

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Chad — Water, Livelihoods, and Climate Risk

Snapshot: Population ~18 million | GDP per capita ~US\$710 | Fragility context: Fragile Sahelian state
| Region: Sahel

Integrated Context

Chad faces significant climate pressures driven by desertification, water scarcity, and a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture. The continued shrinking of Lake Chad has had far-reaching impacts on fisheries, farming, and pastoral livelihoods, contributing to food insecurity, displacement, and economic instability.

Climate variability, combined with insecurity in neighboring countries and cross-border population movements, further complicates adaptation efforts and places additional strain on already limited resources. Weak infrastructure, limited access to basic services, and constrained institutional capacity reduce the country's ability to respond effectively to climate shocks.

In this context, strengthening climate resilience in Chad requires a stronger focus on integrated water resource management, adaptive agricultural systems, and regional cooperation, particularly through Lake Chad Basin initiatives.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Water scarcity and the continued shrinking of Lake Chad
- Desertification and soil degradation
- Agricultural vulnerability to drought and climate variability
- Limited infrastructure and institutional capacity for adaptation
- Cross-border pressures affecting resource access and stability (*added*)

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Supporting regional cooperation on water resource management, including Lake Chad Basin frameworks (*strengthened*)
- Promoting climate-resilient agricultural and pastoral systems (*expanded*)
- Expanding community-level water access, storage, and management systems (*refined*)
- Strengthening environmental governance and local institutional capacity
- Supporting early warning and climate information systems (*added*)

Strategic Note

Chad's climate resilience depends on addressing water security while supporting livelihoods, strengthening institutions, and reinforcing regional cooperation around shared natural resources.

SDG Alignment: 2 • 6 • 13 • 15