

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: INTERNET GOVERNANCE, DNS AND ACCESS CHALLENGES IN CHAD

- **HAOUA ANNOUR NASSIR Master's student in Sociology (France)**
- **Focus: social inequalities & digital divide**
- **Member of youth association (education & environment)**
- **Interest in digital inclusion in Chad**
- **ICANN NextGen participant**

What is the Digital divide ?

How does internet governance and infrastructure development contribute to the digital divide between urban and rural areas in Chad?

Two Different Digital Realities in Chad

LEFT SIDE

N'Djamena (City)

- Better network coverage
- Easier access to mobile data
- More digital opportunities
- More regular internet use



RIGHT SIDE Fianga (Village)

- Weak or unstable network
- Limited electricity access
- Difficult internet connection
- Limited digital opportunities



THE REALITY OF INTERNET ACCESS IN CHAD

- Chad has a population of 20.7 million in 2025, with a very young median age of 15.8 and about 75.1% of people living in rural areas.
- Internet use is limited, with 2.74 million users (13.2% penetration) and 1.68 million social media users.
- Mobile connectivity is higher, with 14.5 million connections, equal to 69.8% of the population.



Source: DataReportal 2025-Digital in Chad Report

AIRTEL & MOOV AFRICA: CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGES IN CHAD

Main mobile operators in Chad

1. Airtel Africa
2. Moov Africa

Main challenges

- Slow internet speed
- Frequent network interruptions
- Unstable connectivity
- Unequal coverage between urban and rural areas
- Expensive mobile data for users

Key data

- Mobile internet costs remain above affordability standards
- 4G coverage remains limited in some regions
- Government criticized operators over poor service quality
- Source: ARCEP Chad / ITU / Ecofin Agency



THE COST OF INTERNET IN EVERYDAY LIFE

- **1 GB \approx 1500–2000 FCFA (Airtel Chad data plans)**
- **Very expensive relative to income (up to ~20% of monthly income for 1 GB).**
- **Data bundles are short-term (1- 7 days), so it runs out quickly.**
- **Students rely on rationing or Wi-Fi spots due to high cost and limited acces.**

PROJECTS TO REDUCE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- **“Community DNS Hubs” project:** small local hubs in rural areas (e.g., Fianga) managing local DNS caching to reduce latency and improve access to websites.
- **Local internet governance labs:** training centers where students learn DNS management, domain name systems, and internet infrastructure basics.
- **Decentralized access points:** community-managed connectivity nodes connected to national infrastructure, improving resilience in remote areas.
- **Partnership with ICANN programs** to bring technical training (NextGen / Fellowship) directly into universities and rural ICT centers.

EXPECTATIONS FROM ICANN

- **Expanding DNS training and technical capacity programs in Chad.**
- **Supporting pilot projects like Community DNS Hubs in underserved rural areas.**
- **Strengthening local internet governance participation (more inclusion of Chadian stakeholders in global policy discussions).**
- **Providing technical support and partnerships with governments and universities.**
- **Helping improve internet resilience and stability through better DNS infrastructure coordination.**

GET IN TOUCH



+33 7 80 83 38 28



haouaannournassir@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/haoua-annour-nassir-560b29315

Thank you