



Diaspora engagement mapping CHAD

Facts & figures

Terminology: The term 'Chadians abroad' (French: *Tchadiens de l'étranger*), although the term diaspora is also used.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -

Voting from abroad:³

By proxy or in person at embassies/consulates



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2024).

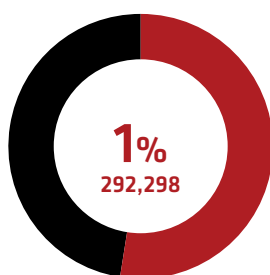
Emigration



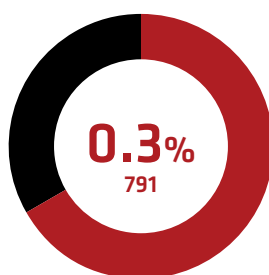
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 52.6%
♀ 47.4%



♂ 66.9%
♀ 33.1%

Top countries of destination



Sudan	179,139
Nigeria	33,524
Cameroon	30,917
Central African Republic	11,328
Congo	10,439

¹ Dual citizenship is legally recognised in Chad.

² <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/voting-from-abroad-the-international-idea-handbook.pdf> Voting for those living abroad for presidential election only.

³ Loi n°003/PR/09 du 07 janvier 2009 Portant Code électoral. Available at : http://www.rf2d.org/elections-loi-n-003-pr-9-tchad/#section_5_du_vote_des_tchadiens_de_lrsquotranger

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005** ● **Constitution of 31 March 1996, revised on 15 July 2005** grants all Chadians the right to free movement within Chad and to leave and return to the country, thereby promoting circular migration.
- 2011** ● **Decree N°11-839/PR/PM/MAT/11 of 2 August 2011 on the establishment, organisation and mandate of the National Reception Commission for the Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees⁴** aims to facilitate the framework for the return of returnees and their reintegration, among other provisions.
- 2013** ● **National Development Plan 2013-2015⁵** states that economic growth should be achieved via, inter alia, innovative financing models, including diaspora mobilisation.
- 2017** ● **National Development Plan 2017-2021:⁶** Under the strategic aim ‘Promoting governance/peacebuilding and strengthening internal and external security (borders)’, the NDP includes ‘promoting diaspora integration’ as an objective.
- 2017** ● **Vision 2030, The Chad We Want:⁷** This long-term development strategy states that Chad will implement innovative financial mechanisms aimed at mobilizing diaspora resources and remittances to Chad in order to increase private funding of growth sectors.

Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



Diaspora support for healthcare, TOKTEN/MIDA 2013-2014

In 2013, The UNDP Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and IOM Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programmes delivered a joint TOKTEN/MIDA project in Chad. The project deployed 19 members of the Chadian diaspora residing in France in partnership with the diaspora-led Group for Higher Education and Health in Chad Groupe d'entraide à l'Enseignement Supérieur et à la Santé au Tchad (GESST) to strengthen the capacities of institutions and actors in the health and higher education sectors in the country.⁸

Promoting the Engagement of the Chadian Diaspora in Support of the Development of Chad 2019

The IOM project “Promoting the Engagement of the Chadian Diaspora in Support of the Development of Chad”, supports the Government of Chad to mobilise and involve members of the Chadian diaspora to contribute to the country’s development efforts, in line with the National Development Plan. Activities in the first phase include mapping the Chadian Diaspora abroad to pinpoint diaspora associations in France and Niger. Diaspora members and the inter-ministerial committee will collaborate to outline action steps to ensure effective engagement of diaspora members to support various government sectors and contribute to the development of Chad.⁹

4 Décret N°11-839/PR/PM/MAT/11 du 2 août 2011 portant création, organisation et attributions de la Commission nationale d'accueil, de réinsertion des réfugiés et des rapatriés (CNARR)

