



Project 9: Support to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Chad

October 2024



Copyright: PNUD TCHAD

Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	December 2023
End Date:	December 2025

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$4 Million
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Implementing Agencies and Partners:

OHCHR, UNDP

Government and local authorities:

Ministry of justice and human rights; Ministry of public security and immigration; Ministry of army, veterans and war victims; Ministry of gender and national solidarity; National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); the Mediator of the Republic; the Offices of access to rights and Justice of the five jurisdictions of the Courts of Appeal in Chad;

Local CSOs:

The Bar Association; Ecole Nationale de Formation Judiciaire; human rights associations; youth and women's associations

CONTEXT

Various conflicts in Chad have led to serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, often with impunity for alleged perpetrators. This is partly due to the ineffectiveness of judicial services available to victims and the lack of material and logistical resources for the administration of justice. Additionally, the absence of an operational military justice system poses a challenge, especially as many violations are attributed to defence and security forces. The civilian justice system also lacks the necessary legal support to prosecute these officers without risking reprisals. Consequently, victims are often reluctant to seek justice and reparation, fearing retaliation from the defence and security forces. In Chad, there are virtually no specific mechanisms for protecting victims and witnesses of human rights violations or human rights defenders. It should be noted that young people and women constitute the largest number of victims of serious human rights violations, as seen in October 2022 during the violent repression of a public demonstration against DNIS decisions in Ndjamen and other towns.

From 2021 to 2024, Chad has been in a period of transition following the death of former President Idriss Déby Itno. While the security and human rights situation remains concerning, due to hate speech proliferation, weak state institutions for human rights protection, and persistent human rights violations (including those by defense and security forces), the transition has created an opportunity to promote human rights and gender equality.

OBJECTIVES

To address these challenges, this project aims to strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities and actors in human rights protection and promotion. It also seeks to enhance the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly women, young people, and persons with disabilities, against human rights violations in Chad.

- **Result 1:** National structures (including the NHRC) have improved technical and operational capacities, enabling effective transitional justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and social cohesion.

- **Result 2:** Access to justice and holistic care for victims and witnesses of human rights violations is improved, contributing to the fight against impunity for such violations.
- **Result 3:** Support justice reforms and uphold victims' right to justice for hate speech, with a focus on prevention and combating hate speech in formal media and on social networks.

PEACEBUILDING IMPACT

Ahead of the May 2024 Presidential election, 186 people, including law enforcement officials, SDF members, lawyers, magistrates, and NHRC members, received training on hate speech prevention, human rights, impunity, and transitional justice. They are now involved, according to their roles, in managing human rights violation cases and facilitating prisoner reintegration within the jurisdictions of the Sarh, Mongo, Moundou and Abéché Courts of Appeal.

The technical capacity of at least 440 defense and security personnel, including women, has been enhanced in the areas of GBV and human rights. These individuals are now better equipped to promote social cohesion and peace through human rights protection with a gender-sensitive approach in N'Djamena, Adré, Mao, Bagasola, Abéché and Faya L. Additionally, around 300 of them are sensitized to military justice codes.

A framework for dialogue and consultation on security and human rights violations is being developed among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Around 200 media actors, representatives from women and youth associations, and community relays from Mayo Kebbi Est, Moyen Chari, Ndjama and Ouaddaï provinces, have been educated on the negative impacts of hate speech and misinformation on social cohesion. They have committed to combating these issues and will contribute to the I Verify platform to monitor and combat disinformation and hate speech.

Consultations, inclusive of women and youth perspectives, are underway for establishing the Truth - Pardon - Reparation - Reconciliation commission, which will guide the Transitional Justice process. While awaiting full military justice operationalization nationwide, the project supports the High Court of Military Justice, raising awareness among 300 officers and non-commissioned officers of the Defense and Security Forces in Abéché (Ouaddaï province), Mao (Kanem province), Bagasola (Lac province) and Faya Largeau (Borkou province).

CATALYTIC EFFECTS

A network of journalists is now in place to combat hate speech, fostering a collaborative effort among media actors to verify information, deconstruct hate speech, and promote social cohesion and peace. The I Verify platform will facilitate collaboration among traditional media, influencers, judicial actors, and other stakeholders, integrating with peace infrastructure at national, provincial and local levels.

The project also bolsters the NHRC's leading role in protecting and promoting human rights in Chad, providing technical and operational support. NHRC Commissioners and field antenna heads received training on Transitional Justice during a workshop held in N'Djamena from 26 to 27 March, 2024, to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming Transitional justice process.

The project complements two EU-funded initiatives focused on human rights respect by Security and Defense Forces and support for security sector and justice actors. The PBF project targets the entire Defense and Security Forces, including the Army, Police, Gendarmerie, and Chadian National Nomadic Guard, covering the entire country.

Testimonial

"I'm the Public Prosecutor at the Abéché Regional Court. [...] As public prosecutor and prosecuting body, human rights are essential for my work because I am first and foremost the defender of society. And human rights are key to the rules of law and democracy. And as a prosecuting body, [...] I must take human rights into account [...], especially for vulnerable people such as women, minors and others. This training has strengthened my capacities, especially in relation to GBV, human rights, IHL and the rights of people in detention. We are the ones who take people to places of detention, and if we don't take human rights into account in our prosecutions, then we are seriously violating human rights. And this training has really strengthened my capacity, which will enable me, in the coming days, to take human rights into account in prosecutions, so that these human rights are respected in judicial processes [...], including in preliminary investigations [...] and in trials [...]."

August 30, 2024, at the end of a training workshop on the same thematic with judicial actors in Abéché (Ouaddaï)