World
Watch
Research

Chad: Full Country Dossier

March 2024

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Introduction

World Watch List 2024

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	12.8	96	98	96	94	94
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	10.6	93	92	91	92	92
3	Libya	15.9	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.4	10.2	91	88	91	92	90
4	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.7	12.8	89	89	88	88	87
5	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	5.9	89	89	88	87	85
6	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.5	14.9	14.4	16.7	88	88	87	85	80
7	Pakistan	13.2	13.9	15.0	15.1	13.1	16.7	87	86	87	88	88
8	Sudan	14.1	14.2	14.9	14.9	15.5	13.3	87	83	79	79	85
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.8	16.5	10.9	86	86	85	86	85
10	Afghanistan	15.7	15.9	15.2	16.3	16.6	4.6	84	84	98	94	93
11	India	12.2	12.6	13.3	14.8	13.2	16.5	83	82	82	83	83
12	Syria	13.4	14.3	13.9	14.3	14.2	11.1	81	80	78	81	82
13	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.7	16.6	3.3	81	80	81	78	79
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	12.8	15.1	15.6	79	76	70	67	66
15	Algeria	14.4	14.1	11.5	14.0	15.6	9.8	79	73	71	70	73
16	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.0	14.8	13.9	7.8	79	76	78	82	76
17	Myanmar	12.2	10.6	13.4	13.7	13.0	16.1	79	80	79	74	73
18	Maldives	15.6	15.5	13.6	16.0	16.4	0.9	78	77	77	77	78
19	China	13.0	10.0	12.8	14.6	16.0	11.1	78	77	76	74	70
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	13.8	15.6	75	71	68	67	66
21	Laos	11.6	10.6	13.2	14.3	14.0	11.3	75	68	69	71	72
22	Cuba	13.2	8.7	13.8	13.3	15.1	8.7	73	70	66	62	52
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	1.3	72	72	70	71	68
24	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.7	12.8	14.4	5.4	71	69	69	67	66
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.9	12.6	15.5	1.7	71	71	71	71	73
26	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.5	10.8	10.4	14.1	71	69	68	67	63
27	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	13.1	15.9	70	70	68	62	60
28	CAR	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	12.2	15.6	70	70	68	66	68
29	Turkmenistan	14.2	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.5	0.6	70	70	69	70	70
30	Nicaragua	12.1	7.6	13.2	13.2	14.1	9.6	70	65	56	51	41
31	Oman	14.3	14.0	10.6	13.3	14.0	3.1	69	65	66	63	62
32	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	14.4	69	66	66	65	63
33	Tunisia	12.3	13.2	10.2	12.4	13.8	6.9	69	67	66	67	64
34	Colombia	11.1	8.6	12.9	11.3	10.4	14.1	68	71	68	67	62
35	Vietnam	11.3	9.4	12.4	13.8	14.2	7.2	68	70	71	72	72
36	Bhutan	13.1	12.1	12.4	14.1	14.3	2.2	68	66	67	64	61
37	Mexico	11.5	8.5	12.5	11.1	10.6	14.1	68	67	65	64	60
38	Egypt	12.5	13.7	11.4	11.9	10.9	7.8	68	68	71	75	76
39	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.0	68	68	65	63	43
40	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.6	67	68	74	67	66
41	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	13.0	15.9	67	67	66	64	56
42	Indonesia	10.9	12.3	11.5	10.2	9.7	11.5	66	68	68	63	60
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.0	13.1	15.9	66	65	65	64	60
44	Brunei	15.0	14.7	10.0	10.8	14.1	1.3	66	65	64	64	63
45	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	1.1	66	66	63	62	57
46	Tajikistan	13.8	12.6	12.3	12.9	13.4	0.6	66	66	65	66	65
47	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.8	12.1	12.8	14.3	1.1	65	65	64	64	64
48	Jordan	12.9	14.2	10.5	12.4	12.8	2.2	65	65	66	64	64
49	Malaysia	13.0	14.1	11.5	12.2	11.1	2.4	64	66	63	63	62
50	Turkey	13.0	11.5	11.6	13.2	11.4	3.1	64	66	65	69	63

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020
51	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	12.4	63	64	63	62	61
52	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	14.4	62	63	61	58	55
53	Nepal	12.1	10.4	9.5	13.2	12.3	4.4	62	61	64	66	64
54	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	64	64	63	62
55	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.3	1.1	61	60	59	56	56
56	Chad	11.6	8.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.6	61	58	55	53	56
57	UAE	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.7	61	62	62	62	60
58	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.2	10.8	11.5	9.7	5.9	60	57	63	62	65
59	Azerbaijan	13.2	9.9	9.6	11.9	13.6	1.7	60	59	60	56	57
60	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	9.7	10.7	12.1	0.9	60	60	59	58	60
61	Kyrgyzstan	13.2	10.3	11.3	10.5	12.2	1.3	59	59	58	58	57
62	Russian Federation	12.7	7.7	10.6	12.8	12.9	1.7	58	57	56	57	60
63	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	11.7	9.4	58	57	50	42	42
64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	12.8	57	55	52	48	48
65	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	1.1	55	55	57	56	55
66	Honduras	7.9	4.7	12.2	7.3	9.9	12.6	55	53	48	46	39
67	Venezuela	6.0	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	10.7	53	56	51	39	42
68	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	11.0	8.9	52	49	44	43	41
69	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	7.2	52	48	43	47	45
70	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	15.9	52	51	48	47	48
71	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	7.2	52	52	51	46	43
72	Lebanon	11.0	10.2	7.0	6.1	6.6	7.2	48	40	35	34	35
73	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	3.7	47	44	44	43	43
74	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	7.6	15.6	46	46	43	43	44
75	Belarus	9.6	3.8	5.8	9.7	13.3	3.3	46	43	33	30	28
76	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	3.3	44	44	42	42	42
77	Ukraine	5.5	4.8	8.0	11.6	11.6	2.8	44	37	37	34	33
78	Israel	9.8	8.6	5.8	6.3	6.9	6.7	44	38	41	40	38

Copyright note

Sources and definitions

- This country report is a collation of data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and includes statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD).
- Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the conclusion of each main section under the heading "External links". In order to reduce the length of these reference sections, a table containing links to regularly used sources can be found at the beginning of the "Keys to Understanding" chapter under the heading "Links for general background information". Where one of these sources has been quoted in the dossier text, a quote reference is supplied as indicated in the second column of the table.
- The WWL 2024 reporting period was 01 October 2022 - 30 September 2023.
- The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: "Any hostility experienced as a result of one's identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians". This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.
- The latest update of WWL Methodology can be found on the research pages of the Open Doors website: https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/ and on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom): https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/.

WWL 2024 Situation in brief / Chad

Brief country details

Chad: Population (UN estimate for 2023)	Christians	Chr%
17,921,000	6,294,000	35.1

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds. , World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed March 2023)

Map of country
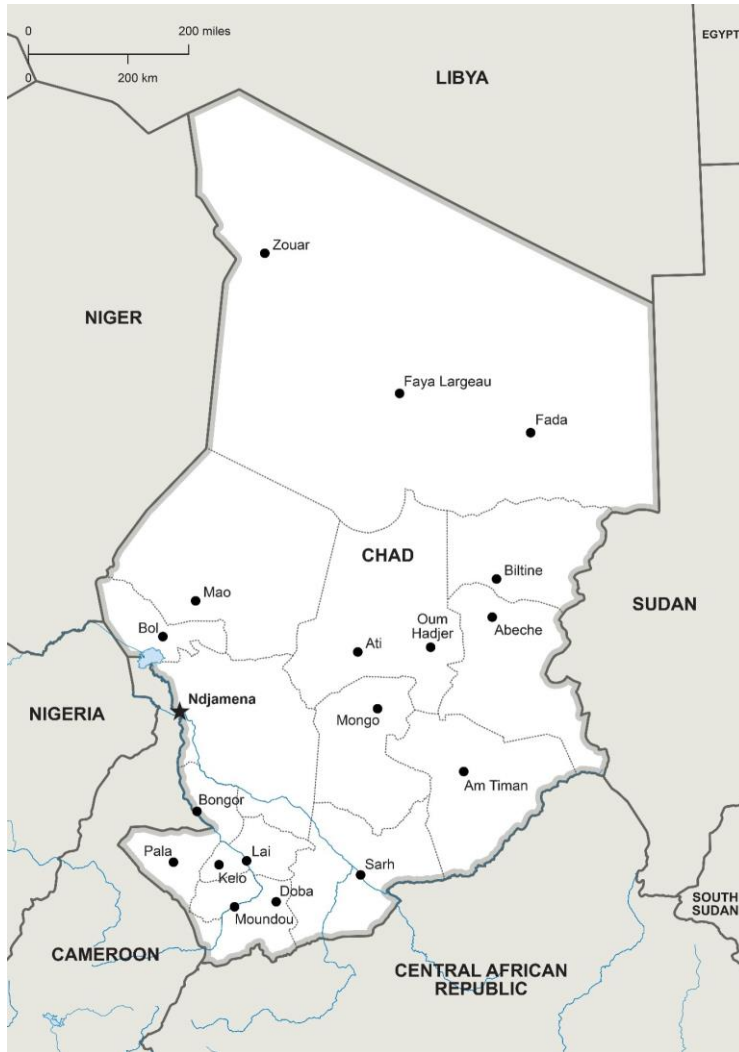
Chad: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2024	61	56
WWL 2023	58	60
WWL 2022	55	63
WWL 2021	53	62
WWL 2020	56	58

Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Chad: Main persecution engines	Main drivers
Islamic oppression	Violent religious groups, Non-Christian religious leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family
Dictatorial paranoia	Government officials
Organized corruption and crime	Government officials, Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups
Clan oppression	Ethnic group leaders

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

Located in a region marked by tumultuous security dynamics, Chad finds itself surrounded by countries grappling with severe challenges, including the presence of radical jihadist groups. This geographical positioning impacts the country's internal stability and security strategy. In this context, being a Christian carries various risks. In areas where Islam is the predominant religion, individuals converting to Christianity face significant danger and often practice their faith clandestinely to avoid violent backlash from their family or community. For non-convert Christians, hostile groups will sometimes interrupt public Christian events. Christian families, particularly those with converts, risk societal repercussions, such as their children facing bullying at school due to the family's religious beliefs.

The presence of jihadist groups like Boko Haram amplifies this hostile environment, especially for converts to Christianity who also face discrimination in IDP camps and even coercion to renounce their faith. While the Constitution may promise religious freedom, local authorities often refuse to recognize Muslim-to-Christian conversions. Mandatory church registration adds complexity to the situation. Overall, converts face a very challenging existence, caught between political, familial, and radical Islamic threats.

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- Christians in southern regions are marginalized from political influence, as highlighted by the Global Freedom Index 2023 (B4).
- Discrimination against Christians is prevalent among local officials, and they are frequent targets of violence from extremist groups like Boko Haram and Fulani militia, including instances of abduction.
- Persistent threats from violent Islamic militants and northern rebels put Christians in a state of constant insecurity.
- Converts to Christianity often face hostility from their families and broader community.
- Public worship for Christians is particularly challenging in northern and northeastern regions, as well as areas outside the capital city.
- Restrictions on church building make it difficult to establish places of worship, adding an extra layer to the challenges Christians face.

WWL 2024: Keys to understanding / Chad

Links for general background information

Name	Quote Reference	Link	Last accessed on
Amnesty International 2022/23 country report – covering 156 countries	AI Chad 2022	https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/chad/report-chad/	1 September 2023
BBC News Chad country profile - updated 28 July 2023	BBC Chad profile	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13164686	1 September 2023
Bertelsmann Transformation Index Chad country report 2022	BTI Chad Report 2022	https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/TCD	1 September 2023
Crisis24 Chad country report (Garda World)	Crisis24 Chad report	https://crisis24.garda.com/insights-intelligence/intelligence/country-reports/chad	1 September 2023
Economist Intelligence Unit Chad summary 2023	EIU 2023 Chad summary	https://country.eiu.com/chad	1 September 2023
FFP's Fragile States Index 2023 – covering 179 countries	FSI 2023 Chad	https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/	1 September 2023
Freedom House's 2023 Democracy index – covering 29 countries, Chad not included	Democracy Index 2023	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/nations-transit/scores	
Freedom House's 2023 Global Freedom index – covering 210 countries	Global Freedom Index 2023 Chad	https://freedomhouse.org/country/chad/freedom-world/2023	1 September 2023
Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2023 report – covering 70 countries, Chad not included	Freedom on the Net 2023	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-net/scores	
Georgetown's Women, Peace and Security Index 2021/2022 – covering 170 countries	GIWPS 2021 Chad	https://giwps.georgetown.edu/country/chad/	1 September 2023
Girls Not Brides Chad country report	Girls Not Brides Chad	https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/chad/	1 September 2023
Human Rights Watch World Report 2023 - Chad country chapter	HRW 2023 Chad country chapter	https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/chad	1 September 2023
Internet World Stats 2023 Chad	IWS 2023 Chad	https://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#td	1 September 2023
RSF's 2023 World Press Freedom Index – covering 180 countries	World Press Freedom 2023 Chad	https://rsf.org/en/chad	1 September 2023
Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index – covering 180 countries	CPI 2023 Chad	https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/chad	19 March 2024
UNDP Human Development Report Chad - updated 8 September 2022	UNDP HDR Chad	https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/TCD	1 September 2023
US State Department's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report Chad	IRFR 2022 Chad	https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/chad/	1 September 2023
USCIRF 2023 country reports – covering 17 CPC / 11 SWL, Chad not included	USCIRF 2023	https://www.uscirf.gov/countries	
World Bank Chad country overview - updated 29 September 2023	World Bank Chad overview 2022	https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/chad/overview	19 March 2024
World Bank Chad data profile - 2021	World Bank Chad data	https://databank.worldbank.org/views/reports/reportwidget.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=TCD	1 September 2023
World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook 2023 Chad – April 2023	Macro Poverty Outlook Chad 2023	https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2fefc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-tcd.pdf	1 September 2023
World Factbook Chad - updated 13 March 2024	World Factbook Chad	https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad/	19 March 2024

Recent history

Chad is a landlocked country sharing borders with Libya, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger. In 1960 (often referred to as "the year of Africa") Chad was one of seventeen African countries to gain independence. However, many different factions soon emerged. The man who was referred to as the father of their independence, François Tombalbaye, became an autocratic president. Tombalbaye's rule was challenged by a guerrilla group operating in the north of the country called FROLINAT (Front for the National Liberation of Chad). Even though French troops helped the president put down the revolt, they were unable to defeat the northern rebels totally. Tombalbaye remained in power until he was assassinated in 1975 (History of Chad, accessed 16 March 2023).

The 1975 coup saw General Félix Malloum take power. However, he was in constant conflict with rebel forces operating in the northern part of the country. They were financed by Libya (BBC country profile), which claimed possession of the Aouzou Strip (the northern part of Chad) and annexed it in 1977. In 1979, General Malloum was forced to flee the country and Goukouni Oueddei, the leader of FROLINAT, came to power. In 1980, Libya sent in troops to help Oueddei who was willing to acknowledge Libya's claim over the Aouzou Strip. Oueddei had to fight a formidable rebel force led by Hissene Habre. In 1982, Habre seized power but Goukouni Oueddei continued fighting in the northern part of the country. In 1990, Idriss Déby ousted Habre with the support of Sudan and seized power (The New Humanitarian, 19 April 2006). Habre fled to Senegal and was put on trial in November 2015 for atrocities committed during his leadership

(Human Rights Watch, 23 November 2015).

Violence and rebellions continued under the leadership of President Déby. The country has also been fighting against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin area. In 2018, the National Assembly amended the Constitution allowing the president to stay in power for over ten years.

The April 2021 coup

Presidential elections were held in Chad on 11 April 2021. Incumbent Idriss Déby, who served five consecutive terms since seizing power in the 1990 coup, was running for a sixth term. Provisional results released on 19 April showed that he had won re-election with 79% of the vote. However, on 20 April 2021, it was suddenly announced by the armed forces that Déby had been killed in action while leading his country's troops in a battle against rebels calling themselves the Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT). This was the starting-point for a military coup and Déby was swiftly replaced by his son, Mahamat Idris Déby, as the current president of the republic which is now under military control. It was expected that Mahamat Déby would govern for an eighteen month period (starting April 2021) after which free and democratic elections were to be held once the transition period was over (BBC News, 20 April 2021). On the day initially designated by the military junta for transitioning back to civilian rule (20 October 2022) security forces cracked down harshly on public demonstrations, leading to over 100 fatalities according to certain reports. Following these violent events, a curfew was established in key metropolitan areas and a three-month prohibition on political activities was declared the next day. As 2022 progressed, opposition members continued to face detentions and harassment from security forces.

When ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) issued threats of military intervention in Niger following the July 2023 coup, Chad's president was among the first to express opposition. Interestingly, many African leaders who themselves came to power through coups also objected to the proposed action. The presidents of Burkina Faso and Mali went so far as to label ECOWAS's stance as "a declaration of war".

Elections in 2024

The transition to elections in 2024 is planned. However, the assassination of Chad's main opposition leader and potential presidential candidate, Yaya Dillo, by Chadian security forces on 28 February 2024 is hanging heavy over presidential elections scheduled for 6 May 2024 ([HRW news, 1 March 2024](#)).

In the context of violence, coups and other issues that affect the country and the region, Christians have also suffered as they are often seen as being allies to the 'other side' and as 'foreign agents'.

Political and legal landscape

Chad is a republic and introduced multi-party democracy in 1996. In the same year, a multi-party presidential election was held and Déby won the election. Déby was declared the winner in the following three presidential elections (in 2001, 2006 and 2011). Some of the elections were [boycotted](#) by opposition parties angry over the government's unwillingness to allow opposition

parties to campaign freely and fairly (BBC News, 25 April 2011). In 2016 and 2021, Déby won further terms in office as president.

