



© T. Nicholson / HI

Country sheet

Sudan





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sudan programme has 30 staff members.

Soudan





General data of the country

General Data

Country	Sudan	South Soudan	France
Population	50 millions	11 088 796	67 935 660
IHDI	0.31	0.222	0.825
Gender related development index	0.868	0.842	0.986
Maternal mortality	270	1 223	8
GINI Index	34.2	44.1	30.7
Population within UNHCR mandate	1 775 109	2 298 595	73
INFORM index	7.4	8.3	2.9
Fragile State Index	109.3	109	28.3
Public social protection (%)	10.4	0	98.7
Net official development assistance received	1 558 410.03	2 077 149.90	N/A

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Signature 1997, Deposit 2003
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Signature 1990 - Ratification 1990
Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2021
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Signature 1986 - Ratification 2021
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signature 2007 – Ratification 2009
Other Disability Policies and guidelines relevant to HI	Persons with Disability National Act: 2017

Geopolitical analysis

Social, cultural, demographic elements

Sudan, officially the Republic of the Sudan, is the third-largest country by area in Africa and shares land borders with the Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan. It has a population of 50 million and one of the youngest demographics in the world, with 41% of its total population under the age of 15, and 20% between the ages of 15 and



24. While metropolitan areas – particularly Khartoum – have expanded rapidly, two-thirds of Sudan's population live in rural areas.

Approximately 70% of Sudan's people are characterized as Sudanese Arabs, with significant black African minorities, about 30% including Fur, Beja, Nuba and Fallata. More than 500 ethnic groups speaking more than 400 languages live within the borders of Sudan. While intermarriage and the coexistence of Arab and African people in Sudan over centuries has blurred ethnic boundaries to the point where distinctions are often considered impossible, ethnic boundaries have re-emerged in response to decades of conflict fueled by political manipulation of identity.

Since the separation with South Sudan, a mostly Christian territory that obtained its independence in 2011 at the end of a process initiated in 2005, Sudan has a majority of Muslim population (91%) even though the Constitution plans for freedom of religion. Christianity is the largest minority faith in country accounting for around 5.4% of the population. A further minority (2,8%) adheres to traditional faiths.

Political context

In 1989, Omar Al-Bashir came to power in a military coup and progressively established an authoritarian regime characterized by political repression, human rights abuses, and conflicts with opposition groups. During his time in power, he suppressed political opposition and free speech, outlawed political parties, and imposed strict censorship on the media. He also established a network of security forces that routinely engaged in torture, arbitrary detention, and extrajudicial killings. Alongside a brutal campaign against the rebel movements that emerged in 2003 in the western region of Darfur, "Janjaweed" militias, financed and armed by Khartoum, carried out a campaign of systematic killings of at least 200 000 Masalit, Fur and Zaghawa people, characterized as the first genocide of the 21st century, which also led to the displacement of 2,7 million people.

In December 2018, protests over Sudan's economic crisis broke out in several cities and quickly transformed into persistent demonstrations calling for Omar Al-Bashir to step down. This "Sudanese revolution", led to the removal and arrest of Omar Al-Bashir in April 2019, by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). A military junta, composed of the SAF and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group distinct from SAF but part of Al-Bashir military apparatus, formed a military Junta called "Transitional Military Council" (TCM) which took power. Negotiations with the coalition of civilian and democratic parties led in August 2019 to the establishment of a Sovereign Transitional Council composed of the SAF, RSF and pro-democracy parties intended to govern till 2022, where elections were to be held. Abdalla Hamdok, a civilian, was named Prime Minister. In October 2021, he was deposed, and the SAF and RSF reconstituted the TMC which subsequently ruled as a military junta. Tensions between the SAF, led by the de facto head of state General Al-Burhan, and the RSF led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as "Hemedti", over the integration of the RSF into the military escalated, leading to the civil war from April 2023 onwards.

