The Republic of Sudan

Voluntary National Review

2025



Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Unit

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Abbreviations and acronyms

CBOS	Central Bank of Sudan
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECF	Extended Credit Facility
ERRs	Emergency Response Rooms
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GWh	Gigawatt-hour
ha	hectare
HCENR	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources
HIPCs	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
NCCHT	National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PEFA	Public Expenditure Financial Assessment
PFM	Public Financial Management
PHC	Primary Health Care
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SDPRU	Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNRMP	Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project
TADAT	Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization

Opening statement

Undersecretary of Planning

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning



I have the honor to present Sudan's third Voluntary National Review (2025 VNR). This report is being compiled against the backdrop of vicious attacks by the Rapid Support Force militia, on the 15th of April 2023, targeting towns, villages, and civilians. The war has brought about devastation unparallel in Sudan's history. About 25 percent of the total population were forcibly displaced, making Sudan the world's largest internal displacement crisis. Critical infrastructure including schools, hospitals, water supply stations, electricity establishments, airports, banks, markets, and factories were systematically destroyed.

The conflict represents the biggest challenge to the progress of SDGs in the country. It has stalled progress and may have even reversed some gains achieved. However, the Sudanese government is more determined than ever to pursue its path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda by bringing SDGs progress back on track.

Sudan has prepared an ambitious recovery and reconstruction plan- Post-Conflict Economic Vision for Reconstruction and Compensations. SDGs were integrated in this vision.

The third VNR was prepared in an open and inclusive manner, with wide range consultations covering federal government, subnational governments, and civil society organizations. To ensure that no one is left behind, the consultations included IDPs, women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

To restore progress towards attaining SDGs, Sudan realizes that mobilization of domestic resources is central to the pursuit of these goals, and necessary actions will be taken. However, given the level of devastation, the needs are enormous. Immense external funding remains critical to achieving the recovery and reconstruction goals and making meaningful progress towards SDGs.

Mohamed Bashar Mohamed Adam

Undersecretary of Planning

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

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وزارة المالية والتخطيط الاقتصادي
Undersecretary of Economic Planning
Date:

Sudan's 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR)

Executive summary

Sudan's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) is being compiled against the backdrop of vicious attacks by the Rapid Support Force (RSF) militia, which initiated a large-scale offensive on the 15th of April 2023, against the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and targeted towns, villages, and civilians. More than eleven million people constituting 25 percent of the population were forcibly displaced, critical infrastructure including factories, schools, universities, health facilities, water supply stations, electricity establishments, government buildings, and airports were damaged or destroyed. Banks, shops, warehouses, markets, businesses and homes were looted and damaged. The conflict has stalled progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and may have even reversed some gains achieved.

The third VNR was prepared with wide consultations covering federal government, subnational governments, and civil society organizations. The theme of the consultations was to assess the impact of the war on the SDGs implementation and the plans to bring progress back on track.

A Post-Conflict Economic Vision for Reconstruction and Compensations was prepared by the government in August 2024. The vision incorporated measures to improve progress in SDGs both in the immediate post-conflict recovery phase and in medium term reconstruction and development phase. The conflict has devastating consequences for all segments of the population and the violence has impacted all sectors. The recovery and reconstruction target vision targets an increased economic growth, economic stability, poverty reduction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged airports, roads, electricity, water supply, health facilities, schools, universities, administrative buildings, markets, and cultural facilities. However, analysis of the stakeholder consultations, and data collected on the magnitude of humanitarian crises revealed that the conflict shock has made IDPs, women and children, and persons with disabilities more vulnerable. Additional attention will be given to these groups.

Sudan will deal with a complex post-conflict financing situation and may not be able to put SDGs back on the right path and make significant strides towards achieving SDGs unless financial resources are unlocked from domestic and external sources. With proper government fiscal policies, more revenues will be mobilized, and Public Financial Management (PFM) will be reformed. Measures to create a business-friendly environment will be adopted to mobilize private sector resources for direct investments and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The recovery and reconstruction need for Sudan, given the level of destruction, are enormous and cannot be met from domestic resources alone. Immense external funding from development partners remains critical to achieve the recovery and reconstruction goals and make meaningful progress towards SDGs. Sudan will also require resumption of the debt relief process under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) to mobilize additional external resources from concessional borrowing.

1. Context

Background

Sudan has presented its first 2018 VNR and second 2022 VNR for the progress towards achieving SDGs, covering the period 2015-2020. Sudan's third 2025 VNR is intended to review progress that has been made in implementing the 2030 Agenda from 2020 to 2024. During the first two years, 2020-2022 of the review, progress was achieved in several areas, building on the efforts since 2015. The government made efforts to reduce poverty; although it is still high, but the rate of increase has decelerated to about 1.5 percent on average during 2020-2022. [1] GDP growth was -1.6 percent in 2020, -1.9 percent in 2021 and 0.8 percent in 2022.[2] Progress has been made in the health sector particularly in advancing maternal and child health, increasing immunization coverage and controlling infectious diseases like TB, HIV and malaria. Completion rate of primary education increased from 61.6 percent in 2019 to 62.2 percent in 2022; percent of trained teachers in primary education increased from 58.5 in 2019 to 63.9 in 2022; percent of trained teachers in secondary education increased from 62.8 to 65.8 during the same period, and parity rate in primary education reached 0.99 in 2019 compared to 0.95 in 2022. During this period, the Savings and Social Development Bank and the Family Bank, supervised by the Ministry of Social Development, implemented programs, to empower women, and more poor households were reached with social support programs. Sudan made efforts to protect the Red Sea and marine resources from environmental deterioration. Several projects were initiated to identify coastal wetland's locations to be part of Ramsar list, and regulations were issued for their protection. Sudan has been actively pursuing sustainable forest management to balance environmental conservation with socio-economic development and Sudan made significant strides in REDD+ Readiness initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation. Sudan has prepared and adopted the Benefit Sharing Law.

Impact of the conflict on SDGs

At the time when Sudan was formulating plans to accelerate progress towards meeting SDGs, the Rapid Support Force (RSF) militia[3], initiated a large-scale offensive on the 15th of April 2023, against the SAF and targeted towns, villages, and civilians. The wide scale attacks made Sudan the world's largest internal displacement crisis. More than 11 million people constituting 25 percent of the population lost their homes, belongings, incomes, and employment, faced food shortages and limited access to essential services.

State activity and civic services were hit, production and supply chain were disrupted. Critical infrastructure including factories, schools, health facilities, water supply stations, electricity

[1] World Bank: Sudan Macro Poverty Outlook -MPO

[2] CBS, National Accounts Report for 2018-2023, September 2024

[3] Rapid Support Forces RSF are armed force that was formed by the previous regime to collaborate with the ousted president and was supposed to be integrated in the army. They waged attacks against the army and were declared as a terrorist militia by the government.

establishments, and airports were damaged or destroyed. Homes, warehouses, banks, markets, and vehicles were systematically looted. The conflict represents the biggest challenge to the progress of SDGs in the country. It has stalled progress and may have even reversed some gains achieved. Despite impacts on all the seventeen goals, however, the conflict has posed catastrophic impacts on economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, health, education, water and sanitation energy, gender equality, cities sustainability, and environment.



Economic growth: The militia has targeted the economic base, and severely damaged Sudan's economy, affecting agriculture, industry, infrastructure, and businesses. Lack of security affected provision of inputs, labor supply, and access to farms, resulting in reduced agriculture production. Growth in agriculture contracted by -15 percent in 2023[4]. The industrial establishments in Khartoum, the main industrial hub with two thirds of the factories, was viciously attacked and 86 percent of the factories were destroyed[5]. The attacks on electricity establishments reduced the power supply, affecting production. Business in the capital Khartoum and other war-affected parts of the country have been forced to stop. About 49 percent of the bank's branches were damaged, and their cash was looted. The currency in the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS), Sudan Currency Printing Press, was also looted. All markets in Khartoum, and many markets in Darfur, Kordofan and central regions were looted, and some were destroyed and burned to the ground. The oil sector was also attacked. Petrodar pipeline, the main oil pipeline, accounting for about 70 percent of oil exports has stopped. The Central Processing Facility of Balela oilfield was damaged. Oil production declined from 19 million barrels in 2022 to 6.6 million barrels in 2024. Khartoum Oil Refinery, which provides around 45% of Sudan's fuel needs, was deliberately set to fire and partially damaged. All economic sectors were affected. As a result, economic growth contracted by about 30 percent in 2023 and 13 percent in 2024.

