World
Watch
Research

Chad: Full Country Dossier

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World Watch List 2022

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020	Total Score WWL 2019	Total Score WWL 2018
1	Afghanistan	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	15.0	98	94	93	94	93
2	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	13.1	96	94	94	94	94
3	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	8.5	91	92	92	91	91
4	Libya	15.6	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.3	11.5	91	92	90	87	86
5	Yemen	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.7	16.7	5.2	88	87	85	86	85
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.6	11.1	88	88	87	86	86
7	Nigeria	13.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.4	16.7	87	85	80	80	77
8	Pakistan	13.6	14.0	15.1	14.9	13.1	16.7	87	88	88	87	86
9	Iran	14.5	14.6	13.6	15.8	16.5	10.4	85	86	85	85	85
10	India	12.7	12.7	12.9	14.7	13.3	15.6	82	83	83	83	81
11	Saudi Arabia	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.9	16.7	3.1	81	78	79	77	79
12	Myanmar	12.4	11.5	13.8	13.4	13.1	14.8	79	74	73	71	65
13	Sudan	13.4	13.4	14.3	13.6	15.7	8.5	79	79	85	87	87
14	Iraq	14.0	14.6	14.0	14.8	13.9	6.9	78	82	76	79	86
15	Syria	12.9	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.9	9.3	78	81	82	82	76
16	Maldives	15.4	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.4	77	77	78	78	78
17	China	12.6	9.8	12.2	14.4	15.5	11.1	76	74	70	65	57
18	Qatar	14.2	14.1	11.1	13.0	14.3	7.2	74	67	66	62	63
19	Vietnam	11.3	9.7	12.7	14.1	14.5	8.7	71	72	72	70	69
20	Egypt	12.7	13.2	11.5	12.7	10.8	10.0	71	75	76	76	70
21	Uzbekistan	14.9	12.7	14.1	11.8	15.6	1.7	71	71	73	74	73
22	Algeria	14.0	14.0	11.1	13.4	14.1	4.1	71	70	73	70	58
23	Mauritania	14.3	13.9	13.1	14.0	14.1	0.9	70	71	68	67	57
24	Mali	9.4	8.2	13.9	10.3	12.8	15.0	70	67	66	68	59
25	Turkmenistan	14.5	11.3	13.6	13.3	15.7	0.6	69	70	70	69	68
26	Laos	12.0	10.3	13.2	13.3	14.1	5.9	69	71	72	71	67
27	Morocco	13.1	13.8	10.8	12.8	14.2	3.9	69	67	66	63	51
28	Indonesia	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.0	9.6	13.5	68	63	60	65	59
29	Bangladesh	11.8	10.7	12.9	11.3	10.2	11.3	68	67	63	58	58
30	Colombia	11.5	8.8	13.1	11.0	9.9	13.3	68	67	62	58	56
31	CAR	9.0	8.6	13.6	9.6	11.4	15.6	68	66	68	70	61
32	Burkina Faso	9.4	9.7	12.0	9.6	12.1	14.8	68	67	66	48	-
33	Niger	9.4	9.5	13.9	7.2	12.8	14.8	68	62	60	52	45
34	Bhutan	13.4	12.4	11.7	13.7	13.8	1.7	67	64	61	64	62
35	Tunisia	11.9	12.7	10.6	11.3	13.4	6.5	66	67	64	63	62
36	Oman	13.8	14.0	10.3	13.2	13.4	1.5	66	63	62	59	57
37	Cuba	12.3	8.1	12.6	13.2	14.0	5.9	66	62	52	49	49
38	Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	13.1	10.3	12.3	9.8	66	65	63	65	62
39	Jordan	12.9	14.0	11.0	12.3	12.5	3.0	66	64	64	65	66
40	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	12.0	15.6	66	64	56	55	33
41	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	11.3	7.9	12.5	15.6	65	63	43	43	-
42	Turkey	12.6	11.5	11.4	13.2	11.6	4.6	65	69	63	66	62
43	Mexico	10.3	8.3	12.5	10.8	10.3	12.6	65	64	60	61	59
44	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	7.2	13.1	15.4	65	64	60	54	38
45	Tajikistan	13.8	12.3	12.0	12.6	13.2	0.7	65	66	65	65	65
46	Brunei	14.8	14.5	10.3	11.0	13.2	0.6	64	64	63	63	64
47	Kazakhstan	13.4	11.6	11.1	12.6	13.5	1.7	64	64	64	63	63
48	Nepal	12.4	9.8	9.9	13.6	12.7	5.2	64	66	64	64	64
49	Kuwait	13.5	13.7	9.8	12.3	13.1	1.1	64	63	62	60	61
50	Malaysia	12.5	14.3	11.5	11.6	10.2	3.3	63	63	62	60	65

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Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021	Total Score WWL 2020	Total Score WWL 2019	Total Score WWL 2018
51	Kenya	11.7	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	11.1	63	62	61	61	62
52	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.9	11.4	11.3	9.4	7.8	63	62	65	58	57
53	Comoros	12.7	11.1	11.2	12.4	14.2	0.9	63	62	57	56	56
54	UAE	13.4	13.6	10.1	11.8	12.2	1.3	62	62	60	58	58
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	13.7	61	58	55	52	53
56	Azerbaijan	13.1	9.9	9.3	11.0	13.4	3.3	60	56	57	57	57
57	Palestinian Territories	13.0	13.4	9.8	10.2	12.0	0.9	59	58	60	57	60
58	Djibouti	12.3	12.3	11.1	10.0	12.2	0.7	59	56	56	56	56
59	Kyrgyzstan	12.9	10.1	11.1	10.4	12.0	1.5	58	58	57	56	54
60	Bahrain	12.5	13.2	9.1	11.1	10.2	0.9	57	56	55	55	57
61	Nicaragua	9.1	5.6	11.1	11.8	11.3	7.6	56	51	41	41	-
62	Russian Federation	12.3	8.0	10.2	10.6	12.3	2.2	56	57	60	60	51
63	Chad	11.5	8.2	10.2	9.6	10.3	5.6	55	53	56	48	40
64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.7	9.2	9.6	8.1	52	48	48	43	-
65	Venezuela	5.6	4.5	11.2	9.4	11.1	9.6	51	39	42	41	34
66	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	10.1	11.4	7.8	51	46	43	42	-
67	Rwanda	8.1	5.5	6.7	10.3	10.1	9.3	50	42	42	41	-
68	Honduras	7.2	5.1	10.5	7.7	9.2	8.7	48	46	39	38	
69	Uganda	8.1	4.6	7.4	6.7	9.1	11.7	48	47	48	47	46
70	El Salvador	7.7	4.6	10.7	5.7	9.1	7.2	45	42	38	30	
71	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	9.8	2.4	44	43	41	42	-
72	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.8	1.7	44	43	43	43	-
73	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	7.0	8.1	2.0	43	47	45	46	-
74	South Sudan	5.7	0.9	7.0	6.3	7.8	15.0	43	43	44	44	-
75	Ivory Coast	9.8	8.6	8.2	5.5	7.9	2.0	42	42	42	43	-
76	Israel	9.8	8.4	5.6	6.6	6.6	4.3	41	40	38	39	40

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 2022 reporting period was 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021.
- 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 including appendices can be found on the World Watch List Documentation page of the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom).

Effect on data-gathering during COVID-19 pandemic

In the WWL 2022 reporting period, travel restrictions and other measures introduced by the governments of various countries to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic did cause delays and create the need for restructuring grass-roots research in some cases. Through the agile cooperation of In-country networks, Open Doors country researchers, External experts, WWR analysts and an increased use of technological options, Open Doors is confident that – as in the previous reporting period – WWL 2022 scoring, analysis and documentation has maintained required levels of quality and reliability.

External Links - Introduction

- Sources and definitions: World Watch List Documentation - https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/

WWL 2022 Situation in brief / Chad

Brief country details

Chad: Population (UN estimate for 2021)	Christians	Chr%
16,766,000	5,861,000	35.0

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)

Chad: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2022	55	63
WWL 2021	53	62
WWL 2020	56	58
WWL 2019	48	60
WWL 2018	40	-

Ranks are shown above whenever the country scored 41 points or more in the WWL 2018-2022 reporting periods

Dominant persecution engines and drivers

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

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

Brief description of the persecution situation

A convert from Islam to Christianity may need to hide his/her conversion to avoid violent and hostile reactions from family and relatives. Private acts of worship and devotion have to be done secretly. In Muslim-dominated parts of the country, Islamic mobs may sometimes disturb the celebration of Christian weddings. For Christians with a Muslim background, it is difficult to raise their children in accordance with their Christian faith because the children will be bullied and the parent's conversion will also be exposed. Christians, especially converts, also face hostility and discrimination in IDP camps. In Fada and Mourtcha there are reported cases of Christians from Muslim families being forced to give up their Christian faith to avoid being denied food and the payment of school fees. The Constitution stipulates separation of religion and state and provides for freedom of religion and equality before the law without distinction of religion. However, at a local government level, there have been instances where the authorities have refused to recognize the conversion of Muslims to Christianity. There is a mandatory church registration law in Chad with the possibility of imprisonment for failure to register. However, given the risk to converts, Christians with a Muslim background will not dare to apply for registration for their groups.

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- According to Freedom House/Global Freedom 2020: Christians in the south are largely excluded from political power.
- Christians face discrimination from local officials and violence from Boko Haram and Fulani militia - including abduction.

WWL 2022: Keys to understanding / Chad

Links for general background information

Name	Quote Reference	Link	Last accessed on
Amnesty International country report	AI 2021	https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/chad/	14 September 2021
BBC News country profile	BBC country profile	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13164686	14 September 2021
Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2020	BTI 2020	https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-dashboard/TCD	14 September 2021
CIA World Factbook	CIA Factbook	https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad/	14 September 2021
Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index 2020	EIU 2020	https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/democracy-index-2020.pdf	14 September 2021
FFP's Fragile States Index 2021	FSI 2021	https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/	14 September 2021
Freedom House's 2021 Democracy index (Not included)	Freedom House/Democracy 2021	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/nations-transit/scores	
Freedom House's 2021 Global Freedom index	Freedom House/Global Freedom 2021	https://freedomhouse.org/country/chad/freedom-world/2021	14 September 2021
Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2020 report (Not included)	Freedom House/Internet Freedom 2020	https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-net/scores	
Garda World country report	Garda World	https://www.garda.com/crisis24/country-reports/chad	14 September 2021
Human Rights Watch World Report 2021 (Not included)	HRW 2021	https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021	
Internet World Stats 2021	IWS 2021	https://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#td	14 September 2021
RSF's 2020 World Press Freedom Index	World Press Freedom 2020	https://rsf.org/en/chad	14 September 2021
Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index	CPI 2021	https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/chad	14 February 2022
UNDP's Global Human Development Indicators	HDI 2020	http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/TCD	14 September 2021
US State Department's 2020 International Religious Freedom country reports	IRFR 2020	https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/	14 September 2021
USCIRF 2021 country reports (Not included)	USCIRF 2021	https://www.uscirf.gov/countries	
World Bank country report	World Bank	https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/chad	14 September 2021

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 14 September 2020).

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 have 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.

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 reelection 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).He has since been replaced by his son, Mahamat Iddris Déby, as the current president of the republic. It is expected that Mahamat Déby will govern for the next eighteen months after which free and democratic elections will be held once the transition period is over (BBC News, 20 April 2021).

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 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.

Freedom House/Global Freedom 2020 rates the country as "not free." 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/Global Freedom 2020:

- "A constitution promulgated in 2018 eliminated the office of prime minister and gave the president exclusive and sweeping powers to appoint state officials. It also reinstalled term limits: Under its provisions, the president serves a six-year term that is renewable once. However, the term limit mandate was not retroactive and will not take effect until after the 2021 presidential election, thus permitting Déby the opportunity to run for sixth and seventh terms that could keep him in power until 2033."