5 Plan National de Développement (PND) 2013-2015

6 Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/pd/fid/5b34ac4f4.pdf>

7 Available at: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cha186305.pdf>; Official English version.

8 <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/TCD/Rapport%20final%20TOKTEN.pdf> / <https://tchadinfos.com/tchad/diaspora-tchad-ienne-appui-aux-services-de-sant-nationaux/> <http://www.gesstchad.org/partenaires/pnud-et-oim>

9 <https://migrationjointinitiative.org/sites/default/files/files/pdf/iom-chad-glance.pdf>

Afric Benelux-Chad Trade Missions 2015

Diaspora enterprise Afric have been running trade missions to Chad since 2015. The missions work to promote economic development, access to finance, training and the international market for Chadian SMI/SMEs, with a particular focus on the agro-industrial and sylvo-pastoral sectors. The 5th edition of the Benelux-Chad Agribusiness Trade Mission to N'Djamena was organized in 2019 to connect African and European public and private organisations. It resulted in 20 agreements and partnership contracts with Dutch firms, as well as the priming of 10 start-ups and development of business plans for nine projects. [f]

IOM study on diaspora remittances

In June 2020, IOM launched a study on diaspora remittance-sending behaviours of the Chadian diaspora in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study surveyed over 800 households in the capital to understand how the diaspora sends remittances, how these resources are used by recipients and the overall impact of remittances on households' economic conditions.

Campaign against COVID-19

In 2020, members of the Chadian diaspora conducted a campaign to raise awareness among people in Chad about the dangers of COVID 19 and the need to follow public health guidelines.

>> Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

Decades of conflict in Chad has led to political instability in the country and a lack of economic opportunities, which have also contributed to brain drain in the country and have created skills shortages in the health, education, and energy sectors. In 2019, President Déby called for greater involvement of the diaspora in Chad's development efforts, and noted the need for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the heads of diplomatic and consular missions to raise awareness, mobilise and support the diaspora in order to address skills shortages in key sectors.

Chad has had to face the spread of terrorism, illicit trafficking, including trafficking in human beings linked to clandestine immigration, as well as transnational organized crime. Diaspora activists have conducted advocacy to highlight these challenges, as well as alleged human rights abuses in the country. Chadian diaspora organisations and communities abroad have played an active role in supporting the country's democratisation process. Since the death of President Idriss Déby in April 2021 and the establishment of a military-led transitional government, they have consistently called for a transparent transition to democracy.

In December 2023, the diaspora was consulted on the new Constitution that was adopted with overwhelming support. The Constitution, however, does not include new provisions

regarding the diaspora. Despite the lack of institutional recognition, the newly-appointed Prime Minister Allah-Maye Halina expressed his vision to mobilise the Chadian diaspora for national development during his general policy address in June 2024, citing their active role during the 2024 presidential election.

Obstacles



- **Lack of trust:** There is a lack of trust between the government and the diaspora, and the Chadian diaspora itself is polarised. Since 2010, Chad has faced an ongoing insurgency that has caused forced displacement in several states in the region. Chadians have been displaced to and over national boundaries, forming border communities on either side who often do not recognise these boundaries.
- **Low prioritisation in government:** Chad has suffered from decades of civil war; one result has been a polarised diaspora and a lack of capacity to prioritise diaspora engagement. The deployment of French and other European forces in Chad as part of Operation Barkhane from 2014 has helped to provide a measure of improved stability in Chad, but the Chadian authorities and the international community have had to prioritise issues of refugee protection and integration of migrants and Chadian returnees over diaspora engagement.
- **Lack of enabling policy environment:** Chad lacks dedicated diaspora engagement structures, policies and programmes, as well as resources for these. Remittance flows to the country make up a small percentage of Chad's economy, which has made it challenging for the government to prioritise resource allocation for diaspora engagement.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU-CIDO) 2008

AU-CIDO is responsible for implementing the AU's engagement with non-state actors through the involvement of the diaspora and civil society. Chad nominates a diaspora focal point to represent the country at AU-CIDO Continental Meetings.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, and Chadians abroad (*Ministère des Affaires étrangères, de l'Intégration africaine, et des Tchadiens de l'Etranger*)¹⁰ 2017