[4] CBS: National Accounts Report 2018-2023

[5] IFPR Sudan: Armed Conflict and Business Operations in Sudan Survey Evidence from Agri-food Processing Firms - August 2023

Poverty: Poverty has increased in 2023 and 2024. The large displacement and economic contraction have pushed many Sudanese into poverty. Poverty rate is expected to have risen from 67.4 in 2022 before the conflict to 79.8 percent in 2023 and 86.2 percent in 2024. [6]

Food security: The food security and malnutrition situation deteriorated. The militia targeted agriculture production. It has attacked Gazira scheme, by far the largest irrigated project in the country, and damaged its irrigation infrastructures and storage facilities. The militia also denied access to farmlands and limited livestock movement in traditional agriculture areas in Darfur and Kordofan regions. The supply chain was also disrupted by fighting, siege of towns and villages, and restriction of movement. Therefore, agriculture production sharply declined. Grain output in 2023/24 season was 4.1 million tons, representing 40 percent below the average of the previous five years; however, recovery was achieved in 2024.

The conflict has also affected food affordability. Prices including food commodities were driven up. Inflation soared from 47.8 percent in March 2023[7], one month before the conflict to 188 in December 2024. [8]The average retail price of sorghum nationwide experienced an upturn, reaching 32.6 percent surge in December 2023 from Q1-2023, before the conflict emerged, and a substantial 114 percent increase in 2024 compared to December 2023. [9]

About 54 percent of the population are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (June - September 2024.), compared to 24 percent in 2022 before the conflict.[10] Malnutrition rate is estimated to have reached 15% in 24 localities, but increasing to 30 percent in some areas under the control of the militia in North Darfur state in 2024.

Health: The health system suffered. The health facilities and infrastructure came under deliberate attacks by the militia. More than 30 percent of the hospitals are destroyed, some were repurposed as military bases, and more than 50 percent of kidney dialysis centers are out of service. About 70 percent of the specialized services and the related equipment of cancer treatment hospital, cardiac surgery, pediatric surgery, and diagnostic services were lost. The militia destroyed the equipment of the Central Medical Supplies Corporation and looted its warehouses, destroyed, and looted private pharmaceutical factories and pharmacies, cold chains including lifesaving vaccination and insulin doses for children, attacked ambulances and health workers, and seized the National Health Laboratory, the main institution for diagnosis of pandemic diseases. About 30 percent of the routine health information data was lost due to the destruction of the servers of the electronic health information system.[11]

By 2024 most health indicators are expected to have deteriorated. Disturbances in Primary Health Care (PHC) led to higher maternal and child mortality. Surge in IDPs and the collapse of environmental sanitation have exposed the country to disease outbreaks including measles, polio, cholera, malaria, and dengue. Less people were covered by vaccines, and health coverage has declined.

[6] World Bank Sudan: Macro Poverty Outlook -MPO-September 2024
[7] CBS: CPI Report 2023
[8] CBS, CPI report for December 2024
[9] WFP: market monitor Sudan Dec 2023 and Dec 2024
[10] Sudan: Report of Technical Secretariat: Food Security Unit
[11] Ministry of Health: Sudan, health committee for the preparation of the 2025 VNR

Education: Children and teachers were forced to flee their homes, hundreds of schools have been damaged, others were used as shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Schools were closed for a long time. The conflict has deprived about 17 million children of schooling (over 90 percent of the school-age children), disrupted learning and put the education system at risk of collapse.[12]It is expected that education indicators are negatively impacted including rate of dropouts, and enrollment rates.

Water and sanitation: The attacks on water supply facilities have near catastrophic impacts on water supply. The water stations, treatment plants and sanitation facilities in ear zones were under attacks by the militia and suffered losses. About 8 water stations in Khartoum state producing 800,000 cm per day representing 50 percent of the total water production in the state were damaged. Golo reservoir, main water source in El Fasher, the Western Region capital, was attacked and damaged. El Obeid water supply station was also attacked. Destruction has also affected several rural supply water points. In safer states, pressure on the existing water facilities is mounting, due to increased displacement, leading to water shortages and contamination. Stocks of water treatment materials, are being depleted, leading to increase in waterborne diseases. Indicators of access to safe water and water quality seems to have declined.



Electricity: The militia targeted electricity establishments and inflicted sever damages on the sector. Khartoum North Thermal and Gas Turbine (12 percent of total installed capacity) suffered extensive damage estimated at over 90 percent, including the destruction of power cables, generators, transformers, control systems, fuel as well as looting and damaging of control rooms, desalination plant, workshops, and copper theft. Geri stations (23 percent of installed capacity) suffered severe damages. In Garri1 power plant, the main transformers and steam turbine were destroyed, with partial damage to the fuel systems, including storage tanks and supply lines. Geri 2 sustained severe damage in fuel storage, turbines, and transformers. In Geri 3, structures were impacted by explosives, with theft of diesel and transformer oils. Geri 4 has suffered considerable damage and lost its operational capacity due to looting and destruction, affecting transformers and oils units along with the destruction of pumps.

[12] UNICEF -Sudan Press release-14 April 2024

Figure 1: Attacks against SDGs



Displaced
1 out 4 or 25%
of the population

Percent of people in poverty




67.4% 78.9% 86.2%

2022 2023 2024

Economic sectors




86%
Industries in Khartoum destroyed

49%
Bank branches looted

65%
Oil production declined due to damage

Electricity

11 Thermal stations affected (18-90 percent damage)
Total/partial damage:
62 distribution stations
8403 transformers transmissions
21,289 km transmission lines
50 % of the transformer's lost.





Health
Destruction of: Central Medical Supplies- National Health Laboratory- Central Blood Bank- Pharmaceutical factories- Ambulances-Vaccines Cold Chain System.

Hospitals destroyed
30%

Kidney dialysis out of service
50%

Specialized hosp. equips looted
70%

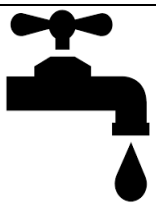
Health information data lost
30%

Malnutrition among children
15%

Education
17 M or 89%
of school- aged children out of school for 2 years



Water supply **Drones attacks** on water supply. 50%
water facitities in Khartoum damaged



Culture heritage: museums and historical buildings destroyed: National Museum, Ethnographic Museum, Sudan Natural History Museum, Military Museum, Republican Palace Museum, Khalifa House Museum, Sultan Ali Dinar Museum. Al Geneina Museum and Nyala Museum.



pipes, and other vital systems. Umdabaker (12 percent of installed capacity) suffered damage to cables, control systems, UPS units and turbines filters, because of fires from drones' attacks. In El Fasher station (western Sudan), transformers and diesel units were destroyed, and solar panels were looted. In Geneina power station (western Sudan), underground cables, copper busbars, control room wiring, spare parts, and office contents were looted, causing a total station shutdown. In El Obeid station (North Kordofan), storage units and administrative building were damaged. Transformers substation in Merowe Dam power generation station (31 percent of total installed capacity) was damaged and Jebel Aulia hydropower turbines station was damaged and is out of service.

A total of 26 distribution stations were completely damaged and 36 stations sustained partial damage; a total of 6,689 transformers transmissions suffered complete damage and 1,714 suffered partial damage; about 21,289 km of transmission lines of low and medium tension were damaged. About 50 percent of the transformer's substations were lost. The solar projects of the General Directorate of Renewable Energy were lost. The unprecedented damaged to electricity in Sudan will undeniably reduce number of populations covered by clean energy and halt progress in this goal.

