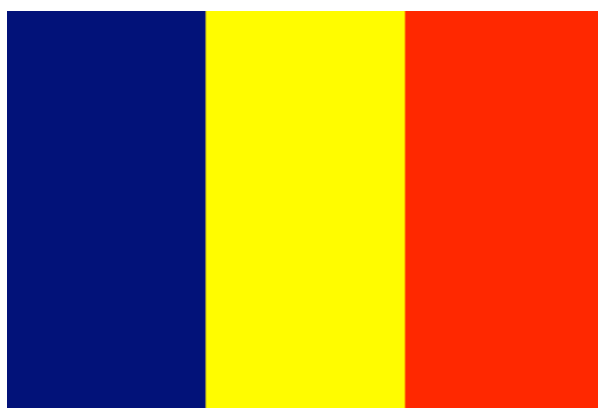


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## **Chad**

**Media and Telecoms Landscape Guide**

**September 2012**

**Index**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Media overview .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Radio overview .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Radio stations .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>International radio stations .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>List of independent radio stations.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Television overview .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>TeleChad .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Print overview .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Newspapers .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Online media .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Traditional and informal channels of communication.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Media resources.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Telecoms overview.....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Telecoms companies.....</b>	<b>93</b>

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## Introduction

Chad is a vast landlocked state of 12 million people in the semi-arid Sahel region of Africa.

80% of the population are subsistence farmers and nomadic pastoralists, according to a 2011 report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Poor roads and remoteness from the rest of the world have hampered the development of this former French colony.

Most main roads in the south and centre of the country are dirt tracks that become impassable quagmires of mud during the rainy season.

But as in most other African countries, mobile phones have caught on fast. By the end of 2011 one in three people in Chad owned a mobile phone.

Despite the recent development of oil exports, Chad remains one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.

According to the World Bank, 55% of Chad's population lived below the poverty line in 2012 and 36% lived in extreme poverty.

The northern half of Chad is pure desert, dotted with a handful of oasis towns.

98% of the population lives in the semi-arid plains of the central Chad and the open wooded savannah of the south.

Drought occurs frequently, leading to poor harvests, severe food shortages and high rates of child malnutrition. There have been three major droughts since 2005.

The latest, in 2011, threatened 3.6 million people with food shortages in 2012, according to the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

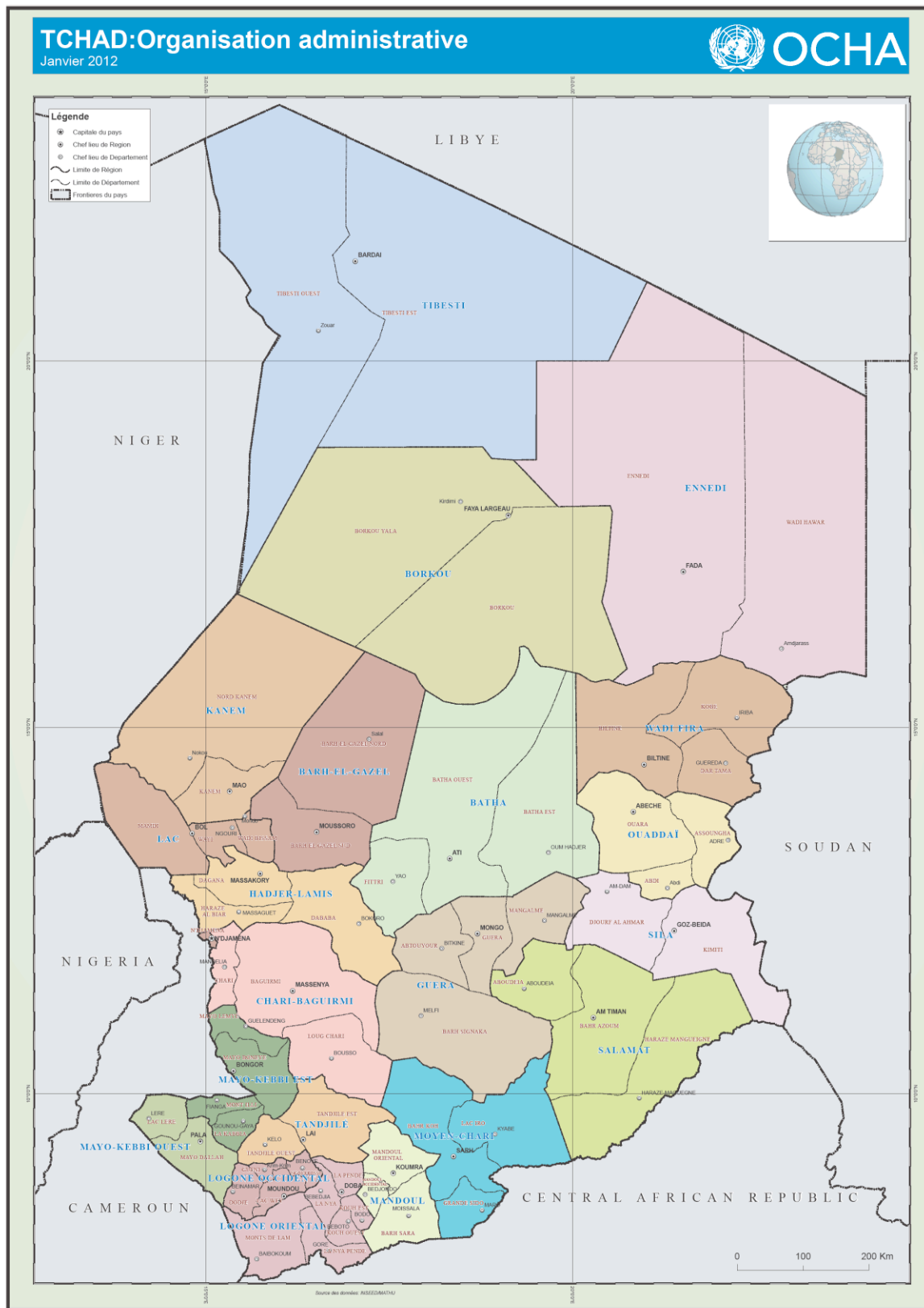
The WFP set a target of providing food aid for 1.9 million people in Chad in 2012.

Access to clean drinking water is poor and outbreaks of cholera are frequent.

Besides improving the lot of its own people, Chad has to feed and care for nearly 330,000 refugees from conflicts in Sudan and the Central African Republic.

According to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, there were 264,000 Sudanese refugees living in 12 large camps eastern Chad in mid-2012.

There were also 64,000 Central African refugees living in Southern Chad.



**Administrative map of Chad**

Source: OCHA 2012

These refugee communities are heavily supported by the United Nations and international aid agencies.

### **Oilfield development**

The development of large oil reserves in Southwestern Chad has raised hopes of lifting the country out of extreme poverty.

Chad began exporting oil in 2003 after the construction of a 1.070 km long pipeline from Doba in Southwestern Chad to Kribi on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon.

Billions of dollars of oil revenues have flowed into the government's coffers since then.

The US embassy in Chad estimated that oil revenues accounted for between 50% and 75% of all government spending in 2012.

However, relatively little of this new-found wealth has been spent on social programmes to improve education, healthcare services and rural infrastructure.

Instead, a large proportion of the oil income has been spent on defence and security to bolster the government of President Idriss Deby.

As a result, Chad continues to trail near the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index. In 2011, it ranked 183<sup>rd</sup> out of the 187 countries listed.

### **Difficult relations with Sudan**

The influx of Sudanese refugees began in 2003, shortly after a rebellion erupted in the neighbouring Sudanese province of Darfur.

Most of them belong to the Zaghawa, Fur and Masalit ethnic groups, from which the Darfur rebellion draws its support.

These tribes have traditionally lived on both sides of the Chad/Sudan border.

President Idriss Deby is himself a Zaghawa. Many of his family and Zaghawa clansmen occupy prominent positions in the government.

The authorities in Khartoum have frequently accused Deby of supporting the rebel movements in Darfur.

The government in N'Djamena has denied these charges.

In turn, it has accused Khartoum of supporting rebel guerrillas in eastern Chad.

A rebel column from eastern Chad attacked the capital N'Djamena in 2008 and came close to toppling Deby.

## **Problems with Libya**

Chad has also faced problems with its northern neighbour Libya.

The two countries fought a war for possession of the disputed Aouzou Strip, a swathe of desert territory on Chad's northern border, between 1976 and 1987.

Chad, which benefited from French military support in the conflict, ended up in full control of the 114,000 square km territory. It includes most of the Tibesti mountain range, whose highest peaks rise to over 3,000 metres.

A ruling by the International Court of Justice in 1994 confirmed Chad's ownership of the Aouzou Strip. The border has been peaceful since then.

In recent years Chadian migrant workers have flocked north to seek work in oil-rich Libya. Most of them performed unskilled menial jobs.

However, 90,000 Chadians fled home in 2011, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), after a popular uprising broke out against the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The mass return of migrant workers from Libya put additional pressure on Chad's limited resources at a time when the country was already grappling with food shortages caused by poor rainfall.

The Libyan civil war ended in October 2011 with a rebel victory and the capture and killing of Gaddafi.

## **Trade route through Cameroon**

Most of Chad's external trade is channelled through Cameroon.

Imports come 1,500 km by road from the port city of Douala.

Exported oil meanwhile flows out of Chad by pipeline to the tanker loading terminal at Kribi.

Trade relations between the two countries have always been close.

N'Djamena, the capital, sits right on the border with Cameroon.

The frontier at this point is the Chari river which flows north into nearby into Lake Chad.

## **Lake Chad is shrinking**

Lake Chad, which gave the country of Chad its name, was once a vast inland sea as large as the Caspian Sea in Asia.

But it has shrunk drastically over the past 5,000 years. In the past 50 years, Lake Chad has been in danger of disappearing altogether.

In 1963, the surface area of open water was estimated at 25,000 square km. At that stage Lake Chad was still almost as big as Lake Malawi in East Africa.

But according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the surface area of open water has shrunk by 95% since then as a result of climate change and reduced water flows in the rivers that feed it.

Satellite pictures in 2007 showed that Lake Chad had shrunk to 1,350 square km – just over twice the size of Lake Geneva on the border between France and Switzerland.

The borders of Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria meet in the waters of Lake Chad.

In recent years the retreat of the lake shore created a land border between Chad and Nigeria for the first time. Previously the two countries were only linked by a shared expanse of water.

The government of Chad closed this frontier crossing in January 2012 in response to mounting attacks by the armed Islamist movement Boko Haram inside Nigeria.

Boko Haram, which is fighting for the imposition of strict Sharia law throughout Nigeria, was founded in Maiduguri, a city less than 150 km from the Chad border.

The government in N'Djamena feared that Boko Haram's influence might spread across the border into Chad.

## **Muslims and Christians**

Just over half of Chad's population are Muslim, according to the CIA World Factbook.

About one third are Christian and the remainder follow traditional animist religions.

However, the country has a good record of religious tolerance.

The Christians, who live mainly in southern Chad, and the Muslims, who dominate the centre and north, each pursue their faiths freely.

There is virtually no hate speech in the local media and clashes between people of different religions are rare.

### **Languages and literacy**

The official languages of Chad are **French** and **Standard Arabic**, but very few people speak either of these as a first language.

More than 120 African languages are spoken in the country, but the most commonly used lingua franca is **Chadian Arabic**. This is a simplified dialect of Standard Arabic.

Chadian Arabic is spoken and understood by about 60% of the population, according to a 2010 study by Laval University of Quebec in Canada.

About 20% of Chadians speak **Sarha**. This is an African language that is widely spoken around the city of **Sarh** in the far south of Chad.

According to Laval University, the other main languages are **Kanembou**, which is spoken by 5% of the population, mainly in southwestern Chad near the border with Cameroon, **Daza** (3.8%) and **Maba** (3.4%). The latter are the main languages spoken in the desert north of Chad.

All the country's other African languages are spoken by much smaller groups of people – typically less than half a million.

UNESCO estimated the adult literacy rate in 2010 at 34.5%.

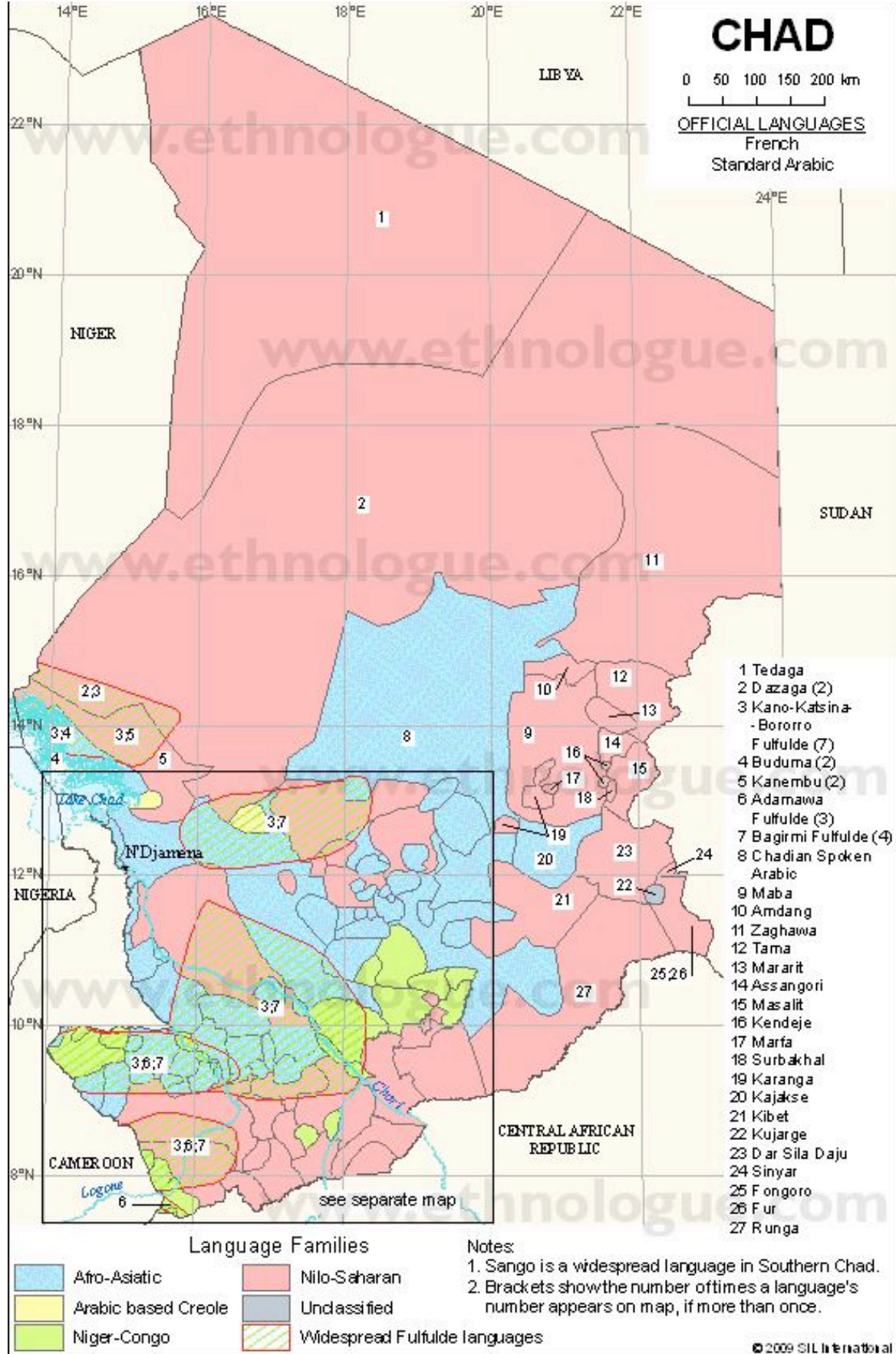
But whereas nearly 40% of all men over the age of 15 could read and write, the literacy rate for women was much lower at just over 24%.

Most educated urban people read, write and speak **French** to a good standard.

French is the language of government, business and most of the print media.

It was the only language of instruction in schools until the early 1980s, when the teaching of **Standard Arabic** also became mandatory.





**Language map of Chad**

Source: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com)

## **Agriculture**

Most Chadians are farmers who also keep some livestock – mainly cattle, sheep and goats.

They plant crops during the annual rainy season which runs from June to October.

The staple food crops are millet and sorghum.

However, rainfall has become increasingly erratic in recent years and much of the farm land in central and southern Chad has become degraded by deforestation and over-grazing.

Poor harvests and serious food shortages have become increasingly frequent.

In 2009, President Deby banned the production of charcoal to try and slow down the process of deforestation.

However, this move has had little impact. Many people simply do not have any alternative source of cooking fuel.

There is no agriculture at all in the desert north of Chad outside a handful of oases. The people there are mostly nomadic pastoralists.