Legislative and municipal elections, which were postponed several times since 2015, were delayed again due to the COVID-19 crisis. The country's electoral commission announced on 10 June 2020: "The legislative elections of December 13, 2020 cannot take place. The coronavirus

epidemic has delayed the voter registration process … and it would be impossible to update the register during the rainy season between July and September because of poor road conditions" (MNA, 10 June 2020). On 11 April 2021, President Idriss Déby Itno was re-elected to a sixth term with 79.32% of the votes (France 24 with AFP and Reuters, 19 April 2021), but was dead within a week of being declared winner. He was succeeded by his son, Mahamat Idriss Déby.

Religious landscape

Chad: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	5,861,000	35.0
Muslim	9,647,000	57.5
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	2,400	0.0
Ethno-religionist	1,104,000	6.6
Jewish	0	0.0
Bahai	130,000	0.8
Atheist	2,200	0.0
Agnostic	14,600	0.1
Other	4,600	0.0
OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.		

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)

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 became 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 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 2020):

• "Most northerners practice Islam, and most southerners practice Christianity or indigenous religions; religious distribution is mixed in urban areas, and indigenous religions are often practiced to some degree along with Islam and Christianity." In the southern parts of the country, African traditional religions have a stronghold and initiation ceremonies and rituals for youngsters are common."

Economic landscape

According to the World Bank (country overview):

- **Economic growth:** Growth averaged -0.2% over the past five years, which is about -3.2 in per capita terms. Both the fiscal and current account balances deteriorated substantially, and difficulties in financing fiscal deficit could lead to domestic arrears' buildup.
- **Inflation:** Inflation rose up from -1.0% in 2019 to 3.5% in 2020, as a result of the impact of containment measures on domestic supply chains which saw prices skyrocketing.
- **Imports/Exports:** Oil provides about 60% of export revenues, while cotton, cattle, livestock and gum Arabic provide the bulk of non-oil export earnings. The external current account deficit widened from 4.9% in 2019 to 9.3% in 2020. The value of exports decreased by 21.9% driven by a sharp drop in oil prices (-35.1%); although in real terms, export growth grew by 1.1%. Import growth did not adjust in the same proportion as the government imported goods needed to control the pandemic. Subsequently, export growth is expected to reach 4.8%, driven by crude oil exports.
- **Expenditure:** In 2020, total government expenditure in Chad amounted to about 19.77 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It is projected that government expenditure will decrease to 17.66% in 2021 (Statista, 27 April 2021).
- **Public debt:** Chad is struggling with a high debt burden against a backdrop of the coronavirus crisis and low prices for oil, and is the first country officially to request a debt restructuring under a new common framework agreed by the Group of 20 major economies in 2020. Public debt went down from 44.4% in 2019 to 43% of GDP in 2020, signifying a 1.29 percentage point fall from the previous year.
- **Investment:** The country relies heavily on foreign assistance and foreign capital for most public and private sector investment. Nevertheless, investment is difficult due to limited infrastructure, lack of trained workers, extensive government bureaucracy and corruption.
- **Poverty:** Chad poverty rate remains high, with about four out of ten Chadians (41.7%) living below the international poverty of line. Poverty is estimated to have increased by 1.6 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, and the number of poor have also increased by about four hundred thousand people, bringing the total number of poor from 6.4 million to 6.8 million.

According to the Heritage Foundation's [2021 Index of Economic Freedom](#) (page 140):

- **Economic freedom:** "Chad's economic freedom score is 50.4, making its economy the 158th freest in the 2021 Index. Its overall score has increased by 0.2 point, primarily because of an improvement in government integrity. Chad is ranked 38th among 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and its overall score is below the regional and world averages. Chad's economy has vacillated between mostly unfree and repressed for more than two decades. This year, it barely clung to the mostly unfree category. Chad is one of the world's 25 poorest countries according to IMF data. Desperately needed major reforms to improve business freedom, property rights, judicial effectiveness, and the integrity of government seem unlikely to occur under the present government."

According to the World Bank's [2021 Spring Macro Poverty Outlook](#) (Sub-Saharan Africa):

- **COVID-19 impact:** "The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered Chad's economic recovery which began in 2018. The dual effect of the pandemic and the sharp collapse of oil prices have plunged Chad into recession. The economy contracted by 0.9% in 2020 and the negative output gap widened to 4.1%. The uncertain nature of the depth and duration of the pandemic coupled with fiscal liquidity constraints exacerbate an economic context already witnessing several downside risks, thus, highlighting the economic weaknesses related to Chad's dependency on the oil sector."

- **Post COVID-19 scenario:** "The adverse effects of the pandemic on poor and vulnerable households are expected to last for several years, with the poverty rate expected to increase to 42.5% by 2023. Public expenditure are also expected to decrease by 4.2% as the COVID-19 related spending engaged is gradually removed. The economy is projected to slowly recover, thanks to the global oil markets resumption that would boost international trade, in 2021 with growth reaching 1%, and a decrease in per capita growth contraction to -1.9% of GDP, from 3.8% in 2020. With the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in the second half of 2021, the recovery is expected to gain momentum in 2022-23 with economic growth reaching 2.7% on the average."

Social and cultural landscape

According to the [UNDP's full report 2020](#) (page 343 onwards) and the CIA Factbook:

- **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](#) data portal (2021):

- **Refugees/IDPs:** As of 31 May 2021, updated records of refugees and IDPs in Chad were estimated at 504,584 and 401,511 respectively. There were also about 4,554 asylum seekers in the country. Despite limited resources, "the government of Chad continues to have a positive and welcoming attitude towards refugees. For more than a decade, it has hosted around 340,000 Sudanese refugees in the east, 100,000 central African refugees in the south, and opened doors to more than 15,000 Nigerian refugees from Boko Haram

insurgency in the lake Chad region. Chad is characterized by a complex operational environment with protracted internal displacement due to the instability around the lake Chad region since 2014, aggravated by regular refugee influx due to emergencies in neighboring countries. Over 22,000 refugees arrived from CAR in 2018 and over 4,500 from Nigeria in 2019 as of October 2019. To better address the refugee's needs, chad is one of the pilot countries for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). In line with this approach, Chad integrated all refugee schools into the national education system, and the same process is now underway for the health sector. Building on this, the country is in the process of drafting and adopting a new national asylum law which will increase refugee's freedom of movement and access to employment and land, which are key elements for refugee's socio-economic inclusion."

