



World Health
Organization



Polio transition in a snapshot: Chad

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Background

DEMOGRAPHICS¹



Total population, 2022:
17.7 million



Birth rate (per 1000 people),
2021: **43**



Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live
births), 2021: **66**



Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000
live births), 2021: **107**

FINANCIALS²



Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 2022:
US\$ 12.7 billion



GDP per capita, 2022:
US\$ 716.80



Health expenditure per capita, 2020:
US\$ 34.80



Health expenditure (% of GDP), 2020:
5.41%



External health expenditure (% of current
health expenditure), 2020: **17.2%**

KEY RESOURCES

- Republic of Chad Polio Transition Plan 2022 – 2026
- Africa Regional Strategic Plan on Polio Transition

¹ World Bank Data (<https://data.worldbank.org/>)

² World Bank Data (<https://data.worldbank.org/>)



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Overview of polio eradication and transition planning in Chad

The Republic of Chad confirmed its last case of wild poliovirus (WPV) in 2012 and was declared free of the wild poliovirus, along with the rest of the African region, in August 2020. Despite this success, outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) continue to persist. Chad has low rates of essential immunization, with around 26% of children classed as being un- or under-immunized in 2022³. In addition, Chad hosts more than one million forcibly displaced people⁴, many of whom face challenges to access healthcare.

Polio transition planning is progressing in Chad alongside efforts to maintain sensitive surveillance, robust immunization and strong outbreak response against the poliovirus. Key areas of focus include strengthening government ownership and ensuring that available funds are fully utilized. Transition is being undertaken gradually, aligned with evolving epidemiology.

Objectives

The overall aim of polio transition is to safeguard the polio essential functions (poliovirus surveillance, immunization with appropriate polio vaccines, outbreak response and containment)

that are needed to sustain a polio-free world, and use the polio investments - the tools, knowledge and infrastructure established through the eradication effort - to strengthen national health systems. A dedicated Regional Strategic Plan for the African Region sets out the aims of regional polio transition⁵.

The Government of Chad is focused on polio eradication efforts to close current outbreaks and prevent new ones. Transition efforts are complementary to this goal and focus on strengthening the overall health system to ensure that the country remains polio-free.

The three main goals of polio transition in Chad are:

- Ensuring that the functions necessary to maintain a polio-free world after eradication are integrated into national immunization systems and other public health programmes.
- Transferring skills and processes, where appropriate, to support other health priorities and ensure the sustainability of the polio programme experience.
- Ensuring that knowledge generated, and lessons learned from polio eradication activities are documented and shared for the benefit of other health initiatives.

3 <https://immunizationdata.who.int/>, Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP) vaccination coverage, 1st dose, Chad 2022

4 UNHCR Chad Country Profile (<https://www.unhcr.org/countries/chad>)

5 See <https://www.who.int/teams/polio-transition-programme> for more details

Journey to transition

The Government of Chad initiated the development of the Transition Plan for Polio Eradication in Chad in 2016. Led by the Ministry of Public Health through the General Directorate for Environmental Health and Disease Control, the plan was formulated with guidance from a Technical Steering Committee operating under the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee. It was designed in alignment with Chad's national priorities, specifically the National Health Policy (2016-2030), the National Health Development Plan 3 (2017-2021), and the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Multi-Year Plan (2018-2022).

The national transition plan was approved by the Inter-Agency Coordination Committees in 2018 and first set to span from 2018 to 2022. However, since 2019, the epidemiological context has changed, with ongoing cVDPV outbreaks, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and a challenging humanitarian context, slowing down implementation. An assessment of the plan was published in 2022.

Assessment of the transition plan: key findings

Twenty-eight priority activities were included in the transition plan to be completed between 2018 and 2020. However, implementation has been partial. The Government of Chad is focused on securing funds for vaccination and reaching all communities with vaccines through a 'Reaching Every District' approach. WHO continues to support critical activities including surveillance, whilst Gavi and UNICEF provide support for activities for capacity building, cold chain and community mobilization.

On the resource mobilization side, significant financial gaps continue to persist, requiring the urgent mobilization of financial resources to support the implementation of all activities.

Key challenges identified included delays in mobilizing additional funding to support polio essential functions, challenges to engage new partners, domestic budgetary constraints, competing priorities and a lack of full functionality of the technical committee overseeing implementation of the transition activities.

Revised polio strategic plan (2022 – 2026)

The revised polio transition plan builds on the evaluation's outcomes and envisions an extended timeline from 2022 to 2026. It aims to align with the national polio outbreak response plan to contain outbreaks and reach a polio-free status by 2025.

The revised plan focuses on three core areas of activities: 1) Improving governance, leadership and accountability in the management of the transition plan; 2) Maintaining the critical functions of the polio eradication programme; and 3) Implementation of activities outlined in the transition plan. For each area, detailed tasks and responsibilities have been set out. Transition will be implemented in a phased manner, focused on building capacity and enabling the Government of Chad to gradually take on responsibility for the essential functions sustained by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

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Areas	Essential Functions
Routine vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of Immunization Activities in high-risk areas • Strengthening routine immunization
Outbreak response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case investigation • Development of a six-month outbreak response plan • Sustainable supply of OPV vaccines • Quality epidemic response campaigns
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active case search/rapid investigation and interventions • Stocktaking, monitoring/EPI meetings
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building of health workers • Strong governance and leadership
Institutional support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Technical Committee and ICC meetings • Regular monitoring including improvement of data quality at all levels by 2022-2026 • Assessment of the accountability framework in all health facilities
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing community ownership of immunization activities • Diversification of communication strategies

Financial sustainability

The Strategic Framework for Polio Transition sets out why sustainable financing is central to maintaining essential health functions. Continued and predictable sustainable financing from domestic and external sources is essential to sustain the critical components of this infrastructure, to maintain a polio-free world and support broader health initiatives.

The estimated total budget for the revised transition plan for 2024 to 2026 is approximately US\$ 89.9 million. This includes all resources required to respond to outbreaks, to sustain surveillance, to purchase vaccines for routine immunization, maintenance and investment in cold chain, and resources for communication. Given the many competing humanitarian needs in Chad, securing dedicated domestic funding and ensuring that all external funding is strategically utilized will be vital in the coming years. As of 2024, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative continues to provide funding to Chad, given the high-risk status of the country and ongoing outbreaks.

Monitoring and evaluation

The revised polio transition plan for Chad outlines the key implementing agencies for the transition process, and their roles and responsibilities. The aim is to enable stronger monitoring, evaluation and analysis of the results obtained through plan implementation and provide stakeholders with the opportunity to assess progress. Meetings of the Departmental Health Council, the District Steering Committee and the Health Committee of the Area of Responsibility constitute the main frameworks for monitoring and evaluating the plan's implementation.

At the global level, the Polio Transition Monitoring and Evaluation framework consists of two sets of indicators to measure health system performance in relation to the polio essential functions, and the polio transition process. The framework aims to guide decision-making, facilitate progress, and enable the monitoring of the quality of performance of the polio essential functions. The datasets related to Chad can be accessed at <https://www.who.int/teams/polio-transition-programme>.

Risks/challenges

- Challenging humanitarian context with ongoing cVDPV outbreaks and low immunity levels in some geographical areas.
- Securing adequate long-term, predictable financing to sustain essential functions.

Next steps

- Implementation of actions identified following transition plan review.
- Strengthening government ownership and continuing awareness-raising and advocacy with policy makers.
- Instituting strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms.