



The recipe for success: how policy-makers can integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into actions to end malnutrition

Country profile: Chad



Key statisticsⁱ

- **39.9%** of children under five are stunted
- **13%** of children under five are wasted
- **43%** of the population have access to at least basic drinking water services
- **10%** of the population have access to at least basic sanitation services
- **6%** of the population have access to basic hygiene

Background

Chad is among the countries with the highest under-five stunting prevalence in the world. Progress in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) provision is too slow to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The nutrition and WASH situation has worsened as a result of the humanitarian crisis associated with the Boko Haram armed insurrection.

Chad has shown good leadership through the adoption of a National Policy for Nutrition and Food (2014–2025) and a National Inter-sectoral Plan for Nutrition and Food (2017–2021). The budget to implement the plan has been agreed and the next steps include fundraising. The five-year national development plan, which derives from 'Chad Vision 2030' (the reference document for Chad's policies), aims to improve the health status of populations, and specifically the nutritional status of women and children, through hygiene and access to drinking water and sanitation systems in areas with high prevalence of undernutrition.

At the international level, Chad sponsored two resolutions on the nutrition of women, infants and young children at the 69th World Health Assembly in 2016, and is actively participating as a member country of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Within Chad, the various SUN networks have developed an inter-operational action plan under the Government's leadership. Chad has been evaluated as making 'good progress' in defining priorities in public policies and national planning procedures by the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership in 2015, and on improving governance and the institutional environment of the sector by the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS) in 2014. The country regularly participates in international WASH meetings

and has renewed its commitments to more investment efforts in the sector despite budgetary constraints.

Is water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) integrated within national nutrition plans?

National Inter-sectoral Plan for Nutrition and Food (PAINA), 2017–2021 (Plan d'action intersectoriel de nutrition et d'alimentation)

The PAINA comprehensively recognises WASH as a strategic priority in the fight against undernutrition at all levels of action: households; schools; and health centres. WASH is identified as Priority Area 5, which aims to prevent undernutrition by improving access to drinking water, guaranteeing appropriate sanitary systems and improving good hygiene practices at household and institutional levels to prevent diseases associated with water and sanitation.

It outlines three packages of complementary interventions: 1) ensuring access to drinking water in households, health facilities and schools; 2) scaling up a WASH'Nutrition minimum package in all health centres; and 3) improving sanitation conditions. The plan also includes the training of all health and social workers on interconnected WASH and nutrition actions. Regarding hygiene, the focus is on technical training and awareness raising on good practices, rather than on infrastructural access to handwashing facilities. The PAINA lacks quantified targets that would be important in monitoring progress towards the targets set out in the National Nutrition Policy.

The plan outlines the different institutional mechanisms for its operationalisation. At the strategic level, the National Nutrition and Food Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, includes the participation of all relevant ministries, including WASH. At the technical level, the Permanent Technical Committee – Nutrition and Food, is intended to include senior representatives of all the sectors involved. Finally, the Regional Committee on Nutrition and Food brings together all sectoral departments for the implementation of the plan at the regional level. The specific roles and responsibilities for the WASH-related activities within PAINA are not clearly defined – addressing this could improve coordination. The plan's budget does take into account financing of the WASH activities.

Is nutrition integrated within national WASH plans?

Water and Sanitation Master Plan (SDEA), 2003–2025 (Schéma directeur de l'eau et de l'assainissement)

This plan does not explicitly mention nutrition nor does it address the close links between WASH and nutrition. It does, however, refer to human health and the environment as well as to the SDGs. Principle 2 on human health and access to WASH does mention food. These could be entry points for increased linkages with nutrition. Information on the context does refer to the challenge of undernutrition ('38% of the total population suffered from malnutrition in 1996'). However, the causal link between WASH and nutrition is not reflected, and

WASH interventions do not deliberately target areas affected by undernutrition. The revision of this plan (scheduled for 2017) represents a key opportunity to improve integration of nutrition, with specific objectives and targets to ensure maximum impact of the included nutrition-related activities.