According to the UN Global Human Development Indicators (HDI 2020):

- *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 2021):

- *Internet usage:* 13.2% of the population – survey date: June 2021
- *Facebook users:* 3.3% of the population – survey date: June 2021

According to World Bank (country profile):

- *Mobile phone subscriptions:* 48 per 100 people

According to BuddeComm research (updated July 2020):

- The mobile sector has developed steadily under the auspices of Tigo Chad and Airtel Chad mobile operators. The country's first 3G/4G mobile license was awarded in April 2014.
- Chad's 2020 finance Act dropped the 18% Internet excise duty on Internet access charges to help reduce access costs.

Security situation

The rise of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria has also created problems for Chad. The Islamist group has sent suicide bombers to the region bordering with Nigeria and killed civilians and Chadian soldiers. An example of one such attack took place on 5 August 2021: Suspected Boko Haram assailants attacked and killed 26 soldiers in an ambush in the Lake Chad area (Reuters, 5 August 2021).

Chad 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 the French forces in retaking the northern part of Mali from Islamist rebels. Furthermore, Chadian troops are 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 on 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 and executed ten Boko Haram members after they were tried and sentenced to death in 2015 (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).

According to Garda World:

• Following Déby's death, Boko Haram jihadists are likely to seek to take advantage of potential disarray in the armed forces and uncertainty surrounding the succession to increase attacks in the Lake Chad area, their main operational area. Successful assaults are likely to encourage them to attempt suicide attacks in N'Djamena targeting crowded areas such as markets, around the main mosque and government buildings. Chad's regional counter-terrorism strength will likely be reduced as a result of domestic security requirements, potentially opening up security vacuums in counter-insurgency operations in the Sahel."

Christians have been the target of Boko Haram on many occasions in neighboring countries. Thus, it is safe to conclude that the threat of Boko Haram significantly affects Christians in Chad too.

Trends analysis

1) Chad is sandwiched between very volatile countries

Libya, Sudan, CAR, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon are all neighboring countries dealing with a variety of conflicts. If the situations in these countries get worse, Chad will be seriously impacted. The lives of Christians in the country will not only be affected by what happens in Chad itself, but also by what will happen in those neighboring countries.

2) Boko Haram and the Darfur crisis continue to threaten internal stability

Despite the international community's support to mitigate instability in neighboring countries, Boko Haram and the continuing Darfur crisis are still threatening to destabilize the country (UN News, 21 February 2018). The current levels of conflict in the country and political instability could lead to another crisis or coup. At the moment this is unlikely to happen since the international community is supporting the country. Another important factor is Boko Haram: If the action of the joint task-forces which were established to fight Boko Haram in the region is not backed up with political, economic and social reforms, the ideology of Boko Haram may

continue to be influential. Also, Chad suffers from the continuing Darfur crisis, including the hosting of more than 500,000 refugees. Thus, if the problem in Darfur is not resolved, stability in eastern Chad is hardly possible. If this situation continues, Christians will remain susceptible to violence and various other restrictions.

3) Security concerns following death of President Déby (senior)

The death of Chad's President Idriss Déby has raised concerns about stability in the country and throughout West Africa. The late president was an essential ally in the fight against terrorism and it is not quite clear what the situation will be like with the new transitional government. According to some security experts, there is uncertainty about the stability of the current interim arrangement by the military council and about unity within the ranks of the army (VOA News, 23 April 2021). There is a possibility that Islamist insurgents will actually use the opportunity to further destabilize the country. This could have ripple effects across West Africa.

4) Christians are vulnerable

Due to the situation outlined above, the Christian community remains very vulnerable to a variety of factors:

- The dictatorial regime - Political opposition figures and a section of civil society are highly critical of the Transitional Military Council. They are concerned about its defiance of the constitutional requirement that the National Assembly's president oversee the transition, and about the takeover of power by the army.
- Jihadists in the region
- The continual influence of ultra-conservative/Wahhabi Islam and the increasing presence of rebel groups in the northern part of the country.

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
- 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: announced - https://www.macaubusiness.com/chad-postpones-long-delayed-legislative-vote-over-virus/
- Economic landscape: 2021 Index of Economic Freedom - https://www.heritage.org/index/pdf/2021/book/index_2021.pdf
- Economic landscape: 2021 Spring Macro Poverty Outlook - http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/720441492455091991/mpo-ssa.pdf
- Social and cultural landscape: UNDP's full report 2020 - http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2020.pdf
- Social and cultural landscape: UNHCR - http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2533?y=2020#year
- Technological landscape: BuddeComm research - https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Chad-Telecoms-Mobile-and-Broadband-Statistics-and-Analyses
- Security situation: 5 August 2021: - https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/391356/chad-boko-haram-militants-kill-six-soldiers-in-an-ambush-in-lac-region-october-20

- 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
- Trends analysis: Darfur crisis - https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1003251
- Trends analysis: stability - https://www.voanews.com/africa/chad-president-debys-death-raises-security-concerns-west-africa

WWL 2022: Church information / Chad

Christian origins

Even though Roman Catholic priests attempted to establish a Christian mission as early as the 1660s, this was only possible after the French fully controlled the country - i.e. until 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	2,647,000	45.2
Protestant	1,322,000	22.6
Independent	674,000	11.5
Unaffiliated	1,218,000	20.8
Doubly-affiliated Christians	0	0.0
Total	**5,861,000**	**100.0**
(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)		
Evangelical movement	1,538,000	26.2
Renewalist movement	455,000	7.8

Data source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds, World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2021)

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.

