



CHAD

A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2021

WORKERS DEMAND A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

COVID-19: WORKERS NEED SDG-DRIVEN RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased poverty, social inequalities and violations of human rights and trade union rights. In response to the pandemic, the government of Chad introduced a curfew, restrictions on movement and a ban on gatherings, which have had a particular impact on women and youth, preventing them from meeting their basic alimentary, housing, health and educational needs. While many have lost their jobs and sources of income, no social protection measures have been put in place to address this. Furthermore, the funding announced by the government to support the private sector is not provided to MSMEs or companies in the informal economy.

Trade unions have called on the government of Chad to address the challenges posed by the pandemic by introducing a paid sick leave from day one, income and wage protection, unemployment benefits, universal social protection and access to healthcare, including vaccination of the population against COVID-19. In addition, the government should improve economic conditions and stability by providing support to MSMEs and putting in place debt reduction strategies.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Chad has aligned its 2017-2021 National Development Plan (NDP) with all 17 SDGs and integrated the objectives of the 2030 Agenda into relevant sectoral policies (health, agriculture, justice, education and social affairs).

The Ministry of the Economy and Planning oversees the implementation of the SDGs by implementing the NDP and managing the official development assistance (ODA) received by the country. The Ministry has put in place a national coordination structure, which includes representatives of relevant ministries and certain civil society organisations. A parliamentary committee monitoring progress on the SDGs has been set up in the Parliament.

Civil society is invited to provide input to the national reporting on the SDGs, and civil society platforms are part of the technical committees coordinated by the lead ministry. However, the representation of trade unions in these discussions

is not guaranteed: only one seat is allocated to a trade union representative within the technical and political committees and none at the level of the national or provincial SDG coordination structure. The input of trade unions has not been taken on board. The national social dialogue structures lack a clear and concrete agenda on the SDGs, despite trade union requests for this. However, the government does discuss with social partners political reforms linked to the implementation of the SDGs on topics which go beyond the remit of SDG 8.

Trade unions affirm that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs is not sufficient and relies primarily on ODA. Funding for sustainable development has further been jeopardised by the COVID-19 pandemic, reorienting government resources to combatting this crisis. While trade unions note some progress in the development of sectoral plans, they overall point to a deterioration in delivering on SDG targets.

TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



Informal or ad hoc consultation

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



Social partners contribute individually to the government's SDG national plan



IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

With a human development index (HDI) of 0.398 and ranking 187th out of 189, Chad is one of the least developed countries in the world; in 2018, 42.3 per cent of its population was living below the international poverty line, having increased from 38.1 per cent in 2011, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** is not being reached. In 2019, 40.3 per cent of workers over 15 were living under the poverty line, an increase on the 35.5 per cent rate in 2010. On **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, only 4.7 per cent of workers were covered by work accident insurance in 2019. The expenses allocated by the government of Chad towards essential services (health, education and social protection) constituted 17.2 per cent of the budget in 2018.

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, own less than 2 per cent of all land and are allocated less than 5 per cent of all loans. 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 14.9 per cent of Chad's parliamentarians are women and the representation of women in government stands at 25.7 per cent. In the period 2015-2019, only 1.7 per cent of women above 25 attended secondary education (as compared to 10.5 per cent of men); 86 per cent of women in Chad, 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)**. Performance on **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is highly worrying, with 96.9 per cent of all jobs (99 per cent of those performed by women and 95.2 per cent of those performed by men) being in

the informal economy; 93 per cent of all jobs are considered to be precarious. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off, as the broad unemployment rate stood at 18.5 per cent in 2018, affecting women (26.8 per cent) more than men (10.3 per cent) and urban (19.7 per cent) more than rural inhabitants (13.9 per cent). NEET ("not in employment, education or training") indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 37 per cent of youth aged 15-24 in 2018, with young women being much more affected (46.4 per cent) than men (24.8 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** are extremely worrying, showing that 39 per cent of children have engaged in child labour in 2014. Poverty, lack of information, gender inequities and the high demand for cheap labour put women and children at high risk of human trafficking, as cases of abductions of children for forced labour in agriculture and pregnant women for surrogacy have been recorded. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off being met, as there are only 53 trained labour inspectors in the country.

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 top 10 per cent of income earners had a 32.4 per cent share of GDP, with the bottom 20 per cent of income earners holding a 4.9 per cent share. In addition, the country faces challenges stemming from the significant number of refugees that it hosts, who amount to around 4 per cent of the country's population, escaping regional conflicts in Sudan, Central African Republic and Nigeria; due to the cross-border nature of certain conflicts, Chad also faces a high number of internally displaced people.

While the government of Chad has introduced some policies to meet **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)**, a national climate change adaptation strategy is still absent.

TRADE UNION ASKS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

To ensure an SDG-led recovery and resilience from the crisis, trade unions are urging the government to:

- Consolidate social dialogue processes and structures for the implementation of the SDGs and in crisis response strategies.
- Provide specific support to MSMEs and informal economy units.
- Develop a national strategy for the elimination of the country's internal and external debt.
- Strengthen and extend social protection and ensure universal access to health care.
- Integrate funding for the SDGs into the national general budget.
- Provide for open participation in the national coordination structure on the SDGs to trade unions as well as local and rural organisations to promote ownership and local non-governmental participation.
- Decentralise the parliamentary commission on the follow-up and evaluation of the SDGs to bring the Goals closer to the local level throughout the country.
- Develop communication strategies to promote the SDGs.
- Prioritise partnership agreements on development projects which promote sustainable development.



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