The fighting has been most intense in the capital, Khartoum, and the Darfur region. In Khartoum, significant battles have led to the destruction of key



infrastructure, including the al-Jaili oil refinery, Sudan's largest, the SAMIL factory which produced 60% of the therapeutic food used to treat children with Severe Acute Malnutrition and countless others. In Darfur, reports have emerged of targeted attacks against civilians, including mass killings and sexual violence, leading the International Criminal Court to seek arrest warrants for individuals accused of orchestrating these atrocities. HRW has characterized these as Ethnic Cleansing, while the US State Department has called these a Genocide.

The humanitarian impact has been devastating. The conflict has resulted in over 130,000 deaths while 15 million people are displaced (30% of the population), with half of the population facing acute food insecurity. Despite international mediation efforts, the warring parties have shown little inclination toward a political resolution, leading to an escalating crisis.

The situation remains dire with ongoing violence, economic collapse and a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Economic elements

Sudan's economy is based primarily on its extractive sector, as it possesses some of Africa's largest reserves of metals and minerals, and on its agriculture (including livestock and fishing) which contributes to just under a third of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and provides livelihoods to about two-thirds of the population. Agricultural products and minerals accounted for 82 percent of Sudanese exports in 2021. The country used to rely on the exploitation of its oil resources, located mainly in the south, which were almost entirely ceded to South Sudan when the country gained independence. The low productive sophistication of the economy is further exemplified by Sudan's heavy reliance on imports of machinery, equipment, and appliances, as well as the dependency on international food and fuel supplies.

Furthermore, Sudan had been facing an economic crisis that stemmed from decades of war, economic sanctions against political leaders accused of human rights violations, and political instability. Before the current civil war, close to half of the population lived under the poverty line (46,5% UN 2022), and 12.9% of the working-age population was unemployed (UNDP 2020). The country had been grappling with inflation since the 2019 revolution (prices multiplied by a factor 28 in 3 years).¹ The ongoing civil war is worsening dramatically an already weak economy and further deepens inequalities

The conflict has delivered a crippling blow to Sudan's fragile economy. Following an estimated 18 per cent economic contraction in 2023, Sudan's GDP is expected to fall a further 5.9 per cent in 2024 as the conflict continues to hamper agricultural production, and worsen conditions for trade, exports and mineral extraction. Furthermore, the EU, US, Canada and other western countries regularly impose new sanctions on Sudan's political leaders in response to continued human rights violations. With no end to the conflict in

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=SD>



sight, the economy is expected to continue a downward trajectory resulting in a devastating impact on households' livelihoods and purchasing power.

In over 20 months of war, the number of people in need (PiN) of humanitarian assistance sharply increased, reaching an estimated 30.4 million in 2025². The economic crisis is compounded by:

- a devastated healthcare system, where 75% of healthcare infrastructures in conflict-affected areas and 40% in non-conflict affected areas are not operational anymore, where half of Khartoum's hospitals have been damaged, and where Ministry of Health staff are not receiving salaries, relying instead on charging patients;
- Critical infrastructures destroyed or made inoperable (oil refineries, power stations..);
- A near-complete collapse of the production capacities, with 90% of the factories in Khartoum (the country's industrial hub) halting operations, including critical factories (therapeutic food factory, cotton ginning factories etc.);
- Road and bridges damaged or destroyed by the war and the 2024 floods (40-years high), hampering access to humanitarian actors and by the private sector
- Massive displacement, with 30% of the population displaced, reducing people's access to their livelihoods, assets and savings;
- A banking system non-operational in Darfur and other states;
- A cash liquidity crisis, where the numbers of bills in circulation is far insufficient to cover the needs;
- Mobile phones, internet landline, public water, electricity are non-operational in large parts of the country.

This situation laid the foundations to **one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world; 24.6 million people is facing acute hunger** (IPC-3 or above), including 7 states where IPC-5 (**famine**) is occurring.

Summary of HI presence in the country

Due to bureaucratic and access impediments which hampered direct intervention, HI began working with a Sudanese NGO as direct implementing partner, early 2024. Managed remotely by HI's Sudan program team based in Nairobi, the project - funded by CDCS - has been implemented in Gedaref State. HI has provided remote technical, operational, and financial support, focusing on early rehabilitation in hospitals and communities, psychosocial support, protection and inclusive humanitarian action (IHA).