WWL 2022: Persecution Dynamics / Chad

Reporting period

1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021

Position on the World Watch List

Chad: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2022	55	63
WWL 2021	53	62
WWL 2020	56	58
WWL 2019	48	60
WWL 2018	40	-

Ranks are shown above whenever the country scored 41 points or more in the WWL 2018-2022 reporting periods

The overall score for Chad increased by 2 points in WWL 2022 which was due to a rise in the violence score from 3.7 to 5.6 points. Pressure and violence in the country is shaped by many factors, mainly:

- As in other Sahel countries, Christians in Chad are not immune from the influence of Boko Haram and al-Qaeda-linked jihadists. Those who live outside N'Djamena, especially around the Lake Chad basin, live in constant fear of attack. Abduction, church destruction, and killings are some of the things that militants there are known to do to Christians. Those who convert to Christianity also face numerous problems in the country.
- Chad is bordered by some of the most volatile countries in Africa: Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sudan, Libya, and CAR. All these countries are affected by the presence of violent Islamic militants in one way or another. In this context, Chad government forces have been fighting Boko Haram in collaboration with other countries in the region.

These two factors also shape the attitude and the religious discourse 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 (Strong)

There is no organization as such that is trying to bring Chad under Islam, but through co-operation with Arab countries, schools, universities, and mosques are being built to promote radical Islamic teaching and values. This contributes to the radicalization of segments of society and hostility against Christians. The activities of Boko Haram in the region also contribute to the prevalence of *Islamic oppression* as a Persecution engine in Chad.

Dictatorial paranoia (Medium)

President Idriss Déby came to power in 1990 when his Zaghawa-led rebel group took power through armed struggle. To maintain power at all costs, the government uses religious and ethnic sentiments to get support from tribal groups. The president ruled the country with an iron fist, arresting and persecuting opposition groups. Déby died in April 2021 and was replaced by his son Mahamat Déby. No reforms have been introduced and the son replaced the father without following the constitutional order of power transfer.

Clan oppression (Medium)

In north-eastern Chad (particularly in the Ennedi region, homeland to Zaghawa-born president of Chad, General Déby) the persecution of Christians based on perceived ethnic differences is a commonplace experience. In the southern parts of the country, where African traditional religions have a stronghold, Christians are pressured into taking part in their rituals and festivals – and also experience pressure from leaders of their own ethnic group.

Organized corruption and crime (Medium)

Chad is a very corrupt nation and scored just 20/100, ranking 164 in Transparency International 2021 Corruption index (CPI 2021. This environment of impunity and lack of rule of law has given any person or group a free license to persecute Christians. It also gives jihadists the possibility of exploiting the situation.

Drivers of persecution

Chad: Drivers of persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG		-	MEDIUM				MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Government officials								Medium	Medium
Ethnic group leaders			-	Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Strong								
Violent religious groups	Very strong								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Medium								
One's own (extended) family	Medium								
Organized crime cartels or networks									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

- *Non-Christian religious leaders (Strong):* In the northern parts of the country, local Muslim officials mistreat Christians and often refuse to give them access to government services. They frequently make Christians wait longer and have been openly hostile to Christians with a Muslim background.
- *Violent Religious groups (Very strong):* Boko Haram and the Sanusiyya Brotherhood have perpetrated serious acts of violence in the country many times. These have targeted Christians in particular, especially in the south. Family and relatives of converts are also significant drivers of *Islamic oppression*.
- *One's own (extended) family (Medium):* Family members of converts do not accept the conversion of their family members to Christianity. They harass them, expel them and deny them access to resources.
- *Citizens (people from the broader society) (Medium):* If someone is seen as a convert, or if there is a Christian in a Muslim-majority community, it is often the case those Christians would be ostracized.

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

- *Government officials (Medium):* These are mainly government officials and political parties. The government is not democratic and curtails some fundamental rights like freedom of association and expression which are intrinsically related to freedom of religion. In order to consolidate his base and hold onto power, President Déby senior had been encouraging the influence of Islam in society at the expense of Christians and adherents of

African traditional religions.

Drivers of Clan oppression

- ***Ethnic leaders (Medium):*** Traditional leaders sometimes try to force Christians in their community to take part in rituals associated with their ethnic group's customs. When Christians refuse, they are denied the support and benefit they would normally enjoy as members of that ethnic group. Christians are particularly exposed to this kind of pressure in connection with initiation ceremonies for children in ethnic groups adhering to traditional African religions in the south.

Drivers of Organized corruption and crime

- ***Government officials:*** Government officials are so corrupt that it is easy for the those who discriminate, harass, or even abuse Christians to act without any accountability. Furthermore, the fact that those who are in power to apply law are compromised with corruption means persecutors are encouraged or given chances to carry out more acts of persecution.
- ***Organized networks:*** Various criminal networks have ties with groups in other countries.

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 are also 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.

The Persecution pattern

WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern for Chad
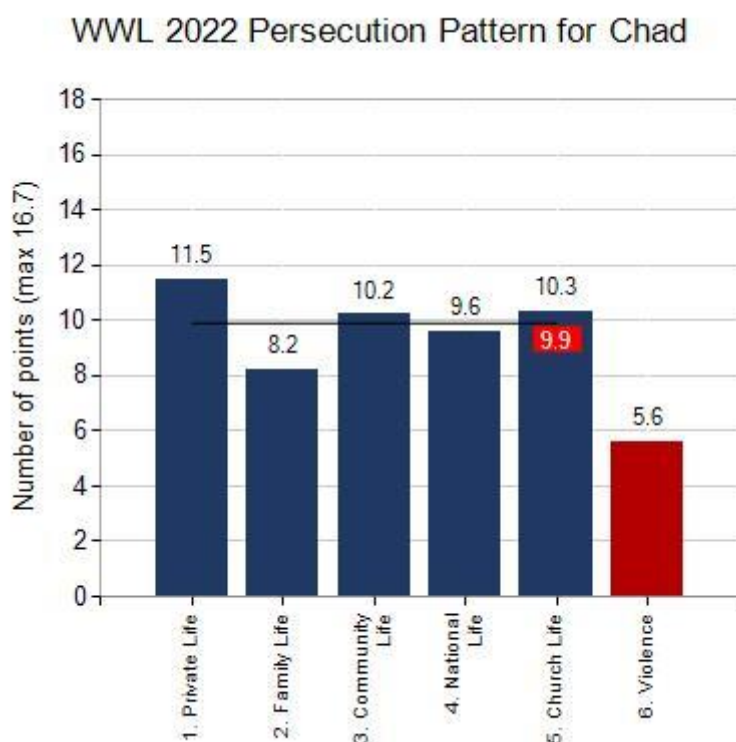
The WWL 2022 Persecution pattern for Chad shows:

- The average pressure on Christians in Chad is high at 9.9 points.
- Pressure in the *Private sphere* score is the highest at 11.5 points, followed by the *Church sphere* with 10.3 points and the *Community sphere* with a score of 10.2 points.
- The level of violence is categorized as 'high' at 5.6 points.

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 2022 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)

Chad is a Muslim majority nation. It is also located in a region where radicalization is growing fast, also among the general population. There are no laws that prohibit conversion; however, Muslim families and communities oppose those who would leave Islam to join Christianity. This

opposition has serious implications for resource-sharing, marriage, child custody and inheritance.

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)

This is linked to conversion. As mentioned under 1.1, conversion from Islam to Christianity will be opposed and can lead to killing in remote areas. If a convert is seen praying or reading the Bible, they will be dealt with violently, which is why most conduct such acts in hiding. Those who are caught doing so would face consequences in terms of losing basic necessities and other rights, community participation and so forth. They may also be expelled from homes and communities.

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.). (2.75 points)

As mentioned above, the country is being affected by Islamic radicalization. Also, the country is under an authoritarian regime. Thus, in this context, there are two ways in which Christians face problems. First, freedom of expression is generally restricted in Chad. Secondly, there is the community and family situation: Christians who live outside the capital city, especially those who are converts to Christianity, may be attacked by their families if they discuss their faith and be expelled from their communities.

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (2.50 points)

This issue is linked to the general circumstances about being Christians, particularly converts in the country. Those who live with their Islamic or ATR families must make sure that they hide their Bibles of Christian materials. Other Christians who live in remote areas are also affected as they need to keep their materials out of sight because they can never be sure who might be spying on them for jihadist groups.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

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

Chad and the region have seen increasing Islamic radicalization. This has created intolerance toward Christians. Children of Christians go through the same ordeal as their parents. Often at school, children of known converts are insulted by classmates who tell them that they have betrayed the Muslim faith and will go to hell.

Block 2.3: Christians have been hindered in celebrating a Christian wedding for faith-related reasons. (2.50 points)

Young converts from Islam to Christianity will face difficulties if they want to get married. In areas outside the major cities, things are getting tougher for non-convert Christians too and celebrating a wedding or other family get-together can attract risks that might cost life. Thus, it is often the case that Christians hold very low-profile ceremonies. It is also important to note

that Boko Haram is still active in the country, around Lake Chad.

Block 2.8: Christian children have been pressured into attending anti-Christian or majority religion teaching at any level of education. (2.50 points)

In the Northern Region, schools only have teachers of Islamic Religion and none for teaching Christian Religious Knowledge. This means children of Christians have no option but to attend Islamic classes. Furthermore, those from poor families have no option and their persecutors know that.

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

Just like other Muslim majority countries, in Chad inter-religious marriage is highly discouraged. In this context, spouses of converts from Islam are regularly put under pressured to divorce as a means of compelling the 'unfaithful' to face the consequences (i.e. punishment) or return to the Islamic fold. This has a huge impact on the future of the entire family as it leads to disintegration and possible psychological effects on both children and parents.

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)

Christians face difficulties in obtaining employment and then face discrimination and harassment at the workplace. In the northern part of the country where Christians are the minority, discrimination and bullying is widespread. Also, in the past years, Boko Haram has attacked and destroyed the properties and businesses of many Christians, which has caused great fear and the displacement of many people.

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)

As mentioned above, Chad has seen the rising of radicalization which impacted relationships between different religious groups. Christians are being targeted for their faith. Their movement is highly monitored by radical groups. This is particularly the case for Christians (especially converts) who live in Muslim-dominated areas.

Block 3.3: Christians have been under threat of abduction and/or forced marriage. (3.00 points)

Abductions are carried out by Boko Haram. Forced marriage is also a threat for female converts, especially in remote areas and IDP-camps. This is seen as a strategy to prevent conversion from Islam to Christianity.

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

Christians face this problem in rural communities, in particular. Especially in the north and east of the country, access to drinking water is very difficult, and where there is a water point in Muslim majority areas, Christians are discriminated against. In addition, in IDP camps, Christians face serious discrimination, especially those who are known converts from Islam. In many circumstances exposed converts leave their homes to avoid persecution.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

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 Chad, this goes beyond military service and is more complex and localized. In some circumstances, Christians are forced to follow the orders of their chiefs in their local communities. These orders are at times against Christian faith and can involve corruption. If Christians oppose this, they risk losing their job and even their families' security.

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)

Nepotism, intolerance and other persecution dynamics are at play. It affects all types of Christianity and is often the case when local authorities give priority to their fellow Muslims. It is particularly evident in the northern part of the county. In the context of growing radicalization, massive corruption and absence of rule of law, discrimination is clearly taking place.

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

This is happening in a very subtle way, with or without the direct knowledge of government officials. In schools, civil service institutions and hospitals etc. Christians often face extreme pressure and either accept their second-class status or leave their job. The country has been presenting itself internationally as a true fighter against jihadists, yet the practice at home has been one of appeasing the local Islamic population.