This ministry is the lead agency for diaspora engagement, and is responsible for overseeing the Directorate for Chadians Abroad to enable engagement with the Chadian diaspora through its missions overseas. [f]

- At sub-ministerial level

Directorate for Chadians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Direction des Tchadiens de l'Etranger du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères*), (n.d.),

This Directorate is responsible for developing policies and programmes to facilitate greater diaspora participation in the socio-economic life of the country.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Association Rémoise des Etudiants Tchadiens (ARET) 2013 France

Integration activities

ARET is an apolitical non-profit association in France, which aims to be the voice and image of Chad in Reims and throughout the Champagne Ardennes region. It provides a framework for the exchange and integration of Chadian students in the city.

Association d'Entraide Tchadienne en Aquitaine (AETA) France

Development activities

Integration activities

AETA works to contribute to all forms of awareness raising in terms of health, hygiene and education contributing to the socio-cultural development of Chad.

¹⁰ In some sources this Ministry is referred to as '*Ministère des Affaires étrangères, de l'Intégration africaine, et des Tchadiens à l'Etranger*', for example <http://diplomatie.gouv.td> or <https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/tchad-vaste-remaniement-minist%C3%A9riel-/1911084>

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)



Association des Tchadiens de Bretagne (ATB) 2009 France

Integration activities

ATB works to promote of Chadian culture and consolidate the bonds of fraternity and solidarity between Chadians and friends of Chad.

Association Solidarité France-Tchad de Rennes (ASFTR) 2007 France

Development activities

Integration activities

ASFTR works to bring together Chadians in Rennes around the ideals of unity and fraternity in solidarity with France; to promote humanitarian social development activities for Chadians in difficult situations in Rennes; to accompany and provide support through donations and legacies for the poor populations of Chad; and to stop illegal immigration from Chad to France.

Association Franco-Tchadienne de Bourgogne pour l'Entraide et la Solidarité (AFTBES) France

Development activities

AFTBES work to provide mutual aid and solidarity; its activities include collecting and sending medicines, books, school supplies and clothing to local communities in Chad.

Association des Ressortissants Tchadiens d'Indre-et-Loire (ARTIL) 2006 France

Development activities

Integration activities

ARTIL works to facilitate administrative procedures for members; to support the integration of Chadian nationals into French society; and to assist members in case of need. It provides development aid in liaison with the Chadian population, in particular the contributions to school and sanitary infrastructures, water wells, and the processing of artisanal products.

Association des Tchadiens d'Ile-de-France Centre (ATIF- Centre) 2012 France

Development activities

Integration activities

ATIF works to promote development in Chad, particularly in the economic, social and cultural fields. It mobilises Chadians in the diaspora to contribute to the establishment in Chad of an institutional environment that integrates the Chadian Diaspora as a fully-fledged actor in the development of the country.

Association Tchadienne de Midi-Pyrénées 2005 France

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

The Association Tchadienne de Midi-Pyrénées organises cultural and artistic activities to raise awareness of Chad, and to help the destitute through socio-educational and health projects. It works for reciprocal exchanges between Midi-Pyreneans and Chadians, and to support members in distress.

Groupe d'Entraide à l'Enseignement Supérieur et à la Santé au Tchad (GESST) 2013 France

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

GESST supports Chadian universities in terms of teaching, research and governance, and seeks to respond to the needs of Chadian health. This includes the development of a skills database; teaching missions carried out on request; mobilising medical care by health professionals; supporting research; and contributing to higher educational reforms.

World for Tchad 2011 France

- ☑ **Development activities**

Founded by a Chadian diaspora professional, World for Tchad aims to help inhabitants of villages in South-West Chad. It works to guarantee access to safe, potable water and WASH facilities for more than 26,000 people.

Original research:
Loksan Harley
Editing & update:
EUDiF (2026)

Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union