Over the years, the government of Chad has been [accused](#) of carrying out torture, extra-judicial killings, unlawful detention and more (Amnesty International, 7 February 2008). Freedom of the press, freedom of expression and assembly have been restricted. In a significant development that is believed to have set a precedent in Africa, the former president of Chad, Issene Habre, was [convicted](#) in May 2016 (by an African Union-backed court) of crimes against humanity for atrocities committed during his rule and sentenced to life imprisonment in Senegal (BBC News, 30 May 2016), where he died in August 2021.

As reported in Freedom House's Global Freedom Index 2023, which rates Chad as "not free":

- "The death of longtime president Idriss Déby Itno in 2021 triggered a military coup that installed his son, Mahamat Idriss Déby, as a transitional president. The junta announced that it would oversee an 18-month transition period. In 2022, Déby organized a so-called Sovereign Inclusive National Dialogue (DNIS) that extended the transition by two years. Opposition to Déby's continued rule has generated massive protests by political and civil society activists, who in turn have faced violence, imprisonment, torture, and intimidation at the hands of security forces. Presidential elections have historically been characterized by a high degree of repression, and legislative elections have been routinely delayed. Multiple insurgencies led by rebel factions in the north and the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram in the south continue to threaten physical security."

As noted by the US State Department (IRFR 2022 Chad), the internal political strife between ruling elites and opposition factions occasionally took on a religious undertone. For the first time since the inception of the annual National Day of Prayer and Peace in 2012, both Archbishop Edmond Djitangar of N'Djamena and Djimalngar Madjibaye of the Association of Evangelical Churches and Missions (EEMET) abstained from participating. Madjibaye cited that public festivities with political authorities were "not desirable," given the current social atmosphere marred by intercommunal violence and the harsh suppression of political protests on 20 October, which opposed the two-year extension of the transitional government.

In summary, Chad's legal and political environment is characterized by hostility towards dissent, limited freedom of expression and assembly, lack of free and fair elections, and rampant nepotism. Compounding these issues is the fact that the current president assumed power through a coup, following the unexpected death of his predecessor, who was also his father.

Gender perspective

In August 2022, the Higher Islamic Council ruled that women are now liable for a [fine](#) of up to $30 known as *amchilini* for rejecting a marriage proposal (The Telegraph, 11 August 2022).

Religious landscape

Chad: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	6,294,000	35.1
Muslim	10,169,000	56.7
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	2,800	0.0
Ethno-religionist	1,286,000	7.2
Jewish	0	0.0
Bahai	145,000	0.8
Atheist	2,500	0.0
Agnostic	15,800	0.1
Other	5,100	0.0
OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.		

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds. , World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed March 2023)

Islam first came to the country in the 11th century but did not become a national religion until the 16th and 17th centuries when the country had become established as a route for the Muslim slave trade. Chad is now a Muslim majority country.

Although Chad is a secular republic, Islam is the majority religion and pervades the whole of society causing some Chadians to show hostility and intolerance towards Christians whom they regard as 'infidels'. The Arab, Kanembu, Bornu and Buduma ethnic groups are mostly Muslim and have an antagonistic relationship with the Wadai Bulala, Kobe, Tama, Barma and the Mesmedje ethnic groups, who are mostly Christian.

According to the US State Department (IRFR 2022 Chad):

"Most Muslims adhere to the Sufi Tijaniyah tradition. A small minority hold beliefs associated with Wahhabism, Salafism, or follow the political-religious doctrine espoused by the Muslim Brotherhood. Most Protestants are evangelical Christians. There are small numbers of Baha'is and Jehovah's Witnesses."

"There is a significant Muslim presence in the south, but minimal Christian presence in the north. Religious distribution is mixed in urban areas, and indigenous religions are often practiced to some degree along with Islam and Christianity."

Economic landscape

According to the World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook 2023 Chad:

Economic growth

Chad's economic recovery in 2022 was hindered by floods and insecurity, resulting in a moderate GDP growth of 2.2% and an increase in poverty rates by 2.4 percentage points. Medium-term growth prospects remain modest at around 3.2%, as factors such as food scarcity, climatic shocks, extended political transitions, and oil price volatility pose downside risks. The economy, heavily reliant on oil, has experienced multiple crises since the 2014-15 oil price shocks. Despite a brief recovery in 2018-19, annual GDP growth averaged a meager 0.3% over the last six years.

High population growth (averaging 3.3%) has resulted in an average annual decrease in per capita income of 2.9%.

Main obstacles to sustained economic and social development include: dependency on oil and poor revenue management, insecurity, climate vulnerability, political unrest, institutional instability, weak governance, lack of transparency, inadequate trade networks, insufficient investment in human capital, and significant infrastructure deficits. In 2022, the economy was expected to rebound following a 1.2% contraction in 2021, driven by higher global oil prices. However, this recovery was offset by environmental and security challenges, with GDP growth estimated at 2.2% and non-oil GDP growth at 1.3%.

In 2023, the economy is projected to grow at 3.2%, resulting in zero per capita growth, while non-oil GDP is expected to increase by 2.4% as global oil prices stabilize.

According to Heritage Foundation's 2023 Economic Freedom Index:

- Chad ranks 138th globally and 31st in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with a slightly improved score of 52.0. The country lags behind both world and regional averages. Chad's economic challenges include a fragile rule of law, weak property rights, and rampant corruption, all of which hinder private-sector growth due to an inefficient regulatory system.

Inflation

Inflation surged from 1% in 2021 to 5.8% in 2022, primarily due to elevated global food and energy prices triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and security-related food supply disruptions. Food inflation averaged a significant 12.2% in 2022, further exacerbated by subpar domestic agricultural output.

Fiscal balance

In 2022, the fiscal balance, including grants, achieved a surplus of 4.5% of GDP. The non-oil fiscal deficit stood at 7.4% of GDP, attributed to a one-year delay in the primary component of oil revenue tax collection and reduced capital spending. By the end of 2022, total public debt is estimated to have declined to 49.6% of GDP. Chad set a precedent in November 2022 by becom-

ing the first country to finalize an agreement under the G20 Common Framework (CF) with its key official and largest private creditors.

Poverty

Ongoing security restrictions and limited reach of social protection programs are expected to slow down the rate of poverty reduction. Extreme poverty rates are projected to drop to 34.4% by 2025, spurred by moderate growth in the agriculture and services sectors, as well as falling inflation rates. Despite this improvement, rapid population growth means that the absolute number of people living in poverty will decrease by only 81,000, bringing the total to approximately 6.7 million.

Social and cultural landscape

According to the World Factbook Chad:

- *Main ethnic groups:* Sara (Ngambaye/Sara/Madjingaye/Mbaye) 30.5%, Kanembu/Bornu/Buduma 9.8%, Arab 9.7%, Wadai/Maba/Masalit/Mimi 7%, Gorane 5.8%, Masa/Musseye/Musgum 4.9%, many others (2014-15 est.)
- *Main languages:* French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in the south), more than 120 different languages and dialects
- *Urban population:* 23.8% of the total population (2021)
- *Rate of urbanization:* 4.1% annual rate of change (2020-2025 est.)
- *Median age:* 16.1 years
- *Expected years of schooling:* 7.3 years
- *Literacy rate, adult (15 years of age and above):* 22.3%
- *Employment to population ratio (15 years of age and older):* 69.4%
- *Unemployment, total:* 1.9% of labor force
- *Unemployment, youth (ages 15-24):* is 3.1%

According to the UNHCR Operational data portal (accessed 19 March 2024):

- *Refugees:* As of 16 March 2024, the number of all refugees in Chad was estimated to be 1,155,421. The main countries of origin were: Sudan (977,983), CAR (134,015), Nigeria (21,381) and Cameroon (20,080).
- *IDPs:* As of 29 February 2024, the number of registered IDPs in Chad was 215,928.

According to the UNDP Human Development Report Chad:

- *Human Development Index:* 0.398 with a ranking of 187 out of 189 countries. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world.
- *Life expectancy at birth:* 54.2 years
- *Gender Development Index (GDI):* 0.764
- *Poverty:* 38.4% of the population are living below the income poverty line, PPP $1.90 a day.

Technological landscape

Chad is among the poorest countries in Africa. Coups and civil wars have made progress in the country very difficult. One of the areas affected is technology. The country still depends on non-electronic methods for doing business.

According to Internet World Stats (IWS 2023 Chad):

- **Internet usage:** As of December 2021, there were 2,237,932 internet users in the country, accounting for roughly 13.0% of the total population,
- **Facebook usage:** In January 2022, the country had 592,800 Facebook users, reflecting a penetration rate of 3.4%.

According to Data Reportal, Digital Report 2023 Chad:

- As of the beginning of 2023, Chad had 3.22 million internet users, accounting for 17.9% of the population.
- In January 2023, there were approximately 491,700 social media users in Chad, making up 2.7% of the population.
- Early 2023 also saw 11.49 million active mobile connections in the country, representing 63.9% of Chad's total population.

According to Napoleon Cat statistics (updated February 2024):

As of February 2024, Chad had 956,700 Facebook users, comprising 5.2% of the total population. A significant majority of these users were men, making up 77.8% of the Facebook user base. The age group with the most users was 18 to 24, totaling 363,100 individuals. The largest gender disparity was found in the 25 to 34 age bracket, where men outnumbered women by 267,500.

Security situation

Chad's security situation is characterized by several key issues, as outlined in the International Crisis Group's December 2022 report:

Political instability

General Mahamat Déby, who assumed power following his father's death, initially promised a move towards democratic governance but has since tightened his grip. The postponement of elections to 2024 and a brutal crackdown on protestors have eroded faith in the transition to a civilian government.

Role of social media

While social media has the potential to facilitate citizen participation in politics, it is also being used to disseminate disinformation, incite violence, and deepen ethnic divisions. This dual role is increasingly important as the country navigates its political transition.

Public protests and government response

A decision to extend the transitional government's term sparked widespread protests, which

were met with severe state-led violence, resulting in significant casualties and arrests. Internet access was also curtailed in key opposition areas.

Distrust in the transitional process

The extension of the transitional period and eligibility of junta members for the 2024 elections are viewed as a power grab, fostering widespread distrust that is likely to persist.

Violent Islamic militants

Boko Haram and ISWAP, based in northern Nigeria, have created security problems for Chad. At times, suicide bombers are sent to the region bordering with Nigeria and have killed civilians and Chadian soldiers. An example of one such attack took place on 22 May 2022: ISWAP operatives abducted and executed three Christians in the Litri region on the Chad-Nigeria border (Spotlight on Global Jihad, 19-25 May 2022).

The Chadian government has participated in attempts at restoring security and peace in the region. In 2013, Chad sent troops to the Central Africa Republic to mitigate the violence that followed the coup. Chadian troops also helped French forces in retaking the northern part of Mali from Islamist rebels. Chadian troops are also fighting Boko Haram militants in their own country as well as in Cameroon. Because the government is playing a vital role in the fight against terrorism in the region, Western governments were forced to stay quiet about issues of repression occurring within the late Déby's regime.

Chad consulted with the governments of Nigeria, Benin, Niger, and Cameroon in August 2015 to seek solutions to the security problems caused by Boko Haram. The country has also conducted very swift judicial process; in 2015, ten Boko Haram members were formally executed after they were tried and sentenced to death (The Guardian, 30 August 2015). There are however other rebel groups active in Chad. The late President Déby reportedly died after being wounded while fighting rebels in the northern part of the country (New York Times, 20 April 2021).

The security situation in Chad took a drastic turn in 2023 as reported by Africa Center of Strategic Studies on 10 April 2023. As per the report, an attack on 23 March 2023 by Boko Haram against Chadian troops in Bohoma marked a concerning escalation in the group's capabilities and posed a heightened threat to the stability of Chad. The attack left 98 Chadian soldiers dead and dozens more wounded, highlighting a troubling improvement in Boko Haram's combat effectiveness. This incident is part of an alarming trend of increasing Boko Haram and ISWAP violence in the Lake Chad Basin region, which has particularly affected Chad's Lake Province. Following the attack on 23 March, the Chadian armed forces, led by President Idriss Déby, initiated an offensive aimed at eliminating the insurgents from Chadian territory. However, the uptick in violent activities suggests that Boko Haram and ISWAP are gaining momentum, posing a growing risk to Chad and regional stability.

According to the European Commission's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (Chad, accessed 11 September 2023):

- "Some 6.9 million people require humanitarian assistance – roughly 39% of the population in 2023."

- "As of mid-April 2023, the crisis in the east of the country has suddenly intensified following a rapid influx of forcibly displaced people from neighboring Darfur."

According to the OCHA Overview of inter/intra community conflicts (Chad, [Reliefweb, July 2023](#)) in 2023:

- "Between 1 January and 30 June, 37 cases of inter- and intra-communal violence were reported in Chad: one in the east, 30 in the south, three in the Lake region and three in the centre. The clashes left 188 people dead and nearly 360 injured. In the south of the country, these conflicts have also led to the displacement of some 26,000 people, both internally and across the border in the Central African Republic, and the destruction of property and livelihoods."
- "Overall, 81% of these incidents were linked to conflicts between communities (inter-community), 13% between farmers and herders, 3% were intra-community conflicts linked to the succession of traditional chiefs and 3% linked to land issues. The south accounted for 81% of the inter/intra-community conflicts recorded, and the province of Logone Oriental alone recording 26 of the country's total. There is a very strong link between intercommunal violence and conflicts over natural resources (farmers/pastoralists), which are becoming increasingly scarce".
- "There is an upward trend in the number of conflicts (15 cases between January and June 2022 compared to 37 cases during the same period in 2023), an increase of almost 150%".

According to a report issued by [Global Conflict Tracker](#) issued on 10 August 2023:

- The humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, including Chad, is amplifying the threat of violent extremism to regional stability. Conflict over the last decade has displaced millions, with Chad facing similar challenges as its neighboring countries in the Sahel. These challenges include extreme poverty, food insecurity, high unemployment, and rapid population growth. Climate change is intensifying these issues; temperatures in the Sahel are rising at 1.5 times the global average, affecting millions who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. This has led to resource conflicts among herders, farmers, and fishing communities. Violent extremist organizations are both worsening and exploiting these vulnerable conditions for recruitment, while also targeting humanitarian workers. Weak governance and economic instability have further heightened illicit activities and the presence of criminal organizations. Therefore, Chad's security concerns extend far beyond the threat of Islamic insurgency to encompass a range of interconnected challenges.

In the context of the escalating Boko Haram and ISWAP activities in Chad, the security of Christian communities is increasingly compromised. These jihadist groups are known for targeting religious minorities, including Christians, in their quest to establish an Islamic State. The rise in violent incidents, particularly in the Lake Province and other areas vulnerable to insurgency, exacerbates the risks faced by Christian communities. They not only have to fear for their lives but also experience limitations on practicing their faith openly. The attack on 23 March 2023 and subsequent incidents indicate a potential increase in sectarian violence, leaving Christian communities in a precarious state of insecurity and forcing them to live under constant threat of violent persecution, including abduction.

Trends analysis

1) Geographic risk factors: Surrounded by nations in conflict

Chad's geopolitical situation places it in a precarious position, sharing borders with conflict-ridden countries like Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. Stability in Chad is intrinsically linked to the measure of stability in these neighboring nations. The crisis in Sudan poses a particularly acute threat to Chad's stability. The ongoing conflict between Sudanese armed forces and the Rapid Support Units has the potential to escalate, creating further turmoil in the region. Christians in Chad are particularly vulnerable, as their safety is influenced not just by internal factors but by regional dynamics as well.

2) Persistent internal threats: Boko Haram and the new crisis in Sudan (Darfur crisis)

Even with international support for regional stability, Chad's security situation remains precarious due to the lingering threats of Boko Haram and the Darfur conflict. The internal conflict that erupted in Sudan in April 2023 has now added another layer of complexity. This new crisis has already driven almost 978,000 refugees into Chad (see above: *Social and cultural landscape*), creating a humanitarian crisis and halting trade between the two countries. The surge of refugees includes the many thousands of Chadians who were residing in Sudan and have now returned to their homeland under grim circumstances. Unless there is a coordinated effort to implement comprehensive political, economic, and social reforms alongside military actions against Boko Haram, the extremist group's ideology could continue to gain ground. Furthermore, the ongoing Darfur crisis — now compounded by the escalating Sudanese conflict — places additional stress on Chad's eastern region. This unstable environment exposes Chad's Christian population to increased risks of violence and restrictions.

3) Uncertain leadership landscape: Post-Déby security concerns

The passing of President Idriss Déby intensified uncertainties around Chad's stability and its role in West Africa's security landscape. Questions loom regarding the cohesiveness of the military-led transitional government and the unity within the armed forces. This period of uncertainty could potentially be exploited by Islamist insurgents to destabilize not just Chad but the wider West African region.

4) Heightened vulnerability of Christians

In light of the aforementioned challenges, the Christian community remains exceptionally vulnerable. Factors exacerbating their vulnerability include:

- The current dictatorial governance structure, which defies constitutional requirements for a civilian-led transition and arouses strong criticisms from political opposition and civil society.
- Ongoing jihadist activities in the region.
- The rising influence of ultra-conservative Islam, often described as Wahhabi, and the increasing presence of rebel groups, particularly in northern Chad.