Block 4.2: Officials have refused to recognize an individual's conversion as recorded in government administration systems, identify cards (etc.). (2.25 points)

This has to be seen in the context of culture, the growing religious tension in both the region and the country. At the national level, there is no written policy about this. However, society is conservative and according to sources on the ground at the local level, attempts to record ones conversion have been rejected.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

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

There were several reports of cases where the activities of churches in Muslim and ATR-dominated areas have been monitored and disrupted. Most Muslim and traditional tribal leaders believe that any church activity is an attempt to convert the local population to Christianity. It is also important to note that members of the dominant Christian denominations (such as Roman Catholics and traditional Protestant churches) will also at times monitor and obstruct the activities of the newer non-traditional Christian groups. As one goes outside the capital city, the monitoring and interference get worse, especially in the northern part of the country. This issue has been growing in intensity over the years due to the presence of societal radicalization.

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

As per the country's laws, all religious groups should register to the Ministry of Territorial Planning, Urban Development and Housing. Religious groups which fail to do so, lose all legal rights which forces them to gather illegally. The process is complicated and at times very lengthy, with some officials asking for bribes. In some areas, communities will not allow churches to be built in their midst.

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

Chad is located in a region that has been terrorized by jihadist groups such as Boko Haram. Organizing outdoor Christian activities is risky and dangerous for Christians living in northern and central parts of the country, especially due to the influence of jihadist groups active in the border regions of neighboring countries. This is also sometimes true for Christians living in the remote southern part of the country where traditional chiefs control community activities. Chad is also run by a dictatorial regime and reports from human rights organizations state that - although churches may by law use public spaces for activities - rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are liable to be violated, leading to negative repercussions for churches.

Block 5.3: Christian communities have been hindered in building or renovating church buildings or in claiming historical religious premises and places of worship which had been taken from them earlier. (3.25 points)

To build a church it is necessary to obtain an 'authorization of operation' permit; the application process for this can last a long time. Sometimes, church land is taken over by the state, forcing some church groups to move elsewhere. Building a new church outside the major cities and towns has become unthinkable.

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 5 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. For further discussion *(with a focus on the complexity of assessing the numbers of Christians killed for their faith) please see World Watch Monitor's article dated 13 November 2013 available at: https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/11/number-of-christian-martyrs-continues-to-cause-debate/.*

4. 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.*

5. The symbol "x" in the table: *This denotes a known number which cannot be published due to security concerns.*

| Chad: Violence Block question	WWL 2022	WWL 2021
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	0	1
6.2 How many churches or Christian buildings (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	6	3
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	0	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)?	0	0
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	10 *	1
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	10 *	0
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	10 *	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?	0	1
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?	0	0
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	10 *	10 *
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	0	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 2018 - WWL 2022 Persecution Pattern history	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2022	9.9
2021	9.9
2020	9.9
2019	9.1
2018	6.9

The average pressure on Christians in Chad has been stable at the 9.9 point level since WWL 2020. This high level 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
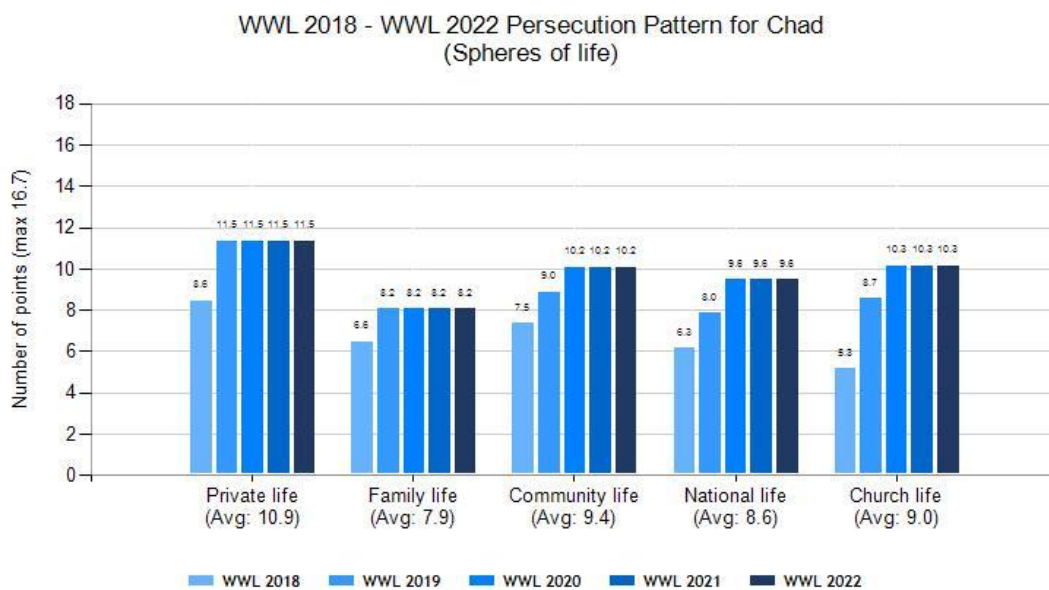
The chart above shows that the average pressure in the *Private sphere* has been highest over over the five WWL reporting periods. Pressure has stabilized in all spheres of life.