Gender equality: The war in Sudan has robbed over 5 million girls of their education. The continuing attacks on healthcare facilities and workers in Sudan are depriving women and girls of life-saving healthcare, with pregnant women hardest hit. [13] About 1.63 million women of reproductive age lack access to adequate healthcare services. The conflict also increased cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a tactic of war by the militia.[14] Since December 2023, the number of survivors of GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence, seeking services increased by 288 per cent.[15] About 64 per cent of female-headed households are experiencing food insecurity compared to 48 per cent of male-headed households in ten states.[16]

Sustainable cities: Metropolitan Khartoum is one of the most populated cities on the African continent, houses about 20 percent of the total population of Sudan. Khartoum has been the epicenter of the war. The physical, economic, social, and cultural destruction of city was massive. The attacks have forced more than 3 million people, constituting 31 percent of the total displaced persons in Sudan, to flee their homes and the state. Number of deaths in Khartoum is high. The fighting destroyed many homes, government buildings, banks, factories, businesses, services and markets. The damage also extended to other towns like Medini, El Fasher, El Obied, and Nyala.

Culture, which has a crucial role to play in SDGs, was seriously affected by the conflict. Sudan has influences from different civilizations; Ancient Nubia, Pharaonic, Christian Kingdoms, Islamic civilizations like the Funj and Darfur Sultanates, as well as Ottoman and Mahdist, which produced strong heritage and culture. The RSF militia attacked all key historical sites, and destroyed museums, libraries, and art exhibitions. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated that risk

[13] WHO: 20 June 2023 News release.

[14] UN Women and Women Council Sudan: Women and Girls of Sudan Fortitude amid the flame of war -Gender alert no.1-september 2024.

[15] UN Women Press release 17 Dec 2024

[16] Relief web 27 Sep 2024- Sudan humanitarian crisis catastrophic impact for women and girls.

facing culture in Sudan is unprecedented, with reports of looting[17]. The National Museum, housing the world's greatest Nubian archaeological collection, antiques, the Ethnographic Museum, Sudan Natural History Museum, Military Museum and Republican Palace Museum, Khalifa House Museum in the Omdurman, Sultan Ali Dinar Museum in El Fasher, Al Geneina Museum and Nyala Museum were all destroyed and looted. Historical buildings were also attacked. The University of Khartoum historical buildings, and the old historical building of the Republican Palace sustained partial damage. The National Records Office, and the Sudan National Library were affected.



The environment: The violence has vastly compounded the situation of toxic waste. Extensive use of weapons and explosives in residential areas by the militia have left behind dangerous waste. Toxic materials released from explosive ordnances create risks for households and water facilities and distribution network. Destruction of specialized laboratories, hospitals, and pesticide stores have created potential leakage of dangerous materials. Accumulated garbage, the large volumes of military waste, including destroyed military vehicles, and civilians' vehicles, and debris of destroyed buildings create a major clean-up challenge. All these actions will have negative impacts on the environment indicators.

Response to the crises

The government succeeded in relocating its seat in Port Sudan away from war-torn Khartoum and resumed its functions. The focus of the government was initially on security, economic stabilization, and provision of basic services.

Following a collapse of the revenues, which declined by 80 percent in 2023 due to the devastation caused by the conflict, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) gradually regained control over the fiscal situation and improved revenue collection. Revenue has increased in 2024 reaching 13 percent of GDP compared to about 4.7 percent in 2023 and was even above the level of 9 percent achieved in 2022, the year before the conflict. This effort allowed the government to meet the urgent needs of defense and security, health, humanitarian assistance, water and electricity, and agriculture inputs. Economic growth although contracted by about 13 percent in 2024, however it has

[17] UNESCO press release 12 Sep. 2024.

improved compared to 2023 which recorded a drastic decline of 40 percent. Fiscal and monetary efforts resulted in general prices reduction; inflation rate continued to decline from 218 percent in August 2024 to 188 percent in December 2024 and further to 156.3 percent in April 2025. In July 2024, the CBOS launched a joint financing portfolio, in collaboration with commercial banks, with foreign exchange resources amounting to US$1 billion to meet essential imports. Since early 2025, official foreign exchange rate as well as the spread between the official and the parallel rate stabilized, compared to the preceding period of August-October 2024.

The banking sector started to function. Most banks relocated their headquarters to Port Sudan. The electronic transfer systems were regained and interbank transfers and electronic payment system for foreign trade had been restored after a 20-month suspension. CBOS took necessary measures for the protection of banks customers and ensure efficient banking services. CBOS successfully changed the currency to curb inflation, track looted money and fight circulation of counterfeit currency resulting from the conflict. The government managed to implement an electronic collection and payment system (Esali or my receipt). Procedure of opening bank accounts was eased to reduce money circulation, enhance financial inclusion, and restore economic stability. CBOS issued a circular to the banks to facilitate opening of accounts for persons with disabilities. The export import registry of businesses was retrieved. CBOS regained its supervision over the monetary sector.

The economy of the country is highly dependent on the agricultural sector, as 65 percent of its population is engaged in agriculture, and it is key to food security. The government was able to secure key inputs to provide agriculture production. Sudan's grain production has reached 6.6 million tons for 2024/2025 summer season, marking the highest production rate in five years and exceeding Sudan's annual food requirements of 5.5-6 million tons.

Schools were re-opened in most parts of the country, supplied with necessary teaching materials, and children resumed their education, remote learning were developed to ensure continuity of education for children who could not access schools, and Sudan Secondary Education Certificate Examination took place at the end of 2024. The Ministry of Health made colossal efforts to avoid an imminent collapse of the health system. The gap in lifesaving and essential drugs was closed, vaccines were provided, some hospitals and medical centers were opened to ensure the provision of basic diagnostic and treatment services including maternal and child health services. Mobile health clinics to increase health care outreach and ambulances were provided. Capacity to combat epidemics and reduce health and environmental risks was enhanced leading to reduction of main decreases like dengue fever to an acceptable level. Community health workers and community midwives were trained and deployed to bridge access gaps.

The number of IDPs in Sudan has declined by 2.4 per cent during January-March 2025, marking the first decline since the crisis erupted nearly two years ago. The decline is attributed to people return to their place of origin, because of Improvement in the security and living conditions, despite challenges in basic services. [18]

[18] IOM. News-Global, 25 March 2025

The grass root organizations played a pivotal role in supporting vulnerable groups. In conflict areas like Khartoum, where service delivery institutions and organizations evacuated the war zone areas, and the coping mechanisms of people eroded, grass root organizations like Takaya and Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) represented a lifeline for thousands of Sudanese for those remaining in conflict areas.

Box 1: Success story of Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) and Takaya or communal kitchens grass roots humanitarian initiatives.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the Security Council meeting on Sudan, in New York, 28 October 2024 "Sudan's over 700 Emergency Response Rooms are an inspiring example of grassroots humanitarian action…We can all draw inspiration from their example."

Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) is a youth- driven initiative, managed by young men and women, with different education and skills, based on deep-rooted Sudanese culture. They have reached vulnerable civilians with myriad assistance, like repairing damaged power lines, delivering medicines finding safe evacuation routes for people fleeing the conflict, providing water, setting up soup kitchens, assisting victims of sexual violence, and finding innovative solutions to help the communities in the war zones. They work under immense risks. They have reached more than four million civilians, by finding innovative solutions based on local knowledge.

Takaya or communal kitchens is a deep-rooted community-driven approaches, which was revived during the conflict. They assist the poor with food. Volunteers run the operation mainly from the neighborhood who buy food material, cook, prepare and distribute the meals for the needy without asking for identity or status. Takaya are funded by donations from Sudanese citizens including businesspeople, Sudanese diaspora, and able community members. Recently some Takaya started to provide additional services like provision of life saving medicines, first aid emergency care, temporary accommodation, and water supply. In Khartoum state for example there are about 1123 units of various capacities, with 20,000 volunteers and benefiting about 3.3 million persons. The government, and international organization started to support the Takaya to deliver humanitarian aid to war affected population.

2. Methodology and process of the review

The major theme of the 2025 VNR is to assess the impact of the conflict on all the SDGs, the realities it has created and the plans to bring progress back on track.

The preparation for the VNR was set in motion on the 5th of September when Sudan received the approval for presenting its third VNR to The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) which will convene on Monday, 14 July. The Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Unit (SDPRU) of the MOFEP was tasked to spearhead the VNR preparation. The process was overseen at a higher level by the multi-sectoral ministerial technical committee comprising undersecretaries of the line agencies.

A workplan plan was prepared by the SDPRU in consultation with relevant line agencies and endorsed by the Undersecretary of Planning. The work plan covered the VNR theme, budget, design of the consultative process, data requirements, preparation of the main messages, preparation of the VNR report, and the presentation arrangements. Timelines of the workplan were aligned with the deadlines for submission of the required deliverables to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), namely the main message, the final report, and the audio-visual materials for the VNR presentation. The work plan was endorsed by Cabinet Technical Committee on the 11th of November 2024.

The budget was prepared including cost of the consultant who will assist in the process, cost of the consultation's meetings, production of documents and materials, follow up expenses, translation expenses, and audio -visual materials. Funding was secured from the government budget and UNDP.

The SDPRU and other relevant agencies directly engaged in the preparation of the VNR attended several preparatory workshops that facilitated peer learning and exchange of experience for countries presenting their national reviews in 2025. Sudan participated in the first Global Workshop for the 2025 VNR organized by the UN DESA to raise awareness among government officials on the importance of monitoring progress and integrating the SDGs into national plans and policies. Sudan also attended the 11th workshop organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) as part of its effort to support Arab States in their VNRs preparations. The government attended the Eleventh secession of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 9-11 April 2025 and the regional preparatory workshop for the African VNR and VLR, 7-8 April 2025. SDPRU also attended the Arab Fourm for Sustainable Development in Beirut 14-16 April 2025. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) attended an online seminar on statistical work during wars and conflicts, organized by ESCWA where conflict countries shared their experiences on how to provide statistical data and overcome the challenges they face during these situations.

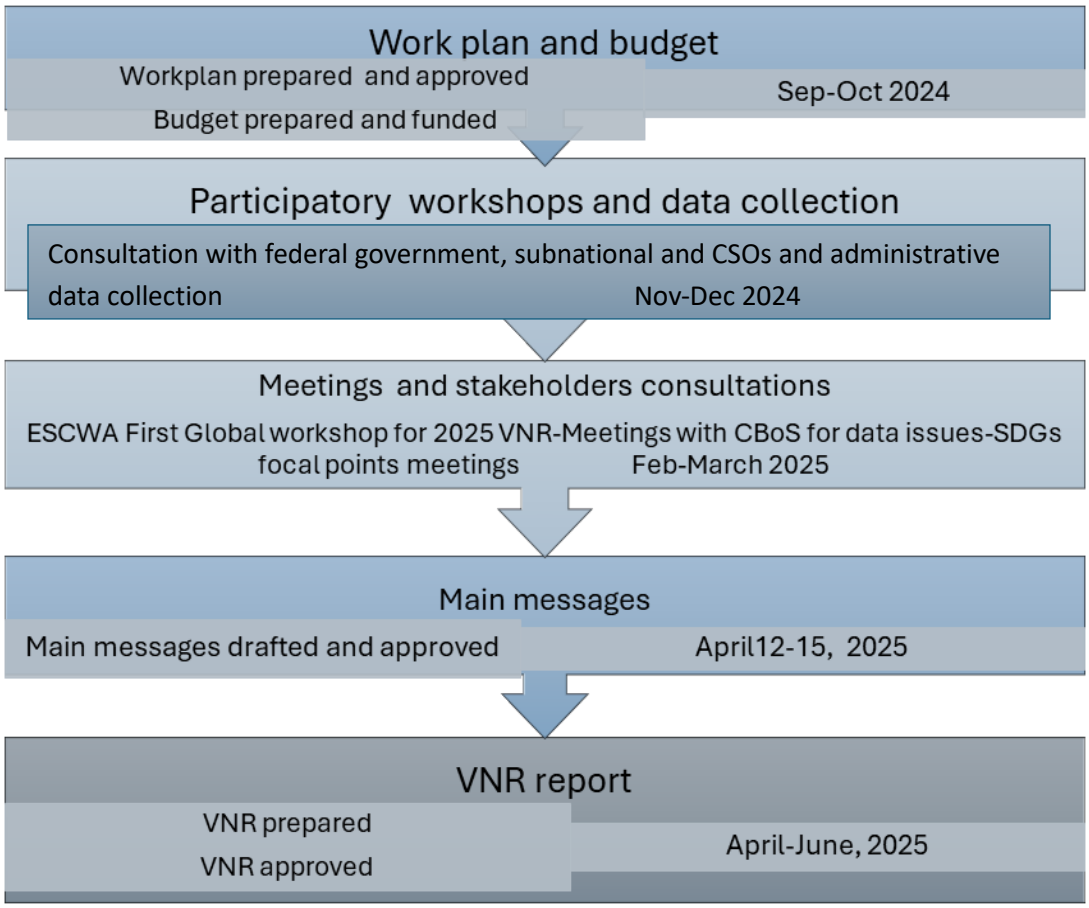
Diverse statistical data pertaining to SDGs have been collected and utilized to support an evidence-based preparation process. Statistical data was collected from the CBS. The CBS data was complemented by data from administrative records from MOFEP, ministries of General Education, Health, Agriculture and Forests, Social Development, and from CBOS, Sudanese Electricity Generation Company, National Water Corporation, and Forests National Corporation. Administrative data was collected by filling templates earmarked for information needed to measure SDGs indicators. The government data was complemented by data published by UN agencies, mainly health data from World Health Organization (WHO), water, nutrition, education data from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), agriculture and food security data from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), humanitarian assistance data from Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and migration data from International Organization for Migration (IOM). However, data is still a constraint for monitoring SDGs progress as stated in the previous 2022 VNR, in terms of availability, completeness, coverage and disaggregation. The planned national surveys such as Household Budget and Poverty Survey 2022, Multi-indicators

Cluster Survey 2023, Comprehensive Industrial Survey 2022, as well as Sixth Population and Housing Census and Comprehensive Agricultural Census have been stopped due to lack of funding. Also, the Multi-dimensional Poverty Survey 2023 and Labor Market Panel Survey 2022 that have been implemented are still in the process of data analysis. Data limitation was compounded by the security situation that interrupted data recording, and the loss of records.

Realizing the importance of localization of SDGs, data was collected from safer states of Red Sea, Kassala, River Nile and Gazira about social services. Data and information collected included assessment of performance before the conflict, impact of the conflict and efforts exerted by those states to provide these services, thereby contributing to the SDGs progress.

Taking an inclusive approach from the outset, the 2025 VNR is an outcome of a consultative process, which was based on a concerted effort from federal government agencies, subnational governments and civil society organizations. Selection of the civil society groups took into consideration the groups who are severely affected by the conflict like women, IDPs and persons with disabilities.

Figure 2: 2025 VNR preparation process.



3. Ownership of the process





As part of the preparation process for the 2025 VNR, the SDPRU has conducted series of consultations with different stakeholders. It has benefited from its wide network of focal points in the federal line agencies and the states. Consultations were planned around the purpose and focus of the consultations; areas of discussions; selection of key stakeholders; the methodology and issues related to awareness of SDGs.

The focus of the consultations was to obtain stakeholders' input on the impact of the conflict and the realities it has created for the progress towards realizing the SDGs, and how to get back on track. Key stakeholders are mainly from the federal government and subnational governments, IDPs, and civil society organizations. The selected groups included voices of those who are severely affected by the conflict like women, IDPs and persons with disabilities. Face-to-face consultations, virtual consultations and written contributions were used as a methodology to obtain stakeholders views.

The consultations acknowledged that the conflict caused a major setback for the progress in SDGs and enumerated the impacts and devastation. A major crisis resulting from the conflict is the forced displacement and loss of private property resulting from the attacks and looting by the militia across the country. The conflict has destroyed the economic base of the country. Transport was disrupted due to lack of security leading to disturbance in the supply chain. Consequently, the conflict reduced economic growth, creating scarcity which in turn resulted in higher inflation, food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty. It has also destroyed health facilities in the conflict zone, causing spread of diseases and

increased mortality rates. Reference was also made to mental health resulting from the war trauma. Deterioration in education was seen as a major concern since schools are closed for a long time. The population faced shortages of drinking water and electricity due to the frequent attacks on these facilities. Environmental problems like air and water pollution resulting from unburied corpses, shelling of water points, explosive remnants, absence of garbage collection, were voiced as a major concern.

Participants although indicated that the Sudanese population in general was devastated by the conflict, but identified IDPs, women and children, and persons with disabilities, as the groups which were disproportionally affected by the conflict.

