

Sustainable Development Content in Algerian Print Media: An Analytical Reading of El Chaab from January to March 2024

Dr OUAHABI Naziha¹,

¹ University of Blida2 (Algeria), n.ouahabi@univ-blida2.dz

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Abstract:

This study examines how sustainable development is represented in Algerian print media through an analytical reading of *El Chaab* newspaper from January to March 2024. Positioned at the intersection of national development policies and media discourse, the research investigates the extent to which the newspaper integrates environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability within its coverage. Using a purposive sample of 46 issues and employing content analysis as the main methodological tool, the study explores the depth, accuracy, and analytical quality of the published materials. The findings reveal a predominance of news and report-based genres, with limited use of investigative or interpretive formats, indicating a tendency toward relaying official narratives rather than providing critical or in-depth assessments. This reflects broader patterns within Algerian public media, where journalism often aligns with institutional communication. The study highlights the need for stronger analytical journalism to enhance public awareness and support national sustainable development strategies.

Keywords: Sustainable Development; Algerian Print Media; El Chaab Newspaper; Content Analysis; Media Coverage

1- Introduction :

Sustainable development has become a central priority within national and international policy agendas, offering a comprehensive framework for achieving environmental balance, social equity, and economic efficiency while ensuring the rights of future generations. In Algeria, this developmental vision aligns with the state's strategic efforts to diversify the economy, reduce social disparities, and promote sustainable management of natural resources amid growing domestic and global challenges.

Within this context, the media—particularly print journalism—play a critical role in supporting sustainable development by disseminating knowledge, shaping public awareness, and monitoring governmental policies. Despite the rise of digital platforms, national public newspapers continue to serve as important sources of reliable information and official discourse. El Chaab, as a state-owned daily newspaper with consistent coverage of national priorities, offers a valuable case for examining how sustainable development is represented in Algerian print media.

The problem addressed in this study concerns the depth, accuracy, and analytical quality of sustainable development coverage in print journalism, and the extent to which newspapers move beyond descriptive reporting toward interpretive and awareness-raising roles. **From this analytical stance, the central research question emerges: To what extent did El Chaab address sustainable development issues from January to March 2024?**

To answer this question, the research adopts a qualitative content analysis approach, supported by a systematic review of the newspaper's issues during the specified period. This strategy allows for identifying thematic trends, evaluating the analytical depth of coverage, and determining how closely the journalistic discourse aligns with the principles of sustainable development.

2- Methodological Procedures:

2-1-Sub-questions:

A. Form-related questions:

1. What journalistic genres did El Chaab employ to cover sustainable development issues?
2. What highlighting techniques were used in presenting sustainable development topics?

B. Content-related questions:

1. What are the main sources El Chaab relied upon for sustainable development coverage?
2. What goals did El Chaab emphasize in its coverage of sustainable development issues?

2-2- Significance of the Study:

This study is significant as it reveals how El Chaab covers sustainable development issues and evaluates the commitment of print journalism to its awareness-raising and oversight roles in national development. It highlights media's role in shaping developmental awareness among citizens and provides indicators to improve editorial policies toward more comprehensive and in-depth journalistic treatment of sustainable development concepts.

2-3- Objectives of the Study:

The study aims to achieve objectives related to sustainable development issues addressed by El Chaab, including:

- Highlighting the journalistic genres and emphasizing techniques used in covering sustainable development.
- Identifying the sources relied upon by El Chaab and monitoring the goals emphasized in reporting sustainable development issues.

2-4- Type and Methodology of the Study:

A- Type of Study:

This descriptive-analytical study seeks to understand phenomena, events, and opinions by describing and analyzing them to reach conclusions

that help correct or develop reality, providing insight into the present to guide the future. (Hijab, 2003, p. 78)

Descriptive studies in media research are used to describe individuals, groups, their attitudes, motivations, and media usage, in addition to describing systems and facts, and analyzing relationships among them based on testable hypotheses. (Abdelhamid, 2004, p. 153) This study is analytical in nature, aiming to examine sustainable development content in Algerian print media through an analytical reading of El Chaab's content from January to March 2024, and to reveal the nature of coverage and types of development issues addressed.

B-Methodology:

The study employed a survey approach to analyze El Chaab's coverage of sustainable development, with data collected in the field using multiple descriptive and analytical techniques. (Abdelhamid, 2004, p.65)

2-5- Research Population and Sample:

A. Research Population:

The population of this study includes all issues of El Chaab published between January 1 and March 23, 2024. The study's sampling units were determined according to the elements to be measured and the variables used. (Arouri, 2013, p. 18)

B. Study Period:

The study period was set from January 1 to March 23, 2024, coinciding with Algeria hosting the Gas Summit project, held from February 29 to March 2, 2024

C- Study Sample:

In our study, we used a purposive sample by selecting issues of El Chaab over three consecutive months, from January 1 to March 23, 2024, totaling 46 issues. Purposive sampling is a type of sampling based on deliberate and intentional selection of sample elements in a systematic way, leaving no room for chance. The researcher chooses the most representative units relevant to the study objectives, ensuring that the population is accurately defined and focusing only on the elements that serve the study. (Hamdi & Stouttah, 2019, p. 58)

2-6- Data Collection Tools:

- **Content Analysis Tool:**

The study employed content analysis as the main tool to examine sustainable development content in Algerian print media, through an analytical reading of El Chaab from January to March 2024. This approach was used to understand the form and type of journalistic treatment of these issues in a systematic and objective manner. (Richard Binn et al., translated by Al-Jawhar, 2014, pp. 10, 12)

3-The Concept and Origin of Sustainable Development

3-1 The Concept of Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development is a global economic and social concept aimed at improving living conditions and developing production methods that preserve natural resources to meet current needs without compromising the rights of future generations. (Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, 2025, www.mewa.gov.sa)

- **Definition by the World Commission on Environment and Development:** Sustainable development is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, through the rational use of renewable and sustainable resources, achieving integration between economic development and environmental protection, while ensuring limited resources are not depleted and remain available for future generations.

3-2 The Origin of the Term “Sustainable Development:

The concept of sustainable development emerged due to worsening environmental problems and excessive human exploitation of resources, leading to the deprivation or degradation of natural resources for future generations.

- **1950 Global Environmental Status Report:** The first report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature studied the global environmental situation and laid the groundwork for balancing economy and environment.

- **Club of Rome Conference 1972:** The “Limits to Growth” report warned that rapid economic growth would deplete natural resources without intervention.
- **Brundtland Commission 1987:** The report *Our Common Future* linked environment and development, emphasizing that development cannot be separated from environmental protection.
- **Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro 1992:** Emphasized sustainable development as a global goal, integrating economic, social, and environmental dimensions to ensure human life sustainability. (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992, www.un.org.com)
- **Copenhagen Conference 1995:** Focused on social development, addressing poverty and unemployment, gender equality, and setting ten principles for sustainability with clear, achievable objectives.
- **New York Conference 2000:** Confirmed government support for sustainable development principles and integrating them into development policies while avoiding resource waste.
- **World Summit on Sustainable Development – Johannesburg 2002:** Renewed commitment to sustainable development and adopted an implementation plan to integrate environmental considerations into decision-making.
- **United Nations Conference 2012:** Focused on the green economy as a tool for sustainable development and poverty alleviation, adopting globally accepted definitions linking environment, development, and intergenerational rights. (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 2012, www.un.org.com)

4- Sustainable Development Plans in Algeria

Sustainable development has become one of the main pillars of Algerian state policies since the early 2000s, as the government adopted a comprehensive approach aimed at balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. These orientations emerged in response to Algeria’s international commitments within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in addition to domestic

needs related to economic diversification and reducing dependence on the hydrocarbons sector. This path represents a pivotal shift in shaping a national vision that considers future generations' well-being. (Abu Al-Nasr, 2017, p. 81)

In recent years, Algeria has launched a set of national programs and strategies aimed at integrating sustainable development principles into public policies. Among the most significant of these initiatives is the "Green Economy Action Plan," which focuses on rationalizing the use of natural resources, promoting renewable energies, and encouraging environmental innovation within productive sectors. The state has also worked to establish a legal framework to ensure the sustainability of development projects by requiring environmental impact assessments and developing mechanisms of sound environmental governance. (Hijab, 2003, p. 78)

In the economic field, Algeria has adopted several structural reform plans designed to diversify the national economy and gradually shift toward a balanced production model by supporting industrial, agricultural, tourism, and digital economy sectors. The National Strategy for Renewable Energy is considered one of the major pillars of this orientation, as it aims to increase the share of clean energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, in line with international goals to reduce emissions. (Abd Al-Hamid, 2004, p. 153)

On the social level, sustainable development plans have focused on improving quality of life through strengthening social protection systems, reducing regional disparities, and enhancing education and healthcare. This approach also includes expanding social housing programs, developing higher education, and supporting youth employment initiatives, ensuring social justice as a fundamental pillar of sustainability. (Arouri, 2013, p. 18)

Regarding the environmental dimension, Algeria has adopted a national policy aimed at environmental protection and pollution control through programs dedicated to preserving biodiversity, developing integrated waste-management systems, and combating desertification—one

of the country's most pressing environmental challenges. Projects have also been launched to protect the coastline, enhance protected areas, and implement climate-adaptation programs addressing threats to natural resources. (Hamdi & Satoutah, 2019, p. 58)

The state also gives considerable attention to good governance in managing sustainable development projects by promoting transparency, developing mechanisms for community participation, and involving civil society in shaping environmental policies. Algeria has further sought to strengthen regional and international cooperation through development partnerships, particularly with UN institutions and development banks. This orientation represents an important catalyst in advancing the sustainability agenda toward greater integration and progress. (Richard Ben et al., 2014, pp. 10–12)

4- Goals and Types of Sustainable Development

4-1 Global Goals of Sustainable Development:

On September 20, 2010, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising 17 main goals and 199 targets. These aim to eradicate poverty and hunger, promote health, education, and gender equality, ensure clean water and energy, achieve economic growth and decent work, support infrastructure and innovation, reduce economic and social disparities, build sustainable cities, adopt responsible consumption and production patterns, combat climate change, protect marine and terrestrial life, promote peace and justice, and enhance global partnerships. (Madani, Abdel Fattah, 2025, <https://asc-mek.org>)

The 2024 Future Summit in New York brought world leaders together to strengthen global governance and renew commitment to sustainable development goals. It resulted in a “Future Charter” to enhance international cooperation and address emerging challenges, with calls to hold Future Workdays to engage more stakeholders in global efforts. (www.un.org, 2025)

4-2 Types of Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development broadly refers to programs and initiatives aimed at preserving a particular resource, but it is primarily structured

around four main areas: human, social, economic, and environmental, which are the four pillars of sustainability:

- **Human Sustainability:** Focuses on human development through education, health, and skills to ensure community well-being.
- **Social Sustainability:** Promotes cohesion, justice, equality, and equal opportunities to ensure a balanced and secure society.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Aims for economic growth that conserves resources and provides a decent standard of living for all.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Focuses on protecting the environment and ensuring resource use does not harm nature or future generations.(Modawanat masarat, 2025, www.masarat-sy.org)

5. Presentation of the Quantitative Analysis Results of Sustainable Development Issues According to Form

5-1. Category of Journalistic Genres Used

- **Table (01): Journalistic genres used in El Chaab newspaper when presenting materials related to sustainable development issues**

Journalistic Genres	Frequency	Percentage (%)
News report	220	62.9%
Press report	100	28.6%
Analytical article	10	2.9%
Editorial	4	1.1%
Opinion column	2	0.6%
Press interview	14	4.0%
Investigative report	0	0.0%
Field reportage	0	0.0%
Total	350	100%

The data in the table show that El Chaab relied primarily on the news report (62.9%) in its coverage of sustainable development issues, reflecting

its focus on immediate and event-driven information. Press reports ranked second (28.6%), indicating the newspaper's tendency to provide more explanatory and detailed coverage.

In contrast, interviews (4%), analytical articles (2.9%), and editorials (1.1%) recorded low percentages, demonstrating limited use of genres that offer deeper or critical perspectives. Opinion columns (0.6%) were almost absent, as they are based on personal viewpoints and are less compatible with the data-driven nature of sustainable development topics.

There was a complete absence of investigative reports and field reportage, reflecting a conservative editorial policy that favors official information over field-based or investigative journalism.

Conclusion:

The quantitative results show that El Chaab focused mainly on news and reports in its treatment of sustainable development issues, aligning with Wahabi's study and with the statement of Editor-in-Chief Mohamed Kadik, who confirmed the newspaper's reliance on direct news genres. The absence of reportage and investigations is explained by the newspaper's prioritization of rapid coverage during a major national event such as the Gas Summit, favoring fast news over narrative or investigative formats.

5-2. Category of Typographic Elements

A. Category of Headlines Used

Table (02): Types of headlines used in El Chaab newspaper

Headline Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Pointer	429	41.3%
Main headline	433	41.7%
Sub-headline	151	14.5%
Banner/Manchette	5	0.5%
Streamer	20	1.9%
Total	1038	100%

The analysis shows that main headlines (41.7%) and pointer titles (41.3%) are the most frequently used in El Chaab when addressing sustainable development issues. This reflects its focus on attracting the reader and clarifying the main idea quickly. Sub-headlines (14.5%) were

less frequent as they are mainly used for additional explanations. Banner headlines (0.5%) and streamers (1.9%) were rarely employed.

Conclusion:

The newspaper relies heavily on main headlines and pointer headlines to convey sustainable development issues clearly and attractively, while the use of other headline types remains limited.

B. Category of Images Used

Table (03): Types of images used in El Chaab in coverage of sustainable development issues

Image Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	151	38.3%
Objective	243	61.7%
None	0	0
Total	394	100%

The table shows that objective images are the most used (61.7%), followed by personal images (38.3%), reflecting a heavy reliance on direct event-related images while highlighting key actors. All topics were accompanied by images, demonstrating a clear interest in visual elements.

Conclusion:

The newspaper primarily uses objective images to reinforce information, supported by personal images to emphasize key figures.

