

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Republic of Chad, situated in Central Africa, ranked among the least economically and technologically developed countries in Africa. Chad's performance on CSEA's Africa digital preparedness index, is notably weak, with a score of 0.32. This places Chad at the bottom of the ranking among the 38 African countries reviewed.

Possible contributors include the lack of adequate infrastructure, the exorbitant costs of internet access and digital tools, and limited efforts in promoting digital literacy. Recognizing the magnitude of the challenge, the Chadian government is proactively addressing these issues. One of such measures is the trans-Saharan fiber-optic network project expected to drive the growth of the digital sector, diversify the economy, and galvanize broader structural transformation. According to the World Bank, about 18 percent of the country's population had access to the internet in 2021, up from 12 percent in 2020.

This relatively low internet penetration limits economic sectors from leveraging on digitalization. As a landlocked country, Chad relied heavily on satellite connections rather than submarine and fiber-optic cables which could have improved the internet's affordability and reliability.

DIGITAL ADOPTION

Chad had 3.22 million internet users at the beginning of 2023 and has been gradually adopting digital technologies in recent years, with trends spanning across the government, businesses, and individuals.

The country however, ranks low in the 2022 global e-development index (189th out of 193 countries) largely owing to its slow pace of digital development and inadequate digital skills supply to the private and public sectors. One of the dedicated establishments introduced by the government is the Agence de Développement des TIC (ADETIC), which has made efforts to connect MDAs through the e-Gov network. Establishing a robust digital identity system is another priority of the government. Through this initiative, the government introduced the Integrated Population Management System and Secured Titles (SIGPTS) in 2020 to issue unique national identity numbers (NIN).

With the proliferation of mobile phones, mobile banking services have become increasingly popular. These services enable the management of transactions, eases access to financial services, and allows for efficient service delivery to customers, particularly in remote areas.

As of January 2022, there were 491.7 thousand social media users in Chad, equivalent to 2.7 percent of the total population. Facebook is the most popular social media platform, with 94 percent of social media users, followed by LinkedIn with 15 percent, and Instagram with 12.5 percent. Additionally, mobile connectivity expanded in the country, with a notable 28.24 percent increase in mobile connections between 2022 and 2023, facilitating access to digital services and information.

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN PLACE

The government of **Chad** has in recent years scaled up efforts to enhance data protection safeguards, secure digital transactions and plug the legal and regulatory shortfalls required for the appropriate governance of digital services. The new Strategic Plan for the Development of Digital and Post (***Plan Strategique de Developpement du Numerique et des Postes 2020-2030***) focuses on bridging digital infrastructural gaps aimed at accelerating digital development. Additional initiatives are being introduced such as the the National Agency for Computer Security and Electronic Certification (***Agence Nationale de Sécurité Informatique et de Certification Electronique***), established in 2015 to provide a law enforcement apparatus to investigate cybercrimes. Also, the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Post was established in 2014 and is responsible for the regulation of electronic communications and postal activities.

Several laws have been enacted to address issues related to personal data, cybersecurity, and online transactions. These include ***Act No. 007/PR/2015***, focusing on Personal Data Protection, and Decree ***No. 075/PR/2019***, which enforces the provisions of this Act. Additionally, ***Act No. 006/PR/2015*** established the National Agency for Computer

Organisation	Role	Year of Establishment
Agence Nationale de Sécurité Informatique et de Certification Électronique	Responsible for ensuring compliance, on the national territory, with the provisions of the Act. As such, it has the power to sanction any violation of the Act.	2015
Agence Nationale de Sécurité des Titres	Responsible for the issuance of national IDs and securities to allow the Chadian population access to reliable, secure, and tamper-proof civil status documents	2014
Autorite De Regulation Des Communications Electroniques Et Des Postes	Responsible for ensuring fair competition, protecting consumers, and promoting the development of the telecommunications and postal sectors in Chad	2001
Autorite de Développement des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication	It is responsible for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Chad	

Security and Electronic Certification, while **Act No. 009/PR/2015** deals with cybersecurity and combating cybercrime. **Ordinance No. 008/PCMT/20022** pertains to cybersecurity in Chad, and **Act No. 008/PR/2015** addresses electronic transactions. In essence, this legal framework delineates the rights and responsibilities of data processors and owners and governs data collection, storage, transmission, and personal privacy.

Nevertheless, there is need for more concerted efforts, funding and capacity to effectively implement and manage cybersecurity measures that align with contemporary standards.

Data Governance Laws	Status
Status of Malabo Convention	
Cybercrime Law	Absent
Electronic Transaction Regulation	Drafted
Consumer Protection Law	Present
Privacy and Data Protection Laws	
Data Governance Institution	

RECENT DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

A notable initiative by **Chad** is the Trans-Saharan Fibre Optic Backbone Project, a multinational project interconnecting Niger, Algeria, Nigeria, and Chad with 1,510 kilometers of optical fiber cables. In Chad's portion of the project, 503 kilometers of cable will be laid from Massaguet in the northeast through Massakory, Ngouri, Mao, Rig-Rig, and Daboua to the border with Niger. Financial support comes from the Chadian government, the African Development Bank, and the European Union, with a total project cost of €79 million. This is part of a broader strategy to enhance regional connectivity, promote e-services, and create reliable digital infrastructure.

Chad has taken the proactive step of abolishing the 18 percent excise duty imposed on telecom services and its Ministry of Finance has announced a substantial reduction in duties and taxes related to telecom and internet equipment over the next five years. This serves the dual purpose of reducing costs for consumers and fostering the expansion of mobile network infrastructure. Furthermore, there's the "Plan Strategique de Developpement du Numerique et des Postes 2020-2030," a comprehensive 10-year blueprint for advancing digital and postal services within Chad.

This plan sets forth the objective of integrating information and communication technologies (ICT) across diverse socio-economic domains to expedite Chad's digital transformation. Additionally, the plan seeks to enhance digital service accessibility and foster inclusivity throughout Chad.

SUMMARY OF KEY INDICATORS

Digital Development Indicators	Rank in Africa	Score
Digital Preparedness Index 2022	38/38	0.32
Education and Skills	37/38	0.26
Infrastructural Readiness	38/38	0.181
Macroeconomic Fundamentals	20/38	0.56
Business Dynamism and Environment	38/38	0.33
Regulatory Framework and Govt Effectiveness	31/38	0.48

Digital Development Indicators	Rank in Africa	Score
Internet Speed (KBps)	40/50	1,636
Fixed Telephone Subscriptions (per 100 person)	35/37	0.03
Digital Skills (not at all 1 - 7 to a great extent)	32/35	2.89
E-Participation Index	16/54	0.3