Several ideas were voiced regarding bringing progress to achieve SDGs back on track. Attaining peace, social reconciliation, enforcing law and order, strengthening accountability and transparency in the government administration, were identified as a priority to pave the way for the implementation of other SDGs. Rehabilitation of destroyed facilities in the education, health, water supply and power, was seen as a clear priority, and was also linked to the rapid return of IDPs. Reviving the agriculture sector, being a main source of livelihood was identified as a priority. Resumption of industrial production particularly SMEs is needed. Rehabilitating market's infrastructure and restoring livelihood of small producers is deemed necessary. The reconstruction of statistical system, strengthening CBS and supporting statistical program are very crucial for data collection and production of statistics that reflect the current situation. The data should be provided to all partners and stakeholders for planning and programs designed for new era of Sudan after the war. The importance of addressing the environmental impacts of the conflict particularly in Khartoum and other urban areas including removing of explosive remnants and garbage collection was a clear outcome of the constitutive process.

A consensus emerging from the consultation pointed to the importance of resources mobilization. However, participants agreed that the government alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of the enormous needs of the post conflict reconstruction, and hence international assistance will be required. Partnership between the government, the private sector and the civil society must be established to rehabilitate the country.

Although it is important to meet the immediate needs, however, medium- and long-term reforms are required for reconstruction and sustainable development. Priorities included productive sectors, infrastructure including roads, railways, energy, services, combating poverty, and improving environment for private investments.

The consultations revealed that there are weaknesses in the awareness of SDGs, and the need for more advocacy emerged. Participants proposed that awareness efforts need to be enhanced using different means including seminars, workshops, NGOs and CBOS networks, media, mosques leaders, academics platforms, special SDGs pages in nonpolitical electronic media for youth, culture and arts, social clubs, private sector corporate responsibility, and school's curriculum.

4. Sudan's national post-conflict economic vision for reconstruction.



SDGs were incorporated in the Post-Conflict Economic Vision for Reconstruction and Compensations, which was prepared by a committee under the leadership of Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in August 2024 and submitted to the Sovereign Council. SDGs were also incorporated in medium term recovery plans for some sectors like education, health, and food security. The vision and the plans are based on immediate phase of humanitarian and recovery and a medium-term phase of reconstruction. Meeting immediate lifesaving humanitarian needs, and huge post-conflict recovery requirements to address the devastation caused by the conflict, while progressing toward medium-term sustainable development, makes delivering the SDGs more complicated.

In the immediate phase, it is critical to keep government running and provide essential services and restore livelihood means for the population. Damaged government buildings, bridges, airports, water and electricity facilities, schools, hospitals, and industrial areas, need to be reconstructed and rehabilitated. Garbage, rubble, human remains, and explosive remnants are to be cleaned. Agriculture inputs, teaching materials, medicines and medical supplies and equipment are to be provided. This face will help in halting the deterioration of SDGs indicators and put back the progress on the right path.

At the same time Sudan will face the unprecedented transition to medium- and long-term sustainable development. The basic element of the vision advocates the recovery, reconstruction and development of the different sectors in an integrated manner to achieve food security and sustainable economic and social development. The overarching objectives of the reconstruction vision are: stabilize the economy, rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure and invest in provision of basic services, create employment opportunities, encourage the private sector investments, promote good governance and enhance accountability and transparency, conserve the environment and sustainable natural resource management, enhance manpower development by improving education, training and upgrading skills, create international partnerships in the reconstruction and development stage, improve the national statistical system and strengthen data base to help in better planning.

Achieving economic stability is essential according to the targets of the vision. The economic growth is envisaged to turn positive reaching 6 percent by 2028 from -13 percent in 2024, while inflation rate will start to move gradually to lower figures reaching 24 percent by 2028 from 188 percent in December 2024. Financial inclusion will be enhanced by providing financing to the productive sectors and microfinance institutions. Digital financial services and innovation digital financial hubs as well as financial inclusion advocacy will be given priority. The bank's financial positions will be strengthened to ensure the delivery of stable financial services to the productive sectors, and geographical coverage of banks will be expanded.

The vision gave priority to the services sector. In the education sector, the objectives are to rehabilitate, reconstruct, and maintain schools and sanitation facilities, train teachers, ensure payment of their salaries, establish teacher's accommodations in rural areas, use of technology to ensure sustainability of education under crises, provide school feeding, and treat the war trauma for children. These priorities will help in increasing education completion rates, reduce dropouts' rate, and improve education quality. The health sector objectives are to resume operation of nonfunctioning health facilities, rehabilitate the damaged health facilities, provide medical supplies, restore the medicines supply chain, implement the project of reducing maternal and child mortality, give priority to combat epidemic diseases, and enhance manpower training. These interventions serve the good health agenda. In the area of social protection, the objective is to improve and diversify interventions of social protection (cash transfers, health insurance, free medic care, livelihood projects etc.) with focus on the vulnerable groups like women, persons with disabilities, orphans and IDPs as well as interventions for child protection.

The vision has covered actions for infrastructure development. The water sector priorities include availing spare parts, rehabilitating damaged water supply stations, restoring distribution network, providing water facilities with solar energy systems, providing water treatment materials, and increasing water supply from various sources. In electricity the plan is to rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure in existing generation facilities, distribution stations transmission lines, transformers and other facilities and implement in the medium-term new projects of thermal and hydro generation and implement the already existing plans for expanding alternative energy sources, to provide clean energy for all citizens. The infrastructure visons also incorporated the development and expansion of rail, air, road, river transport and seaports with opportunity of involving the private sector through direct investments and PPPs.

A high priority for the vision is to increase production. The vision aims to transform the agriculture sector from mostly subsistence to modern sector using more technical solution to achieve high yields, increase use of modern inputs, enable the sector to operate within an improved natural resource management, enhance forward linkages to agriculture processing, modernize the livestock sector and diversify agriculture exports. The vision has also set the direction for the development of the industrial sector by improving the investment environment for the private sector. The development of the productive sectors will increase food security, help in reducing malnutrition, reduce poverty, and increase economic growth and employment.

The economic recovery and long-term development will work within sound environment. The objectives are to address the environmental impacts of the conflict, improve natural resource management, reduce industrial waste, invest in renewable energy, ensure appropriate environmental measures in the oil industry, increase afforestation, prepare regulations to protect wetlands, and improve early warning

systems for droughts and floods. These objectives are consistent with halting environmental degradation and preserving biodiversity as advocated by international agenda.

The economic planning will be supported by an improved statistical system. The vision for the statistics in Sudan is to build Integrated and sustainable national statistical system for production, dissemination and use of statistics and sustainable development indicators, with focus on statistical legislation, statistical infrastructure, ICT infrastructure, statistics standards and methodologies, partnership, coordination, and sustainable resources for statistics.

5. Leave no one behind

The conflict has devastating consequences for all segments of the population and the violence has impacted all sectors. A prime objective of the recovery and reconstruction will be to increase economic growth, achieve stability by reducing inflation, and reduce poverty, which will have great impacts on all left behind. However, analysis of the stakeholder consultations, and data collected on the magnitude of humanitarian crises created by the conflict, revealed that the conflict shock has made IDPs, women, children, and persons with disabilities more vulnerable. Attention will be given to these groups.

IDPs

The conflict resulted in over 8.8 million new displacements within Sudan; in addition to 2.4 million who fled to neighboring countries.[19] The recent displacement after 15 April 2023 was more widespread. The IDPs originated from all 18 states in Sudan and were displaced to 10,238 locations in 185 localities, across all 18 states in Sudan.

IDPs, lost their belongings, employment, businesses, and savings, and they face the challenges of accessing essential services. About 61 percent of IDPs households are food insecure. They were more exposed to disease transmission compared to other population groups because of the overcrowding, limited access to safe water, adequate sanitation, severe shortages of food, and poor healthcare. In certain areas particularly in Darfur, the IDPs shelters were under repeated attacks by the militia.[20] IDPs returning to their homes, will also face many obstacles including, loss of their properties, and damaged or destroyed public infrastructure and poor service delivery, particularly water and electricity.