In South and Central Chad, many young men leave their villages after the harvest in October to seek work in Chad's main cities and in foreign lands.

They toil as seasonal labourers in other West African countries and many cross the Sahara desert to work in the Arab countries of the Maghreb.

Some seek clandestine immigration to Europe. All send remittances home to their families whenever they can.

## **Government**

Chad is nominally a multi-party democracy with an elected president and parliament.

But the government is authoritarian, freedom of speech is limited and power has never changed hands peacefully since independence from France in 1960.

President Deby is a former army officer who came to power in 1990 after ousting his military predecessor Hissene Habre in a civil war.

Habre, who lives in exile in Senegal, has been accused by human rights groups of killing about 40,000 people for political motives during his eight years in power.

Although Deby has faced several armed rebellions, his own rule has been considerably less bloody.

He enjoys the backing of three world powers which have strategic interests in Chad.

France has retained a military base in **N'Djamena** since 1986, when it sent forces to help Chad in its war with Libya over the Aouzou Strip.

France also has military forces stationed in the eastern city of **Abéché** and the northern town of **Faya Largeau**.

It has used this military presence to help successive Chadian presidents stay in power.

In 2008, France provided Deby with arms and ammunition and military intelligence that helped him to survive when rebel forces swept into N'Djamena from the east and attacked the presidential palace.

In early 2012, France had about 1,100 troops based in Chad, according to the French Embassy website.

It also had an air base in the capital equipped with helicopters, transport aircraft and combat jets.

In recent years, France has used Chad as a desert training ground for military units prior to their deployment in Afghanistan.

The United States has a strategic interest in Chad's oilfields. It is also keen to improve the anti-terrorist combat capacity of the country's armed forces in order to contain the spread of Islamist rebellion in the Sahara desert.

The US oil giants Exxon-Mobil and Chevron led the development of the Doba oilfields and largely funded the construction of the oil pipeline to Kribi.

Washington's concerns about the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in states on both sides of the Sahara desert have prompted it to provide military assistance to Chad's armed forces.

The United States has trained and armed Chadian soldiers as part of its Trans-Sahel Counter Terrorism Initiative.

Some US civilian aid to the country is also aimed at countering the influence of Islamist extremism.

China, which only established diplomatic relations with Chad in 2006, has a strategic interest in oil.

Since 2007 it has developed oilfields around Lake Chad in both Chad and neighbouring Niger.

China has also built a small oil refinery near N'Djamena which has made Chad self sufficient in petroleum products.

### **Elections and tribalism**

Deby legalised political parties in 1992 and has held several elections since then to legitimise his grip on power.

However, opposition figures and human rights groups have denounced many of these polls as rigged.

Mainstream opposition leaders boycotted the latest presidential election in April 2011. This returned Deby to power for further five-year term with nearly 84% of the vote.

Two months earlier, in February 2011, the president's party, the **Mouvement Patriotique de Salut (MPS)** or 'Patriotic Salvation Movement,' won 134 of the 188 seats in parliament in legislative elections.

Chad's largest opposition party, the UNDR/PLD, won just 12 seats in this poll. Most of the rest went to candidates who were nominally independent.

The electoral process was condemned by many international election observers as flawed.

President Deby's Zaghawa ethnic group has become extremely powerful in the current government, even though it accounts for less than 2% of Chad's overall population.

Several members of President Deby's family and his Bideyat clan of the Zaghawa tribe enjoy prominent positions in government and business.

The Zaghawa are widely regarded as enjoying a privileged position in society and virtual immunity from the law.

Corruption is widespread at all levels of government.

Transparency International ranked Chad 168th out of 183 countries assessed in its 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index.

## **Oil revenues**

The oil pipeline from Doba to Kribi on the Cameroon coast was designed as a mega-project to lift Chad out of poverty and kick-start the country's economic development.

Chad had previously earned a meagre income from exports of cotton, gum Arabic and livestock.

When construction began in 2000, the \$3.7 billion oil pipeline was the most expensive development project ever undertaken in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Most of the money to build the pipeline came from three companies that formed a consortium to develop the Doba oilfields; Exxon-Mobil and Chevron of the United States and Petronas, the national oil company of Malaysia.

Crucially, the pipeline also received a \$193 million loan from the World Bank. Its support helped to clinch international endorsement for the project, which had prompted concerns of damage to the environment.

In exchange for World Bank support, Deby agreed that 80% of all Chadian government revenues from oil exports would be set aside to fund poverty reduction programmes.

But three years after the oil began flowing in 2003, his government passed a new oil law which abandoned this commitment.

In February 2011, the government announced that cumulative revenues from nearly eight years of oil production had reached US\$ 5.6 billion.

Diplomats believe that much of this money has been spent on beefing up the armed forces.

However, some of the oil wealth has also been invested in infrastructure projects.

Several new public buildings in N'Djamena, including a maternity hospital, have been funded by oil money. Oil money has also been used to build new roads.

By 2010, Chad's oil exports had stabilised at about 120,000 barrels per day and the petroleum sector accounted for more than 40% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The country is a very modest oil producer in global terms. However, it has substantial reserves.

Exports could increase in the near future following the development of new oilfields in the Bongor basin, to the south of N'Djamena, by the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation.

China has built a small 20,000 bpd refinery 50 km to the north of N'Djamena. This opened in 2011 and has made Chad self-sufficient in petroleum products.

The Chinese eventually plan to export oil from Chad via an extension to the existing Doba-Kribi pipeline.

## **Administration**

Most government business is conducted in the capital N'Djamena and the headquarters towns of Chad's 22 administrative regions.

The three northern regions of **Borkou**, **Ennedi** and **Tibesti** together account for 47% of Chad's land area, but they consist of pure desert and contain barely 2% of the country's population.

They are widely referred to by the acronym BET.

**N'Djamena** is Chad's largest city, with an estimated population of 900,000 in 2012.

It is situated at the confluence of the **Logone** and **Chari** rivers on the western border with Cameroon.

N'Djamena is extremely hot, dry, and dusty. It suffers from sand storms all year round. The streets are full of motorbikes and yellow taxis.

Many buildings are in a poor state of repair, but some parts of the capital are being spruced up with revenue from oil exports.

The other main cities are **Abéché**, the largest town in eastern Chad, and **Sarh** and **Moundou** in the south.

**Abéché** has become a logistics hub for aid agencies working in refugee camps along the border with Sudan. It has paved roads, banks, shops and hotels.

The oasis town of **Faya-Largeau**, with about 30,000 inhabitants, is the de facto capital of the desert north.

## **Note on spellings**

Many place names in Chad have more than one recognised spelling. "N" is sometimes written as "ND" and "Y" is often interchangeable with "I."

## Chad at a glance

<b>Official name</b>	The Republic of Chad
<b>Population</b>	12 million (2009 census); 11.5 million (2011 World Bank estimate)
<b>Main languages</b> Chadian	<b>French</b> and <b>Standard Arabic</b> (official);  <b>Arabic</b> (spoken by 60%), <b>Sarh</b> (20%), <b>Kanembou</b> (5%), <b>Daza</b> (3.8%), <b>Maba</b> (3.4%) (Laval University, Texas, 2010.)
<b>Infant mortality</b>	<b>99</b> per 1,000 live births (2010 UNICEF)
<b>Life expectancy at birth</b>	<b>49.6</b> years (2011 UNDP)
<b>Gross National Income per capita</b>	<b>US\$690</b> (2011, World Bank)
<b>Adult literacy rate</b>	34.5% (2010 UNESCO)
<b>Mobile phone subscribers</b>	3.7 million (2011 ITU)
<b>Mobile phone penetration rate (lines per 100 people)</b>	31.8% (2011 ITU)
<b>Percentage of population using the internet</b>	1.9% (ITU 2011)
<b>Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2011</b>	183 <sup>rd</sup> out of 187
<b>Ranking in Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index 2011-2012</b>	103 <sup>rd</sup> out of 179

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## Media overview

Radio is the main channel through which people receive news and information in Chad.

However, the choice of listening in most areas is limited.

The only radio station with nationwide reach is the government-run **Radiodiffusion Nationale du Tchad (RNT)**.

It broadcasts for 24 hours a day on FM, Medium Wave and Short Wave and can be heard in most parts of the country.

According to a BBC media audience survey conducted in 2009, RNT attracts just over half the national radio audience.

Many communities in Central and Southern Chad are also served by some 40 privately owned local radio stations.

Most of these are owned by community associations, NGOs and religious organisations rather than purely commercial interests.

Most of Chad's private radio stations have a single FM transmitter and a broadcast range of 50 to 90 km.

They typically broadcast for a few hours in the morning, go off air in the middle of the day and resume broadcasting in the late afternoon and evening.

Private radio stations are only allowed to broadcast on FM and their transmitters are limited by law to a maximum strength of 1,000 watts.

This means that they can only function as local radio stations. They are unable to challenge state-run RNT at a national level.

The only Chadian TV station is state-run **TéléTchad**. However, this is only viewed by people with access to electricity in the country's main cities.

A handful of newspapers are published in N'Djamena, but they have a tiny circulation and are only read by the educated elite in the capital and a handful of other large towns.

Many private radio stations in Chad belong to organisations that are linked to Christian churches or Muslim associations.

Others are owned and run local associations of a non-religious nature.



Some were set up with the support of international media development organisations.

Only one station, **Radio Ngato** in **N'Djamena**, claims to function on a purely commercial basis.

The most widely listened to foreign radio station in Chad is **Radio France International (RFI)**.

This broadcasts on FM in **N'Djamena, Abeche, Moundou and Sarh**.

RFI can only be heard in the rest of Chad on Short Wave.

The **BBC World Service** broadcasts on FM in **N'Djamena** and its French language programmes are relayed by several private FM stations.

A 2011 survey by the US-based media research organisation Intermedia revealed that 88% of Chadians had access to a radio.

93% of respondents in urban areas were able to listen to a radio, but only 78% of those in rural areas said they could do so.

Radio also emerged as the most trusted source of information in this nationwide survey of 1,985 people.

67% of respondents told Intermedia that radio was a trusted source of information.

But word of mouth came a close second with a 64% rating.

Although freedom of expression is guaranteed by the constitution, the Chadian media is reluctant to court political controversy.

State radio and television are controlled by the government broadcasting corporation **L'Office National de Radiodiffusion e Télévision du Tchad (ONRTV)**

[www.onrtv.td](http://www.onrtv.td)

ONRTV is openly pro-government in its news reporting.

The private media meanwhile exercises self-censorship around controversial issues.

However, private newspapers tend to be more outspoken than radio stations.

President Idriss Deby's government has jailed and persecuted several critical journalists in recent years.

Chad ranked 103<sup>rd</sup> out of 179 countries listed in the **Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index** for 2011-2012.

State-run **Télé Tchad** is not widely viewed outside the country's main towns and many urban residents with a satellite dish prefer to watch foreign TV channels instead.

The 2011 Intermedia survey found that 75% of respondents in urban areas had access to television, but only 7% of respondents in rural areas could watch it.

The main languages used in broadcasting are **French** and **Chadian Arabic**.

However, the regional radio services of RNT and many of the independent radio stations also carry programmes in local African languages.

Chad's only daily newspaper is **Le Progrès**. This is owned by a close advisor of President Idriss Deby and generally takes pro-government stance.

Le Progrès has a daily print run of just 3,000 copies.

It competes with a handful of private newspapers which appear once or twice a week. The first of these, **Le Temps**, began publishing in the early 1990s.

Most newspapers are published **French**, but some are written in **Arabic**.

Very few of these publications circulate outside the capital; although some titles do reach Chad's other main towns.

Two thirds of Chadian adults cannot read or write.

Most of those who are literate cannot afford to buy a newspaper regularly.

Only 1.9% of Chadians used the internet in 2011, according to International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Internet access is expensive and only an educated and relatively affluent minority in the main towns can afford it.

In March 2012 N'Djamena was connected to the Central African Backbone, a World-Bank-financed fibre optic cable designed to improve internet access in Chad and the Central African Republic.

The Chad spur of the cable was laid alongside the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline.

This fibre optic cable will eventually provide faster and cheaper broadband access for all internet users in Chad, but negotiations with the government on opening up this new telecoms channel for public use were proceeding slowly in 2012.

By August, it had not yet been made available to local internet service providers.

Mobile phones offer strong potential as a new platform for mass communication in Chad.

There were 3.7 million mobile telephone lines in the country at the end of 2011, according to the ITU.

The GSMA, the global association of mobile network operators, estimated the year-end total at 4.1 million.

Whichever figure is correct, it is clear that one in three Chadians owned a mobile phone by the end of 2011.

The number of subscriber lines increased by a third in 2011, according to GSMA. Further rapid growth in mobile phone ownership is likely.

However, network coverage remains patchy, especially in rural areas.

### **State radio and television**

All the government's radio and television services are run by the state broadcasting corporation, **L'Office National de Radiodiffusion et Télévision du Tchad (ONRTV)** [www.onrtv.td](http://www.onrtv.td)

It operates under the tutelage of the **Ministry of Communications**.

ONRTV has about 570 staff based at its headquarters in **N'Djamena** and at offices in five other cities across the country.

It has the biggest newsgathering capacity of any media organisation in Chad and the widest broadcast reach.

The five regional offices of ONRTV are situated in:

- **Abéché**
- **Sarh**
- **Moundou**
- **Faya-Largeau**
- **Ati**

Ati, in central Chad, only functions as a radio and TV relay station.

The other four centres all produce and broadcast a few hours of regional radio programming each day.

About 80% of RNT's output is in **French** and **Chadian Arabic**.

RNT also broadcasts programmes in **Standard Arabic** and 11 local languages. The latter are mainly used on its four regional stations.

Each regional station produces local news bulletins and some feature programmes. These are broadcast during opt-out periods from the national service of RNT.

ONRTV was undergoing a major expansion and modernisation programme in 2012.

The organisation was due to move into a new fully digitised broadcasting complex in N'Djamena in 2013.

It was also due to open 13 new regional offices by the end of 2012 in the following provincial towns:

- **Adre**
- **Am Timan**
- **Bardai**
- **Biltine**
- **Bongor**
- **Bol**
- **Doba**
- **Fada**
- **Goz Beida,**
- **Koro,**
- **Kiabe**
- **Pala**
- **Moussoro**

These new facilities will initially serve as relay stations for RNT and TéléTchad.

ONRTV hopes that in time they will be equipped with studios and will start to produce their own local radio programming.

### **Private radio stations**

Most private radio stations in Chad rely on funding from an influential backer to make ends meet.

There is little advertising revenue to be had.

Many radio stations sell air time to aid agencies for the broadcast of public service announcements and sponsored programmes.

**Radio Ngato**, a music and news FM station in **N'Djamena**, is the only radio station in Chad that claims to cover all its costs with advertising revenue.

There are about 10 private radio stations in the capital.

The most popular in terms of audience share are probably **FM Liberte, Radio Ngato and Dja FM**.

In the predominantly Christian south of Chad, several local radio stations have been established by the Roman Catholic Church.

Four of these were set up by a Catholic NGO called the **Bureau d'Etudes et de Liaison pour les Actions Caritatives de Developpement (BELACD)** – the Bureau of Study and Liaison for Charitable and Development Action.

These are based in **Doba, Moundou, Bongor and Lai**.

BELACD started life in 1973 in the southern town of **Sarh** with support from the Catholic aid agency Caritas.

Its original mission was to prevent conflict between pastoralist and agricultural communities in the area around **Sarh** and to promote dialogue and reconciliation.

The NGO became involved in radio through its mission to promote education and social development.

Since 2008 the BELACD stations have functioned independently from one another. However they continue to collaborate on ad hoc projects.

In particular, they have worked together on programmes about resolving conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists and on programmes about farming and food marketing.

Two US-based media development organisations have helped to set up and nurture local radio stations in the interior.

**Internews** established three FM stations in Eastern Chad in 2005 and 2006. These target the large Sudanese refugee population of eastern Chad and the Chadian host population that lives nearby.

The three Internews stations are situated in **Abéché, Iriba and Goz Beida**.

A series of relay transmitters give them good coverage of the camps which house more than a quarter of a million refugees from Darfur.

Internews covered most of the running costs of these radio stations for seven years, but the NGO closed down its operations in Chad in mid-2012 after donor funding to support the refugee radio project ran out.

Since then, two of the three radio stations have experienced considerable difficulties in raising money to keep going and their broadcast output has been reduced.

Another US-based media development NGO, **Equal Access**, has set up four local radio stations in Central and Western Chad since 2008.

These are located in three towns north of Lake Chad - **Nokou**, **Mondo** and **Mao** and in the central town of **Yao**, near Lake Fitri.

The Equal Access radio stations have received funding from the US government's Peace for Development Initiative (PDEV). This forms part of Washington's counter terrorism programme in the Sahel. It will continue to support them until 2016.