External Links - Keys to understanding

- Recent history: assassinated - http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad40#ixzz410R0Gran
- Recent history: seized power - http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2006/04/19/idriss-deby-president-under-siege
- Recent history: put on trial - https://www.hrw.org/blog-feed/trial-hissene-habre
- Recent history: HRW news, 1 March 2024 - https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/01/chad-prominent-opposition-leader-killed
- Political and legal landscape: boycotted - http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13187097
- Political and legal landscape: accused - https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2008/02/chad-authorities-must-act-prevent-extrajudicial-executions-20080207/
- Political and legal landscape: convicted - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36411466
- Political and legal landscape: fine - https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/08/11/people-who-refuse-marriage-proposals-chad-fined/
- Economic landscape: Heritage Foundation's 2023 Economic Freedom Index - https://www.heritage.org/index/country/chad
- Social and cultural landscape: UNHCR - https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/tcd
- Technological landscape: Digital Report 2023 Chad - https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2023-chad
- Technological landscape: Napoleon Cat statistics - https://napoleoncat.com/stats/facebook-users-in-chad/2024/02/
- Security situation: Group's December 2022 - https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/chad/b183-chads-transition-easing-tensions-online
- Security situation: abducted and executed three Christians - https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2022/05/E_080_22.pdf
- Security situation: executed - http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/30/chad-executes-10-members-boko-haram-firing-squad
- Security situation: fighting rebels - https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/20/world/africa/president-chad-killed.html
- Security situation: Africa Center of Strategic Studies - https://africacenter.org/spotlight/chad-escalating-fight-against-boko-haram/#:~:text=On%20March%2023%2C%20Boko%20Haram,dead%20and%20dozens%20more%20wounded.
- Security situation: Chad, accessed 11 September 2023 - https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa/chad_en
- Security situation: Reliefweb, July 2023 - https://reliefweb.int/report/chad/chad-overview-interintra-community-conflicts-july-2023
- Security situation: Global Conflict Tracker - https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violent-extremism-sahel

WWL 2024: Church information / Chad

Christian origins

Even though Roman Catholic priests attempted to establish a Christian mission-station as early as the 1660s, this was only possible after the French fully controlled the country - i.e. after the First World War. A fully institutionalized presence was established in 1946. Baptist missionaries first entered Chad in 1925 and the Sudan United Mission in 1927. Seventh-day Adventists have been active in the country since 1967.

Church spectrum today

Chad: Church networks	Christians	%
Orthodox	0	0.0
Catholic	2,821,000	44.8
Protestant	1,409,000	22.4
Independent	722,000	11.5
Unaffiliated	1,342,000	21.3
Doubly-affiliated Christians	0	0.0
Total	**6,294,000**	**100.0**
(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)		
Evangelical movement	1,617,000	25.7
Renewalist movement	486,000	7.7

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds. , World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed March 2023)

Orthodox: *Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox.*
Roman Catholics: *All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome.* **Protestants:** *Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world's 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not Independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics.* **Independents:** *Christians who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant).* **Unaffiliated Christians:** *Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches.* **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** *Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once.* **Evangelical movement:** *Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls.* **Renewalist movement:** *Church members involved in Pentecostal/Charismatic renewal.*

Most Christian communities and churches are to be found in the south.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

Islamic oppression is particularly evident in the Kanem, Salamat, Lac and Sila regions. The influence of radical Islam is also notable in the sultanates of Wadai, Bagirmi, and Fitri. Religion partly reflects the regional (north vs. south) political fault lines and division in the country.

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians: Expatriate Christians are not involuntarily isolated in Chad and so are not counted as a separate WWL category.

Historical Christian communities: The Roman Catholic Church and Greek Orthodox Church are the main denominations in this category. In the Ouaddaï and Salamat regions, the Catholic Church was denied access to land acquired for the purposes of building a church and hospital. There are also Protestant denominations – such as Methodists - facing restrictions on their evangelistic activities and outreach projects.

Converts to Christianity: In eastern and northern Chad, Christians of Muslim background are forced to worship in secret and hide their faith for fear of persecution and being disowned by radical Islamic family members. In the southern part of the country, there is also a sizable number of converts from African indigenous religions. Their level of persecution is not as severe as that experienced by converts from Islam, but they still face pressure to take part in non-Christian religious rites.

Non-traditional Christian communities: Pentecostal and charismatic churches are active in some parts of Chad. These churches are generally viewed as being 'sects' and members face pressure and insults. For example, Pentecostal members of the Nigerian Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Baga Sola were attacked by Muslims during its Easter Program in 2017. Due to their more recent appearance in the country and their more visible activities, these communities tend to be more exposed to violent opposition.

WWL 2024: Persecution Dynamics / Chad

Reporting period

1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023

Position on the World Watch List

Chad: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2024	61	56
WWL 2023	58	60
WWL 2022	55	63
WWL 2021	53	62
WWL 2020	56	58

The WWL 2024 score increased by 3 points, from 58 points in WWL 2023 to 61, due to a significant rise in violence from 7.6 to 10.6 points. Christians face a challenging environment, often discriminated against by local officials and threatened by groups like Boko Haram and armed Fulani herdsmen, including instances of abduction. Particularly vulnerable are those living outside N'Djamena, such as in the Lake Chad basin, who live under constant fear of attack. In the eastern and northern regions, Christians converting from Islam are compelled to practice their faith secretly, fearing persecution from radical Islamic family members. The south of Chad also witnesses a substantial number of converts from indigenous African religions. The country's bordering unstable nations — Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, Libya, and the Central African Republic — all of which are dealing with the presence of violent Islamic militants—complicate the precarious security situation in Chad.

Persecution engines

Chad: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Very strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Not at all
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Not at all
Clan oppression	CO	Medium
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Weak
Communist and post-Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Medium
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Medium

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Islamic oppression (Very Strong)

While there is no centralized organization striving to Islamize Chad, the influence of Islamic extremism is quite pervasive. In collaboration with Arab nations, numerous schools, universities and mosques are being established to disseminate radical Islamic ideologies. This has catalyzed the radicalization of specific segments of the population, creating an increasingly hostile environment for Christians. The presence and activities of extremist groups like Boko Haram in the region further amplify this Islamic oppression, making it a predominant mechanism of persecution in Chad.

Dictatorial paranoia (Medium to High)

Since his ascendancy to power in 1990 through a Zaghawa-led rebellion, President Idriss Déby manipulated religious and ethnic sentiments to consolidate power and marginalize opposition. His authoritarian regime was characterized by the repression of dissenting voices and the quelling of political freedoms. Mahamat Déby seized power in what effectively amounted to a coup d'état, circumventing the constitutional process after the death of his father, Idriss Déby, in April 2021. Originally, a transition to civilian rule was promised for October 2022, but this timeline was unilaterally extended by an additional two years. Public protests against this extension were met with a forceful crackdown by security forces. Within this authoritarian regime, civil liberties are severely constrained, including freedom of expression, assembly, religion, and even the right to seek judicial remedies

Organized Corruption and crime (Medium to High)

Chad's low score of 20/100 on Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI 2023 Chad) highlights the rampant corruption and the absence of rule of law. This lawless-

ness provides fertile ground for jihadist and organized criminal activities which seriously affect religious freedom.

Clan oppression (Medium)

Particularly in northeastern Chad, notably in the Ennedi region which is the homeland of the Zaghawa-born Débys, persecution based on ethnic differences is a frequent experience for Christians. In the south, where indigenous African religions are dominant, Christians often face coercion to participate in traditional rituals. They also confront intra-ethnic pressures, as leaders within their own ethnic communities exert influence to conform to traditional practices.

Drivers of persecution

Chad: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG			MEDIUM	WEAK			MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Government officials								Medium	Medium
Ethnic group leaders				Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Strong								
Religious leaders of other churches					Weak				
Violent religious groups	Very strong								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Medium								
One's own (extended) family	Medium								
Political parties								Very weak	
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups									Medium

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. Please note that "-" denotes "not at all". For more information see WWL Methodology.

Drivers of Islamic oppression

- *Violent religious groups (Very Strong)*: Radical groups such as Boko Haram and the Sanusiyya Brotherhood are notorious for carrying out violent attacks against Christians, particularly in the southern parts of Chad. These acts of violence often extend to relatives of converts, making them key drivers of *Islamic oppression*.
- *Non-Christian leaders (Strong)*: In Chad's northern areas, local Islamic officials are known to discriminate against Christians. These officials often restrict access to basic government services for Christians, especially those who have converted from Islam. Experiences of overt hostility and delays in service are common in such scenarios.

- **Immediate and extended Family (Medium):** Conversion to Christianity often leads to strong negative reactions from both immediate and extended family members. Such converts are usually subjected to various forms of harassment, including eviction from their homes and denial of access to family resources.
- **Citizens (Medium):** Within Muslim-majority communities, visible Christians and especially converts from Islam are commonly ostracized by their neighbors and wider society.

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

- **Government officials (Medium):** Chad's authoritarian government severely limits freedoms, such as those of expression and association, both of which are critical for religious freedom. Previous leaders, like President Idriss Déby, had encouraged the influence of Islam over other religions as a tactic for consolidating power.

Drivers of Organized corruption and crime

- **Government officials (Medium):** The pervasive corruption within the governmental structure enables those targeting Christians to act without fear of legal consequences, fostering a culture of impunity.
- **Organized criminal networks (Medium):** The existence of organized criminal networks, some with international connections, adds an additional layer of complexity to the risk factors affecting Christians in Chad. These networks capitalize on the government's inability to enforce law and order, thereby escalating acts of persecution.

Drivers of Clan oppression

- **Ethnic leaders (Medium):** In regions where traditional African religions are dominant, especially in the south, ethnic and community leaders frequently force Christians to partake in traditional rituals. Christians who refuse, face social and material penalties, losing community benefits and support.

The Persecution pattern

In the chart below, the WWL 2024 Persecution pattern for Chad shows:

- The average pressure on Christians in Chad is high at 10.1 points, similar to the level in WWL 2023.
- Pressure is highest in the *Private sphere,* scoring 11.6 points, followed by the *Church sphere* with 10.3 points and the *Community and National spheres* with a score of 10.2 points each.
- The level of violence is categorized as 'high' at 10.6 points, up from 7.6 points in WWL 2023.

