Chad is a unitary state with a three-tier structure of decentralization. The four levels of subnational governments comprise, besides more than 800 rural communities, 348 municipalities, 61 departments and 23 regions. However, as of today, only 42 municipalities are effective, as elections have not been held in the other LGs. The capital-city of N’Djamena enjoys a special-status and is divided into 10 sub-municipalities and one city municipality, each of them being independent from each other. Every tier of decentralization has its deconcentrated entity: regions, prefectures (departments) and sub-prefectures. Decentralization process started in 1993 in Tchad, following the Sovereign National conference. The constitutional law of 2005 enshrined the decentralized structure or governance and guaranteed the local governments autonomy. The first local elections have been held in 2012, after a long-term delay. A 23rd region has been created in 2012, and all the limits of rural municipalities and departments have not been set yet. Local elected officials are elected for 6 years.

**Main Subnational Governments Responsibilities** Transfers of competences to local governments are regulated by the Law No. 33/PR/2006 on local governments responsibilities, the powers assigned to each tier of local units are clearly assigned. It comprises 13 realms of competences. The municipalities are responsible for primary education, literacy and technical education; health and social care (local infrastructures, primary health care, sanitation, etc.); promotion of cultural and sport activities; urban development and planning; environmental and natural resources protection; promotion of commercial activities; municipal transport and infrastructures; potable water distribution.

### Basic Socio-economic Indicators

**POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY**

- **Area:** 1,284,000 km²
- **Population:** 13,587 million inhabitants (2014), an increase of 3.4% per year (2010-14)
- **Density:** 11 inhabitants/km²
- **Urban Population:** 22.5% of national population
- **Capital City:** N’Djamena (8.9% of national population)

**ECONOMIC DATA**

- **GDP:** 29.6 billion (current PPP international dollars)
- i.e. 2,182 dollars per inhabitant (2014)
- **Real GDP Growth:** 7.3% (2014 vs 2013)
- **Unemployment Rate:** 5.6% (2014)
- **Foreign Direct Investment, Net Inflows (FDI):** 761 (BoP, current USD millions, 2014)
- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):** 33.8% of GDP (2014)
- **Human Development Index:** 0.392 (low), rank 185

### Territorial Organisation and Subnational Government Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipal Level</th>
<th>Intermediate Level</th>
<th>Regional or State Level</th>
<th>Total Number of SNGs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>348 municipalities (communes)</td>
<td>61 departments (départements)</td>
<td>23 regions (regions)</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Features of Territorial Organisation.** Chad is a unitary state with a three-tier structure of decentralization. The four levels of subnational governments comprise, besides more than 800 rural communities, 348 municipalities, 61 departments and 23 regions. However, as of today, only 42 municipalities are effective, as elections have not been held in the other LGs. The capital-city of N’Djamena enjoys a special-status and is divided into 10 sub-municipalities and one city municipality, each of them being independent from each other. Every tier of decentralization has its deconcentrated entity: regions, prefectures (departments) and sub-prefectures. Decentralization process started in 1993 in Tchad, following the Sovereign National conference. The constitutional law of 2005 enshrined the decentralized structure or governance and guaranteed the local governments autonomy. The first local elections have been held in 2012, after a long-term delay. A 23rd region has been created in 2012, and all the limits of rural municipalities and departments have not been set yet. Local elected officials are elected for 6 years.

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### Subnational Government Finance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>% GDP</th>
<th>% General Government (Same expenditure category)</th>
<th>% Subnational Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure (2013)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Expenditure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Expenditure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local expenditures amount to around 0.4% of general government expenditures in 2013. There is no coordination entity or fund for public investment among levels of governments, and local governments spend most of their budget on current expenditures due to lack of financial resources and weak financial management.
Local investment still very low in Chad, due to a weak coordination between the various levels of government, and the lack of incentives to foster the intergovernmental cooperation. The lack of financial, human and material resources is also an obstacle to local public investment development. Expenditures of the city of N'Djamena and of its districts account for 38.8% of local expenditures in 2013.

Outstanding debt

Chadian local governments do not have access to the loan even if provided for in the Constitution in its Art 211: “LGs resources are made of the funds borrowed by the LGs on either the domestic market or on foreign markets with approval of the national monetary authorities, with or without government guarantee.”

A joint- study of:


With the participation of French Development Agency Country Office in Chad.