

**General Country Information:**

The Republic of Chad is located in central Africa and borders Libya, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger. Chad is divided in 18 regions which are subdivided into 52 departments. N'Djamena, the capital, is the largest city. Lake Chad was once the second-largest lake in Africa but has shrunk down to less than 10% of its former size during the last few decades.

Chad became a part of France's colonial system in 1900 and the French mostly settled in the south while governing the Muslim north through indirect rule.

Independence was proclaimed on August 1960. In 1965, northern regions dissatisfaction with the president erupted in a civil war that was to continue without interruption until 1993.

More than three-quarters of the Chadian population is rural. Chad's primarily agricultural economy has long been handicapped by its landlocked position and its instability. Since 2000, major foreign investments took place in the oil sector.

In December 2005, fightings between the Chadian regular army and rebel groups from Chad and Sudan resumed in the north-eastern region of Chad. Despite a peace agreement signed in Dakar in July 2006, the Chadian-Sudanese relations remain tense with regular attacks. As a result of the ongoing conflict in Darfur, an estimated 200 000 Sudanese have fled their country to seek refuge in Chad. The overcrowding, low standards of environmental hygiene and inadequate supplies of potable water lead to a precarious situation for both refugees and host population.

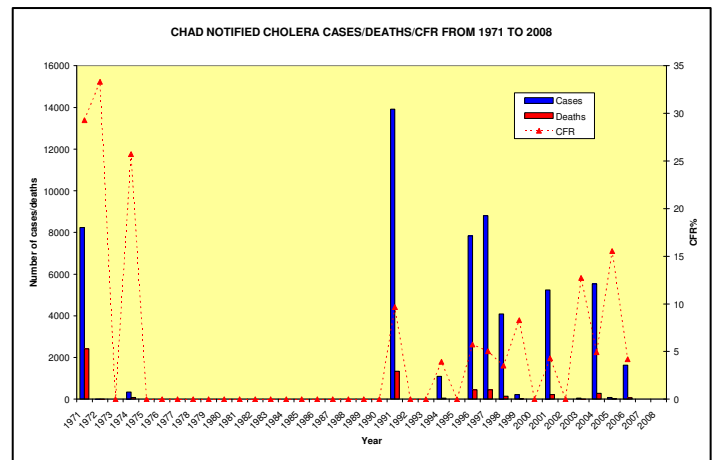
Outbreaks of measles, meningitis and cholera are frequent all over the country. Chad is currently ranking 170 on 179 in the UNDP index.

**Cholera Background History:**

The first cases of cholera were reported in 1971 when the current pandemic hit the African continent, previously free of this scourge since the end of the nineteenth century.

In 1971, following outbreaks in the northern areas of Nigeria and Cameroon, Chad suffered a short but intense outbreak at the height of the hot, dry season, accounting for 8 230 cases and 2 411 deaths. (case fatality rate, CFR of 29.3%). In 1974, Chad reported 338 cases and 87 deaths, again with a high CFR of 25%.

From 1975 until 1990 (during the internal conflict), no cholera case was reported. In 1991, Chad was hit by the largest outbreak ever reported with 13 915 cases and 1344 deaths. Since then and until 2006, cholera was reported each year except in 1992, 1993, 1995, 2000 and 2002 and has thus become endemic.



Between 1996 and 2004, cases ranged between 4000 and 8800 per year with a CFR between 3.5% and 5.7%. Outbreaks tend to follow the same pattern originating in the Lake and Kanem regions, close to Lake Chad, then spreading towards Hadjer-Lamis and N'Djamena.

