



The Rafto Prize 2022 – Facts about Chad

Population: approx. 17,9 million (2022)

Official languages: Arabic, French

Religion: 52,1% Islam, 43,9% Christianity, 4% other

Capitol: N'Djamena (approx. 1,5 million inhabitants)

Memberships: UN, African Union, CEMAC, WTO

Chad is a republic in the northern part of Central Africa, and borders to Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger. The Sahara Desert covers the northern region of the country.

Chad is the world's third poorest country and rated second worst (Sudan no.1) on the UN Human Development Index (2021). Approximately 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 75% of the population are functionally illiterate.

Since Chad got its independence from France in 1958, corruption and political disturbance has been an ongoing problem. Despite having large quantities of oil reserves, the revenues do not benefit most of the population in any decisive way. Like many other countries, the corruption in Chad leads to uneven distribution of wealth and income.

After the death of dictator Hissène Habré (1990) until 2021, Chad has been led by General Idriss Déby. After his death in 2021, his son General Mahamat Déby took over the power, and serves as the leader of a temporarily military council. The country functions as a dictatorship.

In September 2022, new parliamentary elections are set to be held after being postponed several times. The delay is partially caused by the ongoing conflict between the military government, the opposition, and the rebel groups. There has now been established a "national peace dialogue" between the parties, but the peace talks have been postponed.

SOURCES:

Info and statistics:

- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/chad/>
- <https://www.fn.no/Land/tsjad>
- <https://fot.humanists.international/countries/africa-middle-africa/chad/>

About the current events:

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/20/chad-national-dialogue-said-to-pave-way-for-elections>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2022/5/2/why-has-chad-delayed-a-national-peace-dialogue>