Children

Children endure the most of conflict in Sudan. Before the crisis, the situation of children was alarming, but it is aggravated after the recent conflict. The conflict has devastated the lives of 24 million children. Displacement remains a major source of vulnerability to children in Sudan. Attacks on the villages and towns left about 5 million children (53 percent of the total displaced) including one million children who

[1919] IOM: Displacement tracking matrix, Sudan mobility update 5 Feb 2025.
[20] IOM: UN Security Council- February 2025 and Sudan: Monthly Forecast Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) January 2025

crossed the borders, forcibly displaced. A quarter (26%) of the displaced were children under five-years-old. [21]

As of October 2023, more than 17 million school-aged children are out of school compared to the 7 million prior to the conflict. [22]The militia disrupted vaccination causing increase in childhood diseases, such as measles, to emerge. Acute malnutrition cases among children U5 have increased. Lack of clean water and environmental services resulted in the occurrence of multiple and recurrent vector and water born epidemics such as malaria, dengue fever, and cholera, which affect children. Sudan had a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 13.6 percent among children under five before the conflict, however as the result of the conflict this number has increased to 15 percent.[23] Children have suffered uncertainty, trauma and violence since the eruption of the conflict especially children trapped in areas affected by direct conflict.

Women

The conflict has intensified women's marginalization. Females constitute 54 percent of the IDPs. At least 80 per cent of the internally displaced women are unable to secure clean water due to affordability, safety concerns, and distance. Refugee camps and shelters offer little protection against gender-based violence.

Many women lost their income sources because of the militia attacks. Women were denied access to their farmlands in war affected rural areas due to lack of security. They lost their jobs in the urban towns because of the massive destruction to the economic base and displacement, and they lost their assets and livelihood means due to widespread destruction and looting of markets and businesses. The conflict also increased cases of GBV as a tactic of war by RSF militia.

Persons with disabilities

People with disabilities are more affected by the war compared to others. Their needs are overlooked or being insufficient. People with physical and visual disabilities cannot move away from conflict zones easily; people with hearing impairments will not be able to hear warnings. They will not know the way out or how to escape and are forced to endure the violence without any means of protection. Many of the persons with disabilities lost their aids, and their institutions were destroyed by the war including rehabilitation centers and prosthetic limbs institutions and factories. Persons with disabilities also face barriers in access to emergency food, shelters, medical care, water and sanitation.

Efforts to leave no one behind: The post-conflict reconstruction vision gave priority to peace, poverty reduction and social justice which will benefit vulnerable groups. A major pillar in the vision is women empowerment, eliminate discrimination against women, combat GBV and enhance women role

[21] UNICEF-Sudan: Sudan crises-A children's crises.
[22] UNICEF- Sudan: Press Release on 9 October 2023, 19 million children in Sudan out of school as conflict rages on – UNICEF, Save the Children
[23] Sudan-Minister of Health-Press Release, SUNA, 28 December 2024.

in the decision making. A specific section in the vision was devoted to the Child Welfare Council and the child related programs including child protection and services to children including quality education, good health, and social support. The Transitional Educational Plan 2025-2027 aims at increasing enrollment rate of children, and reduce drop out, improving quality of education and giving priority to children with disabilities and girls education. The social sector program in the vision gave priority to the vulnerable population, IDPs, women, children, and persons with disabilities. Ministry of Health main goal of the Post -conflict Recovery Plan is to achieve equitable health services.

The Humanitarian Needs plans by the international community put a strong emphasis and focus on addressing the needs of women, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in a dignified and gender-sensitive manner. They provide these groups with life-saving aid, protection, and access to basic services.

6. Institutional mechanisms

The SDGs institutional framework in the Sudan covers leadership, coordination, oversight bodies and implementation structures. The institutional framework was elaborated in 2022 VNR. The SDGs coordination was refined since 2020 to ensure better coordination. A technical committee headed by the Undersecretary of Planning in MOFEP, and composed of head executives of the concerned ministries and the Director General of CBS was formed under the High National Committee. The Undersecretary of Planning is also the rapporteur of the High National Committee, to ensure linkages between the two committees.

The CBS as the national statistical office in the country is responsible for collection of data from various sources and producing of SDGs indicators to measure the progress made in the implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and achieving the SDGs.

In 2019, the SDPRU was assigned the task of coordinating the SDGs, replacing the National Population Council. The SDPRU is a unit that reports directly to the undersecretary of planning in MOFEP. The main functions of the unit are: (i) Coordinating the SDGs and poverty reduction activities. (ii) Ensuring the streamlining of the SDGs in government strategies, plans, and budgets. (iii) Day to day coordination of SDGs activities within MOFEP. (iv) Raising awareness for the SDGs and PRSP. (v) Overseeing the National Integrated Financial Framework to support SDGs funding from all sources. (vi) Establish the monitoring and evaluations systems to track and evaluate SDGs progress. (vii) Lead SFGs advocacy and awareness activities. (viii) Reporting on progress made.

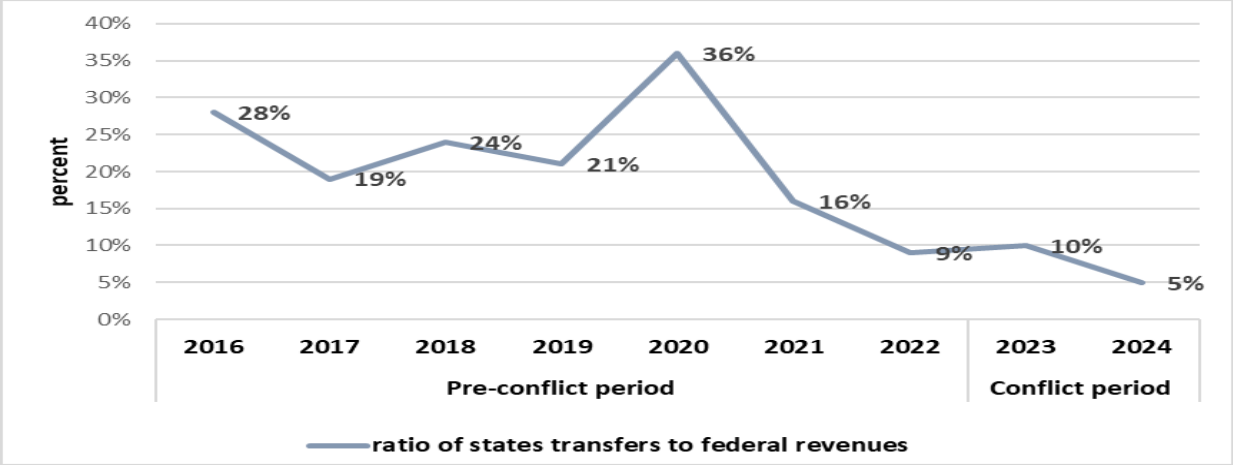
7. Localization of SDGs

The subnational governments in Sudan have pivotal role to play in achieving SDGs given their constitutional jurisdiction in the areas related to 2030 Agenda. States supported by their exclusive or concurrent powers, are responsible for general education, hospitals and health centers, child and

mother care, combating infectious and epidemic diseases, water and sanitation, environmental protection, combat against vector-borne diseases, assisting in poverty reduction, food security, environment conservation, women empowerment, and care for persons with disabilities as reflected in "The Organization of the Decentralized Governance Act (2020)".

The conflict has led to the collapse of many functions of the central government and worsened its fiscal position. MOFEP was unable to pay the regular allocations of state transfers, which constitute over half of the states' resources leading to negative impact on services delivery. Actual transfers paid during the conflict were about one quarter of pre conflict levels.[24]

Figure 3: Federal transfers to states.



Source: MOFEP -Sudan

The situation in the states in terms of service provision was aggravated by the large numbers of displaced from war zones (20 percent of the population), who were mainly hosted in safer states -Red Sea, Gadarif, Kassala, River Nile, Northern, White Nile, Blue Nile, North Kordofan, Sennar and Gazira (Gazira and Sennar were attacked later in 2024).

In safer states, the conflict has affected progress towards achieving relevant SDGs. Schools have turned into emergency shelters for IDPs. Classrooms, school furniture, latrines and water facilities were damaged because of the misuse, children were out of school for a long time, classrooms are overcrowded when schools reopened, teachers have not received their salaries for months. The health facilities are severely overburdened by displacement with pressure on the use of health equipment resulting in many equipment going out of services, and stocks of medicines were depleted. IDPs overcrowding have created a conducive environment for the spread of infectious diseases. Enormous displacement has placed exceedingly large strain on an already crumbling water system. The scarcity of

[24] The jump in the federal transfers ratio in 2020 was due to the unprecedented increase of wages by 569%, and states were not prepared to meet this sudden obligation, resulting in the federal government intervention to increase the states transfers. The figures for 2023 are for the period June-Dec.

clean and safe water has forced people to resort to unsuitable facilities which also increases the risk of waterborne diseases.

