



# CHAD



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: UST

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Chad has aligned its National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has also integrated their objectives into relevant sectoral policies (health, agriculture, livestock farming, justice, education, and social affairs).

The Ministry of the Economy and Planning oversees the implementation of the SDGs related to the NDP and managing the Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by the country. Within the ministry, national coordination in charge of the SDGs coordinates policy and implementation through the work of focal points, technical and political committees.

While the structure for the implementation of the SDGs at national level is designed to be inclusive and transparent, it is not fully applied. Civil society platforms that

are part of the committees are invited to provide inputs to the national report on the achievement of the SDG. However, the representation of trade unions in these discussions is not fully ensured: only one seat is allocated to a trade union representative within the technical and political committees and none at the level of the national SDG coordination. Trade unions' input towards the selection of SDG priorities by the government has only been taken on board to a limited extent.

The national social dialogue structure does not include a discussion on the SDGs, despite trade unions' requests for this.

Trade unions report that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs by the government of Chad is not sufficient. The government relies primarily on ODA to cover the expenses associated with the SDGs.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



information sessions but no consultation

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Numerous challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be tackled in Chad.

38.4 per cent of the population was living below the international poverty line in Chad in 2011, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far off being reached. Indeed, the rates of poverty have been exacerbated by climate change, inter-army conflicts, inter-community conflicts between farmers and herders, and the petrol crisis, with certain equatorial regions of the country affected disproportionately. Across the country, basic services such as health, water, electricity, sanitation and education are unavailable to the majority of the population – only two per cent of the inhabitants have access to electricity.

While exact data for indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** are not available, the ILO estimates that only 18 per cent of the population of central Africa is covered by social services. The expenses allocated by the government of Chad towards health and education in 2013 constituted 4.81 per cent and 2.85 per cent respectively, largely provided for through ODA. Trade unions report that this is vastly insufficient, especially in view of the socio-political crises and armed and inter-community conflicts present in the region, which have resulted in Chad grappling with high numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Chad has adopted a national gender policy, which is mainstreamed through the NDP. Nonetheless, there is a need for significant improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, as women, who perform two thirds of all work hours and produce half of the country's food output, only earn 10 per cent of the total revenue and own less than 2 per cent of all land. More women (23.3 per cent) than men (17.6 per cent) are employed in the informal sector, although these numbers are nearly equal when it comes to agriculture. With regard to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, only 1.7 per cent of women above 25 have attended secondary education; 86 per cent of women, as compared to 69 per cent of men, are illiterate.

There are serious concerns about Chad meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is particularly worrying, with 91.5 per cent of jobs classified as precarious in 2017. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off, as unemployment, especially among youth, has been on the rise since 1990, when the recruitment for state positions was reduced. Twenty-two per cent of the population above 15 years of age faces underemployment, which affects rural areas disproportionately. At the same time, 41.4 per cent of workers, predominantly in the urban areas, have been affected by excessive workload. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 52 per cent of children have engaged in child labour in 2015. In addition, cases of human trafficking of children abducted for forced labour in agriculture and livestock farming and the abduction of pregnant women to be used as surrogate mothers have been recorded. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off from being met, as only 25 per cent of workers are estimated to be covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Enormous progress remains to be made for Chad to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2011, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners accounted for 32.4 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 48.8 per cent of GDP.

The imprisonment of three trade unionists in 2015-2016 is a concerning development impeding the achievement of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Union des Syndicats du Tchad calls on the Chadian government to:

- Integrate funding for the SDGs into the national general budget.
- Open up participation in the national coordination process on the SDGs to all trade unions based on their representativeness and according to their members.
- Put in place a social dialogue process to specifically discuss trade union priority SDGs at all levels.
- Decentralise the parliamentary commission on the follow-up and evaluation of the SDGs to bring the SDGs closer to the local level throughout the country.
- Develop communication strategies on the SDGs.



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