Equal Access also uses PDEV funding to produce weekly radio programmes on youth, good governance and religious tolerance. These are distributed to 15 partner stations in different parts of Chad.

## Television

**TéléTchad** broadcasts on one channel from studios in N'Djamena.

It has terrestrial relay stations in **Abéché**, **Sarh**, **Moundou**, **Faya-Largeau** and **Ati**, but no local broadcasting facilities in these towns.

TV journalists based in the interior have to send their material to N'Djamena for editing and broadcasting.

TéléTchad broadcasts by satellite to the entire country, but few people outside the main towns have a satellite dish to capture its signal or a reliable electricity supply to run a TV set.

Nevertheless, television is popular in N'Djamena.

A BBC media audience survey in the capital in 2009 found that 61% of adults watched television at least once a week.

That compared to 77% who said they listened to radio.

Nine percent of TV viewers told the BBC that they watched the Arabic service of **Al-Jazeera**.

The French satellite channels **TV5** and **France 24** are also popular amongst those with a dish to receive them.

There have been several attempts to launch a private TV station in Chad, but by August 2012 there was no private TV channel on air in the country.

### **Financial problems in the media**

Income from sponsored programming is an important source of revenue for Chad's cash-strapped radio stations.

UNICEF and UNFPA have traditionally been important purchasers of radio airtime for public service announcements and sponsored programmes on issues such as health and education.

Aid agencies frequently pay an expense allowance to journalists who are invited to attend press conferences or go on field trips.

This controversial practise ensures media coverage of such events.

Offering reporters financial incentives to cover news stories does little to encourage objective reporting.

However, Chadian journalists are poorly paid and welcome any opportunity to supplement their meagre official salary. Most earn a basic wage of around US\$150 per month.

### **Tolerance and taboos**

Religious intolerance and hate speech are rare in the Chadian media.

Certain religious and social taboos exist. These make it difficult publicly to discuss issues such as homosexuality, child abuse and alcoholism.

However sensitive social issues are often tackled effectively through drama and sketches.

Equal Access's radio programmes on youth and good governance programmes in the north-west of the country have successfully used drama to cover topics such as early marriage and elections.

Phone-in and discussion programmes are quite rare in Chad, but some have been developed by **RNT** and **Radio Dja FM** in N'Djamena and the three Internews-assisted radio stations that broadcast to Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad.

### **The limits to press freedom**

Successive governments have used threats, legal provisions, jail and banishment to hit back at criticism by the media.

Following a rebel attack on N'Djamena in February 2008 which almost succeeded in overthrowing the government, several prominent opposition figures were arrested.

This move prompted several local journalists to flee abroad for safety.

Soon after the rebel raid on N'Djamena, the government passed an emergency media law known as **Ordnance Cinq** (Decree Law Number Five). This imposed severe curbs on press freedom.

The presidential decree made it an offence to broadcast interviews with rebels.

It also made defamation and insulting the President criminal offences punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

A number of prominent editors were subject to harassment in the aftermath of the 2008 rebel assault on N'Djamena.

Soldiers visited the home of the editor of **Le Temps**, Michael Didama.

Najikomo Benoudjita, the editor of **Notre Temps**, another private newspaper, was arrested and accused of defamation.

Innocent Ebode, the Cameroonian editor of another publication, **La Voix**, Innocent Ebode, was deported.

Journalists complained bitterly.

Ordnance Cinq was eventually repealed after a landmark meeting of journalists and senior government officials known as the Estates-General of the Press.

This conference was convened in 2009 to discuss the future shape of media law and media regulation in Chad. It led to the repeal of Ordnance Cinq and the promulgation of a new more tolerant media law in August 2010.

The new media law still allows the government to shut down media outlets for inciting racial or ethnic hatred or for justifying violence, but it abolished prison sentences for defamation.

Despite this official easing of the limits on press freedom, the government still shows a limited tolerance of criticism by the media.

In September 2012, Jean Claude Nekim, the editor of the prominent newspaper **N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo** was given a 12-month suspended prison sentence for publishing a trade union petition.

The government also banned the publication of his newspaper for three months.



Despite this reminder of the government's limited tolerance of dissent, Chad's private newspapers, which tend to be more outspoken on political issues than the country's radio stations, have had an easier time since the promulgation of the 2010 media law.

The U.S. Department of State's **2011 Country Report on Human Rights Practices** said:

*"Newspapers openly criticized government policies and activities. Opposition newspapers published cartoon caricatures of government ministers and of the president. No action was taken against newspapers that published articles negatively portraying MPS [governing party] activities or party members, including senior officials."*

### **Media regulation**

The media is regulated by a government body called the **Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC)** [www.hcctchad.org](http://www.hcctchad.org) – The High Council for Communication.

This is responsible for licensing radio stations and regulating their activity.

The HCC is also charged with upholding the freedom of press and punishing its abuses.

Following the repeal of Ordinance Cinq, a new self-regulatory body for the media was created to operate alongside the HCC. It is called **L'Observatoire de la Deontologie et de l'Ethique des Medias du Tchad (ODEMET)** – the National Observatory for Media Ethics in Chad.

ODEMET is supposed to function as a tribunal of peers which considers alleged infractions of press law.

The organisation has no powers to prosecute journalists in court, but it can issue statements and judgements about whether an infraction has occurred.

By mid-2012 ODEMET had yet to demonstrate its authority and its independence from the HCC.

The main meeting point for journalists in N'Djamena is the **Maison des Medias**.

This media resource centre, funded by the European Union, offers free internet access, a library, conference rooms and training facilities.

It also provides headquarters offices for all of Chad's main journalism trade unions and media associations.

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## Radio overview

Radio is the main channel through which people receive news and information in Chad.

However, the only broadcaster with nationwide coverage is the government-run radio network **Radiodiffusion Nationale du Tchad (RNT)**.

A BBC media audience survey in 2009 concluded that RNT was the most widely listened to radio station in the country, with an audience share of 53%.

RNT broadcasts for 24 hours a day on FM, Medium Wave and Short Wave.

Its Medium Wave signal can be heard in much of South and Central Chad, but most of Northern Chad can only receive RNT on Short Wave.

RNT forms part of the state broadcasting corporation, **L'Office National de Radiodiffusion e Télévision du Tchad (ONRTV)** [www.onrtv.td](http://www.onrtv.td)

This has embarked on a massive investment and modernisation programme which is due for completion in 2013.

It will lead to a major expansion of RNT's FM and Medium Wave coverage and should eventually lead to the establishment of more local radio stations within the RNT network.

A 2011 survey by the US-based media research organisation Intermedia revealed that 88% of Chadians had access to a radio.

93% of respondents in urban areas were able to listen to a radio, but only 78% of those in rural areas said they could do so.

Radio also emerged as the most trusted source of information in this nationwide survey of 1,985 people.

67% of respondents told Intermedia that radio was a trusted source of information.

Word of mouth came second with a 64% rating.

There are more than 40 privately owned local radio stations scattered across Central and Southern Chad in August 2012.

Most of these are concentrated in **N'Djamena** and the far South of the country.

The only private radio station in the desert North of Chad is **Radio Palmeraie** in **Faya-Largeau**.

In 2005 and 2006, the US-based media development NGO **Internews** set up three local radio stations in eastern Chad.

These target the 264,000 refugees from Darfur who live in camps near the Sudanese border and the Chadian host population in the same area.

Since 2008, another US-based media development NGO **Equal Access** has set up four local radio stations in Central and Western Chad.

The first private radio station to go on air in Chad was **Dja FM** in N'Djamena. It began broadcasting in 1998 and is still one of the most popular radio stations in the capital.

In August 2012, there were 10 private radio stations on air in N'Djamena and about 30 in the rest of the country.

The main languages used in radio broadcasting are **French** and **Chadian Arabic**.

However, the regional stations of **RNT** in **Abéché**, **Sarh**, **Moundou** and **Faya-Largeau** produce some programming in local 11 African languages.

Most private FM stations also broadcast some programmes in local languages that are widely spoken within their coverage area.

### **Private radio stations**

Private radio stations typically broadcast for a few hours in the morning, go off air in the middle of the day and resume broadcasting in the late afternoon and evening.

Most operate from a single location and reach audiences within a 50 to 90 km radius of their transmitter.

Private radio stations are only allowed to broadcast on FM and their transmitters are limited by law to a maximum strength of 1,000 watts.

Many private radio stations belong to organisations that are linked to Christian churches or Muslim associations.

Others are owned and run local associations of a non-religious nature.

Some were set up with support from the US-based media development organisations **Internews** and **Equal Access**.

Hardly any private radio stations function on a purely commercial basis.

Only **Radio Ngato FM**, a music and news station in **N'Djamena**, claims to make a profit solely on the basis commercial advertising.

The rest rely on government subsidies, financial support from NGOs and UN agencies, and cash injections from their owners.

Most radio stations, including RNT, earn revenue from broadcasting public service announcements and sponsored programmes on behalf of international aid agencies.

**Radio Brakoss** in the southern town of **Moissala** even runs a market garden to help pay for its running costs.

The overwhelming majority of private radio stations are poorly resourced and cannot afford to produce sophisticated news or programming. Much of the time they simply play music.

### **International broadcasters**

The most widely listened to foreign radio station is **Radio France International (RFI)**.

According to the BBC 2009 audience survey, RFI was the second most popular radio station in Chad after RNT, with an audience share of 21%.

RFI appears to be particularly appreciated for its news output.

It broadcasts on FM from transmitters in **N'Djamena**, **Abeche**, **Moundou** and **Sarh**.

RFI can only be received in the rest of the country on Short Wave.

The **BBC World Service** broadcasts on FM in **N'Djamena**.

Its **French** and **Arabic** language programmes are also relayed by several local FM stations.

**Radio Dabanga**, an independent radio station based in the Netherlands that broadcasts on Short Wave to Darfur, is widely listened to in eastern Chad.

It is run by the Dutch media development NGO **Free Press Unlimited**.

A BBC audience survey in 2009 found that 93% of radio listening takes place in the home.

It identified three main peaks in radio listening each day – from 06.00 to 08.00 in the morning, from 13.00 to 15.00 in the afternoon and from 18.00 to 21.00 in the evening.

### **Government regulation**

All Chadian radio stations are licensed by the **Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC)** [www.hcctchad.org](http://www.hcctchad.org) (The High Council for Communication), the government's media regulator.

This parastatal body also monitors broadcast content.

It has the power to intervene if a radio station falls into financial difficulties or deviates from the terms of its licence.

In 2011, the government expropriated the property of three community radio stations - **Radio Fada**, **Radio Kiabe** and **Radio Moussoro** - after the HCC ruled that they were not fulfilling their mandate and their assets should be transferred to **ONRTV**.

The state broadcasting corporation already had plans to establish offices and radio and TV transmitters in these three locations.

Private radio stations are required by law to be run as associations.

However, in practice several of them are dominated by influential individuals.

Private radio stations must pay a one-off fee of 100,000 CFA francs (US\$200) to obtain a broadcasting licence and an annual licence fee of 250,000 CFA francs (US\$500) thereafter.

However, these fees are offset by a small annual subsidy which each station receives from the government.

### **Programme content and quality**

The 2009 BBC audience survey suggested that Chadians have particularly low levels of radio news consumption – just 47% of adults said they followed the news daily.

This apparent lack of interest in news may reflect the poor quality of most local radio news programmes.

Programme-making capacity at nearly all radio stations is limited by a lack of money, poor equipment and a low level of broadcasting skills.

Independent radio stations typically employ between five and ten journalists and presenters.

Most are poorly paid – the average wage of a Chadian journalist is about US\$150 per month. Some station staff members may even be unpaid volunteers.

Many Chadian radio reporters are untrained and use outdated poor quality equipment.

Audio recording in the field is mostly done on tape. This must be delivered to the studio by hand. Alternatively, correspondents may read their reports on air down a poor quality mobile phone line.

Radio stations often broadcast ready-made programmes produced by third parties and recorded music to pad out their air time.

It is common practise for international organisations to pay journalists to turn up to press conferences and field trips.

They often find it difficult to interest reporters in a story if there is no “expense allowance” on offer.

Journalists frequently take other jobs on the side to make ends meet.

### **State radio**

**RNT** broadcasts a national radio service from its central studios in **N’Djamena**.

It also operates four regional stations in:

- **Abéché**
- **Sarh**
- **Moundou**
- **Faya-Largeau**

These produce some regional radio programming which are broadcast during daily opt-out periods from the national service of RNT. They include local news bulletins.

About 80% of RNTs broadcast output is in **French** and **Chadian Arabic**.

The state radio network also produces some programmes in **Standard Arabic** and 11 local languages. These are broadcast during the morning.

RNT was due to move into a new fully digitised broadcasting complex in N’Djamena in 2013.

It was also due to open 13 new regional offices by the end of 2012 in the following provincial towns:

- **Adre**
- **Am Timan**
- **Bardai**
- **Biltine**
- **Bongor**
- **Bol**
- **Doba**
- **Fada**
- **Goz Beida,**
- **Koro,**
- **Kiabe**
- **Pala**
- **Moussoro**

These facilities will initially serve as relay stations for RNT and TélÉTchad.

ONRTV hopes that in time these new regional offices will start to produce their own local radio programming.

### **NGO-assisted radio stations**

In N'Djamena and the predominantly Christian south of Chad, several local radio stations have been established by the Roman Catholic Church.

These include **Radio Arc-en-Ciel** (Radio Rainbow) in the capital and **Radio Lotikhoh**, a popular station in the southern city of **Sarh**.

Four other radio stations in Southern Chad were set up by a Catholic NGO called the **Bureau d'Etudes et de Liaison pour les Actions Caritatives de Developpement (BELACD)** – the Bureau of Study and Liaison for Charitable and Development Action.

These are:

- **Radio Voix de Paysan (Doba)**
- **Radio Duji Lokar (Moundou and Koumra)**
- **Radio Terre Nouvelle (Bongor and Pala)**
- **Radio Terre Nouvelle (Bongor)**
- **Radio Effata (Lai)**

BELACD started life in 1973 in the southern town of **Sarh** with support from the Catholic aid agency Caritas.

The original mission of BELACD was to prevent conflict between pastoralist and agricultural communities in the area around Sarh and promote dialogue and reconciliation.

The NGO became involved in radio through its mission to promote education and social development.

Since 2008 the BELACD stations all function independently. However they continue to collaborate on ad hoc projects.

In particular, they have worked together on programmes about resolving conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists and on programmes about farming and food marketing.

Two US-based media development organisations have helped to set up and nurture local radio stations in the interior.

**Internews** established three FM stations in Eastern Chad in 2005 and 2006. These cater for the large Sudanese refugee population of eastern Chad and the Chadian host population in the same area.

The three Internews stations are;

- **Radio Voix de Ouaddai (Abéché)**
- **Radio Absoun (Iriba)**
- **Radio Sila (Goz Beida)**

A series of relay transmitters give them good coverage of the main refugee camps.

Internews supported the running costs of these radio stations for seven years, but it withdrew from Chad in July 2012 after donor funding for the project ran out.

Since then, two of the three Internews stations have found it difficult to cover their running costs and have reduced their broadcast output.

Another US-based media development NGO, **Equal Access** has set up four local radio stations since 2008. Three are situated in towns to the north of Lake Chad and one in Central Chad, near Lake Fitri.



They are:

- **Radio Albichari (Nokou)**
- **Radio Bissam (Mondo)**
- **Njimi (Mao)**
- **Radio Ignatara (Yao)**

These four stations received funding from the US government's Peace for Development Initiative (PDEV), which forms part of Washington's counter terrorism programme in the Sahel.

Equal Access also uses PDEV funding to produce weekly radio programmes on youth, good governance and religious tolerance at its studios in N'Djamena. These are distributed to 15 partner stations in different parts of Chad.

**Kar Uba** (Radio Sun) in the Southwestern city of **Moundou**, was set up by an oil industry monitoring NGO, **Groupe de Recherche Alternatives et de Monitoring du Projet Petrole Tchad-Cameroun (GRAMPT/TC)** [www.gramp.org](http://www.gramp.org) to report on the development of the nearby Doba oilfields.

This very vocal group has campaigned on the issue of resource allocation. It aims to monitor whether the Esso consortium led by ExxonMobil, keeps its promises to deliver a proportion of its revenues to development projects in Doba and Moundou areas where the oilfields are situated.

The church-backed **Radio Voix du Paysan** in **Doba** also has special programmes on social development associated with the oilfields.

With limited means to produce local programming, many radio stations in the interior only provide a limited news and information service to the communities they serve.

Some just read out articles from newspapers which are several days old by the time they reach the station from N'Djamena.

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## Radio stations

### Radiodiffusion Nationale du Tchad (RNT) [www.onrtv.td](http://www.onrtv.td)

Radiodiffusion Nationale du Tchad (RNT) is the only radio network in Chad with nationwide coverage.

It acts as a government mouthpiece.

