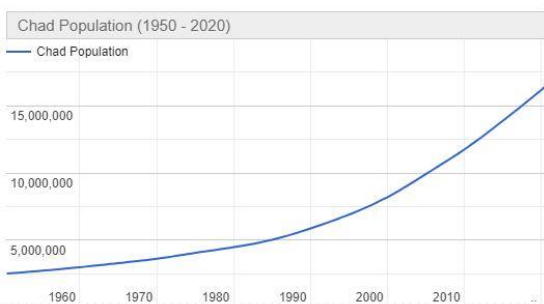


https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/chad_en.png

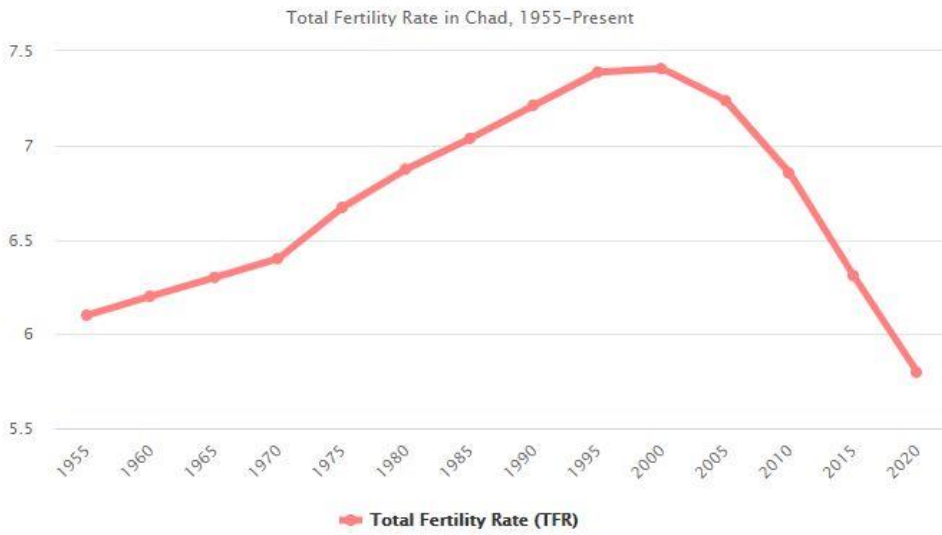
Demography

Chad's population increased more than fivefold between 1960 and 2020, from 3.0 million in 1960 to 16.4 million in mid 2020, mostly through high fertility rates and longer life expectancy for both males and females (also because of rapidly improving child and infant mortality figures). Population growth figures were more than two percent per year in 1963, 1970-1976, and after 1980, and more than three percent per year from 1987 onwards. Currently the average growth rate is around 3.0 percent per year. Total fertility was around 6.2 per woman in 1960; it first

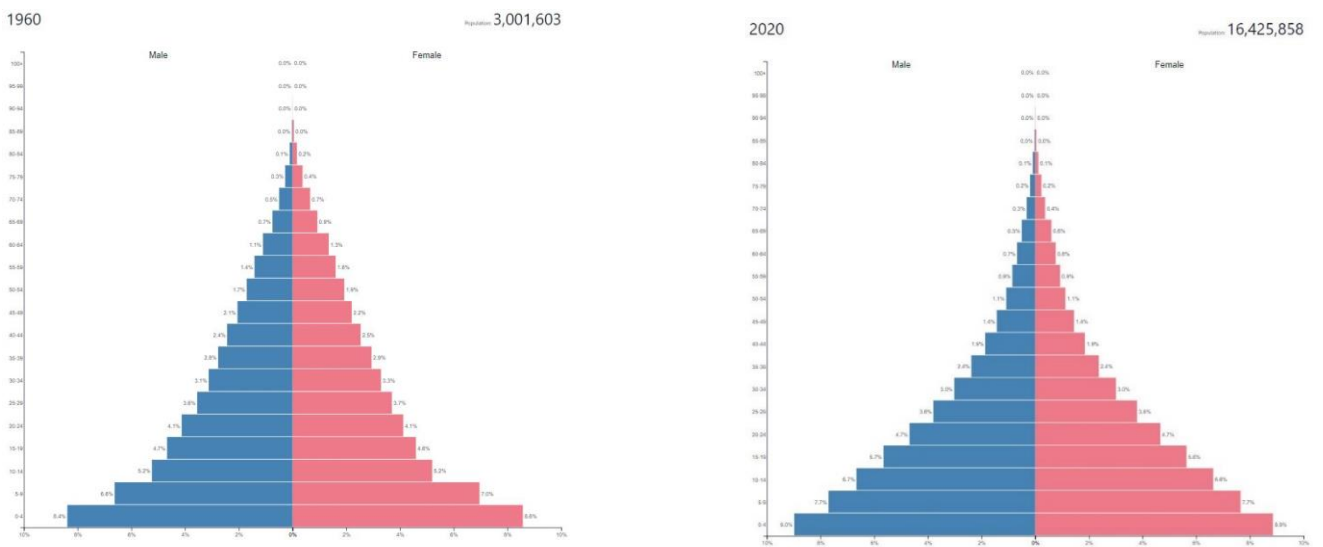
increased to 7.4 around 2000, and then started to diminish, with currently 5.8 births per average woman in Chad during her lifetime. As a result of these demographic developments Chad has a very skewed population pyramid, with many more young people than adults and elderly people. The median age changed from 19.9 years old in 1960, to 15.4 years old during the 2005, and is currently 16.6 years old. Urbanisation is on the increase, but is still relatively low; currently 23 percent of the total population lives in cities.