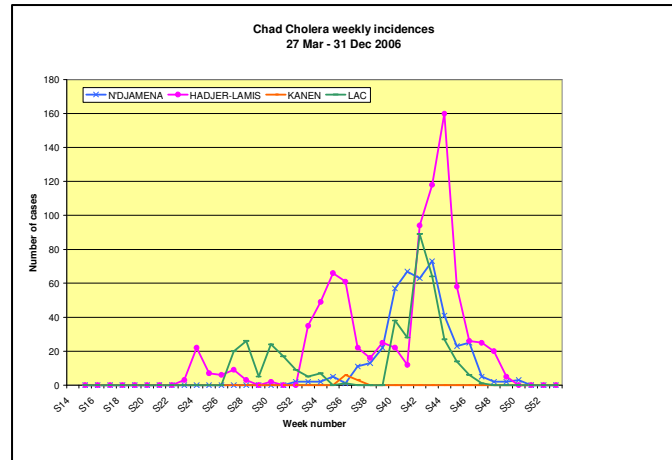
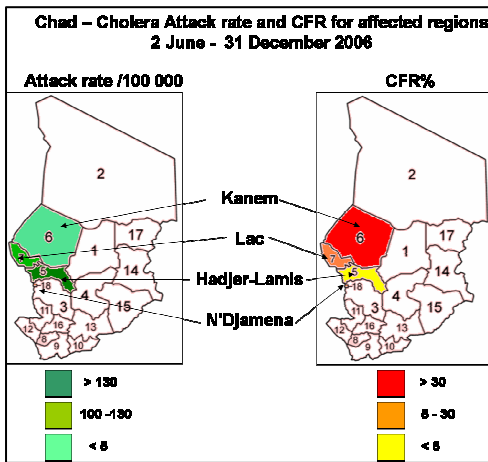
**Cholera Outbreak in 2006:**

The first cases were registered on 2 June 2006 in Karassoua Moussari (Hadjer Lamis region). Three weeks later, cases were also reported in Bol district on the islands of Lake Chad. N'djamena and Kanem regions were also affected respectively in July and August. Laboratory tests confirmed the presence of *V. cholerae* 01 Ogawa in all the affected regions. After reaching a peak between 16 and 22 October, the outbreak was brought under control. The total number of cases and deaths were respectively 1633 and 68, CFR of 4.1%.

In 2007 and 2008, Chad did not report its cholera cases to WHO.



A comparison of the attack rates and CFRs in the four affected regions shows that the risk of dying of cholera is more important outside of the capital where the density of healthcare facilities is low (see maps). This scenario was equally confirmed during the 2001 outbreak.



**WHO Support Actions:**

- November 2006: Multidisciplinary investigation mission
- 2004: Assessment and support mission to Eastern Chad (refugees from Darfur) for preparedness of EDD (Epidemic Diarrhoeal Diseases) focusing on water and sanitation
- 2001: Assessment mission for use of OCV (Oral Cholera Vaccine) in nomadic populations

<b>Geography</b>	Total surface	1 284 000 km <sup>2</sup> (landlocked)
	Capital	N'Djamena (population: 721 000)
	Regions	18
	Official language	Arabic and French
<b>Environment</b>	Climate	Tropical in south, desert in north, arid plains in center, dry mountains in northwest
	Rainy season	from June to early September (Sahelian region)
	Dry Season	from October to May (Sahelian region)
	Floods and droughts	Periodic droughts and locust plagues Lake Chad doubles in size during the rainy season (in the past few decades, Lake Chad has shrunk down to 10% of its original size)
	Natural resources	Petroleum, uranium, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad), gold, limestone, sand and gravel, s
<b>Demographics</b>	Population	9 944 201
	Religions	51% Muslim (north), 35% Christian (south), 7% indigenous religions
	Ethnic groups	More than 200, (Baggara, Buduma, Fur, Knembu, Kim, Lisi, Masalit, Sara, Toubou)
	Migrants (refugees)	232 000 from Sudan (2004), 48 000 from Central African Republic
	Nomadic people	Very important nomadic pastoralist community (mostly in central Chad)
<b>Economy</b>	Industry	Oil, cotton textiles, meatpacking, construction materials
	Farming	Cotton, sorghum, millet, peanuts, rice, potatoes; cattle, sheep, goats, camels
<b>Health Indicators</b>	Per capita total expenditure on health	22\$ (2005)
	Life expectancy at birth (yrs)	Males: 46      Females: 47 (2006)
	Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	Males: 214      Females: 204 (2006)
	Number of physicians	345 (2004)
<b>Communicable Diseases</b>	Malaria, tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, Adults HIV prevalence rate (age 15-49): 3.11% (2005)	
<b>Risk Factors for Cholera</b>	Population with access to improved drinking water source	48% (2006)
	Population with access to proper sanitation facilities	9% (2006)
	Population undernourished	35% (2002-2004)

Sources for Document: WHO, IDMC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP



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