



# 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 citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections  
for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



### Remittances



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

### Voting from abroad:<sup>3</sup>

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 (2023).

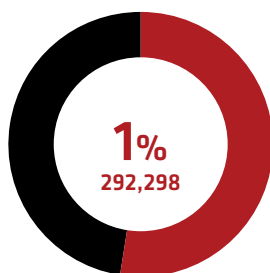
### Emigration



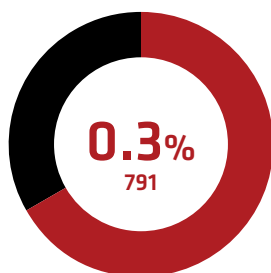
% of emigrants in  
total population



% 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 Ordonnance n. 33 du 14 août 1962 portant Code de la nationalité. Full text available at: [http://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Chad\\_Ordonnance\\_portant\\_code\\_de\\_la\\_nationalite\\_Tchadienne\\_33-PG.-INT\\_14-Aug-62.pdf](http://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Chad_Ordonnance_portant_code_de_la_nationalite_Tchadienne_33-PG.-INT_14-Aug-62.pdf). However, there is debate about whether dual citizenship is recognised as there are few explicit legal references to it in Chadian law, see for example: <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/docs/OtherEntities/OSJI%20CitizenshipAfricaStudy.pdf> and <https://www.refworld.org/docid/47d6547a23.html>

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](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 Returnees<sup>4</sup>** aims to facilitate the framework for the return of returnees and their reintegration, among other provisions.
- 2013** ▼ ● **National Development Plan 2013-2015<sup>5</sup>** states that economic growth should be achieved via, inter alia, innovative financing models, including diaspora mobilisation.
- 2015** ▼
- 2017** ▼ ● **National Development Plan 2017-2021:<sup>6</sup>** Under the strategic aim 'Promoting governance/peacebuilding and strengthening internal and external security (borders)', the NDP includes 'promoting diaspora integration' as an objective.
- 2021**
- 2017** ● **Vision 2030, The Chad We Want:<sup>7</sup>** 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.

### » Trends

Chad has suffered from decades of civil war; one result has been a polarised diaspora and a lack of capacity to prioritise diaspora engagement. Instability and a lack of economic opportunities have also contributed to brain drain in the country, creating skills shortages in the health, education, and energy sectors.<sup>8</sup>

Chadians have been displaced to and over national boundaries, forming border communities on either side who often do not recognise these boundaries.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>

Remittance flows to the country make up a small percentage of Chad's economy. This has made it challenging for the government to prioritise resource allocation for diaspora engagement policies and programmes. However, since 2019 the government has been working with IOM to undertake a mapping and to develop a diaspora engagement strategy. This project has led to the establishment of an inter-ministerial steering committee to support the coordination of project implementation and engage with the diaspora.<sup>11</sup>

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.

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 IOM (2012), *Etude préliminaire des migrations au Tchad*

9 Ibid.

10 See examples: Tchad Pages; Stop Boko Haram; DW article

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

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.<sup>12</sup>



## Achievements

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.<sup>13</sup> In spite of the challenges faced by the government, it has started to make some progress in diaspora engagement with the support of international partners.

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, mobilize, and support the diaspora in order to address skills shortages in the country, especially in the health, education, and energy sectors.<sup>14</sup>

More recently, it has sought to organise repatriation arrangements for Chadians abroad affected by travel restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic.<sup>15</sup> IOM launched a study in June 2020 of diaspora remittance-sending behaviours of the Chadian diaspora in light of the pandemic.<sup>16</sup> The Chadian diaspora has also been involved in raising awareness among people in Chad of the dangers of COVID 19 and the need to follow public health guidelines.<sup>17</sup>

## Obstacles



- **Lack of trust:** There is a lack of trust between the government and the diaspora, and the Chadian diaspora itself is polarised.<sup>18</sup>
- **Political instability:** Decades of conflict in Chad has led to political instability in the country. Since 2010, Chad has faced an ongoing insurgency that has caused forced displacement in several states in the region.
- **Lack of enabling policy environment:** Chad lacks dedicated diaspora engagement structures, policies, and programmes, as well as resources for these, although the government is working to address these challenges with support from IOM.

12 <https://journaldut Chad.com/le-tchad-veut-transformer-la-diaspora-en-un-moteur-de-developpement/>

13 ICMPD (2017), MICIC: Central African Republic at a Crossroads – Socio-economic Development Implications of Crisis-induced Returns to Cameroon and Chad, available at: [https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Central\\_African\\_Republic\\_CS\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Central_African_Republic_CS_FINAL.pdf)

14 [https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Tchad-l-appel-d-Idriss-Deby-a-la-diaspora\\_a79337.html](https://www.alwihdainfo.com/Tchad-l-appel-d-Idriss-Deby-a-la-diaspora_a79337.html)

15 <https://tchadinfos.com/politique/rapatriement-des-tchadiens-des-precisions-pour-les-ressortissants-de-benin-togo-et-burkina/>

16 <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/fr/derni%C3%A8re-heure/coronavirus/comprendre-le-comportement-des-envois-de-fonds-au-tchad-dans-le-cadre-de-la-covid-19>

17 <https://www.letchadanthropus-tribune.com/tchad-france-coronavirus-les-tchadiens-de-la-diaspora-sadressent-a-leurs-compatriotes-ecouter-analyser/>

18 <https://byusmedia.fr/un-collectif-de-migrants-tchadiens-manifeste-contre-la-dictature-didris-deby/?cn-reloaded=1>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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### Diaspora support for healthcare, TOKTEN/MIDA 2013-2014

#### HEALTH & HUMAN CAPITAL

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.<sup>19</sup>

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

#### CAPACITY BUILDING

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.<sup>20</sup>

### Afric Benelux-Chad Trade Missions 2015

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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.<sup>21</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Benelux-Chad Agribusiness Trade Mission to N'Djamena was organized in 2019 to connect African and European public and private organisations.<sup>22</sup> 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]

19 <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>

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

21 <https://tchadinfos.com/tchad/tchad-solange-domaye-licone-dune-diaspora-dynamique/>

22 <https://www.awex-export.be/fr/medias/mission-commerciale-d-investissement-agro-industrielle-au-tchad>

## 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*)<sup>23</sup> 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.

23 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 430+ 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.

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