RNT forms part of the state broadcasting corporation L'**Office Nationale de Radiodiffusion et Television du Tchad (ONRTV)**.

It broadcasts for 24 hours a day on FM, Medium Wave and Short Wave.

RNT covers most of Southern and Central Chad on Medium Wave.

However, with the exception of a small area around the town of **Faya-Largeau**, which has an RNT transmitter, the network only reaches the sparsely populated desert north on Short Wave.

RNT broadcasts its flagship national service from central studios in **N'Djamena**.

In addition, it operates four regional stations in:

- **Abéché**
- **Moundou**
- **Sarh**
- **Faya-Largeau**

RNT also has a relay station at **Ati**, but in mid-2012 this was not producing any regional programming.

The four regional stations each produce and broadcast a small amount of regional programming each day. This includes local news bulletins.

This regional output is broadcast during opt-out periods from RNT's national service.

About 80% of RNT's broadcast output is in **French** and **Chadian Arabic**.

However, it also broadcasts in **Standard Arabic** and 11 local languages for three hours each morning between 09.00 and 12.00:

The local languages used are:

- **Sarha**
- **Kanembou**
- **Gorane**
- **Tupuri**
- **Massa**
- **Boudouman**
- **Boulala**
- **Fulfulde (Peul)**
- **Beri**
- **Zaghawa**
- **Mousse**

RNT's main news programmes in **French** are broadcast at 06.30, 14.00 and 20.00.

Its four regional stations broadcast local news bulletins during an opt-out period immediately after these news programmes.

RNT broadcasts a variety of current affairs and features programmes, but its presentation style is rather old fashioned.

It covers issues such as social affairs, business and the economy, sports, health, rural development and religion.

BBC audience research in 2009 found that RNT had 53% of the national radio audience. In many areas of the country it is the only station that people can pick up.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that most people in the capital prefer to listen to **Radio France Internationale (RFI)** for news.

The sound quality of RNT audio reports received from outside N'Djamena is often poor.

RNT staff journalists in the four regional offices and the radio station's freelance correspondents in other locations read their reports down a mobile phone line to N'Djamena.

ONRTV has a cooperation agreement with **Canal France International**, an organisation which distributes French radio programmes to partners overseas. This link gives RNT access to a range of ready-made radio programmes produced by French broadcasters.

RNT is hoping to expand its Medium Wave and FM coverage in line with the national expansion of ONRTV.

The state broadcasting corporation was due to move into a new fully digitised broadcasting complex in N'Djamena in 2013.

It was also due to open 13 new regional offices by the end of 2012 in the following provincial towns:

- **Adre**
- **Am Timan**
- **Bardai**
- **Biltine**
- **Bongor**
- **Bol**
- **Doba**
- **Fada**
- **Goz Beida,**
- **Koro,**
- **Kiabe**
- **Pala**
- **Moussoro**

These facilities will initially serve as relay stations for RNT and TélÉTchad.

However, ONRTV hopes that in time these new regional offices will start to produce their own local radio programming.

RNT has a tradition of cooperating with aid agencies to produce socially-targeted programming.

It has collaborated with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and UNICEF to produce a series of programmes on girls' issues and health.

RNT has also broadcast programmes on food security on behalf of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

In mid-2012, RNT employed more than 220 staff.

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RNT Director of Programmes – Kamkam Dournal  
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Address: Radio Nationale du Tchad, ONRTV, Avenue Mobotu, N'Djamena

**Moundou regional office**

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**Sarh regional office**

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**Abéché regional office**

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**Faya-Largeau regional office**

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**Ati regional office**

Contact– Hamet Daoud

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**FM Liberté 105.3 FM**

FM Liberté is one of the most popular private radio stations in the capital **N'Djamena**.

Its news service has a good reputation and its journalists are well-trained.

An Intermedia radio audience survey in 2011, found that 48% of listeners to FM Liberté rated it as the most trustworthy radio station based in Chad.

This was the highest score achieved by any radio station in the survey.

State-run **Radio Nationale de Tchad (RNT)** only scored a trust rating of 35% from its listeners.

FM Liberté has a 500 Watt transmitter, based at its head office in the Chagoua neighbourhood of eastern N'Djamena.

The station claims that its broadcasts can be heard clearly within a radius of 75 km.

FM Liberté broadcasts in **French, Chadian Arabic** and the southern language **Sarha** on 105.3 FM.

It was established in 2000 by an association of human rights groups, and is directed by well-known journalist Lazarre Djekourninga.

The station is on air for 9.5 hours a day.

It broadcasts from 06.00 to 10.00 in the morning, and again from 15.30 to 21.00 in the afternoon and evening.

FM Liberté has a news programme in **French** at 06.00, and another in **Chadian Arabic** and **Sarha** at 08.30.

It broadcasts feature and magazine programmes on health, education, youth, economy, the arts and other social issues.

There are six staff journalists in **N'Djamena**. The station also uses freelance reporters based in several other towns, including **Abéché, Bongor, Lai, Moudou** and **Doba**.

FM Liberté has worked with several NGOs and media development organisations.

UNICEF regularly asks the station to produce radio spots.

FM Liberté also works closely with Celiaf, a Chadian woman's NGO, and Maison des Médias, a media development centre in N'Djamena funded by the European Union.

FM Liberté re-broadcasts programmes from the French service of **Voice of America (VOA)**.

Director – Djekourninga Lazarre

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Technician - Djimadoum Blaise

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**Address:** FM Liberté, Rue de Chagoua, opposite 'Deuxieme pont de Chagoua,' N'Djamena

## **Radio Dja FM**

Radio Dja FM broadcasts from **N'Djamena** on 96.9 FM.

It pioneered the development of discussion and phone-in programmes in Chad, and commands a strong youth audience.

It is one of the few radio stations in Chad with the technology to put several different callers live on air at the same time.

Dja FM also broadcasts music and programmes on current affairs, social issues and sport.

Some of its programmes are supplied by **Canal France International**, an organisation which distributes programmes made by French radio and TV stations to overseas partners.

Dja FM also rebroadcasts radio programmes supplied by the Qatar-based TV network **Al Jazeera**.

Dja FM was the first independent radio station to go on air in Chad. It began broadcasting in 1998.

The station is run by Zara M. Yacoub, a noted film-maker and a prominent figure on the Chadian media scene.

Yacoub founded Dja FM after helping to set up the state TV channel **TéléTchad**, and she is still very much involved in the day-to-day running of the radio station.

Yacoub is also president of the Union of Private Radio Stations of Chad (Union de Radios Privées de Tchad, URPT), and she works for the US-based media development organisation **Equal Access**.

Dja FM has a 500 Watt transmitter at its compound in central N'Djamena, and claims to reach to reach audiences within a 90km radius.

The station broadcasts for eight hours per day. It is on air from 07.00 to 10.00 in the morning, and again from 16.00 to 21.00 in the evening. The evening broadcast starts an hour later at weekends.

There are news bulletins in **French** and **Chadian Arabic** at 19.00 and 20.00.

Dja FM has a network of reporters across the country, but it has no broadcast capability outside the capital.

The station is owned by the Alternative Communication Association, a group of young people that is effectively Yacoub's creation.

Dja FM has worked with a number of aid agencies, including **UNICEF**.

It has also received support from **Equal Access**.

The station is well-staffed, with many people working as volunteers.

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Director of News – Alamine Bineye  
Mob: +235 6217 9298

Address: Dja FM, Rue Charles de Gaulle, opposite 'Marche de Mille,'  
N'Djamena

### **Radio Harmonie FM**

Radio Harmonie FM, is a popular music station that broadcasts in **French** in **N'Djamena**.

It plays new hits and interviews with local and international music stars.

Radio Harmonie broadcasts on 106.3 FM, from a 500 Watt transmitter, located at its studios in the Moursal neighbourhood.

Station director Ricardo Nandoumgar estimates that its broadcast coverage extends 70km outside the city.

Radio Harmonie was set up in 2003 by Nandoumgar. He also manages the French Cultural Centre [www.ambafrance-td.org/L-Institut-Francais-du-Tchad](http://www.ambafrance-td.org/L-Institut-Francais-du-Tchad) in N'Djamena, and is well-connected on the local music scene.

Radio Harmonie is on air continuously for 11 hours a day, from 10.00 to 21.00, Monday to Friday.

Its broadcasts extend until 22.00 on weekends.

Most of Radio Harmonie's output consists of music, but the station also carries sports bulletins and feature programmes on culture.

In mid-2012, Nandoumgar said he had plans to launch a regular news bulletin.

Like most Chadian radio stations, Radio Harmonie is strapped for cash. Its main advertisers are mobile phone companies.

The station also generates revenue by charging local and visiting music performers fees, to produce and broadcast feature programmes about their work.



Radio Harmonie has relatively new and sophisticated equipment, including a digital recording suite and programmable play-out systems.

The station has worked with many local and international NGOs to produce radio spots.

It has received training and equipment from **Equal Access**.

Director – Ricardo Nandoumgar  
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Technical director – Chrislin  
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Address: Radio Harmonie, Rue de Moursal, opposite Ecole Belle Vue, N'Djamena

### **Radio Ngato FM**

Ngato FM is the only private radio station in Chad that claims to derive all its revenue from advertising.

It broadcasts to **N'Djamena** in **French** and **Chadian Arabic** on 86.9 FM and enjoys a good reputation for reliable news.

The station is on air for 18 hours per day from 06.00 to midnight.

However, Ngato FM only broadcasts about four hours of live programming a day. Most of this is news and current affairs output.

The rest of its air time is filled with recorded programmes and music playlists.

It broadcasts a news bulletin every hour in **French**. This is often recorded and repeated.

There are also magazine programmes in **Chadian Arabic** and **French**, on subjects such as politics, society and sport.

Ngato FM has no newsgathering capacity outside the capital.

The station has two 500 Watt transmitters. These together generate a 1000 Watt signal that allows the station to be heard within a 90km radius of N'Djamena.

Ngato FM is controlled by the prominent businessman **Babikir Omar Karon**. It claims to make a modest profit.

In 2012 Ngato FM was selling short advertising spots for 5,000 CFA each (about US\$10).

It has received training and equipment from **Equal Access**, **Internews** and the **French Cultural Centre** in N'Djamena.

The station has some up-to-date equipment, including digital recorders.

It uses Adobe Audition editing software and a digital playout system.

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News Editor – Alamine Mohammed

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Address: Radio Ngato FM, Marche du Medina, N'Djamena

### **Radio Arc-en-Ciel**

Radio Arc-en-Ciel ('Radio Rainbow') was founded in 2007 by the Catholic Diocese of **N'Djamena**.

It broadcasts to the capital on 107.7 FM in **French**, **Chadian Arabic** and **Sarha**.

The station's original remit was to make programmes for state-run **Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT)**.

It has developed into a social-action broadcaster, while continuing to work with **RNT**.

The station is owned and managed by L'Association pour le Développement Social (Social Development Association), a group of civil society activists from the Christian community.

The radio station's director, Jean-Pierre Ningaina, is the abbot of N'Djamena's Catholic cathedral,

Radio Arc-en-Ciel broadcasts from a compound in Chagoua, a neighbourhood in the south of N'Djamena. It has a 500 Watt transmitter with a range of about 50 kms.

The station is on air from 06.00 to 09.00 in the morning and again from 15.30 to 21.00 in the afternoon and evening.

It has news bulletins in **Chadian Arabic** at 16.30 and in **French** and **Sarha** at 17.35.

There is a longer news magazine programme in **French** at 19.45.

Radio Arc-en-Ciel broadcasts magazine programmes on a range of subjects, including health, education, development and the economy.

One feature programme called 'One man, one job', looks each time at a different profession.

The station re-broadcasts ready-made programmes in French from organisations such as the international media development organisation **Panos** [www.panos.org](http://www.panos.org) and **Radio Vatican** [www.radiovaticana.va](http://www.radiovaticana.va)

The technical quality Radio Arc-en-Ciel's own programmes is low and its studios lack equipment.

**Equal Access** has provided some new recorders and funded improvements to the transmitter.

The station has also received training from **Internews**.

The station has 21 employees, including six journalists.

It has worked with **UNICEF** to make feature programmes on women and child health.

Director – Jean-Pierre Ningaina  
Mob: +235 6628 9042

Technical Director - Mahamat Tahir  
Mob: +235 6627 5929

Technician - Keito Mbaraim Nicolas  
Mob: +235 6644 6920

Address: Radio Arc-en-Ciel, Rue de Chagoua, next to Pelican restaurant,  
N'Djamena

### **Radio Lotiko**

Radio Lotiko is a popular radio station in the southern city of **Sarh** with close links to the Roman Catholic Church.

The station broadcasts in **French** and **Sarha**.

Radio Lotiko has a 500 Watt transmitter in **Sarh**, which broadcasts on 97.6 FM.

It also has a relay station in **Koumra**, 100 km to the west. This broadcasts from a second 500 Watt transmitter on 100.1 FM.

The station broadcasts a variety of programmes on social and economic issues affecting Southern Chad, including a popular programme on agriculture. This explains new farming techniques and carries weather reports and market prices.

Radio Lotiko has two daily news bulletins at 6.00 and 18.00 in **French** and **Sarha**.

It also relays **French** language programmes from the **BBC World Service**.

A BBC audience survey in 2009 found that Radio Lotiko had an audience share of 36% in the Sarh region.

**Sarh** is a busy commercial town, where the state-run **Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT)** radio also has an important presence.

Radio Lotiko was originally set up by the Christian NGO SAVE (Service Audio-Visuel pour l'Education), which was linked to the Catholic diocese of Sarh.

SAVE closed down in 2010, and the station is now run as an association.

Radio Lotiko broadcasts sponsored programmes for aid agencies such as **UNICEF** and **Care International** and attracts some advertising and state funding.

The station employs four full-time journalists who are helped by several volunteers.

Director – Aubun Irene Angulu  
Mob: +235 6698 9342

Technical manager – Djimounoum Arnaud  
Mob: +235 6634 0765  
Email: [djimarnaid@yahoo.fr](mailto:djimarnaid@yahoo.fr)

Director (Koumra) – Noubdjalbaye Ngarndidono  
Mob: +235 6636 8292  
Tel: +235 2268 1479

### **Internews supported radio stations in Eastern Chad**

The US-based media development NGO **Internews** [www.internews.org](http://www.internews.org) has set up three radio stations in Eastern Chad to serve the refugee camps housing 264,000 people from Sudan's Darfur province and the Chadian host population living nearby.

It launched these stations in **Abéché, Iriba** and **Goz Beida** between 2005 and 2006 and has supported them until 2012 with funding from the US and UK governments and the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

Internews closed down its operations in Chad in July 2012 after its donor funding to support the three radio stations expired.

In April 2012, Internews transferred the ownership and management of all three radio stations to local associations. Two of these have all struggled to find sufficient funding to keep going and have reduced their broadcast output in order to cut costs.

### **Radio Absoun**

Radio Absoun is based in **Iriba**, a small town 60 km from the Sudanese frontier 300 km northeast of **Abéché**.

It broadcasts on FM for 3.5 hours per day from 16.00 to 19.30 in **Arabic, French** and **Zaghawa**.

The station's output includes news bulletins in all three languages.

Radio Absoun has expressed an interest in re-broadcasting **BBC Arabic** programmes, a move which would extend its daily broadcast by 30 minutes.

Like the other Internews-assisted radio stations in Eastern Chad, Radio Absoun makes extensive use of interactive phone-in shows, magazine programmes and live debates.

Some of its most popular programmes are weekend dedication shows where listeners can call in or send SMS texts with messages for family and friends.

Radio Absoun broadcasts from a 100 Watt transmitter in **Iriba** and claims to have a range of 75km.

It also has a relay transmitter near **Bahai** to the north Iriba, which carries its broadcasts to the large **Oure Cassoni** refugee camp.

Audience research by Internews shows that Radio Absoun has about 90,000 listeners in the refugee camps which it reaches.

The former UN Mission to Chad, known by its French acronym MINURCAT, distributed several thousand wind-up radio sets to refugees in the nearby camps.

Radio Absoun began broadcasting in late 2005. It provides an important service to a region where there has never been any other local media.

The station has a team of five journalists who make regular trips to the three refugee camps located close to Iriba – **Iridimi, Am Nabak and Touloum**.

They also cover news stories in the local Chadian communities around Iriba.

Radio Absoun has three refugee correspondents – one in Iridimi camp and two in Touloum. They follow developments in the camps and send regular reports to the studio.

Radio Absoun was expressly set up to facilitate the work of the aid community.

It has carried stories on issues such as natural resource depletion around the refugee camps, gender based violence and rape, girl's education, the presence of armed men inside the refugee camps, the promotion of children's vaccination campaigns and animal health services.

The station is well equipped with digital recorders and digital editing software.

Its staff received extensive training from Internews over a seven-year period, including training in management and revenue generation.