WWL 2024 Persecution Pattern for Chad

Average score 10.1
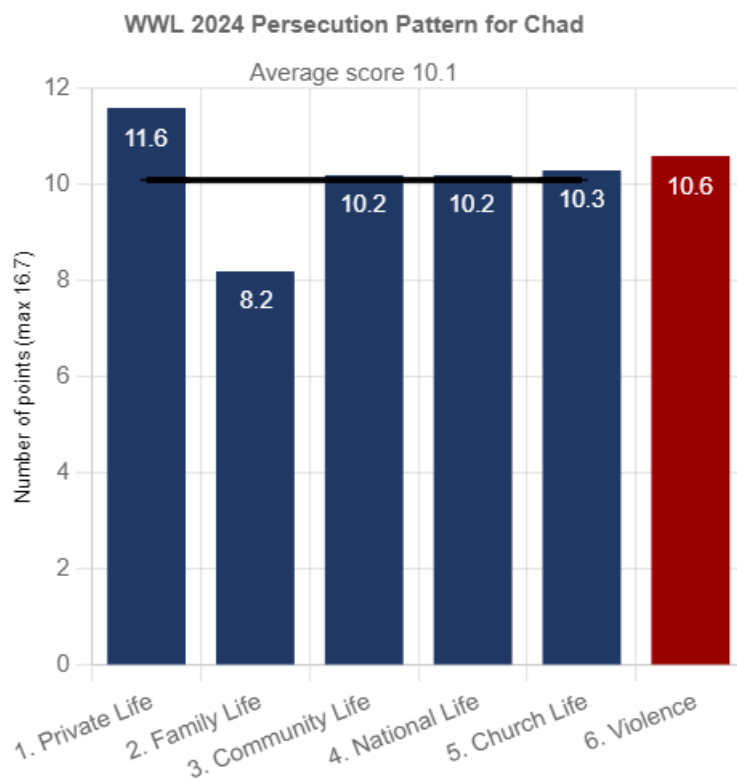
Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2024 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. (To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the "WWL Scoring example" in the WWL Methodology, available at: https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/, password: freedom).

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.1: Conversion has been opposed, forbidden, or punishable, including conversion from one type of Christianity to another. (3.25 points)

In Chad, converting from Islam to Christianity is met with intense opposition from both family and community. Known converts risk severe mistreatment, financial hardship and often lose privileges and access to community resources.

Block 1.8: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with those other than immediate family (extended family, others). (3.25 points)

Christians in Chad face significant risks when discussing their faith with anyone beyond immediate family. Particularly for converts from a Muslim or animist background, reactions from the wider family and community can be very hostile, involving intense pressure to renounce their Christian faith under the threat of severe consequences.

Block 1.2: It has been risky for Christians to conduct acts of Christian worship by themselves (e.g. prayer, Bible reading, etc.). (3.00 points)

The diverse cultural and religious landscape in Chad contributes to varying degrees of acceptance and tolerance, with potential challenges for Christians in specific regions. While Christians generally enjoy some freedom to conduct acts of worship like prayer and Bible reading, the situation can be decidedly more risky for those with animist backgrounds and for converts from Islam in predominantly Islamic areas in Chad.

Block 1.4: It has been risky for Christians to reveal their faith in written forms of personal expression (including expressions in blogs and Facebook etc.). (3.00 points)

The act of expressing Christian beliefs in writing, particularly online, exposes individuals to potential challenges and dangers, with converts experiencing heightened scrutiny and vulnerability. They can be attacked by a mob and also expelled from the community.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.6: Christian couples have been hindered in adopting children or serving as foster parents because of their faith. (2.75 points)

Christian couples in Chad often encounter difficulties when attempting to adopt children. Although there is no formal religious restriction on official adoptions, challenges frequently emerge at the community level, particularly in Muslim-dominated areas. Both Christian and Muslim families tend to resist adoptions across religious lines. These challenges are further complicated by the prevalence of informal adoption practices, where community elders and government officials can impose additional restrictions based on religious considerations.

Block 2.9: Children of Christians have been harassed or discriminated against because of their parents' faith. (2.75 points)

Children of Christians, especially those with a Muslim background, often face harassment and challenges similar to their parents. In school environments, these children often experience insults and accusations of betraying the Muslim faith, leading to conflicts with classmates.

Block 2.10: Christian spouses and/or children of Christians have been subject to separation for prolonged periods of time by circumstances relating to persecution. (2.75 points)

Families often face forced separation due to abductions, coerced recruitment, or fleeing for safety, leading to a devastating loss of familial ties. In some cases, if a conversion from a Muslim background is discovered, communities may expel a parent or other family member, further fracturing family units.

Block 2.11: Spouses of converts have been put under pressure (successfully or unsuccessfully) by others to divorce. (2.50 points)

In Chad, converts to Christianity frequently encounter pressure to undergo divorce proceedings. This pressure typically arises when spouses of a convert from Islam initiate divorce as a reaction to their partner's conversion to Christianity. Such divorces are not only punitive but also serve

as a means to enforce religious conformity and control, presenting significant challenges for converts in maintaining both their new faith and marital relationships.

Block 2.12: Christian spouses of non-Christians have been excluded from the right or opportunity to claim custody of the children in divorce cases. (2.50 points)

Religious dynamics and cultural factors both have an impact on the denial of custody rights to Christian spouses of non-Christians in divorce cases. Women, particularly those who decide to convert, may face heightened challenges in asserting their rightful custody rights, adding an extra layer of complexity to divorce proceedings.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.1: Christians have been harassed, threatened or obstructed in their daily lives for faith-related reasons (e.g. for not meeting majority religion or traditional dress codes, beard codes etc.). (3.75 points)

In areas where Muslims are the majority in Chad, Christians often experience obstacles and hostility in their daily lives due to their faith. This is not limited to regions influenced by Boko Haram but extends to other majority-Muslim areas. Christians commonly face discrimination in employment, for instance, impacting their job opportunities and career progression.

Block 3.7: Christians have been pressured by their community to renounce their faith. (3.50 points)

This pressure extends not only to converts but also affects other Christian groups, particularly those in Muslim-dominated areas. The pressure is often subtle, taking the form of isolation and insults.

Block 3.2: Christians have been monitored by their local communities or by private groups (this includes reporting to police, being shadowed, telephone lines listened to, emails read/censored, etc.). (3.00 points)

In regions dominated by Muslim communities, Christians experience surveillance and scrutiny from local residents. This increased vigilance prompts Christians to be cautious in their verbal expressions and communication.

Block 3.4: Christians been hindered in sharing community resources because of their faith (e.g. clean drinking water). (3.00 points)

Christians, above all in the rural areas of the northern and eastern regions, face challenges in accessing community resources such as water points due to discriminatory practices. This is often the case in regions where the majority population is Muslim; particularly known converts can encounter difficulties in securing essential resources.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (3.50 points)

The expression of Christian views, particularly those that may be perceived as contrary to government policy, can place churches in Chad in a precarious situation. The potential for government backlash limits the public expression of Christian opinions.

Block 4.3: Christians have been forced by law or in practice to act against their conscience, e.g. regarding military service or in certain professions. (3.00 points)

In specific instances, Christians have faced coercion to act against their conscience, notably in military service and in the context of certain legal and professional expectations. Despite officials asserting individual choice, practical circumstances often force Christians to comply with orders, potentially involving actions contrary to their conscience, such as signing false documents.

Block 4.5: Christians have been discriminated against when engaging with the authorities (local administration, government, army, etc.) for faith-related reasons. (3.00 points)

In Chad, access to government services often hinges on individuals' support for government policies. Christians who do not align with these policies experience discrimination and are denied the services they rightfully deserve. At the local level, this can be even worse in some regions, where simply being a Christian is enough to cause discrimination.

Block 4.6: Christians have been barred from public office, or has promotion been hindered for faith-related reasons. (3.00 points)

In regions dominated by Muslim influence, Christians face substantial hurdles in obtaining employment and progressing in their careers, despite the absence of explicit legal prohibitions. Discriminatory practices persist, limiting job opportunities and hindering promotion prospects for Christians within these workplaces.

Block 4.14: Those who caused harm to Christians have deliberately been left unpunished. (3.00 points)

In the face of escalating hostility towards Christians, those who persecute Christians in Chad go unpunished. This trend suggests a policy of appeasement by some officials, allowing individuals accused of violence against Christians to avoid accountability.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.1: Church activities have been monitored, hindered, disturbed, or obstructed. (3.50 points)

In some regions, Christian gatherings and activities are subject to monitoring and obstruction from both local governments and community youth groups. This interference impedes Christians' ability to freely practice their faith.

Block 5.2: It has been difficult to get registration or legal status for churches at any level of government. (3.50 points)

Securing registration or legal status for churches is a challenging and prolonged process in the country, characterized by restrictive measures imposed by the government. The intricate procedures, often leading to significant delays and occasional non-agreement, are compounded by bureaucratic hurdles, requiring persistent efforts from religious institutions. Despite the possibility of obtaining legal recognition, the cumbersome nature of the process raises practical concerns about the accessibility of such recognition within the existing regulatory framework.