With the occupation of the capital Khartoum by the militia, safer states assumed a crucial role that saved the country from disintegrating. Despite losing much of the financial resources and hosting several millions of IDPs safer states have shown a high degree of resilience. Red Sea state hosted the federal government which succeeded in relocating its seat in Port Sudan, the Red Sea capital, away from war-torn Khartoum and resumed its functions.

Safer states managed to mobilize more revenues driven by increasing demand for goods and services from the substantial number of persons migrating from war zones like Khartoum, who stimulated local economies. Gold producing states boosted their return from mining activities. Efforts to improve tax collection efficiency was adopted. Own revenues (excluding grants from organizations) for selected safer states, except North Kordofan state- a war zone area-increased in 2024 three to four times as compared to pre conflict period. Expenditures were rationalized and confined only to basic services (see table 1).

Table 1: Revenue and expenditure in SDG billion for selected states

Red Sea state	Pre-conflict	Conflict		**River Nile state**	Pre-conflict	Conflict	
	2021	2023	2024		2022	2023	2024
Total Revenue	7.3	46.2	105.3	Total Revenue	61.6	51.1	106.4
Own revenues	3.0	35.1	93.4	Own revenues	38.5	41.4	78.8
Grants	4.3	11.1	11.9	Grants	23.1	9.7	27.6
Total Expenditures	8.3	45.8	80.9	Total Expenditures of	53.5	52.1	
Wages	4.4	21.8	24.5	Wages	23.6	23.4	112.5
Goods and services	1.3	22.7	52.7	Goods and services	7.6	11.1	30.7
Development	2.6	1.3	3.7	Development	22.3	17.6	44.5
Kassala state	Pre-conflict	Conflict		**North Kordofan state**	**Pre-conflict**	**Conflict**	
	2021	2023	2024		**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Total Revenue	16.4	34.2	78.5	Total Revenue	38.4	20.3	24.2
Own revenues	3.4	15.3	58.1	Own revenues	11.5	7.6	11.8
Grants	13.0	18.9	20.4	Grants	26.9	12.7	12.4
Total Expenditures	16.8	55.7	110.1	Total Expenditures of	41.9	25.4	33.9
Wages	8.7	29.3	44.3	Wages	26.5	15	15.1
Goods and services	4.7	8.4	25.1	Goods and services	6.5	6.8	7.6
Development	3.4	18.0	40.7	Development	8.9	3.6	11.2

Source: National Chamber of Accounts. States closed annual accounts 2021-2024.

States, with sound management of resources, despite pressures, succeeded in maintaining law and order in their respective states and provide basic services for their communities and the IDPs. States managed to regain the education system. Schools reopened, Sudan school certificate exams completed, medicines were made available, several health facilities were equipped, endemic diseases retreated to reasonable level, many water facilities were brought to service after being equipped with solar energy source, agriculture production recovered, and food security situation improved. States strengthened relation with donors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) contributed to the improvement of service provision.

To achieve further progress in SDGs, states need to be assisted. States will require substantial foreign assistance from development partners to rehabilitate the facilities which were destroyed by the conflict or damaged because of pressure from IDPs. Attracting external assistance, in collaboration with the federal government, is important to strengthen implementation of localized SDG.

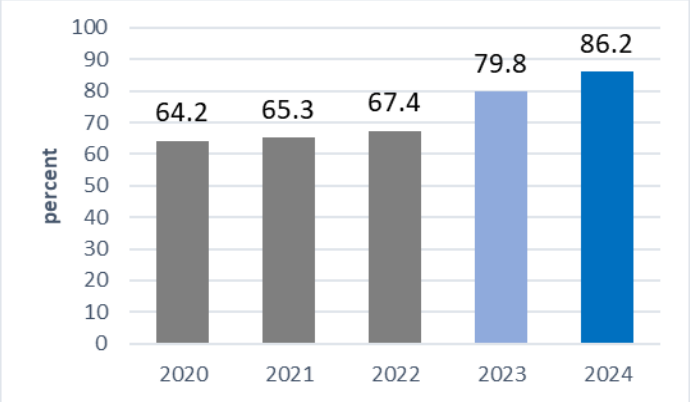
The federal government will resume its normal level of transfers to the states as the fiscal situation improves. However, to improve localization of SDGs it is essential to strengthen the state's fiscal space by mobilizing more states revenues and improving capacities to implement sound PFM. Assistance, using tools like the Public Expenditure Financial Assessment (PEFA) and Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) is required to assess revenue mobilization process and provide capacity building to enhance states revenue collection. States will need capacity building to improve localization of SDGs. There is need for awareness training in localization of SDGs, engaging local communities, improving data collection, producing SDGs indicators, integrating SDGs into local plans, and monitoring and reporting of SDGs progress.

8. SDGs progress.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Poverty trend indicates that the rate of poverty has increased from 46.5 percent in 2009 to 61.1 percent in 2014 and is estimated to have increased to 64.2 percent in 2020 as reflected in the 2022 VNR. Sudan has formulated a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), a comprehensive strategy covering the period 2021-2023, aimed at reducing poverty across Sudan. The PRSP was prepared within a government debt relief strategy under the HIPCs. The October 25, 2021, military takeover, caused the development partners to pause their aid programs, including support to the PRSP. Nonetheless, the government implemented economic reform measures in 2021 and 2022 to reduce poverty. Poverty is still high in 2022, but the rate of increase in poverty decelerated to about

Figure 4: Percent of population under the international poverty line



Source: World Bank: Sudan. Macro Poverty Outlook for Sudan-October 2024 Datasheet

1.5 percent on average during 2020-2022. [25]

However, the above poverty reduction efforts were disrupted by the conflict since 2023. Many more people were thrown into poverty. The World Bank estimated that poverty rate during the conflict is expected to have risen to 79.8 percent in 2023 and 86.2 percent in 2024 as shown in figure 4.[26] The poverty increase was driven by the negative economic growth, high inflation and large displacement caused by the conflict. Economic growth, the single most crucial factor influencing poverty, is shrinking in 2023 and 2024 to two-thirds of its 2022 pre-conflict level. Soaring prices which erode incomes and reduce consumption is likely to have worsened poverty. Inflation rate increased steeply from 47.8 percent in March 2023, one month before the war to 92.7 percent by end year 2023[27] and soared to triple-digit of 188 percent by end 2024[28] . It is also expected that poverty is worsened by the large number of displaced people and loss of their belongings and employment. The poverty situation is aggravated further by the floods in 2024. About 4 million hectares (ha) across the country were affected by floods, impacting around 41 percent of cropland, riverine or rain-induced, in addition to the collapse of houses, damage to public institutions and the disruption of livelihood activities.

Social protection: The government was implementing a strong effective social safety net program to reduce poverty and vulnerability. The program included cash transfers, covering medical expenses (treatment in emergency rooms, life savings drugs, free medical treatment for children under five and free medical care for certain diseases), supporting the poor through the National Health Insurance Fund, and support delivered by the National Pension and Social Insurance Fund. However, this program was impacted by the conflict. The conflict resulted in drastic decline in the government resources, and consequently expenditure in this program declined from about 9-7 percent of revenue in 2020-2022 to 2.5 percent of revenue in 2023, the first year of the conflict, but started to pick up in 2024 to reach 3.7 percent of revenue (see table 2).