Since April 2012, Radio Absoun has been run by the Agence Sociale pour le Developpement et Education (ADES), a Chadian NGO which has several offices around the country.

ADES had been working to set up a community radio station Eastern Chad before the arrival of Internews in 2005, so it was keen to take over the station in Iriba.

Manager: Daoussa Mahamat

Mobile: +235 6630 0091

### **Radio Voix De Ouaddai**

Voix de Ouaddai is based in **Abéché**, the main city in Eastern Chad.

It broadcasts on FM for 5.5 hours a day in **French, Arabic and Massalit**.

The station carries two hours of news and music in the morning from 07.00 to 09.00 and 3.5 hours of news and talk shows in the afternoon from 16.00 to 19.30.

Its most popular broadcasts are a weekly health programme and a weekend music dedication show.

Voix De Ouaddai also re-broadcasts some **BBC Arabic** output.

It is the biggest of the three radio stations established by Internews in Eastern Chad. However, Voix de Ouaddai has suffered financial problems since Internews funding for its operations came to an end in mid-2012.

The station has been unable to pay all of its nine staff reporters regularly since then and has also reduced the number of hours that it broadcasts.

Voix de Ouaddai has a 100 Watt transmitter in **Abéché** and a 100 Watt relay station at **Assoungha**, 50 km to the east, which serves nearby refugee camps.

The broadcast range of each transmitter is about 50 km.

The station opened in 2006. Its staff were professionally trained by Internews over a period of seven years. As a result they are generally more skilled and competent than other radio journalists in Chad.

The station's equipment is digital and modern.

Voix de Ouaddai produces radio phone-ins, live discussions and debates and a music request show at the weekend (there are several post boxes in Abeche town where listeners can post their requests).

The journalists have produced a comprehensive range of social action programmes on issues such as water and sanitation, ways to look after food and water, the importance of childhood vaccines, female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, and peaceful co-existence between the refugees and host communities.

Voix de Ouaddai has four refugee correspondents based in the **Bredjing, Tredjing, Farchana** and **Gaga** camps. They provide daily news and features about life there.

Since Internews' withdrawal from Chad in July 2012, Voix de Ouaddai has been run by a local association, which mainly comprises members of the radio station's staff.

It hopes to raise US\$60,000 of funding per year from a mix of advertising and sponsored programme revenue. The station has also applied to UNDP for a grant to help with its running costs.

Co-ordinator – Abakar Doutoum

Mob: +235 6636 3760

Manager: Abderassoul

Mob: +235 6625 4177

## Radio Sila

Radio Sila is based in **Goz Beida**, 80 km from the Sudanese border and 260 km south of Abéché.

The station targets radio audiences in refugee camps in the surrounding area.

It broadcasts in **French, Arabic, Masalit and Dadjo** and covers the southern-most region where refugees from Darfur crossed into Chad.

Radio Sila was set up by Internews in 2006, but is now owned its own staff.

Seven journalists and technicians at Radio Sila formed the Al-Richate association, which formally took over responsibility for running the station in July 2012.

Radio Sila has a 100W transmitter with a range of about 75kms. Its broadcasts can be heard right up to the Sudanese border.

It is the only radio station which can be heard easily in the Goz Beida area.

An audience survey in 2009 showed that about 70,000 people listened to the radio station at least once a week.

The station has experienced severe funding problems following the expiry of Internews funding.

In August 2012, the staff were working unpaid on a volunteer basis and had reduced the station's broadcast output to just 2.5 hours per day.

Radio Sila was hoping to raise US\$3,000 a month to cover its running costs, mostly by charging aid agencies for the production and broadcast of sponsored programme and spots.

It had applied for fresh international funding and was also hoping to raise some money from advertising.

In normal times Radio Sila carries news bulletins and music, along with news features and magazine programmes.

These include a weekly health programme, and another about girls' education.

The station appears to be popular with both refugees and local Chadians.

Radio Sila had produced sponsored programmes and 'spots' for aid agencies working in the refugee camps.

These productions have supported awareness campaigns about issues such as hand washing and slaughtering animals in a clean environment.



The station has also produced discussion programmes and phone-in programmes on a variety of subjects. Topics covered include animal health, food distribution, women's rights, peaceful co-habitation between refugees and the host communities, water conservation, child nutrition and maternal healthcare.

Radio Sila has two refugee correspondents operating in the **Djabal Darfur** camp.

It also serves a large number of internally displaced Chadians living in camps around the village of Goz Beida.

The staff of Radio Sila have benefited from extensive training and support from Internews and have state-of-the-art equipment. They are generally more professional and capable than journalist colleagues at other media outlets in Chad.

Station manager: Abdezerak Arabi

Mobile: +235 6636 9580

Email: [zakbenarabi@hotmail.fr](mailto:zakbenarabi@hotmail.fr)

### **Equal Access supported radio stations in Central and Western Chad**

The US-based media development NGO **Equal Access** [www.equalaccess.org](http://www.equalaccess.org) has helped to set up four local radio stations in Western and Central Chad since 2008.

These are located in the small towns of **Nokou**, **Mao**, **Mondo** to the north of Lake Chad and in **Yao**, near Lake Fitri in Central Chad.

The radio stations were established with funding from the US government's Peace for Development (PDEV) programme. Financial support for their operation has been secured until 2016.

PDEV forms part of Washington's Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Initiative.

The four radio stations are all situated in areas where the Medium Wave signal of state-run **Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT)** is very poor.

All of them broadcast the weekly programmes on youth, good governance and religious tolerance produced by Equal Access at its studios in N'Djamena.

These programmes are distributed to 15 partner stations across Chad.

## **Radio Albichari**

Radio Albachiri is a local FM station based in **Nokou**, a town 350 km north of N'Djamena on the main road from Chad to Niger.

It began operating in August 2011, but was formally opened in March 2012.

Radio Albachiri broadcasts in **Kanembou** and **Chadian Arabic** for between three and four hours per day. It also carries a small amount of programming in **French**.

The station broadcasts a mix of local news and magazine programmes about local issues.

One of these focussed on the danger of carrying knives – a traditional practice amongst local men. Soon afterwards, the head of the local gendarmerie launched a campaign to seize knives carried by young people

Radio Albichari was set up with the help of the US media development NGO **Equal Access**.

It broadcasts the weekly programmes produced and recorded by Equal Access on youth, good governance and religious tolerance.

The station is owned by the **Albichari Association**, whose mandate is to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Director – Bouzed Himed Bouzed  
Mobile: +235 9971 1703

## **Radio Njimi**

Radio Njimi is a local FM station based in **Mao**, a town 250 km north of N'Djamena on the main road from Chad to Niger.

It broadcasts in **Goran** and **Kanembou** and was established with support from the US-based media development NGO Equal Access.

Many of its programmes focus on the problems caused to the local community by the retreat of Lake Chad.

Others have dealt with mother and child health. Kanem region, in which Mao is situated, has one of the worst child malnutrition rates in Chad

Director – Ahmat Daladou  
Mob: +235 6632 0536

### **Bissam FM**

Bissam FM is based in **Mondo**, a town 150 km north of N'Djamena that used to be situated close to the shore of Lake Chad,

It is situated on the main road from Chad to Niger.

Much of the station's programming deals with problems caused by the retreat of Lake Chad.

Director – Abakar Elhadji Abakar  
Mob: +235 9919 2907

### **Ignatara FM**

Ignatara FM is a local radio station based in **Yao** a small town near Lake Fitri in Central Chad.

It was founded to serve the local fishing community, whose traditional way of life is threatened by the drying up of the lake.

Director – Adoum Goni  
Mob: +235 6622 3521

### **Catholic supported radio stations in Southern Chad**

Four radio stations in Southern Chad were set up by a Catholic NGO called the **Bureau d'Etudes et de Liaison pour les Actions Caritatives de Developpement (BELACD)** – the Bureau of Study and Liaison for Charitable and Development Action.

These are:

- **Radio Voix de Paysan (Doba)**
- **Radio Duji Lokar ( Moundou)**
- **Radio Terre Nouvelle (Bongor and Pala)**
- **Radio Effata (Lai).**

**Radio Arc-en-Ciel** in N'Djamena and **Radio Lotiko** in **Sarh**, which are profiled separately in this guide, were also founded by organisations linked to the Catholic church.

BELACD started life in 1973 in the southern town of **Sarh** with support from the Catholic aid agency Caritas. It was set up in response to problems caused by drought and food insecurity.

The original mission of BELACD was to promote dialogue and reconciliation in order to prevent conflict between pastoralist and agricultural communities in the area around Sarh.

The NGO became involved in radio through its mission to promote education and social development.

Since 2008 the BELACD radio stations have all been functioning independently. However they continue to collaborate on ad hoc projects.

In particular, they have worked together on programmes about resolving conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists and on programmes about farming and food marketing.

### **Radio Duji Lokar**

Duji Lokar is an independent radio station in the southern town of **Moundou** with close links to the Roman Catholic church.

It broadcasts on 101.8 FM in **French** and the local language **Ngambaye**.

The station produces a variety of programmes with a broad social development theme, on topics such as education, health and agriculture.

It has two news bulletins a day, one in the morning and one in the evening. In addition, it relays **French** language programmes of the **BBC World Service**.

Duji Lokar was launched in 2000 by **BELACD**, a local Catholic NGO which has set up four radio stations in southern Chad.

The station has produced and broadcast sponsored programmes for UNICEF and has received funding from the European Union's peace and communications project.

Management says its sports and BBC programmes are the most popular.

Despite the station's close links with the church, only about 10% of programming deals with religious themes. Most religious programmes are broadcast on Sundays.

There are 12 people working at the station – a mix of presenters, technicians and journalists.

Duji Lokar has a 500 Watt transmitter, which gives the station a range of 80 kms.

Its broadcast coverage area includes **Doba**, the centre of the oilfields of Southern Chad.

Director – Modile Aymard Belrangar

Mobile: +235 9047 4343

+235 9046 4747

Technical manager – Tchanny Koundou

Mobile: +235 6642 9802

### **Radio Terre Nouvelle** [www.diocesepala.com/rtn/](http://www.diocesepala.com/rtn/)

Radio Terre Nouvelle is a Roman Catholic radio station that broadcasts from **Bongor** in Southwestern Chad on 99.4 FM.

It has a relay transmitter in **Pala**, 180 km to the south, that broadcasts on 94.0 FM.

Radio Terre Nouvelle broadcasts development related programming in **French** and a variety of local languages for up to 6.5 hours a day.

The main long languages used are **Chadian Arabic, Fulfulde (Peul), Masa, Mundang, Musey, Ngambay, Tupuri** and **Zime**.

Radio Terre Nouvelle is on air from 06.00 to 08.30 in the morning (except on Sundays) and from 16.30 to 20.30 in the evening.

The radio station was set up by the church NGO BELACD in 2000

Director – Marco Bertoni

Tel: +235 66 67 50 05

Email: [marco.friul@xaveriens.org](mailto:marco.friul@xaveriens.org)

Webmaster – Gabriel Arroyo

Mob: +235 99 15 47 11

[Gabriel.arroyo@saveriani.it](mailto:Gabriel.arroyo@saveriani.it)

### **Radio Voix de Paysan**

Radio Voix de Paysan is Roman Catholic radio station that broadcasts on 96.2 FM from **Doba**, the centre of the oil industry in Southwestern Chad.

The station broadcasts for five hours a day in **French** and **Ngambay**.

It is on air from 16.00 to 21.00 daily.

Radio Voix de Paysan was set up in 1997 by the local church NGO BELACD.

Coordinator – Joseph Djikouloum

Tel: +235 69 51 06

Email: [evechedoba@skyfile.com](mailto:evechedoba@skyfile.com)  
[doaba@sat.signis.net](mailto:doaba@sat.signis.net)

### **Radio Effata** [www.dioceselai.com](http://www.dioceselai.com)

Radio Effata is a Roman Catholic radio station that broadcasts on 98.0 FM from the Southwestern town of Lai.

It broadcasts for four hours a day in **French, Chadian Arabic, Ngambaye. Kabalaye and Nangtchere.**

The station is on air from 07.00 in the morning (except on Sundays) and again from 17.30 to 19.30 in the evening

Radio Effata was set up by the local church NGO BELACD in 2004. It has a staff of 16 and a network of 12 local correspondents.

The station has a 1,000 Watt transmitter mounted on a 55 metre mast and claims to reach a population of up to one million people within its coverage area

Director – Alice Prigent

Tel: +235 37 49 70

Email: [radioeffata@afrik.com](mailto:radioeffata@afrik.com)  
[evechlai@intnet.td](mailto:evechlai@intnet.td)

## **Other religious radio stations**

### **Radio Al-Qoran**

This Islamic radio station broadcasts on 91.0 FM to **N'Djamena**.

It is owned by the Superior Council of Islamic Affairs, which is based at the city's Grand Mosque.

Co-ordinator — Djibrine Said Emma  
Mob: +235 6629 4997

### **Radio Voix de l'Esperance**

This radio station broadcasts on 100.2 FM in N'Djamena.

It is owned by the Evangelical Church of the Assembly of God, a protestant evangelical church.

Co-ordinator — Pastor Frederic  
Mob: +235 6623 7470

### **Radio FM Terre la Paix**

This radio station in **Tchaguine Golo** near **Lai** in Southwestern Chad, is owned by the Evangelical Church of Chad, a different protestant evangelical church.

It broadcasts on 95.2 FM

Director — Mark Vadar Koi  
Mob: +235 6647 9232

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 Updated: (Month) (Year)

## International Radio Stations

### Radio France International (RFI) [www.rfi.fr](http://www.rfi.fr)

The French international broadcaster RFI is the most popular foreign radio station in Chad.

It provides comprehensive and up-to-date news coverage of Chad and the other Francophone countries of West and Central Africa.

RFI broadcasts on FM in **N'Djamena**, **Abéché**, **Moundou** and **Sarh** and to the rest of the country on Short Wave.

It uses transmitters mounted on the masts of the Chadian state broadcaster **Organisation Nationale de Radiodiffusion et Television du Tchad (ONRTV)**.

A BBC audience survey in 2009 indicated that RFI was the second most listened to radio station in Chad after ONRTV's Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT).

21% of respondents said they listened to RFI at least once a week. It was seen as the most relevant and objective source of news.

RFI used to have an international correspondent based in N'Djamena.

However, following a rebel attack on the capital in 2008, during which RFI broadcast interviews with the rebels, the government put pressure on the radio station to use a Chadian national as its N'Djamena correspondent instead.

RFI Chad correspondent– Madjiasra Nako  
 Mob: +235 6629 7954

### BBC World Service [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

The BBC World Service broadcasts to **N'Djamena** in **English** and **French** on 90.6 FM and to the whole country on Short Wave.

A BBC audience survey conducted in 2009 suggested that two-thirds of BBC listeners in Chad tuned into its French language broadcasts.

It also found that 41% listened to the BBC on FM.



Several local radio stations relay programmes of the BBC French service, BBC Afrique, on FM. These include **FM Al Bayane** in **N'Djamena**, **Radio Lotiko** in **Sarh** and **Radio Duji Lokar** in **Moundou**.

There are a small audiences in Chad for the BBC's broadcasts in **Arabic** and **Hausa** on Short Wave.

BBC Chad correspondent – Dillah René  
Mob: +235 6628 1409

### **Radio Dabanga** [www.radiodabanga.org](http://www.radiodabanga.org)

Radio Dabanga broadcasts from the Netherlands to the troubled Darfur region of Sudan for three hours per day on Short Wave.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the station also has commands a large audience amongst the 264,000 refugees from Darfur in Eastern Chad and the Chadian host population who mostly belong to the same ethnic groups.

Radio Dabanga's main news programmes are in **Arabic**, but the station also broadcasts daily news bulletins and other programmes in three languages that are widely spoken in Darfur and Eastern Chad; **Fur**, **Masalit** and **Zaghawa**.

The station is run by the Dutch-based media development NGO **Free Press Unlimited** [www.freepressunlimited.org](http://www.freepressunlimited.org) and is financed by Western donors.

Radio Dabanga began broadcasting in 2008. It is on air for two hours in the morning and one hour at night.

Radio Dabanga is staffed by journalists from Darfur. It reports from inside Sudan as well as from abroad, producing independent news and information for all Darfuri, including refugees living abroad.

The Sudanese government tries to jam the signal of Radio Dabanga, but the station claims to have over two million listeners.

Radio Dabanga's Khartoum office, which it shared with the human rights organization HAND, was closed down by the government in October 2010.

Tel: (Netherlands) +31 35 6254350  
Email: [radiodabanga@yahoo.com](mailto:radiodabanga@yahoo.com)

**Voice of America (VOA)** [www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com)

Programmes from VOA's **French service** are re-broadcast by **FM Liberté** in **N'Djamena**.

The Chad correspondent of the US government-funded radio station is based at FM Liberté offices.