Block 5.5: Churches have been hindered from organizing Christian activities outside church buildings. (3.50 points)

Arranging Christian activities outside formal church buildings is complicated due to government restrictions and potential disruption by jihadist groups. While churches theoretically have the freedom to organize activities beyond their premises, reports from human rights organizations highlight persistent violations of core rights, including freedom of expression and assembly.

Block 5.8: Christian preaching, teaching and/or published materials have been monitored. (3.50 points)

Christian preaching, teaching, and published materials have been monitored, with government authorities involved in surveillance across the nation. Such Christian activities are also monitored by jihadists, conservative imams and sheiks. This monitoring is intensified in areas affected by Boko Haram, where local communities also engage in monitoring Christian activities.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. ***Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced.***

Possible reasons for this may be:

- *Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.*
- *In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.*
- *If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.*
- *In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.*

2. *Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons*

- *Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).*
- *In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.*
- *Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.*

3. *The use of symbolic numbers*

In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10*, 100* etc.) is given and indicated with an asterisk. A symbolic number of 10* could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100* could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 1,000* could go well over 10,000 but, again, the real number is uncertain. The same applies for symbolic numbers 10,000*, 100,000* and 1,000,000*: Each could indicate much higher numbers, but WWR chooses to be cautious because the real number is uncertain.

Chad: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2024	WWL 2023
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	7	5
6.2 How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	3	2
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	10 *	0
6.4 How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.5 How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	13	5 *
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	10 *	10 *
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	10 *	10
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	100 *	10 *
6.9 How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	100 *	10 *

Chad: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2024	WWL 2023
6.10 How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	100 *	10 *
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	100 *	10
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	10 *	0

5 Year trends

The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

| Chad: WWL 2020 - WWL 2024	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2024	10.1
2023	10.1
2022	9.9
2021	9.9
2020	9.9

The average pressure on Christians in Chad remained at the 9.9 point level for three consecutive reporting periods (WWL 2020 - WWL 2022), and has now stabilized at just over 10 points. This high level of pressure reflects the emergence of various Islamic militant groups in the region which also impacts the local religious discourse.

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life

The chart below shows that the average pressure in the *Private sphere* has been highest over over the five WWL reporting periods scoring the five year average of 11.5 points, followed by the *Church* and *Community spheres* at a five year average of 10.3 and 10.2 points respectively. In general, pressure has stabilized in all spheres of life.

Chad: WWL 2020 - WWL 2024 Pressure scores in each sphere of life
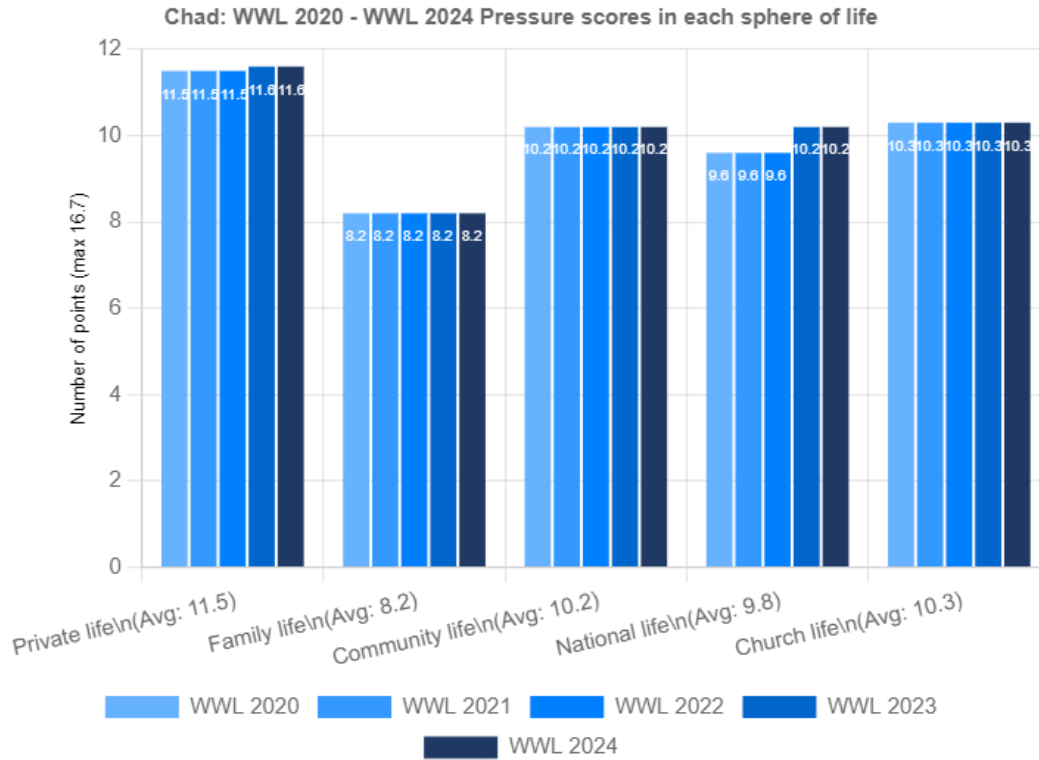
5 Year trends: Violence against Christians

Chad: WWL 2020 - WWL 2024 Violence scores
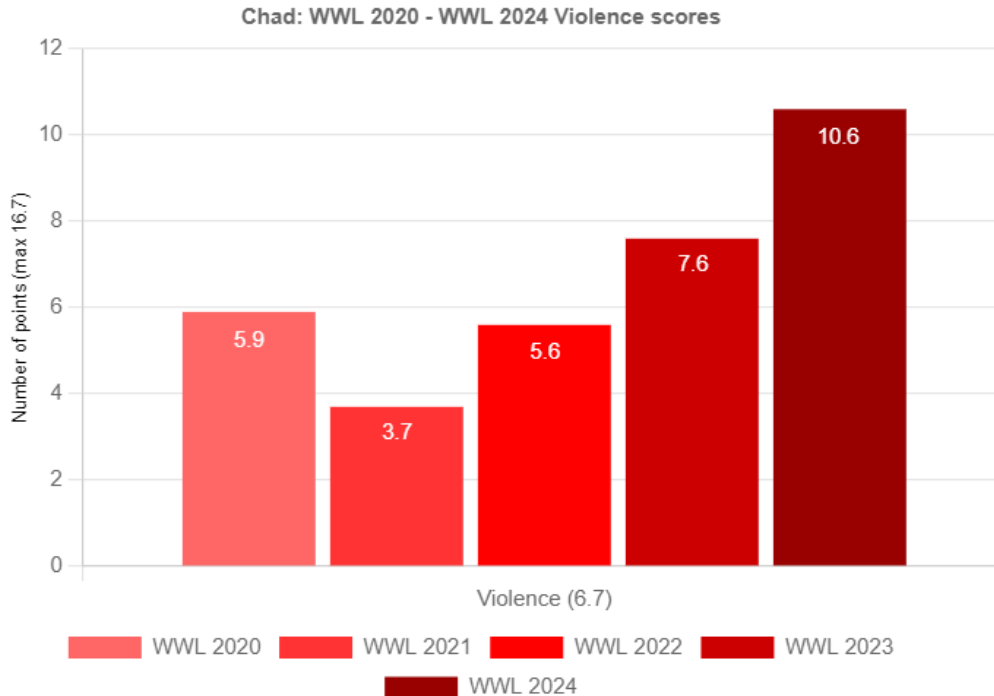
Violence in Chad, while not following a consistent pattern, has shown an upward trend over the last four WWL reporting periods, culminating in a very high peak of 10.6 points in WWL 2024.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

Group	Female Pressure Points
Economic	Denied inheritance or possessions; Discrimination/harassment via education; Economic harassment via business/job/work access; Economic harassment via fines
Political and Legal	Denied access to social community/networks; Denied custody of children; Forced divorce; Forced marriage
Security	Abduction; Incarceration by family (house arrest); Violence – physical; Violence – sexual
Social and Cultural	Violence – psychological; Violence – Verbal
Technological	-

Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist. Women and girls in Chad are subject to forced divorce, forced marriage, abduction by violent Jihadi groups, sexual violence and harmful cultural practices. Female genital mutilation is recurrent in 13 of Chad's 23 provinces, most often taking the form of clitoridectomy, it is generally performed on girls between the ages of 5 and 12 (UNICEF Child protection, accessed 20 March 2024). Within this predominately Islamic, patriarchal context, Christian women are vulnerable both on account of their religion as well as their gender.

Christian women in Chad face both violent and non-violent persecution for their faith. Christian women are also vulnerable to sexual violence at the hands of Islamic militants. A country expert explained: "There have been reports of Christian women being kidnapped and forced into marriage across parts of the nation where Boko haram militia have wreaked havoc. … particularly in rural areas and in Internally displaced people's camps." Women and girls who have been raped and consequently impregnated typically suffer ongoing psychological distress and low self-esteem. Traumatized rape victims sometimes view their children as a perpetual reminder of the crime committed against them. Local sources report that the wider society around them, too, is unsympathetic to their plight, viewing them as tarnished. More generally, sexual and gender-based violence has been exacerbated by forced displacement in the country. As of October 2023, over 420,000 Sudanese refugees had fled into eastern Chad since the start of the crisis in Sudan. According to the World Food Programme, Chad has one of the highest levels of hunger in the world, and an estimated 42% of the country living in poverty (HRW 2024, Chad country chapter). These factors paired with a worsening socio-economic situation and shrinking humanitarian support, creates a climate of instability where gendered vulnerabilities and violence are compounded (UNHCR, 25 November 2022).

