

Enabling Social Innovation in Chad

Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ↓

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Chad’s social innovation ecosystem.

✓ Direct focus on social innovation 🔗 Connected but indirect focus on social innovation ✗ No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



Official Definition of Social Innovation 🔗

Publicly accessible Chadian laws and strategies reviewed do not yet define social innovation as a standalone term. Adjacent official language instead centers on research and innovation, entrepreneurship, social protection, associations, and cooperatives.



Government Body for Social Innovation ✓

There is no dedicated public body for social innovation. Relevant mandates are spread across the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training, whose 2024 organization decree includes research and innovation functions, and the National Agency for Investment and Exports (ANIE), which operates the one-stop shop for business creation and support to project holders and SMEs.



Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✓

While Chad does not have a standalone social innovation strategy, the national development plan Tchad Connexion 2030 provides a broad enabling framework. Its official presentation states that the plan aims to generate rapid economic and social impact through 17 programmes and 268 projects and reforms.

The National Strategy for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Vocational Training (2020–2025) also provides explicit support for research and innovation, while TVET and youth employment reforms were validated in 2025.



Policies, Laws & Regulations ✓ 🔗

Chad benefits from a regional legal framework for cooperatives through the OHADA Uniform Act on Cooperative Societies. Associations operate under the national legal regime for associations. Public evidence of a dedicated social enterprise or social and solidarity economy law was not identified in the sources reviewed.



Official Statistics 🔗

The National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) publishes national and sectoral statistical yearbooks that support evidence-informed policymaking. However, a dedicated public statistical series for social innovation, social enterprise, or the social and solidarity economy was not identified.



Government Programs

The Chad Adaptive and Productive Safety Nets Project, approved in 2024, includes USD 100 million in IDA financing and USD 20 million from the Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program to expand support for poor and vulnerable populations, refugees, and host communities while strengthening the national social protection system.

The Skills Development for Youth Employability Project received USD 50 million in financing. By 2025, implementation reports indicated that 4,200 youth had received training, 45% of whom were women, and that a national TVET strategy had been validated.

ECOSYSTEM



Stakeholders

Chad’s innovation-support ecosystem has become increasingly visible in recent years. WenakLabs, established in 2014, operates as a hub for incubation, training, software development, research, and entrepreneurial support, while Chad Innovation serves as a startup incubator and accelerator.

The ecosystem also includes the UNDP Chad Accelerator Lab, launched in 2019 to support experimentation, economic diversification, and access to resources for local innovators.



Support Initiatives

Support initiatives are strongest in incubation, entrepreneurial training, and digital problem-solving. WenakLabs and Chad Innovation provide structured support for innovators and founders, while UNDP complements these efforts through grants for innovative microprojects and female student-led enterprises.



Collaboration

Partnership-building is increasingly active. In 2023, UNDP supported four Chadian incubators to participate in the AfriLabs General Assembly and facilitated a YouthConnekt national consultation bringing together 300 young entrepreneurs.

FINANCE



Financing Schemes

Development finance remains the principal source of support for innovation-related activities. In 2025, the World Bank approved a USD 100 million Chad MSME Development and Access to Finance Project to improve the business environment and expand access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The African Development Bank signed a USD 650,000 grant agreement in 2023 to extend digital financial and non-financial services for women and youth entrepreneurship. In parallel, government reporting highlights an Afreximbank commitment of up to USD 1.5 billion to support Chad’s private sector under the Tchad Connexion 2030 framework.



Inclusiveness of Financing

Inclusivity is one of the stronger features of current financing efforts. Existing schemes explicitly target poor and vulnerable households, refugees and host communities, youth, women entrepreneurs, and female students, while also supporting community-based microprojects and resilience-oriented activities.

Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Public discourse in Chad more commonly uses related concepts than the term social innovation itself. Official and development-partner communications increasingly emphasize youth entrepreneurship, volunteering, resilience, digital transformation, peacebuilding, and social cohesion, creating a constructive narrative space for future social innovation initiatives.

Research

Research and innovation are explicit priorities within the national higher education and research strategy and the ministry’s organizational framework. Applied experimentation is further supported through the UNDP Accelerator Lab, helping strengthen connections between public policy, local problem-solving, and innovation practices.

Education

Human-capital development is a central enabling factor. Chad has a formal higher education and research strategy, a validated TVET reform agenda, and institutions such as ENASTIC and the Observatory for Employment, Training and Employability (OBSEFE), which support skills development, digital capabilities, and labour-market intelligence.

Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

For business-environment benchmarking, the latest Doing Business profile ranked Chad 182nd out of 190 economies in 2020 with a score of 36.9. The World Bank has since transitioned to the B-READY framework, for which Chad now has published indicator pages.



Innovation Capacity

Publicly accessible WIPO materials reviewed did not provide a current Global Innovation Index country profile for Chad, and Chad was not included among the economy profiles reviewed in the Global Innovation Index 2024.



Social entrepreneurship

Public Chad-specific GEM indicators were not identified in the latest Global Entrepreneurship Monitor materials reviewed.

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity



Political participation

International IDEA reported voter turnout of 75.89% in the May 2024 presidential election.



Volunteering

Volunteerism has an institutional anchor. In 2023, UNDP reported that 1,000 young volunteers had been trained and 580 deployed through national volunteering programmes. The CAF World Giving Index 2024 also identified Chad among the countries showing some of the strongest improvements in generosity over the past decade



Sustainability

Environmental indicators highlight ongoing sustainability challenges. Chad ranked 153rd in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index, while the ND-GAIN Country Index ranked Chad 187th globally with a score of 27.4, reflecting high climate vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity.