

CHAD



BASIC INFORMATION

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| Population: | 9.7 million inhabitants (2005) |
| GDP: | 5,469 million dollars (2005) |
| GNI per capita: | 400 dollars (2005) |
| HDI: | 0.368 (171 st) (2004) |

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFLICT

Since gaining its independence in 1960, Chad has lived through many wars. At least 27 armed groups have rebelled against the government since 1966, and at the end of each conflict the majority of combatants have joined the regular army, leaving it hugely overstuffed with an excessively high budget in terms of what the country can afford: With a view to reducing the size of the army, 27,000 soldiers were demobilised between 1992 and 1997, though they did not benefit from any kind of reintegration process.

The situation gradually worsened throughout the course of 2005 as a result of a number of factors which placed the survival of the current regime in danger, principally due to its relations with the neighbour Sudan. On the one hand, the Sudanese pro-government *Janjaweed* militia continued to carry out incursions and attacks on the refugee population in the East of the country, leading to fighting between the militia and Chadian armed forces and supporting the Chadian opposition armed groups. The stream of refugees from Sudan further contributed to the heightened tensions. On the other, at an internal level, the country is experiencing a situation of extreme tension following the desertion in October of dozens of soldiers who have moved to the East of the country. The President, I. Deby, subsequently disbanded the presidential guard, a decision that some analysts interpreted as an attempt to save his government. The deserters, who have called themselves the Platform for National Change, Unity and Democracy (SCUD), claim that they number 700 soldiers, and have called for the President's resignation as a first step towards joining in negotiations with the government.

PEACE AGREEMENTS / PROCESS

The Government signed an agreement with the MDJT (*Mouvement pour la démocratie et la justice au Tchad*) in January 2002 whereby amnesty was granted to the armed group's ex combatants. Some factions continued fighting until reaching a new agreement in December 2003.

On December 24, 2006 the Government and FUC (*Front Uni pour le Changement Démocratique*) sign a peace agreement calling for the end of all military action, the release of prisoners from sides, a general amnesty, and the carrying out of a reinsertion and resettlement program for FUC ex combatants.

DDR STRUCTURE

Background to the DDR process:

The Government has already experience in DDR. In a first stage, supported by *Cooperation Française* (8.3 million dollars) and running from 1992 to 1996, around 20,000 soldiers were demobilised. In a second stage, 1996 to 1997, a total of 7,179 officers and junior officers were demobilised with support from the World Bank (8.3 million dollars). In addition, the Government carried out a pilot programme for the demobilisation of 2,800 troops with the support of the World Bank (three million dollars) and the German agency GTZ (1.1 million dollars), but this was suspended early due to poor results.

In 2003, the Government asked the National Reinsertion Committee to design a new five-year programme for the demobilisation of 9,000 soldiers. The mission was led by the UNDP within the framework of a National Programme for Demobilisation and Reinsertion. At the end of 2004, the company Channel Research sent a mission to the country in order to draw up a plan for DDR.

Type of DDR:

Reduction of armed forces and coincident DDR processes involving both the integration of ex members of armed groups into the military and sharing political power. Regional situation unstable.

Enforcing bodies:

National Reinsertion Committee (NRC), which reports to the Ministry of the Economy Planning and Cooperation.

Strategic aspects of the programme:

Reinsert troops demobilised in earlier programmes, prepare another demobilisation programme and reduce military spending.

Groups to be demobilised:

9,000 soldiers some of whom have already been demobilised in earlier processes but didn't benefit from reintegration programmes, and MDJT combatants. Also, a yet to be determined number of FUC members.

Budget:

The World Bank has calculated the cost at 10 million dollars, of which five million will be provided by the Bank itself following a resolution approved in June 2005. However, the subsequent proposal from the Chadian government to amend the so-called "Oil Law" in order to maximise profits from energy resources may cause the World Bank to change its position. Japan has made a contribution of \$437,300. However, the World Bank froze all credits and funding agreed with the country after the breaking by the Chadian Government with the agreements broke around the oil benefits management, accused of unilateral performance.

Timetable:

December 2005 to 2010 (60 months)

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DDR STAGES

Reinsertion and reintegration:

Focused on different categories of former combatants:

1. The four regions serviced by the Planning Ministry
2. Former combatants from the MDJT group
3. Special groups (vulnerable groups such as the disabled and those infected with HIV/AIDS)

The plan is to create small groups, each comprising six people, who will prepare the way for reintegration into the community. Each group will take care of 50 former combatants in a pilot programme lasting three months, which will lead to the establishment of directives for the National Reintegration Committee.

The situation was seriously deteriorated until get to a pre-war climate with Sudan and several factors risked the regime continuity. At the end of 2005, the government declared the war state against Sudan after the opposition armed group Democracy and Freedom Group (RDL, by its French symbols). The pro-governmental Sudanese militias *Janjaweed* were perpetrating incursion and attacks against the important amount of refugee on the est, as well as confrontation between them and the Chadian Armed Forces.

ASPECTS TO BE EXAMINED

- Bad experiences in the past.
- Poorly defined legal framework.
- Unsuitable institutional framework.

SOURCES

Governmental:

- Government of Chad: *Le Texte de l'Accord de Paix entre la République du Tchad et le Front Uni pour le Changement Démocratique (FUC)*, ReliefWeb, 26 december 2006, at <<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/KHII-6WV5SB?OpenDocument>>.

International:

- World Bank and PHRD, at <<http://www.worldbank.org/rmc/phrd/phrd.htm>>.
- World Bank: *Chad*, at <<http://www.worldbank.org/chad>>.
- Channel Research: *Mission d'Évaluation et de Formulation d'un Projet d'Appui à la Démobilisation et à la Réinsertion des Démobilisés au Tchad*, 2004, at <[http://www.channelresearch.com/dwnld/Demobilisation and Reintegration of ex-soldiers in Chad Evaluation and Formulation Report.pdf](http://www.channelresearch.com/dwnld/Demobilisation%20and%20Reintegration%20of%20ex-soldiers%20in%20Chad%20Evaluation%20and%20Formulation%20Report.pdf)>.
- GTZ, at <<http://www.gtz.de/smallarms>>.

This briefing has been prepared by Albert Caramés, Vicenç Fisas and Eneko Sanz.

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