VOA Chad correspondent – François Njekombe  
Mob: +235 6621 5716

Date of publication: (September) 2012  
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## List of Chadian independent radio stations

The following list of 42 radio stations was published in August 2012 by **Maison des Médias**, the journalism resource centre in N'Djamena.

A similar list of 44 licenced private radio stations is published by the government media regulator **Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC)** on web page [www.hcctchad.org/les-medias-au-tchad.html](http://www.hcctchad.org/les-medias-au-tchad.html)

The contact names and numbers given in these lists may be different from those given in the profiles of individual media organisations in this guide. Every effort has been made to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information possible.

### 1. FM Liberté, N'Djamena

**Director** – Lazarre Djekouringa  
 Mobile: +235 6629 2325

### 2. Radio Dja FM, N'Djamena

**Director** – Zara Yacoub  
 Mobile: +235 6629 3168

### 3. Al-Nasr FM, N'Djamena

**Technical Director** – Aboukar Borgho  
 Mobile: +235 6630 6020

### 4. Radio Al-Bayane, N'Djamena

**Director** – Youfedi Abdulaziz  
 Mobile: +235 6639 9134

### 5. Radio Harmonie FM, N'Djamena

**Director** – Ricardo Nandoumgar  
 Mobile: +235 6640 0040

### 6. Radio Arc-en-Ciel, N'Djamena

**Director** – Jean-Pierre Ningaina  
 Mobile: +235 6628 9042

### 7. Radio Alhouda, N'Djamena

**Director** – Yassir Tidjani  
 Mobile: +235 9999 1977

### 8. Ngato FM, N'Djamena

**Commercial Director** – Hasan Moussa  
 Mobile: +235 9923 7321

**9. Radio Al-Qoran, N'Djamena****Director** – Djibrine Seid Emmar

Mobile: +235 6629 4997

**8. Ngato FM, N'Djamena****Commercial Director** – Hasan Moussa

Mobile: +235 9923 7321

**9. Radio Al-Qoran, N'Djamena****Director** – Djibrine Seid Emmar

Mobile: +235 6629 4997

**10. Voix de l'Esperance, N'Djamena****Technical Director** – Djetoda Constant

Mobile: +235 6629 0912

**11. Voix de l'Evangile, N'Djamena****Director** – Luc Azina Dandjaye

Mobile: +235 6635 1298

**12. Radio Kar Uba (Le Soleil), Moundou****Director** – Beinde Bessande

Mobile: 235 6734 9570

**13. Duji Lokar FM, Moundou****Director** – Modile Aymard Belrangar

Mobile: +235 6617 7070

**14. Ngourkosso Community Radio, Benoye****Director** -- Kourjaou Milisor

Mobile: +235 6623 4632

**15. Le Reveil, Bebalem****Director** – Namodi Maurice

Mobile: +235 9515 0691

**16. Radio Evangile et Développement, Pala****Director** – Rakseube Jonathan

Mobile: +235 6647 3642

**17. Radio Soleil, Pala****Contact** – Abdelaziz Daouda

Mobile: +235 6640 8521

**18. Radio Nouvelle Terre, Pala****Contact** – Bertoni Marco

Mobile: +235 6624 8575

**19. Voix de Zahsoo**, Lere**Director** – Danbobe Nettah

Mobile: +235 6653 9453

**20. Radio Effata**, Lai**Director** – Alice Prijent

Mobile: +235 6647 4165

**21. FM Barguadje**, Kelo**Contact** – Abakar Moussa Kaidallah

Mobile: +235 6629 6057

**22. Radio Lotikoh 2**, Koumra**Contact** – Noubdjalbaye Ngarndidono

Mobile: +235 6636 8292

**23. Tob FM**, Koumra**Director** – Ndilabaye Theophile

Mobile: +235 6642 7499

**24. Radio Brakoss**, Moissala**Director** – Kemte Collette

Mobile: +235 6638 0359

**25. Radio Njimi**, Mao**Contact** – Ahmat Daladou

Mobile: +235 6632 0536

**26. Radio Bissam FM**, Mondo**Director** – Abakar Elhadji Abakar

Mobile: +235 9919 4907

**27. Albichari FM**, Nokou**Director** – Himed Bouzed

Mobile: +235 9971 1703

**28. Radio Lotiko**, Sarh**Director** – Aubin Irene Angulu

Mobile: +235 6698 9342

**29. Radio Terre Nouvelle**, Bongor**Director** – Bertoni Marcor

Mobile: +235 6624 8575

**30. Gaya Tcholwa**, Gounou-Gaya**Director** – Mariatna Emmanuel

Mobile: +235 6653 2203

**31. Al-Nadja, Ati****Contact** – Abakar Moussa Kaidallah

Mobile: +235 6629 6057

**32. Radio Ignatara, Yao****Director** – Daoussa Mahamat

Mobile: +235 6300 0091

**33. La Voix de Ouaddai** Abéché

Director – Abakar Dountoum

Mobile: +235 6636 3740

**34. Radio Absoun** Iriba**Director** – Adoum Goni

Mobile: +235 6622 3521

**35. Radio Sila** Goz Beida**Director** – Tadjane Mahamat

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**36. Voix du Paysan,** Doba**Contact** – Djikolmbaye Joseph

Mobile: +235 6634 1121

**37. FM Moussoro,** Moussoro**Director** – Oumar Moussa Matchari

Mobile: +235 6635 5335

**38. Palmeraie FM,** Faya-Largeau**Contact** – Idriss Ndele

No mobile number available

**39. Mongo Community Radio,** Mongo**Contact** – Dimanche Gaye Swair

Mobile: +235 6621 2727

**40. Kadaye FM,** Bol**Contact** – Abdoulaye Mbodou

Mobile: +235 6640 0909

**41. Terre de Paix,** Tchaguine Golo**Contact** – Mark Vadar

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**42. Radio Benoye,** Benoye**Contact** – Ndomik

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## Television

Chad's only TV station is state-run **TéléTchad**.

It broadcast in **French, Chadian Arabic** and **Standard Arabic**.

TéléTchad forms part of the state broadcasting corporation **Office National de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision du Tchad (ONRTV)**.

It functions as a government mouthpiece.

Private television channels are legally allowed in Chad and attempts have been made to launch them. But in mid-2012 no private TV companies were on air.

Television is popular in Chad's main cities, where a terrestrial TV signal and mains electricity supplies are available.

But very few people watch television in rural areas, where 80% of the population lives.

A 2011 media audience survey by the US-based media research organisation Intermedia survey found that 75% of respondents in urban areas had access to TV.

However, only 7% of respondents in rural areas said they could watch television.

Even in the capital N'Djamena, where people are more affluent and have better access to mains electricity, radio still commands a wider audience than television.

A BBC audience survey in 2009 found that 61% of adults in N'Djamena watched television at least once a week, whereas 77% listened to radio.

TéléTchad broadcasts nationwide by satellite, but very few people have dishes and decoders. Those who do often prefer to watch foreign TV channels instead.

In places with public TV viewing, such as bars, tea-shops and village squares, the screen frequently is tuned in to foreign channels rather than TéléTchad if a satellite dish is available.

The most popular foreign channels are **Al-Jazeera** in **Arabic** and the **French** international channels **TV5** and **France 24**.

In mid-2012 TéléTchad was broadcasting from terrestrial transmitters in six cities - **N'Djamena, Abéché, Sarh, Moundou, Faya-Largeau** and **Ati**.

However, it had ambitious plans to put additional relay transmitters on air in 13 other towns by the end of the year.

The peak period for TV viewing in Chad is from 19.00 to 21.00 at night.

TéléTchad's main evening news programme in **French** is broadcast at 20.00.



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## TéléTchad [www.onrtv.td](http://www.onrtv.td)

State-run TéléTchad is Chad's only TV station.

It forms part of the state broadcasting corporation **Office National de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision du Tchad (ONRTV)** and functions as a government mouthpiece.

ONRTV was undergoing an ambitious expansion and modernisation programme in 2012. This should lead to an improvement in the technical quality of TéléTchad's broadcasts and a wider distribution of its terrestrial signal

TéléTchad broadcasts in **French, Chadian Arabic** and **Standard Arabic** on a single channel from its headquarters in N'Djamena.

In mid-2012, it was broadcasting from terrestrial transmitters in the following cities:

- **N'Djamena**
- **Abéché**
- **Sarh**
- **Moundou.**
- **Faya-Largeau**
- **Ati**

It was also broadcasting nationwide by satellite on NileSat.

By the end of 2012, ONRTV aimed to open TV relay stations in 13 more towns:

- **Adre**
- **Am Timan**
- **Bardai**
- **Biltine**
- **Bongor**
- **Bol**
- **Doba**
- **Fada**
- **Goz Beida**
- **Karo**
- **Kiabe**
- **Pala**
- **Moussoro.**

TéléTchad will beam its signal by satellite into these new relay stations.

However, it has not announced any plans to set up regional TV studios capable of broadcasting local programming.

Along with the state radio network **Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT)**, TéléTchad is due to move into a brand-new 13-storey broadcasting complex by the end of 2013.

This will contain new studios and equipment and will be fully digitised.

The main news programmes of TéléTchad are at broadcast 19.00 (**Standard Arabic**), 20.00 (**French**), 21.00 (**Chadian Arabic**).

The station does not broadcast in any local African languages

Besides news, TéléTchad broadcasts a mix of documentaries, features and current affairs programmes on subjects such as education, health and environment.

It sometimes organises live studio debates.

There TV programmes for children and a range of religious programmes for both Christians and Muslims.

TéléTchad also uses a lot of imported French language TV programmes, including documentaries.

Many of these are supplied by **Canal France International**.

TéléTchad also broadcasts a number of programmes supplied by the **International Union of Radio and Television (URTI)** [www.urti.org](http://www.urti.org)

The station has journalists based in regional offices in **Abéché, Sarh, Moundou** and **Faya-Largeau**.

However, in mid-2012 The TV station did not have any capacity to broadcast directly from its provincial outposts.

Regional correspondents had to read live reports down a phone line to the studio in N'Djamena and video tapes had to be couriered back to the capital for editing and broadcast.

The TV station has about 150 employees in **N'Djamena**, including 45 journalists and 15 cameramen.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that TéléTchad is not seen as a particularly informative or appealing station.

Much of its entertainment programming, including music and dance, is quite staid.

Its news output is pro-government line and generally avoids controversial political issues.

Television came late to Chad. TéléTchad only began broadcasting in 1987.

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Assistant Director of News – Braha Mahamat

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Director of Programmes – Moussa Fakaya

Mobile: +235 6627 2120

News Editor – Rosalie Andige

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Address: TéléTchad, ONRTV, Avenue Mobotu, N'Djamena

#### **ONRTV Moundou**

Regional Director - F. Lamer

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#### **ONRTV Sarh**

Regional Director – Yousouf Djambaye

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#### **ONRTV Abéché**

Regional Director – Nourène Souleyman

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#### **ONRTV Faya-Largeau**

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#### **ONRTV Ati**

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## Print overview

Newspapers in Chad only play a small role in transmitting news and information to the general public.

Their circulation is largely confined to the capital **N'Djamena**.

The country's only daily newspaper is **Le Progrès**. It prints about 3,000 copies.

Some of Chad's weekly and twice-weekly newspapers claim to sell up to 4,000 copies per edition.

Le Progrès is owned by Mahamat Hissene, a former minister of communications who is a close advisor of President Idriss Deby. The newspaper generally takes pro-government stance.

Two thirds of adults in Chad are illiterate. Most of those who can read and write cannot afford to buy a newspaper

However, privately owned newspapers do play an important role as a platform for political debate within Chad's urban-based ruling elite.

They also tend to be break controversial stories more readily than the country's radio stations.

This has made newspapers the main focus of media harassment and persecution by the government.

Some newspapers, such as Le Progrès and **N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo**, which is published twice a week, are distributed in other large towns in the south of the country.

However, even there, they are only read by the urban intelligentsia and civil servants.

Most newspapers are published in **French**, but some also appear in **Arabic**.

Their editorial style is rather stilted and old-fashioned.

With low circulation figures and little advertising to support them, Chadian newspapers do not make money.

Most newspaper owners use their publications to gain social and political influence. They tend to subsidise their newspapers from other sources of income.

The majority of Chadian newspapers have a series of opinion columns, usually written by prominent figures in civil society.

Independent newspapers started to appear following the legalisation of political parties in 1992.

**Le Temps**, a weekly, was the first one to hit the streets, followed soon after by **N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo**.

Chad's most popular newspapers in mid-2012 included **N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo**, **Notre Temps**, **Le Temps** and **La Voix**. None of these claim a circulation of more than 3,000 to 4,000 copies a week.

Newspapers are either sold on subscription and delivered to people's offices or hawked by vendors waiting at traffic lights and street intersections.

Three small newspapers are published, in **French**, in the southern towns of **Sarh**, **Moundou** and **Pala**. Their appearance is sporadic.

Eight newsletters are published in **Arabic** in the capital. Most of them are monthlies.

The following list of Chadian newspapers was published on the website of the media resource centre in N'Djamena : Maison des Médias, [www.maisondesmediastchad.org/spip.php?article3](http://www.maisondesmediastchad.org/spip.php?article3) in August 2012

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Le Progrés</b> (French)         |   |
| 2. <b>N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo</b> (French) | 14. <b>La Nation</b> (French)           |
| 3. <b>Le Temps</b> (French)           | 15. <b>Al Djadja</b> (Arabic)           |
| 4. <b>L'Observateur</b> (French)      | 16. <b>Al Ayam</b> (Arabic)             |
| 5. <b>Notre Temps</b> (French)        | 17. <b>Al Ayoum</b> (Arabic)            |
| 6. <b>La Voix</b> (French)            | 18. <b>Al Istiqal</b> (Arabic)          |
| 7. <b>Al-Wihda</b> (French)           | 19. <b>Al Akhbar</b> (Arabic)           |
| 8. <b>Tchad et Culture</b> (French)   | 20. <b>Arrai</b> (Arabic)               |
| 9. <b>Carrefour</b> (French)          | 21. <b>Al Batha</b> (Arabic)            |
| 10. <b>Horizon Femmes</b> (French)    | 22. <b>Al Adwa</b> (Arabic)             |
| 11. <b>D'Akouna</b> (French)          | 23. <b>Tribune</b> (French) – Sarh      |
| 12. <b>Le Miroir</b> (French)         | 24. <b>Le Panier</b> (French) – Moundou |
| 13. <b>Le Clairon</b> (French)        | 25. <b>La Cloche</b> (French) – Pala    |

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## Newspapers and news agencies

### Le Progrès

Le Progrès is Chad's only daily newspaper. It is owned by a close adviser of the president and generally takes a pro-government line

The newspaper is published in **French** and prints about 3,000 copies per day, but many of these are distributed free of charge in offices.

Le Progrès's cover price of 150 CFA (30 US cents) makes it much more affordable than most other newspapers, which cost up to 500 CFA (US\$1).

Le Progrès is owned by **Mahamat Hissene**, a former Minister of Communications, who has since become a personal advisor to President Idriss Deby.

Hissene is a former journalist and he retains hands-on editorial control over the newspaper.

Le Progrès is rarely critical of the government. It tends to avoid the sort of scandals and corruption stories covered by other newspapers.

However, it is not a simple mouthpiece of the government and it does employ some good independent journalists.

Le Progrès has about 10 journalists working full time in N'Djamena and a network of correspondents in regional towns such as Abéché, Bongor, Sarh, Mao and Moundou.

Although viewed by some as an authoritative source of news, many others regard the newspaper as too beholden to the government.

Le Progrès covers a lot of social issues, government initiatives and press conferences.

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News Editor – Abderahmane Boukar

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Email: [quotidienleprogress3@yahoo.fr](mailto:quotidienleprogress3@yahoo.fr)

Address: Le Progrès, Avenue Charles de Gaulle, N'Djamena

## **N'Djamena Bi-Hébd**

N'Djamena Bi-Hébd is one of the most popular **French** language newspapers in the capital.

It is published twice a week on Monday and Thursday and claims to sell 4,000 copies per edition.

N'Djamena Bi-Hébd was set up by opposition politician Saleh Kebzabo in 1996 and for a brief period he served as the newspaper's editor.

Kebzabo is no longer involved in the day-to-day running of the paper, but he remains a leading figure in the civilian opposition to President Idriss Deby.

The paper is now managed by a committee of journalists and shareholders, including the editor, Jean-Claude Nekim.

Bi-Hébd is often openly critical of the government and sometimes publishes searing editorials on government policy. Several of its journalists have been arrested in the past.

Nekim believes that many potential advertisers are boycotting the paper because of its critical stance.

Along with editorials and political news stories, Bi-Hébd covers social issues.

It publishes a popular cartoon strip which often pokes fun at President Idriss Deby and his ministers.

There are has sections on sport and the economy.