5 Year trends: Violence against Christians
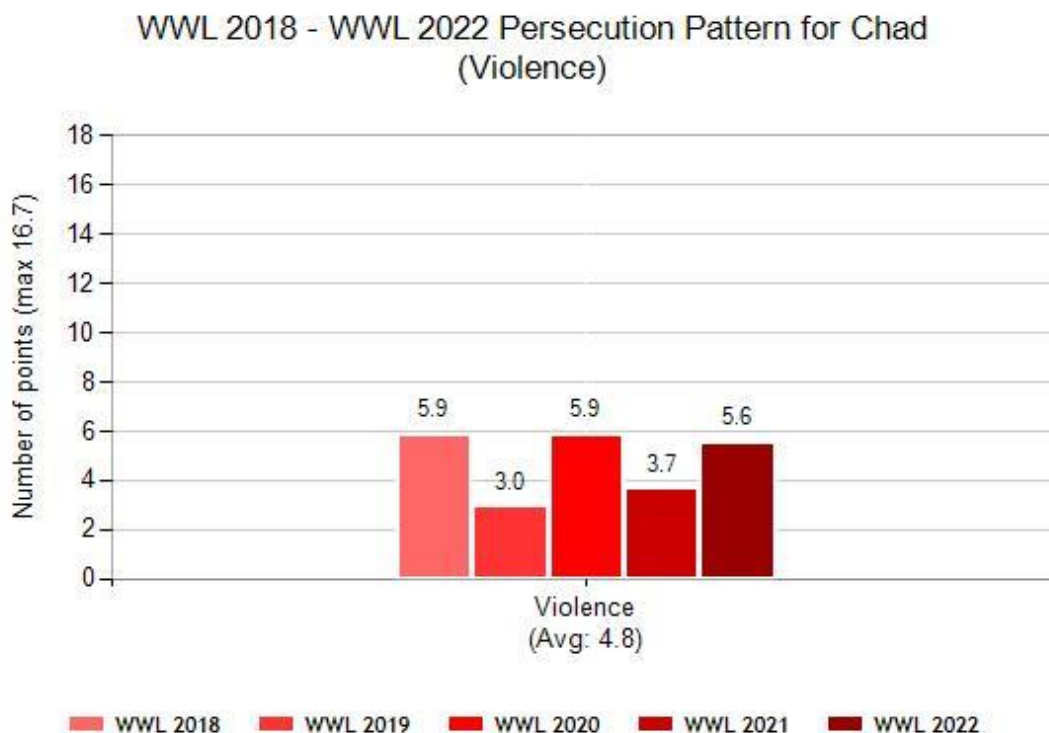
Violence in Chad does not show a consistent pattern. As can be seen in the chart above, the violence score has tended to peak at 5.6/5.9 points every second WWL reporting period.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

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

Women are subservient to men in Chadian society. Reflecting these norms, Chad remains one of just three countries in the world where married women require permission from their husband to open a bank account (Georgetown, "Women, Peace and Security Index 2019/20"). 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: "Violence affects women and girls more because most extremist groups often abduct

and sexually abuse women. These groups abduct women and girls and forced them to marry their members." 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 population movement in the country (UNOCHA: Chad Situation Report, 15 January 2021).

Converts to Christianity from a Muslim background face strong pressure from their family and local community, the aim being to make them recant their new faith. The practice of forced marriage is widespread across Chad, particularly in rural areas (67% are married by 18; Girls Not Brides). Parents of converts may forcibly marry them to a Muslim, with the aim of restoring them to Islam. Gender-based violence in such marriages is commonly reported. 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.

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 them to prevent them from leaving the house. Women and girls may also suffer physical beatings, verbal humiliation, or disinheritance.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

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

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.

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 one case in 2018, Christians belonging to a church that had been vocal against the

rituals were stripped, whipped and held in the woods until fines were paid. Upon return, these men struggled to look after their family due to the physical and mental trauma experienced. To prevent family disintegration, such men require support and education to reintegrate into Christian community.

In addition, male Christians also face challenges at work, being denied jobs and promotions. This is, in part, due to the fact that they are required to make a public religious oath in order to attain a job 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.

For male converts, when their conversion has become known, they have been isolated by family and local community. Some have also had their property burnt and damaged, been disinherited and expelled completely from their families (although no incidents of this kind were reported in the WWL 2022 reporting period). This places them in a difficult long-term economic position.

Persecution of other religious minorities

According to Freedom House/Global Freedom 2021:

- "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 2020):

- "The government maintained its ban on the leading Wahhabi group, Ansar al-Sunna. According to civil rights organizations, enforcement was difficult, and adherents continued to meet and worship in their own mosques. Local media reported that many security force officials belonged to the same tribes and came from the same regions as the Wahhabi leaders, resulting in lax implementation of government decisions, favoritism, and bribery."

Future outlook

The outlook for Christians as viewed through the lens of:

Islamic oppression

The rise of Islamic militancy in the region has affected Chad as a country and Christians and other religious groups greatly, including what the militants call 'moderate Muslims'. The presence of these militants tends to push other Islamic groups in society towards a more conservative Islamic

theology. If this trend continues, Christians will continue to face pressure and violence in the context of *Islamic oppression*. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the region's ability to fight against Islamic militancy is yet to be seen, since the battle against the virus is still an ongoing process. However, it is known that jihadist groups have taken advantage of the the governments'

current distraction by the emergencies surrounding the fight against the virus. Even though Chad has kept fighting the jihadist groups, the fact that other neighboring countries have slowed down will have huge impact on Chad's ability to control the expansion of the jihadists' influence. This will affect Christians not only in Chad, but also in the surrounding region.

Dictatorial paranoia

The government of Chad is not democratic. Freedom of the press, expression and association are very much curtailed. In this context, Christians also face censorship. For some readers, the question arises: How can a government that is fighting jihadists (the number one driver of persecution in many countries) also be a persecutor of Christians? The answer is that, in the context of the war against Islamic militancy, most of the governments involved fight jihadists not to protect Christians but primarily to protect the state and their hold on power. The death of President Déby (senior) did not lead to democratization. In fact, the Constitution and the rule of succession were ignored when his son replaced him.

Clan oppression

Just like many African countries, Chad is a country with numerous ethnic groups. Politics and religion at times follow ethnic lines. Some of the leaders of certain ethnic groups see Islam as part of tribal identity. That means if one leaves Islam, it is believed that that person also leaves the ethnicity he/she belongs to and shames the whole community. That can lead to serious problems for the convert. This situation will hardly change in the future.

Organized corruption and crime

If the government does not act against the lack of rule of law and climate of impunity, this engine will continue to cause violence to be perpetrated against Christians and encourage jihadists to increase their influence. An international illicit trade route also passes through Chad.

External Links - Persecution Dynamics

- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: Georgetown, "Women, Peace and Security Index 2019/20"). - https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WPS-Index-2019-20-Report.pdf
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: exacerbated - https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/chad/card/2yw6nJStpM/
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: 67% are married by 18; Girls Not Brides). - https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/chad
- 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 World Watch Research's Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom) and on the World Watch Monitor website:

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

Further useful reports