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Source: Worldometers



Source:

<https://www.populationpyramid.net/chad/>

Demographic statistics, Chad as a whole, 1960 and 2020

	1960	2020
Population	3.0 million	16.4 million
Fertility rate	6.2 children per woman	5.8 children per woman
Life expectancy (males)	37 years	54 years
Idem (females)	41 years	57 years
Median age	19.9 years	16.6 years
Infant mortality (< 1 yr)	169/1000	67/1000
Under-5 mortality	284/1000	112/1000
Urbanisation rate	7%	23%
Urban population	0.2 million	3.8 million
Rural population	2.8 million	12.6 million

Source: Worldometers

Human Development Index, Chad as a whole, 1990 and 2018

Human Development Index data exist since 1990, with annual UNDP updates. For Chad the data in the globaldatalab starts in 2000. In 2000, Chad's Human Development Index started at a level of 0.298, very low for world standards. The HDI consists of a health index, an income index and an education index, while UNDP also provides data about life expectancy, and some other indicators. For Chad the various components of the HDI

show a gradual improvement after 2000. Between 2000 and 2018 Chad's population increased from 8.4 million people to 15.5 million people. The increase in the HDI between 2000 and 2018 can be attributed to improvements in all components: health, education and standard of living, and can also be seen in the data for life expectancy. However, the most significant growth took place in education. Average income levels per capita (in US\$ of 2011, PPP) increased from 978\$ in 2000 to 1,716\$ in 2018.

Chad: HDI and its composition, and indicators; data for 1990, and 2018

	2000	2018	2018/2000
Health Index	0.426	0.523	1.23
Income Index *	0.344	0.429	1.25
Education Index	0.180	0.288	1.60
Life Expectancy	47.7	54.0	1.13
GNI/capita in US\$ (2011PPP)	978	1,716	1.75
Mean years of schooling	1.4	2.4	1.71
Expected years of schooling	4.9	7.5	1.53
Total HDI index	0.298	0.401	1.35

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0; * = for 2018 called 'standard of living component'

Trade statistics, Chad: exports and imports, 2018

In 2018 Chad exported products for a total value of 1.53 billion \$, and imported for a total value of 0.74 billion \$ (mostly from China, UAE, France, USA, and Qatar, in that order), resulting in a major positive trade balance. Leading

import products were packaged medicaments and crude petroleum.

The most important export products and most important export destinations in 2018 were:

Main export products (value in \$ million)		Main export destinations (value in \$ million)	
Crude petroleum	1,320	India	460
Gold	136	USA	439
Insect resins	25	Netherlands	320
Oily seeds	24	UAE	138
Raw cotton	10	China	84

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/tcd>

If we compare Gross Domestic Product, Exports and Imports, and we use Macrotrends data for (which differ

from the data from OEC), we get the following average picture for the four-year period of 2016-2019.

4.1 b\$	7.1 b\$	3.6 b\$
	Home Use	Exports
Imports	Gross Domestic Product: 10.7 b\$	

Sources:

<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/TCD/cad/gdp-gross-domestic-product>;
<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/TCD/cad/exports>;
<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/TCD/cad/imports>

Protected areas and Forests

Chad currently has four national parks, and 19 other nature or fauna reserves, six Ramsar wetland sites, and two world heritage sites. According to Protectedplanet,

currently 26.8 million hectares are protected areas (21 % of Chad’s total area

(<https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/TCD>; also see <http://www.parks.it/world/TD/index.html>). Chad has 11.5 million hectares of forests; 9% of its total land area). However, between 1990 and 2010 Chad has lost 12%, or 1.6 million ha of its forest cover (<https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Chad.htm>). Other areas are mainly ‘other wooded land’, and areas for agriculture, livestock, hunting and gathering.

Agricultural Chad

Crop Area (in 1000 hectares), and total production (in 1000 tonnes), 1961 and 2018, in the order of the crop areas in 2018:

	1961		2018		2018/1961	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Millet	572	317	1222	757	2.1	2.4
Sorghum	658	398	1139	988	1.7	2.5
Groundnuts	170	130	787	894	4.6	6.9
Cereals, other or not specified	15	9	496	581	33.0	64.6
Maize	9	9	342	438	38.0	48.7
Sesame seed	15	5	325	173	21.7	34.6
Dry beans	111	30	222	152	2.0	5.1
Rice	22	23	186	260	8.5	11.3
Cotton (seed cotton + cotton lint and seed)	298	93	120	193	0.4	2.1
Other vegetables	40	69	58	188	1.5	2.7
Yam	15	110	51	485	3.4	4.4
Sweet potatoes	9	48	37	255	4.1	5.3
Melon seed	18	12	36	25	2.0	2.1
Cassava	8	30	35	284	4.4	9.5
Fruits and sugarcane	1	64	35	602	35.0	9.4
Other crops	2	5	9	21	4.5	4.2
Total crops (area)	1963		5100		2.6	

2018/1961: red = 2018 is below 1961; green: 2018 is more than 5.1 times the 1961 figures (that is: more than population increase in Chad from 3.1 to 15.5million between 1961 and 2018); black: in-between. Source: Faostat data.

Chad’s land area is 125.9 million hectares, and its crop area increased from 1.6% to 4.0% of its land area between 1961 and 2018. All food crop areas expanded, and expansion was very rapid for maize (and ‘unspecified cereals’), sesame seeds, fruits and sugarcane, and rice. Only the cotton area contracted (but production increased). Production figures have increased faster than population numbers for quite a number of crops (but not for the staple crops, except maize). Yield levels for millets and sorghum only increased a bit, and are low for world standards.

The numbers of all live animals, measured in stock units, and for all individual species (except chicken), expanded more rapidly than Chad’s population: in total 960% compared with 510%. Per capita the numbers of live animals in the country (measured in stock units) increased from 1.27 in 1961 to 2.4 in 2018, which is very high for African standards. The best performance can be seen for pigs (but at low numbers), and for camels, goats and sheep, but also the increase in cattle numbers is impressive.

Livestock numbers (x 1000)

	1961	2018	2018/1961
Asses	400	3080	7.7
Camels	300	7763	25.9
Cattle	4130	29063	7.0
Chicken	2500	6245	2.5
Goats	2000	36525	18.3
Pigs	5	110	22.0
Sheep	2000	33215	16.6
Livestock units	3896	37311	9.6

Source: Faostat data; 1 livestock unit = based on 1.0 camels; 0.7 cattle/asses; 0.1 goats/sheep/pigs; 0.01 chicken

International migration

In 2015 208,000 people who were born in Chad lived outside the country (1.5% of Chad’s total population of 14.3 million people inside and outside the country during that year), of which 190,000 elsewhere in Africa (mainly Sudan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Congo and CAR, in that order), and 18,000 outside Africa (0.1% of Chad’s total population: almost half of them in France; UN migration report 2015). In 2017 Chad had around 490,000 immigrants, mainly from Sudan, CAR, and Cameroon; UN Migration Report 2017). Between 1990 and 2017 the number of immigrants

increased from 74,000 in 1990 to 105,000 in 2000, to jump to 352,000 in 2005, 417,000 in 2010, and 517,000 in 2015, mainly as a result of the wars and violence in Sudan, and recently also in the CAR.

Urban Chad

Chad’s urban population increased from only 201,000 people in 1960 (only 7% of its national population at Independence) to 3.8 million in 2020 (23%). There is one major city: N’Djamena. Growth has been rapid.

Map of the cities in Chad



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a6/Cd-map.png>

Major urban areas in Chad

Cities (and region)	Population in thousands of inhabitants			
	Macrotrends: 1960	Worldometers, city, as given in 2020	Macrotrends: 2020	Wikipedia (1993 and 2008)
N'Djamena	71	721	1423	530 and 951
Moundou	100 and 142
Sahr	75 and 108

Source for 2020: <https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/chad-demographics/#life-exp>

Macrotrends (1960 and 2020) : <https://www.macrotrends.net/cities/20420/ndjamena/population>;