The newspaper has eight staff reporters in N'Djamena and correspondents in **Bongor, Moundou** and **Abéché**.

Bi-Hébd is also on sale in these provincial cities.

Editor – Jean-Claude Nekim

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+235 22 51 52 76

Email: [ndjh89@yahoo.fr](mailto:ndjh89@yahoo.fr)

Editor in Chief— Touroumbaye Geoffrey

Mobile: +235 6615 2515

+235 9946 5226

**Address:** N'Djamena Bi-Hébd, Moursal, N'Djamena

## Notre Temps

This popular **French**-language weekly newspaper has a strong campaigning agenda and calls itself the 'Newspaper for the Voiceless'.

Notre Temps was set up by Najikomo Benoudjita, the brother of Nemi Benoudjita, who founded **Le Temps**, Chad's first private weekly.

Najikomo Benoudjita is still heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the newspaper.

He is a prominent figure in Chadian media and was one of the founding members of **Maison des Médias**, the country's main journalism resources centre.

He was arrested for defamation in 2009 and Notre Temps was briefly closed, but he is now operating freely again.

Notre Temps employs eight full time journalists several student interns.

It has a good reach on regional stories, particularly from the south and is generally critical of government.

Its weekly 'Le Point' opinion column is always written by a prominent figure in Chadian society and is often about political freedom.

Notre Temps is sold in some towns in Southern Chad as well as N'Djamena.

Owner/Editor– Najikomo Benoudjita

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Tel: +235 2253 4650

Reporter – Rita Benoudjita

Mob: +235 6607 5231

Tel: +235 2253 4650

Email: [j\\_notretemps@yahoo.fr](mailto:j_notretemps@yahoo.fr)

Address: Notre Temps, Moursal, N'Djamena

## Le Temps

Le Temps was the first independent newspaper to be published in Chad.

It appears weekly in **French** and claims to sell 4,000 copies.

Le Temps was launched by journalist Nemi Benoudjita,



When he died in 1995 there was some confusion about the ownership of Le Temps. Control eventually passed to Michael Didama, who is still the editor.

This move prompted Najikomo Benoudjita , the founder's brother, to set up Notre Temps as a rival publication.

Le Temps carries a lot of political stories and its editorial columns are often critical of the government.

The newspaper also covers sport, society and the economy.

It also has a debate section, where a different current affairs issue is discussed each week.

Le Temps also carries a lot of government advertising and tender notices.

It has eight staff journalists in N'Djamena and correspondents in **Sarh, Doba** and **Bongor**.

Editor – Michael Didama

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Tel: +235 2251 7028

Email: [temps.presse@intnet.td](mailto:temps.presse@intnet.td)

Address: Le Temps, Opposite Ecole Belle-Vue, Moursal, N'Djamena

### **L'Observateur**

This independent, weekly, **French**-language newspaper appears on Wednesdays.

It was set up by N'Djamena businesswoman **Sy Koumbo Singa Gali**.

Its 'Opinion' page offers prominent local figures- such as artists, musicians and teachers – a platform to write open letters to the government.

The newspaper claims to sell 4,000 copies a week.

It is one of the most expensive newspapers in Chad, with a cover price of 500CFA (US\$1).

Director – Samory Ngaradoumbe

News Editor – Takadji Edouard

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Tel: +235 2251 8005

Address: L'Observateur, N'Djamena - Mosquée

## **La Voix**

La Voix is a weekly broadsheet with a lot of colour pages. It looks quite different to most other Chadian newspapers.

It is published in **French** every Tuesday and claims to sell 3,000 copies a week.

La Voix uses a lot of photographs. It also carries a cartoon strip by the popular cartoonist Yadyama that follows the lives of two young soldiers,

The paper was set up by a team of four prominent opposition journalists in 2009.

They include Innocent Ebode, a Cameroonian journalist expelled from Chad in 2009. He still writes a column for the paper.

La Voix is run by a committee of journalists, lawyers and human rights activists.

Among them is Jean-Bernard Padare, a prominent lawyer who led a number of court cases against the government. He has since been made a minister.

La Voix has five staff journalists, assisted by two students. It has links with radio stations in **Ati**, **Abéché**, **Moundou** and **Bongor**, which gives it access to stories from those regions.

The newspaper covers international affairs and tries to make them relevant to the local audience.

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Director of Publication – Deli Nestor

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Address: La Voix, Quartier Djambal Bahr, Rue Gaourang, N'Djamena

**Al-Wihda** [www.alwihdainfo.com](http://www.alwihdainfo.com)

Al-Wihda is a **French** language weekly newspaper with a website that carries up-to-date news articles.

It covers a variety of political, economic and social stories and has a strong focus on Sudanese issues.

Editor in Chief — Bakory Jacob

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**Agence Tchadienne de Presse (ATP)** [www.infotchad.com](http://www.infotchad.com)

This small, government-run press agency based in N'Djamena employs several journalists who frequent press conferences and other media events in the capital.

The agency has reporting bureaux in **Sarh**, **Moundou**, **Abéché** and **Faya** and publishes reports from about 10 correspondents based at other locations in the interior.

ATP disseminates information in **French** and **Arabic** through its website.

Most of its stories are about government announcements and activities.

Like the state broadcasting corporation ORNTV, it is a dependency of the Ministry of Communications.

It was set up in 1966.

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## Online media

Internet access is restricted to the educated urban elite and the expatriate community, but its popularity is growing.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimated that 1.9% of Chad's population used the internet in 2011 up from 0.4% in 2005.

Connection speeds in mid-2012 were frustratingly slow and audio and video streaming was virtually impossible.

According to the ITU, Chad had only 167 broadband connections at the end of 2011.

Internet access outside the main towns is practically non-existent.

Most international organisations use V-Sat or BGAN satellite links to connect to the internet.

In March 2012 N'Djamena connected to the Central African Backbone fibre-optic cable.

This was laid alongside the 1,070 km oil pipeline that runs from the Doba oilfields in Southwestern Chad to the coast of Cameroon at Kribi.

However, in August 2012, this new high speed internet link, financed by the World Bank, had not yet been made available for public use.

Once the Central African Backbone is made available to local internet service providers, access speeds should improve dramatically and the cost of going online should fall.

The mobile internet is still very restricted. In mid- 2012, most of Chad's mobile network still used 2G technology which does not support internet access.

Most internet subscribers in N'Djamena either used the **Tawali** fixed radio access system offered by the state telecoms operator **Sotel** or USB modem sticks that tapped into the 3G networks of mobile network operators **Airtel** and **Tigo**.

Mobile internet connections, where they are available, are usually slow and unstable.

**Tawali** provides subscribers with a small radio receiver to mount on the roof of their home or office. This provides telephone voice services and internet access.

Most people who go online use internet cafes to send and receive emails.

The take-up of social media such as **Facebook** and **Twitter** is very low. According to the internet statistics website [www.socialbakers.com](http://www.socialbakers.com), there were only 31,000 Facebook users in Chad in August 2012.

There are several news websites which focus on Chad. Most of them are run from abroad.

The most reliable news site is [www.tchadactuel.com](http://www.tchadactuel.com) which is run from Paris.

It has covered the various armed rebellions against President Idriss Deby in considerable depth and detail.

The site also carries a lot of information about Sudan and Darfur.

[www.alwihdainfo.com](http://www.alwihdainfo.com) the website of **Al-Wihda** newspaper in N'Djamena, is another good source of news about Chad.

[www.journaldut Chad.com](http://www.journaldut Chad.com) is a news aggregator run from France that forms part of a family of 'Journal du...' news websites focussing on countries in Francophone Africa.

[www.tchadenligne.com](http://www.tchadenligne.com) is also popular.

There is little evidence to date of Twitter or Facebook being used for social mobilisation.

Blogging is virtually unheard of.

Only a handful of foreign residents and journalists write blogs.

An example is [www.letchadanthropus-tribune.com](http://www.letchadanthropus-tribune.com)

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## Traditional channels of communication

Word of mouth remains an important channel of news and communication in Chad, especially when the information comes from a known and trusted source.

A 2011 media audience survey by the media development organisation **Intermedia** revealed that word of mouth was trusted almost as much as the radio.

67% of the 1,985 respondents to the survey said radio was a trusted source of information.

Almost as many – 64% - said they trusted word of mouth

Muslim and Christian religious leaders and village elders are especially important in rural areas where people have less access to radio and almost none to television.

Schools and teachers are also important channels for delivering messages about family matters.

UNICEF has used teachers to inform parents about upcoming vaccination campaigns – in particular about polio vaccinations – which were viewed with scepticism by some conservative Muslims in neighbouring Nigeria.

UNICEF and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) have also worked with Imams to transmit messages polio vaccination and other child health issues.

People are often summoned to vaccination centres by community mobilisers. These are individuals who walk from village to village with a megaphone to tell people when the vaccinations will be given.

Mosques and churches are important venues for social gatherings and for getting news and important messages across to the community.

Imams and, in particular the authorities of **La Grande Mosque du Tchad**, the biggest mosque in the capital N'Djamena, are key players transmitting social messages.

**UNICEF** and **UNFPA** have worked with representatives of the **Conseil Supérieur des Affaires Islamiques** (Superior Council of Islamic Affairs) to help ensure mention of vaccination and family health messages in sermons.

Other traditional channels of communication such as village elders, doctors and teachers, also remain important for reaching the illiterate or more remote sections of rural society.

### **Influential religious organisations**

#### **Conseil Supérieur des Affaires Islamiques** (Superior Council of Islamic Affairs)

President —Cheikh Hissein Hassan Abakar

Mob: +235 6633 3647

Address: Grande Mosquee du Tchad, N'Djamena

#### **Roman Catholic Church**

Curate of N'Djamena Cathedral – M. Bamingar

Mob: +235 6629 1552

+235 6631 0251

Address: Cathedral, Opposite Presidential Palace, Place de la Nation  
N'Djamena

#### **Christian Alliance of Chad**

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## Media resources

## Media regulators

### Ministry of Communications

The Ministry of Communications has overall control over the media and directly supervises state radio and television.

The Minister of Communications is an official spokesperson of the government.

He is in charge of the daily running of the state broadcasting corporation **ONRTV**.

Most journalists at ONRTV feel a pressure to reflect the interests of the government in their work.

The current minister Hassan Sylla, who was appointed in September 2011, is a former director of television at ONRTV. He commands respect from a lot of journalists.

Journalists' relations with previous ministers were considerably more difficult.

Minister of Communications – Hassan Sylla

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Press Officer – Djimougiam Ndarberi

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### Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC) [www.hcctchad.org](http://www.hcctchad.org)

The HCC (High Council for Communication) is the main government regulatory body for the media.

It consists of nine members.

The chairman (known as the president) and secretary general are appointed by the President of the Republic.

Three HCC members are appointed by the media.



The HCC was created in 1994 with a mandate to support the freedom of the press as well to control and regulate its activities.

It issues licences to private radio stations and has the power to revoke them if they fail to respect media law or cease to operate.

The HCC also has a role in the supervision of the state broadcasting corporation **ONRTV** and its two operating arms, **Radio Nationale du Tchad (RNT)** and **TéléTchad**.

It is tasked with ensuring that all political parties have equal access to Chadian media, but in practise opposition parties find it difficult to get air time for their views on state radio and television.

The HCC has powers to call journalists to court in cases of defamation and contempt of court.

However, there have been few instances of this since the introduction of a new more liberal media law in August 2010.

The HCC runs a number of journalism training courses and awards an annual journalism prize.

The relationship between the **HCC** and most media organisations is often fraught. The body is widely seen by journalists as an organ of the presidency.

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Email: [hcc@hcctchad.org](mailto:hcc@hcctchad.org)

### **Observatoire de la Déontologie et de l'Ethique des Médias (ODEMET)**

ODEMET - The 'Observatory for Ethics and Practise in Media is supposed to be a self-regulatory body for the media.

It was created after the Estates-General on the Press – a landmark conference of journalists and government representatives, held in 2009.

ODEMET is theoretically run by journalists, but it operates under the supervision of the **Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC)**, the government media regulator, so its independence is questionable.

ODEMET's objective is to ensure high standards of behaviour among members of the press.

Its main organ is a 'tribunal of peers', which pronounces judgements on infractions of the ODEMET media code.

All journalists in Chad are bound to operate by this code.

Unlike the HCC, which can take journalists to court in cases of defamation, ODEMET can only make a formal statement that a journalist has broken its code of conduct.

President— Ismail Ben Cherif

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## Media associations

**Maison des Médias du Tchad** [www.maisondesmediastchad.org](http://www.maisondesmediastchad.org)

Maison des Médias du Tchad (Chad Media House) is a journalism resource centre that was created at the Estates-General on the Press in 2009.

It is financially supported by a grant from the **European Community**.

The 'Maison' has a conference room, a library and computer terminals with free internet access. It offers a huge amount of information about journalism in Chad.

Maison des Médias keeps emergency transmitters for radio stations.

It also runs training courses, advice sessions and provides office space for all the Chadian journalist unions.

The institution has worked closely with international media development organisations such as **Equal Access** and **Internews**.

It frequently organises debates and press conferences.

The 'Maison' is recognised as a hub for journalists by international NGOs and organisations.

All Chadian media professionals are considered members and are entitled to use its facilities.

The seven main Chadian journalist unions and media associations are all based at the Maison des Médias:

**AEPT** (*Association des Editeurs de la Presse Privée du Tchad* - written press)

**URPT** (*Union des Radios Privées du Tchad* - private radios)

**UJT** (*Union des Journalistes du Tchad* - Chadian journalists union)

**UFPCT** (*Union Femmes pour la Communication du Tchad* - women in communication)

**LTJA** (Arabic-speaking journalists)

**ATCOM** (*Association Technique pour la Communication* - media technicians union)

**SODEMA** (Pan-African journalism union).

Each of these groups retains its formal identity and management committee, but they all operate under one roof.

Permanent Secretary – Francois Dingames

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Management Committee

Najikomo Benoudjita (Owner/Editor of Notre Temps)

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Ahmat Nene Haoua

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**Address:** Maison des Médias, Rue 5010, Carré 19 Aurora, Quartier Moursal, N'Djamena

### **Union des Radios Privées du Tchad (URPT)**

This association of privately owned radio stations had 38 members in mid-2012.

It is headed by Zara Yacoub, the founder of **Radio Dja FM**.

Yacoub says that URTP's main task is to defend private radio stations against attempts by the government and the Haut Conseil de la Communication (HCC) to extend the state's their control their activities.

The association is based at **Maison des Médias**.

It has worked with the French NGO **Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET)** on a number of public information campaigns about democracy.

Director — Zara Yacoub

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Office line in Maison des Médias: +235 6254 8711

## Media development organisations

**Equal Access** [www.equalaccess.org](http://www.equalaccess.org)

The US-based media development NGO Equal Access has been working on radio development in Chad since 2008.

It has helped to set up four new independent radio stations in Centre and West of the country and has plans to create two more.

Equal Access also produces three weekly radio programmes on youth issues, good governance and religious tolerance at its studios in N'Djamena.

These programmes are distributed to 15 partner stations across the country.

In addition, Equal Access has trained a network of 45 community reporters across the country to produce radio features on daily life.

Its work in Chad is funded through USAID's Peace through Development (PDEV) programme. This forms part of Washington's Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative.

Equal Access has funding to continue its activities in Chad until 2016.

Since 2012 its activities have been implemented through **International Relief and Development (IRD)** [www.ird.org](http://www.ird.org) , another Washington-based NGO active in the country.

The radio stations founded by Equal Access are located at **Mondo**, **Nokou** and **Bol**, north of Lake Chad, and **Yao**, near Lake Fitri, in Central Chad.

Two more Equal Access radio stations are envisaged in **Am Timan** in Southeastern Chad and **Massenya**, a town 120 km southeast of N'Djamena.

Chad Co-ordinator —Zara Yacoub  
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Vice-President Programs and Operations (San Francisco, USA) - Michael Bosse  
Email: [mbosse@equalaccess.org](mailto:mbosse@equalaccess.org)

### **Internews** [www.internews.org](http://www.internews.org)

The US-based media development organization **Internews** was active in Chad from 2005 until July 2012.

It established three local radio stations that broadcast to the Sudanese refugee camps in Eastern Chad and nurtured their development:

- **Radio Sila (Goz Beida)**
- **Radio Absoun (Iriba)**
- **La Voix de Ouaddai (Abéché).**

The NGO closed down its Chad office in July 2012 after transferring the ownership and management of these three stations to local associations.

During its seven years of operations in Chad, Internews also provided training and advice to many other Chadian radio stations.

Regional Manager Africa (Nairobi, Kenya-based) – Ian Noble  
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Global Humanitarian Director (London, UK-based) – Jacobo Quintanilla  
Mob (UK): +44 779 155 3774  
Email: [jquntanilla@internews.org](mailto:jquintanilla@internews.org)

### **GRET** [www.gret.org](http://www.gret.org)

The **Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET)** is a French NGO working on development through communications.