National Sanitation Policy and strategy (PSNA), 2016–2030 (Politique nationale et stratégie d'assainissement)

The sanitation policy aims to contribute to the improvement of the health of populations through the appropriate environmental conditions and quality of life in both urban and rural areas. However, the policy does not directly state the important role of sanitation in tackling undernutrition, nor include interventions to contribute to reduction of undernutrition. Despite this, it does address the contributing factors of undernutrition by including interventions to improve the living environment (wastewater management, access to toilets, and protection of the environment). This represents an opportunity to strengthen the nutrition-sensitivity of the interventions, for example by prioritising geographical areas with high prevalence of undernutrition.

Recommendations for the Government of Chad

- All stakeholders should support the implementation of the National Inter-sectoral Plan for Nutrition and Food (PAINA), which comprehensively considers nutrition in Chad as a multi-sectoral issue and outlines specific actions from different sectors including relevant WASH objectives and interventions.
- The implementation of PAINA should include developing intermediate WASH targets in order to monitor progress towards the targets set by the National Nutrition Policy.
- The Government and its partners should make sure that national nutrition and WASH policies, plans and strategies define clear roles and responsibilities of nutrition and WASH actors to enable adequate coordination among sectors.
- The ministers in charge of nutrition and WASH should agree on the leadership of the national WASH'Nutrition strategy and encourage the establishment of a coordination mechanism involving the technical bodies of all relevant sectors, to ensure coordination and monitoring of WASH'Nutrition programming nationwide.
- Nutrition objectives and targets must be incorporated within WASH national policies to ensure maximum impact on reduction of undernutrition. For instance, WASH interventions could target geographical areas that have particularly high rates of undernutrition, could further include food and environmental hygiene, and integrate key nutrition messages in hygiene promotion strategies.
- The implementation of both WASH and nutrition strategies should prioritise relevant 'BabyWASH' interventions (such as safe play areas for children and safe disposal of child faeces), during the crucial 1,000-day window of opportunity (from the start of a mother's pregnancy until the

child is two years old).

- Hygiene interventions should go beyond technical training, good practice and sensitisation to include a focus on access itself (such as access to handwashing facilities).
- The Government should continue to work closely with civil society as a strategic partner and include civil society in policy development, revision, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Recommendations for all national governments

- Ensure policies align with the SDGs and their interconnected goals to strengthen WASH and nutrition coordination and collaboration, using opportunities such as policy reviews and joint sector reviews.
- Establish effective cross-ministerial coordination mechanisms championed at the highest level by heads of state, to support sharing of information and joint planning and implementation of policies.
- Ensure cross-ministerial coordination structures incorporate meaningful participation of and consultation with civil society and affected communities.
- Ensure up-to-date national WASH and nutrition plans and progress reports are easily accessible online, to allow civil society to monitor progress and hold governments to account.

Nutrition policy-makers and practitioners should:

- Prioritise nutrition-sensitive WASH interventions and include specific objectives to improve WASH within nutrition plans and policies. Clear entry points to integrate WASH and nutrition include: behaviour change promotion; improvement of provision of WASH in healthcare facilities and schools; and co-location of interventions to areas with lowest WASH access and highest prevalence of undernutrition.

WASH policy-makers and practitioners should:

- Increase the 'nutrition-sensitivity' of policies and programmes, including by: targeting geographical areas where undernutrition is most prevalent; prioritising women and children; and including nutrition-relevant interventions, such as improving WASH in health and nutrition centres.

This country profile is drawn from the global report '*The recipe for success: how policy-makers can integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into action to end malnutrition*' produced by ACF, the SHARE Consortium and WaterAid. Read the full report at www.wateraid.org/recipeforsuccess

ⁱ To ensure consistency and cross-country comparability, we have used the most recent figures published by global monitoring reports. In some countries, more up-to-date national statistics are available. Nutrition statistics from UNICEF, WHO & World Bank Group (2017) *Child malnutrition estimates*. Available at www.who.int/entity/nutgrowthdb/jme_dataset2017_final.xlsx?ua=1 WASH statistics from UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (2017) *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: 2017 update and SDG Baselines*. Available at washdata.org/report/jmp-2017-report-launch-version1