

PROFILE: CHAD



The Republic of Chad is a vast landlocked country in the heart of Africa. It is approximately five times the size of the UK and the fifth largest country in Africa. French and Arabic are the official languages, but there are more than 200 ethnic and linguistic groups. Chad has produced oil since 2003 and is rich in gold and uranium.

More than half of Chad is desert, and having enough food is a permanent challenge for the population. Increasing desertification and land degradation is a constant concern. In some regions of Chad, herds of elephants or grazing cattle create periodic destruction – leading to conflict between farmers and breeders.

Violence has plagued Chad since independence from France in 1960. Ethnic tensions between the Arab-Muslim north and the Christian/animist south have created a climate of chronic instability and conflict. The government in the capital N'Djamena has faced recurring coup d'état attempts and armed insurgencies and has never been able to control the whole of the territory.

Chad has welcomed a large number of Sudanese refugees who fled fighting in the Darfur area, near its eastern border. Civil unrest has forced many people from their homes within Chad, and refugees also come from the neighbouring Central African Republic.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN CHAD

Poor governance, corruption and conflict are some of the key causes of poverty and lack of development in this oil-producing country, according to work by Tearfund's policy team. Specific needs include secure and constant access to enough food, clean water and sanitation, as well as education – particularly among women. HIV and environmental sustainability are also priorities.

As part of Tearfund's overall vision, we aim to mobilise 3,000 local churches and communities to transform life for 1 million people in Chad, physically, materially, socially and spiritually.

Currently, Tearfund works with eight partner organisations in Chad, strengthening the capacity of local churches to meet the needs of their communities. This includes increasing food production through enhancing agricultural techniques and applying best practices, improving management of natural resources and providing educational materials to improve literacy levels.

Tearfund's HIV programme in Chad focuses on supporting local churches to facilitate counselling and testing. Tearfund believes the church has a key role to play in reducing the stigma associated with HIV in Chad.

In addition, Tearfund supports its partners in reducing waterborne diseases through conducting health and nutrition education, and establishing suitable sanitation facilities and best hygiene practices.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Chad.**
- **Please pray for our partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for the country of Chad, for justice, peace, good health and hope for everyone.**