It has trained Chadian journalists in the coverage of politics and democracy.

GRET supported Chadian journalists in their successful campaign for the repeal of sive **Ordinance Cinq** (Decree Law Number Five), an oppressive media law passed hurriedly by the government after a rebel attack on N'Djamena in 2008.

Head of project — Goual Namassoum

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+235 9506 7777

**French Cultural Centre** [www.institut-francais-tchad.org](http://www.institut-francais-tchad.org)

The **Centre Culturel Français (CCF)** (French Cultural Centre) offers a rich programme of events and conferences to promote culture and the arts.

It has run training courses for journalists on social awareness.

The French Cultural Centre houses a cinema, stages for theatre (indoor and out) and air-conditioned meeting areas, which can be booked for various purposes.

It is headed by Ricardo Nandoumgar, who is also director of the N'Djamena music radio station **Radio Harmonie**.

Director — Ricardo Nandoumgar

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Duty manager

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Email: [cccfndjamena@gmail.com](mailto:cccfndjamena@gmail.com)

**Counterpart International** [www.counterpart.org](http://www.counterpart.org)

This American NGO has a number of projects in Chad supporting the promotion of elections, accountability and civic engagement,

It runs ad-hoc training courses for journalists and produced a media guide for coverage of the 2011 elections.

Programme officer Chad — Houda Malloum

Mob: +235 631 7165

Director of Communication (Virginia, USA) — Michael Zamba,

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## Advertising and Media Marketing

### Tamtam Info

Media marketing and advertising are not yet well developed in Chad.

Tamtam Info offers a variety of media and public relations services.

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Tel: +235 2251 7090

Email: [tam-tam.services@yahoo.fr](mailto:tam-tam.services@yahoo.fr)

## Audio and video Services

### Janse Productions

Janse Urbain Adoum is a freelance cameraman and reporter who used to work at TeleTchad. His company **Janse Productions** is one of the very few independent audio and video producers in Chad.

Adoum works for several international news organisations, including **Agence France Presse (AFP)**.

He has a camera and editing equipment and has ambitions to launch his own TV station.

Director General — Janse Urbain Adoum

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Email: [janseproduction@yahoo.fr](mailto:janseproduction@yahoo.fr)

Address: Janse Productions, Rue de la Grande Mosquée, N'Djamena

### Independent film-maker - Ismail Ben Sharif

Ismael Ben Sharif owns his camera and editing equipment.

He is chairman of the self-regulation body for Chadian media **ODEMET**.

Contact - Ismail Ben Sharif  
Mob: +235 6629 9582

### **Media fixer - Mohamet Nassir**

He arranges travel permits, translators and interpreters, media accreditation, etc.

Contact - Mohamet Nassir  
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+235 9985 0485

## **Printers**

### **Imprimerie AGB**

Office: +235 2251 6267  
Email: [agbimprimerie@yahoo.fr](mailto:agbimprimerie@yahoo.fr)  
N'Djamena

### **Imprimerie du Tchad (IDT)**

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Email: [idt.tchad@intnet.td](mailto:idt.tchad@intnet.td)  
Address: Imprimerie du Tchad (IDT), Rue du Mobutu, N'Djamena

### **Grand Imprimerie du Tchad**

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N'Djamena



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## Telecommunications overview

Mobile phone use in Chad has exploded in recent years, in line with trends across Africa.

The number of active mobile phone lines in Chad increased by a third in 2011.

Roughly one in three Chadians owned a mobile phone in 2012.

Most people in urban areas either own a mobile phone or have access to one through friends and family.

But outside the main towns mobile network coverage is patchy and mobile phone ownership is lower.

Some villages have one handset which is hired out for use by members of the community.

There were just 210,000 mobile telephones in use in 2005, according to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

But six years later, at the end of 2011, the ITU estimated that the number of subscriber lines had mushroomed to 3.7 million.

The GSMA, the global association of mobile network operators, reckoned there were 4.1 million mobile lines in active use at the end of 2011.

The state-run telephone landline network in Chad is small and restricted to a handful of large towns.

Since 2009, the number of landline subscribers of **Societe de Telecommunications du Tchad (Sotel)** has been falling as people switch to mobile communications instead.

According to the ITU, Chad had just over 31,000 landline subscribers at the end of 2011, down from a peak of 58,000 two years earlier.

Government offices and the offices of international organisations in large towns generally have landlines. Most homes do not.

Mobile tariffs are expensive by African standards, but they have started to come down as a result of lower tariffs offered by **Salam**, the mobile subsidiary of state-run Sotel.

Call charges vary between 60 CFA and 180 CFA (12 and 36 US cents) per minute, according to the network called and the time of day.

An SMS message costs between 10 and 50 CFA Francs (5 and 10 US cents).

SMS text messaging between mobile phones is popular amongst those who can read and write. It helps to keep expensive voice calls to a minimum.

However, two thirds of Chadian adults are illiterate, so text messaging is the preserve of the educated minority – especially the young, who have had more access to schooling.

Chad has three mobile network operators. These are

- **Airtel** - previously known as Celtel. It claims to have the most extensive mobile network in Chad. Airtel also has the largest number of subscribers – nearly two million in mid-2012. It belongs to Bharti Airtel of India.
- **Tigo**, the number two player, was launched in 2009 and has a nationwide mobile network. It belongs to the Luxembourg-based Millicom telecoms group.
- **Salam**, Chad's newest mobile operator. This subsidiary of the state telecoms company **Sotel** had a very limited national network and only 80,000 subscribers in mid-2012.

Mobile network coverage is good in and around Chad's main urban centres, especially in the south and southwest of the country.

However, there is very little mobile coverage in the sparsely covered North and in many remote areas of Eastern Chad.

All three mobile networks are able to send broadcast SMS messages to all their subscribers. Airtel and Tigo networks have sent blast SMS messages on behalf of **UNICEF** and other aid agencies.

Airtel, Tigo and Salam all allow subscribers to top up the mobile credit of other subscribers on the same network.

In June 2012, Airtel announced the launch of a mobile cash transfer service in conjunction with Ecobank.

This service, dubbed Airtel Money, allows subscribers to pay utility bills and send money to relatives through their mobile phone.

Tigo has hinted at plans to launch its own mobile cash transfer service.

Since Chad lacks a comprehensive national electricity grid and there are frequent power cuts, all mobile masts have their own diesel generators to guarantee uninterrupted service.

The government has occasionally shut down the mobile phone network for short periods at times of civil crisis. This happened frequently during rebel offensives between 2005 and 2009.

### **Internet access is slow and limited**

The internet network in Chad is improving, but the country still has one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world.

According to the ITU only 1.9% of Chadians used the internet in 2011.

**Airtel** and **Tigo** both offer mobile internet services, but access speeds are slow and their 3G network coverage is limited

Much of Chad's mobile network only had 2G capability in mid-2012 and did not support internet traffic.

In N'Djamena, the internet service provider **Tawali** offers a fixed wireless access telephone and internet service to subscribers in N'Djamena.

This service uses a radio connection instead of copper wires to provide the final local connection to the subscriber.

Tawali is a subsidiary of the state telecoms operator **Sotel**. It offers faster internet access speeds than the mobile internet services of **Airtel** and **Tigo**.

However, the internet offers of all three operators remain expensive. Unlimited access to the internet via a USB modem stick connected to a computer costs about 50,000 CFA (US\$100) per month.

In 2012, public subscribers in Chad were still waiting to be linked to the **Central African Backbone (CAB)**, a World Bank funded fibre optic cable network that is due bring high speed broadband to Chad and the Central African Republic.

The cable to Chad has been laid alongside the 1,070 km oil pipeline from Kribi on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon to the Doba oilfields in Southwestern Chad.

However, in mid-2012, the terms and conditions for distributing the CAB's signal around N'Djamena and to towns in the interior of Chad was still being negotiated.

The managers of the CAB project were hoping that fast broadband services would become publicly available before the end of 2012.

Telecommunications are regulated by the **Office Tchadien de Régulation des Télécommunications (OTRT)**, or Chadian Office for Telecoms Regulation.

In 2010 the government agreed to sell a 60% stake in **Sotel** to the **Libyan Arab Portfolio's Green Network**, a Libyan telecoms company with close links to the then Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. However the deal fell through after Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in October 2011.

In August 2012, Sotel remained in state hands.

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## Telecommunications companies

**Airtel** [www.td.airtel.com](http://www.td.airtel.com)

Airtel is the largest and most popular mobile network in Chad.

It was known as **Celtel** before its purchase by the Indian telecoms giant **Bharti Airtel** in 2010.

In March 2012, Airtel claimed 1,950,000 subscribers in Chad, giving it 55.5% of the subscription market and 52% of the available revenue.

A complete list of 154 individual locations covered by the Airtel network can be found on the Airtel website on the following web page  
[http://www.africa.airtel.com/wps/wcm/connect/africaairtel/Chad/Home/Se\\_Connecter/Zone\\_de\\_couverture](http://www.africa.airtel.com/wps/wcm/connect/africaairtel/Chad/Home/Se_Connecter/Zone_de_couverture)

In June 2012, the company announced the launch of Chad's first mobile banking and cash transfer service in conjunction with Ecobank.

This service, dubbed Airtel Money, allows customers to pay utility bills by phone and send money to relatives.

Airtel also has a service which allows subscribers to call in to listen to readings from the Bible or the Koran,

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Director of Marketing — George Lumbayi  
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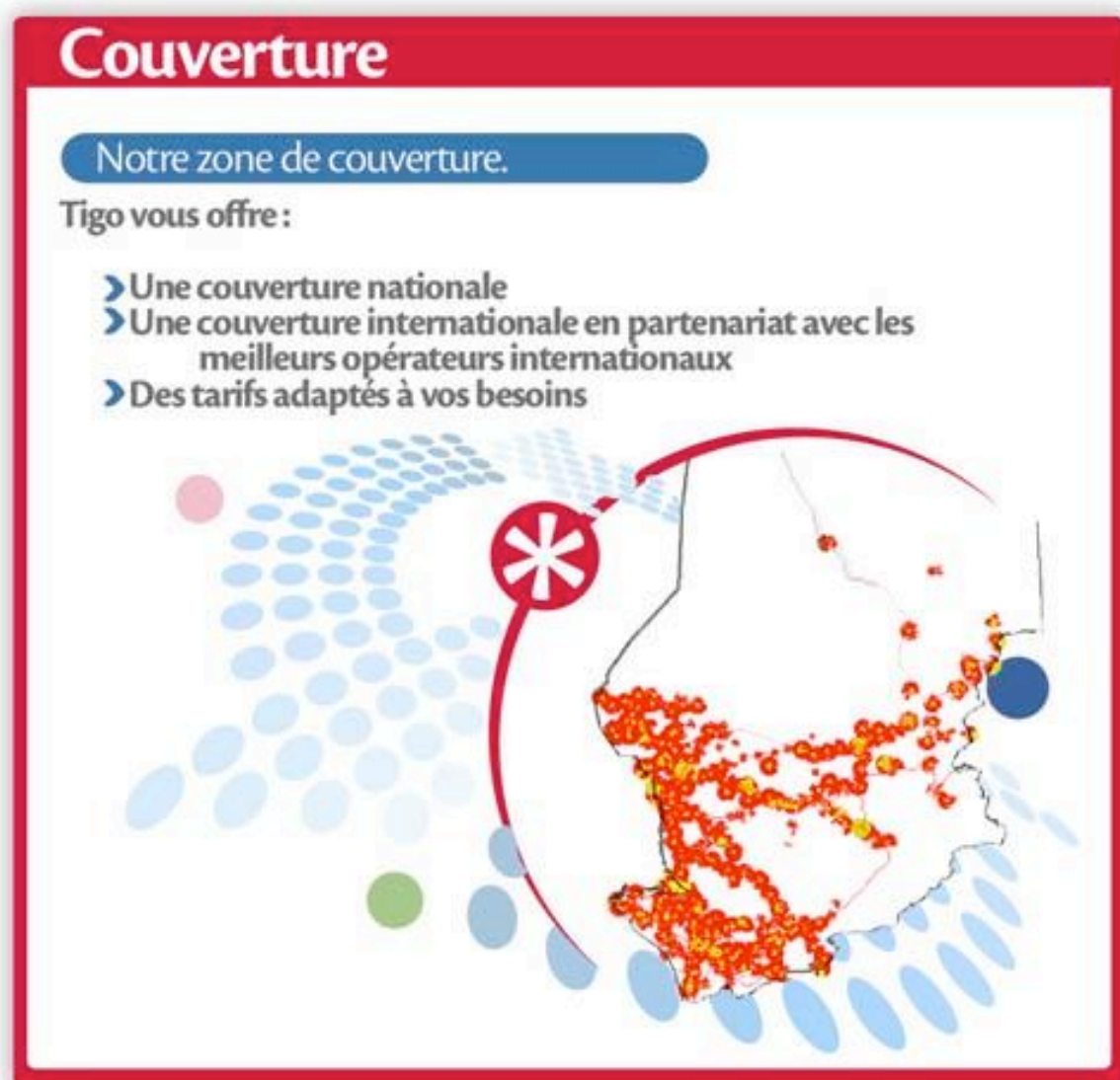
**Tigo** [www.tigo.com](http://www.tigo.com)

Tigo is the second largest mobile operator in Chad.

It offers good network coverage of southern and southwestern Chad and towns along the main roads running east from N'Djamena to Abeche and the Sudanese border and from N'Djamena to Mongo and Am Timan.

But Tigo only offers patchy coverage of Southeastern Chad.

It covers very few locations in the desert North.



**Tigo network coverage in 2012**

*Source: Tigo website*

The company forms part of the Luxembourg-based Millicom group, which operates several mobile networks in Africa and Latin America.

It began operations in Chad in 2009.

Tigo has a mobile credit transfer service that allows subscribers to top up the up the credit on other people's phones, but as of August 2012, it did not offer a mobile cash transfer service.

Tigo's mobile internet service has a reputation of being slow and not particularly reliable

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Address: Millicom – Tchad, Avenue Charles de Gaulle, N'Djamena

## **Salam**

Salam is Chad's newest and smallest mobile telecoms company. It forms part of the state-owned telecoms group **Sotel** [www.sotel.td](http://www.sotel.td)

It has been trying to gain customers by offering cheaper tariffs than Airtel and Tigo.

However, its network is much smaller than those of its two rivals.

In mid-2012, Salam's standard tariff for calls to other subscribers on the same network and for calls to **Sotel** landlines was 30 CFA Francs (6 US cents) per minute.

Salam is a subsidiary of the state-owned Sotel, which also operates Chad's landline telephone network and the **Tawali** fixed wireless access network.

Salam **claimed to have** 80,000 subscribers by mid-2012 and had set a target of achieving 500,000.

However, its network coverage **was** restricted to **N'Djamena**, the main roads from the capital to **Abéché**, **Moundou** and **Moussoro** and a handful of towns in the south.

Salam was aiming to expand its network coverage to a total of 30 towns by the end of 2012.

Director of Communication: Monsieur Kidandi  
Mobile: +235 6710 0027

**Societe de Telecommunication du Tchad (Sotel)** [www.sotel.td](http://www.sotel.td)

Sotel, the state telecommunications company, runs Chad's small landline network and **Salam**, the smallest of the country's three mobile networks.

Sotel's landline network has suffered in the face of competition from mobile operators.

Sotel had only 31,000 landline subscribers at the end of 2011, down from a peak of 58.000 in 2009.

By mid-2012, its mobile subsidiary Salam had 80,000 subscribers, but only offered limited network coverage N'Djamena and 17 other towns in Southern Chad.

Sotel also owns the **Tawali** fixed wireless access network. This provides telephone and internet services to subscribers in fixed locations in the capital **N'Djamena**.

Tawali uses a radio link instead of copper wires to provide the final link between the subscriber and the telecoms network.

Although internet access speeds on Tawali are slow by international standards, they are faster than those offered by the mobile internet services of Airtel and Tigo.

In August 2012, Sotel's website was not functioning.

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### **Central African Backbone**

The Central African Backbone project is laying fibre optic cables that will eventually provide faster and cheaper internet access to Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic.



The World Bank approved US\$26.7 of financing for this inter-governmental project in 2009, but complained in a May 2012 report that implementation in Chad was behind schedule.

A fibre optic cable has been laid from the Atlantic coast alongside the Chad-Cameroon pipeline and onwards to N'Djamena.

The connection to N'Djamena was completed in March 2012.

However, in August 2012, negotiations were still going on between the World Bank and the government about distribution contracts that would enable the general public to gain access to the fast broadband services which the new cable offers.

Chad Director — Monsieur Guidamala  
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**Office Tchadien de Régulation des Télécommunications (OTRT) [www.otrt.org](http://www.otrt.org)**

OTRT is the government agency which licences telecoms companies and regulates their activities.

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