Christians from a Muslim background face strong pressure from their family and local community, the aim being to make them recant. The practice of forced and early marriage is widespread across Chad, particularly in rural areas (61% of girls are married before the age of 18 (Girls Not Brides Chad). More often, married girls are withdrawn from school, depriving them of a decent education and effective participation in development. Parents of converts may

forcibly marry them to a Muslim, with the aim of restoring them to Islam. According to a country expert, girls who refuse these marriages can face serious repercussions, including violence from their parents and other members of their family or community. If already married at the point of conversion, the husbands of female converts are often pressured by their families and society to divorce them and deny them access to their children, to punish the 'unfaithful' and pressurize them into giving up their Christian faith. Gender-based violence in such marriages is commonly reported. Reflecting on the ramifications of these pressures on converts, an internal source explained that "due to the vulnerabilities resulting from females being deprived of the basic necessities because of their conversion, some of these females resort to prostitution and other unwholesome practices to survive. Homes become broken and lack maternal care as a result of mothers being forcefully divorced or being deprived of contact with their children."

Women and girls may also find it difficult to access Christian community or attend church services, as they can easily be subjected to house arrest by their family. Some parents will restrict them by more indirect means, loading chores on to them to prevent them from leaving the house. Women and girls may also suffer physical beatings, or disinheritance.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Group	Male Pressure Points
Economic	Economic harassment via business/job/work access
Political and Legal	Imprisonment by government
Security	Abduction; Military/militia conscription/service against conscience; Violence – death; Violence – physical
Social and Cultural	Violence – psychological; Violence – Verbal
Technological	-

Men and boys are particularly subject to various forms of persecution. They are most likely to be targeted and killed during attacks, face arrests and unlawful detentions, experience physical violence, denial of inheritance, and marginalization. Additionally, men and boys are vulnerable to kidnapping. The persecution takes various forms, including economic harassment in terms of business, job, and work access, as well as military conscription or service against conscience.

Christian men and boys in Chad are most vulnerable to persecution from Islamic militant groups such as Boko Haram. Some have reportedly been abducted, forced to convert to Islam and forcibly recruited into the ranks of jihadist groups to serve as fighters. According to a source, men and boys, particularly in eastern Chad are "forced to organize self-defense groups, arming themselves primarily with spears, knives, poison-tipped arrows, etc., in order to discourage and defend against militia attacks in the absence of any substantial military or police presence provided by the Chadian government. Boys are also compelled to sleep in the open fields and watch over animals so they are not stolen by armed militias."

Initiation rituals in the southern regions of the country are also a cause for concern. These initiation rites usually take place every seven years and reportedly include floggings, sexual indignities, drugging, burning with coals and mock burials ([Open Doors USA, 16 August 2018](#)). Christians who do not flee will be forced to participate, and children of pastors will be especially targeted. Pastors who speak out against the dangers of these rituals have historically faced reprisals. In areas like Bitkin, pastors are often the targets of verbal abuse and more severe forms of persecution.

In addition, Christian men and boys can also face challenges at work, being denied jobs and promotion. This is, in part, due to the fact that they are required to make a public religious oath in order to attain a position in state offices. Christians are, therefore, hindered from attaining positions of influence and pushed into tighter economic circumstances. Senior military and government positions are dominated by Muslims, and Christians are finding it increasingly difficult to attain such posts. Families of Christian men and boys forcefully recruited into radical groups are also likely to suffer financial distress. A source explains: "Usually in the actions of armed militia groups, men and boys who do not have sufficient protection end up getting killed. Especially for Christian families, the loss of a father or son who is usually the breadwinner of the home is very devastating and can break up the family and throw other family members into economic hardships."

Men are the most affected by physical violence. Muslim converts go through this more than any other Christian group from their families and communities. Christians who are arrested by law enforcement go through harsh treatments in cells and prisons which often includes torture and other forms of physical and mental abuse. Some of them die as a result. For male converts, when their conversion has become known, they are normally isolated by family and local community. Some have also had their property burnt and damaged, been disinherited and expelled completely from their families, although this has not been reported in the WWL 2024 reporting period. This can place them in a difficult long-term economic position.

Persecution of other religious minorities

According to Freedom House's Global Freedom Index 2023 (Chad/D2):

- "The state imposes a number of religious restrictions, primarily against certain Muslim sects. Several sects deemed to promote violence are banned, despite limited evidence of such activity. Imams are subject to governance by the semipublic High Council for Islamic Affairs, which is led by a group of imams belonging to the Tijanyya Sufi order. Wearing burqas is banned by ministerial decree, and the government detains individuals who wear them in public."

According to US State Department (IRFR 2022 Chad):

- "The government maintained its ban on the leading conservative Wahhabi association from participation on the High Council of Islamic Affairs (HCIA), but media outlets said enforcement of the ban remained difficult and that Wahhabis continued to meet and worship in their own mosques." ... "Local media said one reason Wahhabi groups continued their activities was that a number of government and security officials came from the same

region or tribe as the Wahhabi leaders."

- *"Burqas*, defined by ministerial notice as "any garment where one sees only the eyes," are forbidden by ministerial decree. The ministerial notice also applies to *niqabs*, although this ban is routinely unenforced."

Future outlook

The outlook for Christians as viewed through the lens of:

Islamic oppression

The rise of Islamic militancy in the Sahel region has profound implications for Chad, particularly for its Christian population and other minority religious communities. This surge in extremism not only empowers militant groups but also influences other Islamic factions within Chad to adopt more conservative Islamic doctrine. Given the recent reduction in counter-terrorism operations by neighboring countries due to COVID-19, Chad's capacity to curb jihadist expansion has weakened significantly. Additionally, the instability wrought by the recent coup in Niger (July 2023) and the ongoing internal conflict in Sudan (since April 2023) amplifies regional instability. This cascade of events will likely continue to increase the strength of *Islamic oppression* as a driver of persecution against Christians and other religious minorities, not just within Chad but across the region.

Dictatorial paranoia

Despite being at the forefront of fighting jihadist groups, the government in Chad operates within an undemocratic framework that suppresses essential freedoms, including freedom of press and expression. In this atmosphere, Christian communities face unique sets of challenges, including censorship and limited public voice. While the government's fight against jihadists might suggest an alignment with Christian interests, it is crucial to note that the primary objective is to secure the state and maintain political power. The transition of power from President Idriss Déby to his son Mahamat Déby circumvented constitutional norms, indicating a deep-seated authoritarianism. With the armed forces firmly in control and political dialogues yielding no substantial change, this status quo is expected to persist, impacting all sectors of society, including Christians.

Organized corruption and crime

In a country scoring poorly on Transparency International's Corruption Index, the law enforcement infrastructure is heavily compromised. This compromised system allows for a climate where those who wish to persecute Christians can do so with little fear of legal repercussions. Organized criminal networks, some with cross-border ties, exploit this situation further. Without meaningful reform, this driver of persecution is unlikely to abate.

Clan oppression

Chad's multi-ethnic society further complicates the religious landscape. In certain communities, Islam is viewed not just as a religion but as an integral component of ethnic identity. Conversion from Islam to Christianity, therefore, is perceived as betrayal to one's community, resulting in

severe repercussions for converts. Given the deeply ingrained cultural and ethnic norms, substantial change in this dimension seems unlikely in the foreseeable future.

In summary, unless there is a significant change in the broader regional and national contexts, including successful efforts to stabilize the regions affected by the coup in Niger and the conflict in Sudan, it is likely that these engines driving the persecution of Christians will continue to gain strength.

2024 election and regional outlook

Chad is slated for general elections in May/June 2024. Despite the lack of apparent preparation and prevailing skepticism about the process, the nation also faces the challenge of regional instability. Notably, it is contending with the crisis in neighboring Sudan, where ongoing conflict between the Sudanese army and rapid support forces has created a tense and uncertain environment. In general, Chad's geopolitical situation is further complicated by security concerns in its neighboring countries. To the north, it shares a border with Libya, which grapples with its own set of serious security challenges. To the south, the Central African Republic, also facing instability, poses additional risks. On the western front, Chad is bordered by Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger, each contending with their unique security issues. This regional turmoil adds a complex layer to Chad's political landscape as it approaches the election period, potentially influencing both its internal dynamics and cross-border relations.

External Links - Persecution Dynamics

- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: (UNICEF Child protection, accessed 20 March 2024) - https://www.unicef.org/chad/child-protection
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: World Food Programme - https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/chad#260fd6
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: humanitarian support - https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/press/2022/11/638066eb4/unhcr-warns-rising-tide-hunger-insecurity-underfunding-worsening-gender.html
- Gender-specific religious persecution Male description: Open Doors USA, 16 August 2018 - https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/pray/pray-for-church-in-chad-facing-threats-for-protecting-youth-from-deadly-ritual/

Further useful reports

A selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/.

As in earlier years, these are also available on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom):

- https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Chad
- https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/.