



### Project 4: Strengthening inter-generational and inter-party relations for the civic and political participation of young people in a secure and peaceful environment

October 2024



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#### Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	January 2023
End Date:	December 2024

#### Budget:

TOTAL:	\$2 Million
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#### Implementing Agencies and Partners:

##### UNICEF, UNFPA

**Government partners:** Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Culture through the Programme des Centres de Lecture et d'Actions Culturelles (CLAC); Ministry of Finance, Budget, Economy, and Planning; Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization;

**Civil society partners:** Association des Scouts du Tchad; Comité pour le Développement du Volontariat au Tchad (CDVT); Afriyan-Tchad; Réseau des Jeunes pour le Développement et le Leadership (RJDLT); Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Tchad (CNJT); Association des femmes et filles Leaders du Tchad;

#### CONTEXT

Chad has an estimated population of 18 million, with a very young demographic: 57% are under 18, and those aged between 15 and 24 make up 17.5 percent of the total. Since independence, Chad has faced numerous institutional and political crises, which have weakened the State and its institutions, led to a crisis of confidence in these institutions among young people, and resulted in a lack of accountability and the exclusion of youth and women from decision-making mechanisms. This context, marked by instability and growing social inequalities, has exacerbated the underlying issues that hinder young people's civic participation at both institutional and community levels.

Age and gender are significant barriers to full participation in public life and peacebuilding. Social norms influence political life, where power remains largely in the hands of older men. Political support and involvement, especially among young people, remain low and are often shaped by affinity-based targeting.

The situation for young women is particularly challenging. With a gender inequality index of 0.71 (UNDP, 2020), Chad ranks third lowest in the world. The institutional public arena is the only politically recognized space, marginalizing the social and domestic spaces where adolescent girls and young women are more active. This lack of inclusion prevents youth priorities from being adequately considered and limits their active participation in political life and peace processes.

In the project's intervention areas—Sarh, Bongor, Mongo, and N'Djamena—both real and latent conflicts are linked to resource pressures, particularly on natural resources, and inequitable access to socio-economic services and opportunities.

## PEACEBUILDING IMPACT

- More than 2,000 young people (girls and boys) have developed skills in areas such as peacebuilding, entrepreneurship, and developing communal and provincial development plans. They are actively engaged in civic and development initiatives within their communities. "With the knowledge I've gained about gender and civic engagement, I feel more motivated to promote girls' rights and their participation in my town," says a 28-year-old woman from Bongor.
- Dynamic and inclusive exchange frameworks have been established between young people, local authorities, political parties, and state institutions, thanks to advocacy and citizen engagement initiatives led by youth. Many young people, especially girls, have become aware of their roles as peacemakers and advocates. "I'm committed to helping girls make their voices heard," shares Sylvie Ngoung Djobreya, age 28.
- The project has supported 33 young people, including 16 girls, in establishing 16 entrepreneurial units focused on solidarity, which helps enhance their autonomy and employability.
- More than 31,000 people, primarily young people, have been sensitized to peacebuilding, civic participation, and gender-based violence, through citizen engagement pathways and a vast network of young volunteers in "villages of democracy," which serve as spaces for expression, exchange, intergenerational dialogue, and participation.

## CATALYTIC EFFECTS

- Young people's involvement in their communities has increased as they understand their roles more clearly. The skills they have acquired enable them to exercise their citizenship and contribute meaningfully to their communities.
- The revitalization of exchange platforms, particularly those dedicated to youth, has increased both the level and quality of young people's participation in public life and decision-making processes. Supported structures offer high-quality leadership, training, and supervision for youth.
- Youth organizations and platforms have become more structured and dynamic.
- The new constitution of the Fifth Republic is favorable to inclusive youth participation, with young people increasingly being appointed to positions of responsibility within the government.