C. Category of Colors Used

Table (04): Colors used in El Chaab in the treatment of sustainable development issues

Color Use	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Headline	159	85.0%
Image	22	11.8%
None	6	3.2%
Total	187	100%

The results show that El Chaab heavily uses colors in headlines (85%) to attract readers' attention, while colors in images were used less frequently (11.8%), with very few cases lacking color.

Conclusion:

The newspaper focuses more on coloring headlines than images when addressing sustainable development issues, due to its role in highlighting content and drawing readers' attention.

6- Presentation of Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis Results According to Content

6-1. Category of Sustainable Development Topics

Table (05): Frequency and percentage of sustainable development topics most prominent in El Chaab

Sustainable Development Issues	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Economic Issues		
Sustainable economic growth	43	9.3
Sustainable economic justice	9	1.9
Trade	106	22.9
Sustainable finance	59	12.8
Innovation and technology	32	6.9
Sustainable economic policies	33	7.1
Environmental Issues		
Climate change	12	2.6
Biodiversity	12	2.6
Land degradation	3	0.6
Water and air pollution	0	0
Waste management	12	2.6
Natural resource depletion	5	1.1
Social Issues		
Poverty and social justice	56	12.1
Quality education	40	8.7
Health	16	3.5
Sustainable cities and communities	7	1.5
Job creation	17	3.7
Total	462	100%

- Economic issues received the highest coverage at 60.8%, particularly trade and sustainable finance.

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- Social issues ranked second with 29.5%, focusing on poverty and education.
- Environmental issues were least covered at 9.5%, with no coverage of water and air pollution.

Conclusion:

Media coverage focused mainly on economic aspects, while environmental issues received limited attention.

6-2. Category of Information Sources

Table (06): Sources used by El Chaab to obtain information

Source Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Internal sources	88	72.7%
External sources	23	19.0%
Unknown sources	10	8.3%
Total	121	100%

The data show that internal sources were the most used (72.7%), followed by external sources (19%), and unknown sources (8.3%).

Conclusion:

The newspaper relies primarily on internal sources, while also incorporating external ones to ensure more comprehensive coverage. Even when sources are not identified, accuracy remains a key priority.

6-3. Category of Sustainable Development Goals Used

Table (07): Sustainable development goals addressed in El Chaab

SDG Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No poverty	218	49.8%
Quality education	44	10%
Affordable and clean energy	84	19.2%
Climate action	92	21.0%
Total	438	100%

The newspaper focused mainly on the goal of “No Poverty” (49.8%), followed by climate action (21%) and clean energy (19.2%). Quality education received the least attention at 10%.

Conclusion:

The newspaper prioritized social and environmental dimensions, especially poverty reduction and climate-related issues, while education received relatively less coverage.

7- General Findings of the Study

This study, based on quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, aimed to examine the media treatment of sustainable development issues in Algerian print journalism (A Descriptive and Analytical Study of El Chaab Newspaper) during the period from 1 January to 27 March 2024.

Key findings include:

- El Chaab covered sustainable development issues through 350 journalistic items, utilizing adequate space for in-depth reporting.
- A clear dominance of news items (62.9%) shows the newspaper's emphasis on speed in information delivery, with fewer analytical articles and investigations.
- Main headlines and pointer titles (41.7% and 41.3%) were extensively used to convey key ideas quickly.
- Objective images (61.7%) were preferred to bring the reader closer to events, with personal images (38.3%) highlighting relevant actors.
- Colors were used heavily in headlines (85%) but less in images (11.8%), reflecting the visual strategy of the newspaper.
- Economic issues topped the coverage (60.8%), reflecting national priorities.
- Social issues received moderate coverage (29.5%).
- Environmental issues ranked last (9.5%), with no coverage of water or air pollution.
- Internal sources were mainly used (72.7%), complemented by external and unknown sources.
- The main SDGs addressed were poverty reduction, climate action, and clean energy, while education received less focus.

Conclusion

This study confirms that El Chaab devoted significant attention to sustainable development issues during the period from January to March

2024, relying primarily on news and reports, and using main headlines and pointer titles to communicate information clearly and quickly. The analysis shows that the newspaper focused mostly on economic and social dimensions, with limited coverage of environmental issues and no attention to water or air pollution—reflecting editorial priorities and national policy orientations.

The results also reveal an emphasis on objective and personal images, and the strategic use of colors in headlines to increase the visual appeal of content. The newspaper relied largely on internal official sources to ensure accuracy and credibility. The analysis also highlights the newspaper's tendency to adopt a positive tone, emphasizing achievements in sustainable development rather than challenges, reflecting its role in supporting national agendas.

Overall, El Chaab contributes to raising awareness of sustainable development issues among readers by highlighting economic and social dimensions and using effective visual and journalistic techniques. However, there remains a need to expand environmental coverage and diversify editorial approaches to ensure a balanced and comprehensive treatment of all sustainable development goals, reflecting the press's educational and awareness-raising role in society

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