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Chad

Regional Inequality in Chad

Map	Region / Région	Population x 1000		'18/'00
		2000	2018	
	1 = N'Djamena	760	1250	1.64
	2 = Borkou, Ennedi, Tibesti, Kanem, Lac (North and Northwest)	910	1790	1.97
	3 = Guera, Batha Est and Ouest, Salamat (Centre and Southeast)	1030	1970	1.91
	4 = Ouaddai and Biltine/Wad Fira (East)	860	1550	1.80
	5 = Chari-Baguirmi (West)	970	1680	1.73
	6 = Mayo-Kebbi (Southwest)	940	1910	2.03
	7 = Logone Occ. and Or., Tandjile Est and Ouest (Extreme southwest)	1850	3360	1.82
	8 = Moyen Chari (South)	1040	1970	1.89
Chad as a whole		8360	15500	1.85

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0 ; Map: <https://www.ezilon.com/maps/images/africa/political-map-of-Chad.gif>

Chad has 18 Regions, and the Global Data Lab presents data for 2000 and 2018 (and for the years in between) for eight regions, where some regions have been joined together. The history of Chad's regions is quite chaotic. Between 2000 and 2018 all regions experienced rapid population growth, but the highest growth happened in the southwest (near Cameroon), and, surprisingly, the lowest growth in N'Djamena, the capital city. If we look at

the regional data for human development, which for Chad exist since 2000, we see that across the board improvements have taken place between 2000 and 2018. Both in 2000 and in 2018 the best conditions existed in the area of and around N'Djamena (but with the highest life expectancy in the east, the area of Ouaddai and Biltine/Wad Fira). In 2000, the worst SHDI conditions, and worst education situation existed in Ouaddai/Biltine, in

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fact the lowest levels of Africa as a whole. In 2018 the region with the worst SHDI and worst education conditions had shifted to the North (Borkou, Ennedi, Tibesti, Kanem, and Lac). However, both in 2000 and in

2018 the lowest life expectancy could be found in the South (Logone Occidental and Oriental, and Tandjile Est and Ouest).

Region	Subregional HDI/1000			Life expectancy (years)			Education index/1000		
	2000	2018	18/00	2000	2018	18/00	2000	2018	18/00
1	428	550	1.29	48.9	54.7	1.12	412	546	1.33
2	209	285	1.36	48.2	58.6	1.22	64	90	1.41
3	222	335	1.51	48.6	55.4	1.14	76	170	2.24
4	190	291	1.53	50.0	59.3	1.19	46	105	2.28
5	223	301	1.35	47.7	54.8	1.15	77	117	1.52
6	342	444	1.30	49.1	54.1	1.10	254	399	1.57
7	324	426	1.31	46.4	50.2	1.08	243	398	1.64
8	317	432	1.36	47.5	53.4	1.12	222	372	1.68
Chad	298	401	1.35	47.7	54.0	1.13	180	288	1.60
Ineq	2.25	1.93		1.08	1.18		8.96	6.07	

If we compare 2018 with 2000, the SHDI, life expectancy and particularly the education situation have all improved somewhat, with the fastest improvements in Ouaddai and Biltine (and for life expectancy in the North), and the relatively slowest improvements in N'Djamena (and for

life expectancy in the South). The regional differences in SHDI as a whole and in education became a bit less pronounced, but are still considerable, and for education extreme. Life expectancy showed a trend towards more regional inequality between 2000 and 2018.

Region	Income per capita (in US\$ PPP 2011)		
	2000	2018	18/00
1	1712	4373	2.55
2	874	1771	2.03
3	867	1498	1.73
4	861	1294	1.50
5	942	1774	1.88
6	1018	1604	1.58
7	974	1602	1.64
8	947	1627	1.72
Chad	978	1716	1.75
Ineq	1.99	3.38	

Finally, the GNI/capita figures also show extreme, and increasing regional inequality, with N'Djamena improving from 1,1712\$/capita in 2000 to 4,373\$/capita in 2018, and the East only from 861\$/capita to 1,294\$/capita [these are 2011US\$, PPP values]. In Chad, also the income inequality between the rich and the poor is high. The Gini coefficient increased from 39.8% in 2003 to 43.3% in 2011, and

decreased afterwards to a level of 38.3% in 2018 (<https://www.ceicdata.com/en/chad/poverty/td-gini-coefficient-gini-index-world-bank-estimate>, and <https://knoema.com/atlas/Chad/topics/Poverty/Income-Inequality/GINI-index>).

Further Reading

Country Portal: <http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl/chad>

Selected publications: <https://www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-2020-further-reading#Chad>



Reflecting on
60 years
of independence



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<https://www.ascleiden.nl/africa2020>

Country Information: Ton Dietz, David Ehrhardt and Fenneken Veldkamp

Country Portal: Harro Westra

Selected publications: Germa Seuren

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