

Chad and LALIGA launch a strategic alliance to drive the growth and modernisation of football in the country

The agreement will bring LALIGA's experience and expertise to bear on Chad's football priorities through joint initiatives in training, talent identification, institutional development and support for the planned National Academy.

Madrid, 1 October 2026 – Chad has taken a further step in developing its football sector. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Chad and LALIGA have signed a partnership agreement to support the development and professionalisation of Chadian football through a phased, multi-year programme.

The programme will support a gradual process of transformation, from strengthening local capacity to introducing tools and methods designed to deliver lasting results. Combining talent development, training, methodology, governance and knowledge transfer, it will draw on LALIGA's experience to address the needs and priorities identified by Chad, in close collaboration with the country's institutions and football stakeholders.

The partnership will bring together the local knowledge and commitment of Chadian stakeholders with LALIGA's experience and methodology to improve talent identification and development, strengthen training and reinforce the structures underpinning Chadian football.

The agreement was formalised at LALIGA's headquarters during a visit by Chad's Minister of Youth and Sports, Naïr Abakar, accompanied by a Chadian delegation. The visit also included a presentation of LALIGA's main areas of work and a working session between the delegation and the project team to jointly plan the next steps.

Naïr Abakar, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Chad, said: *"Our ambition for Chadian football is to give our young players an environment in which they can thrive, enable our clubs to grow and make our domestic league more competitive. We have chosen this partnership with LALIGA to help us achieve that ambition. It brings together recognised expertise in professional football with the local knowledge and commitment of our football community. Together, we want to build a programme that makes a tangible difference to players' careers, coaches' work and the day-to-day running of our clubs."*

Javier Tebas, President of LALIGA, said: *"LALIGA is delighted to be able to support Chad in this project. The consultancy projects we carry out in different parts of the world allow us to share our knowledge and methodology, always working hand in hand with local institutions and professionals and adapting to the particularities of each country. Through this*

collaboration, we want to help generate knowledge, capabilities and tools that can continue to develop sustainably over time."

Trésor Penku, Managing Director of LALIGA in Africa, said: *"This collaboration represents an opportunity to put LALIGA's knowledge and experience at the service of football development in Chad, working alongside local institutions and professionals to build solid and sustainable foundations. We want to support this process from a comprehensive perspective, combining talent, training, methodology and the strengthening of local capabilities, so that the knowledge acquired remains within the country's football ecosystem and contributes to its long-term development."*

A first phase focused on laying the foundations

The first phase will establish the foundations for the subsequent stages of the partnership. Key areas of work include a nationwide talent identification campaign and a system to monitor the progress of selected players; technical advice on the design and organisation of the planned National Academy; training for coaches, administrators and sports officials; and a strategic assessment of the domestic league, accompanied by recommendations and a roadmap for its development.

This initial phase will focus primarily on strengthening structures. Drawing on the local knowledge of Chadian professionals and LALIGA's experience, it will establish a shared methodology, build national capacity, develop a detailed understanding of the needs of clubs and competitions, and determine what is required for broader operational delivery in the second phase.

Subsequent phases will progressively put the transformation of Chad's football structures into practice. Planned activities include bringing the National Academy into operation and establishing it on a firm footing, ensuring continuity in player identification, training and monitoring. The programme will also support the implementation of recommendations for the league and clubs, align processes, and transfer knowledge and skills to Chadian teams and professionals, building lasting capacity and contributing to the long-term development of football in the country.

A partnership built for the long term

For Chad, the agreement opens up new opportunities for training and professional development while establishing lasting links with Spanish football. For LALIGA, it represents a partnership of unprecedented scope in sub-Saharan Africa and reinforces its commitment to sharing its experience and expertise to support the sustainable development of football elsewhere in the world.

Through this collaboration, LALIGA continues to apply its experience to football development internationally, strengthening its ability to work alongside local institutions on projects that build knowledge, advance professional standards and develop expertise that remains embedded locally.

LALIGA has extensive international experience in sports development, having undertaken more than 1,000 projects in 60 countries since 2015.

Over that period, it has worked with federations, leagues and clubs across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, applying its expertise and methodology to the development of their sporting structures.

This work is supported by a dedicated sports projects team based in Madrid. The team includes professionals who hold the UEFA Pro Licence, UEFA's highest coaching qualification, and bring experience at club level and across international markets, alongside specialists in coaching methodology, psychology and physical conditioning.

About the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Chad

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Chad leads government policy on youth and sports development. It promotes participation in sport, develops the skills of sports professionals and supports organisations that nurture national talent. Its work seeks to make sport a source of personal development, social cohesion and opportunity for young people. Working with the sporting community and international partners, the Ministry supports the development of skills and improvements in the conditions for participation in sport across the country.

About LALIGA

LALIGA is the largest football ecosystem in the world. It is a private sports association made up of the 20 football Clubs/SADs of LALIGA EA SPORTS and the 22 of LALIGA HYPERMOTION, responsible for organising professional football competitions at national level. It has more than 268 million followers on social media worldwide, across 16 platforms and in 20 different languages. Headquartered in Madrid (Spain), it has the most extensive international network of any sports property, with a presence in 35 countries through 8 offices. The association carries out its social work through the LALIGA FOUNDATION and is the first professional football league in the world to have a competition for footballers with intellectual disabilities: LALIGA GENUINE Movee.