In August 2024, HI obtained its registration with the Sudan Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), allowing it to operate directly within the country. An opening mission was then launched in West Darfur, a region facing severe humanitarian needs due to massive population displacements, allowing HI to secure registration with SARHO, the RSF authority overseeing Humanitarian

² <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1220/population>



Assistance, open its office and initiate recruitment of Sudanese staff at the end of 2024.

The team is distributing hygiene kits to families with children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through health facilities supported by Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) for nutrition.

HI intends to scale up its response from geographic and sectorial perspectives while developing several modalities of intervention (direct, remote partnership, etc.), to address the most acute needs of the vulnerable conflict-affected population in Sudan through the delivery of an inclusive, immediate and multi-sectorial humanitarian assistance. More specifically, HI's response in Sudan focus (but are not limited to) on physical and functional rehabilitation, basic needs and humanitarian to humanitarian (H2H) sectors to address overlapping vulnerabilities as mentioned previously, such as acute food insecurity, access to physical and functional rehabilitation (general and specialized) and the necessity of a disability-inclusive humanitarian response.

Consequently, HI has submitted multiple proposals and concept notes in consortium with other INGOs, including regional projects that link its programs in Chad and South Sudan. Some of these proposals target critical humanitarian needs in Khartoum and other high-need areas. Further, HI's Emergency and Rehabilitation Divisions are collaborating closely with WHO and the Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell (EMTCC) in Sudan to assess the feasibility of deploying an Emergency Medical Team Specialized Care. Finally, an ATLAS assessment is scheduled for March 2025 in Darfur.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title	Main activities	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors who finance the project
Inclusive response to the physical rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by the conflict in Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R1: Rehabilitation<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.1 Provision of physical and functional rehabilitation services (including the provision of assistive device)A.2 Capacity-building of personnel responsible for the implementation of rehabilitationA.3 Capacity building of existing rehabilitation services in health facilitiesA.4. Raising awareness among health personnel of the benefits of early rehabilitation• R2: MHPSS and Protection<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.1 Provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA)A.2 Provision of MHPSS services to the most vulnerable peopleA.3 Capacity building and support for PSS workersA.4 Update and upgrade the comprehensive service mappingA.5 Implementation of identification, assessment and referral mechanism for conflict-affected populations including EO survivors, people with disabilities• R3: IHA<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.1 Provision of technical support and coaching on Disability-Inclusion and the implementation of the 4 Must-Do Action in GAH-HI activities	Global Aid Hand (GAH)	Gedaref	December 2023 - July 2024 (extended to March-April 2025)	CDCS



Project title	Main activities	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors who finance the project
	<p>A.2 Sensitization on Disability-Inclusion and the IASC Guideline on Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action to humanitarian coordination mechanism</p> <p>A.3 Development and dissemination of Policy briefs on disability-inclusion and DGA related protection risks to humanitarian actors, coordination mechanism and donors</p>				
Access to Darfur, Rehabilitation and WaSH response in Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1: Humanitarian access is negotiated A.1 Gaining and securing full humanitarian access to Darfur to strengthen the humanitarian response A.2 Development of a Rapid Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment among conflict-affected populations in West Darfur • R2: WaSH A.1 Provision of hygiene kits to conflict-affected vulnerable households in peri-urban areas in West Darfur • R3: Rehabilitation A.1 Provision of physical and functional rehabilitation services (including the provision of assistive device) in Gedaref A.2 Strengthening the capacities of existing rehabilitation services in health facilities by logistical support (donation of rehabilitation equipment and materials) and trainings A.3 Capacity-building of rehabilitation professionals to ensure safe, sustainable and effective early rehabilitation response 	Global Aid Hand (GAH) in Gedaref only	States of West Darfur and Gedaref	September 2023 – December 2024 (extended to March 2025)	MoFA Lux



Logos of donors

CDCS



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

MoFA Luxembourg



2024-12_CountrySheet-External_Long_SUDAN-EN