Table 2: Federal expenditure in social benefits in SDG million

	2020	2021	2022*	2023 (June-dec)	2024
Support to free medic care	11,579	18,190	30,000	6,000	67,150
Support to health insurance for the poor	14,666	41,912	106,370	11,500	70,439
Support to health	0	15,388	17,000	17,100	57,573
Cash support for poor families	3,240	20,345	24,000	0	5,024
Support to poor students	36	979	1200	180	3,700
Social activities	2,458	10,629	0	1,604	17,213
others	7,283	18,607	37,622	12,690	39,830
total	39,262	126,050	216,192	49,074	260,929
In percent of revenues	16%	11%	8%	4%	5%
In percent of current expenditure	8.6%	8.3%	6.8%	2.5%	3.7%

Source: MOFEP

[25] World Bank: Sudan Macro Poverty Outlook -MPO
[26] World Bank: Sudan Macro Poverty Outlook -MPO
[27] Central Bureau of Statistics, CPI report 2023
28 Central Bureau of Statistics CPI Report Dec 2024

Despite challenges, the Social Protection and Poverty Reduction Commission succeed in delivering cash transfers to vulnerable families affected by the conflict including persons in extreme poverty, and persons with disabilities, IDPs shelters, voluntary return, medical treatment for the poor, and orphans. The commission, jointly with international partners, implemented Mother and Child Cash Transfer program, an integrated social protection program that provides vulnerable pregnant women and lactating mothers with regular cash assistance, in combination with knowledge, skills and access to basic health, nutrition and protection services. CBOS has increased the credit ceiling to microfinance institutions. A total number of 1024 health facilities were regained by the Health Insurance Fund. The government has documented the number of children soldiers recruited by the militia. The government has also established safe centers for women who were the victims of the militia violence.

The grassroot organizations initiative of EERs and the community kitchens made significant contribution to mitigate the impacts of poverty particularly in war zones by providing shelter, food, medicines, repairing and maintaining basic services.

Way forward: Poverty reduction is a main pillar in the government post-conflict vision for recovery and reconstruction. The social sector polices of the vision has clearly focused on poverty reduction as a main objective to be addressed, with a focus on increasing inclusive growth, reducing unemployment, improving social services, and implementing social programs. The social safety nets programs include provision of microfinance projects, cash transfers, free medical care, school feeding, and other social safety net projects.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

A Large number, estimated at 9.6 million, representing 21 percent of the population, were facing high acute food insecurity situation (IPC3 and above) in 2020, whose situation was compounded by the impacts of the COVID 19. However, the situation deteriorated to an unprecedented level after the conflict; the number food unsecured increased to 25.6 million persons or 54 percent of the population (June -September 2024)**.** [29] The food insecurity was largely attributed to the disruption of food production in addition to displacement, loss of incomes and inflation. The most affected groups are host communities, IDPs, communities stranded in conflict zones in Khartoum state, Gazira state, Darfur region, Kordofan, some parts of Blue Nile state and children.

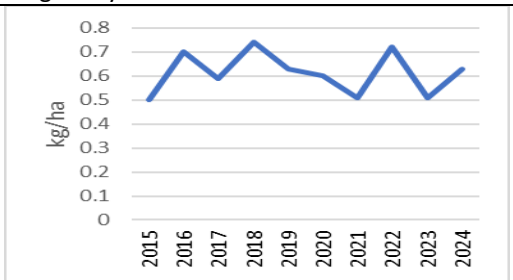
Agriculture is important for food security. Agriculture production in 2023 was affected by the conflict. The militia expanded its attacks in December 2023 to Gazira scheme, by far the largest irrigated project in the country, and damaged irrigation infrastructures, storage facilities and standing crops, affecting the winter wheat harvest. The conflict has resulted in shortages of inputs. Sees, fertilizers, herbicides, fuel, and labor were inadequate and at high prices because the conflict has affected availability of foreign exchange and labor movement. Shortages of machinery also occurred because of the destruction of the supplier's businesses, especially in the areas directly affected by the conflict. Credit provided by the Agriculture Bank of Sudan was severely affected by the ongoing conflict which disrupted its activities;

[29] Sudan, Food Security Unit -Ministry Agriculture, Report to the 2025 VNR.

credit provided for the summer cropping season in 2023, was almost 40 percent less compared to 2022. However, in 2024 agriculture production improved. Ministry of agriculture has assisted farmers with improved seeds, access to markets, supply chains and support to livestock production. Government efforts coupled with favorable weather conditions and absence of pests and diseases contributed to the large production increase. Ministry of Agriculture focused on yields increase by improving agriculture practices and providing inputs in time. Grain production increased to 6.6 million tons above the annual food requirements of about 5.5 -6 million tons (see figure 5).

Yields for major crops particularly food crops are still low in Sudan. The poor productivity is explained by the weak research output, and low use of fertilizers and improved seed varieties. Poor infrastructure particularly feeder roads, undeveloped markets also discourage improvement in agriculture production (see figure 5).

Figure 5: Production of grains and sorghum yields.

Year	Grain Production	Sorghum yields
2021	5 million tons, 35 percent below the previous year and 30 percent below average of previous five years.	
2022	7.4 million tons, 45 percent above the previous year and 13 percent above average of the previous five years.	
2023	4.1 million tons, 45 percent below the previous year and 40 percent below average of the previous five years.	
2024	6.6 million tons, 62 percent higher than previous year and 7 percent above average of the previous five years.	

Source: FAO Special reports of Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to the Republic of Sudan and Press conference for Minister of Agriculture -March 11-2025 for 2024 season

Sudan had a GAM rate of 13.6 percent among children under five; the conflict has largely contributed to the increase in malnutrition rate, which is estimated to have reached 15% in 24 localities, increasing to 30 percent in some areas under the control of the militia in North Darfur state in 2024. About 3.7 million cases of malnourished children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding women or girls in need of treatment for acute malnutrition.[30]

The high malnutrition rate in Sudan is driven by the inadequate intake of nutritious food, compounded by several underlying causes including food insecurity, poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation, spread of disease, and poor health services.

Way forward: A committee for the rehabilitation of the agriculture sector was formed to revitalize the agriculture sector, improve food security and address the damage caused by the war. To improve agriculture production, the government immediate plan is to support availability of, and access to, agricultural inputs, including tools, machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and provide credit. In the medium term, the priority is to improve agriculture research especially improved seeds, capacity building of staff and farmers to use modern technological packages to increase yields, and rehabilitation of destroyed agriculture infrastructure.

[30] Sudan News Agency: Minster of Health press release 28 Dec. 2024.

Sudan has prepared its action tracks for the UN Food Summit in 2021 along the five action tracks developed by the conference namely to: (1) Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, (2) Shift to sustainable consumption patterns, (3) Boost nature-positive production, (4) Advance equitable livelihoods, and (5) Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. Sudan Food Security Technical Secretariat in collaboration with the Red Sea state Food Security Technical Secretariat, has implemented the improving food security and nutrition project.

The Ministry of Health intervention to reduce the malnutrition, supported by international partners, is based on an integrated package of malnutrition specific treatment and nutrition related activities. The intervention comprised food and supplementation items for children and pregnant women, early detection and treatment, increased focus on expanding health coverage, and adopting a multi sectoral plan to address the triggers of malnutrition like improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Sudan has made some progress in the health sector particularly in advancing maternal and child health, increasing immunization coverage, and controlling infectious diseases like TB, HIV and malaria. During 2020 to 2022, the health sector faced considerable challenges, political instability, which resulted in the loss of substantial financial support from international donors, and the impacts of the heavy rains and floods, resulting in increased malaria cases and epidemics of cholera and dengue fever.

Despite these challenges the Ministry of Health was able to formulate necessary plans to address them. The ministry has adopted a National Health Recovery and Reform Policy, aligned with goal 3, aiming at universal health coverage, improving PHC services with a new model of care to ensure good quality services including those for women and children, better responding to epidemics, and improving the resilience of the health system. The National Medical Supply Fund has also developed and endorsed a 5-year strategy that includes humanitarian response activities, supply chain emergency plan, and interventions to ensure availability essential medicines and supplies. The National Community Health System Strategy was also adopted to provide health services at the community level, especially for the communities deprived of health services.

However, the health system was devastated by the conflict in 2023. Direct attacks have been launched against the health infrastructure by the militia. More than 70% of the health facilities in the conflict affected states (or 30% in the whole country) were completely or partially non-functional[31]. The National Public Health Laboratory, and the Central Blood Bank were damaged. The National Medical Supplies Fund was destroyed, and its warehouse were looted. About 70 percent of the specialized services and the related equipment of main oncology (atomic hospital), the cardiac surgery and medicine hospitals, gastrointestinal endoscopy - orthopedics - pediatric surgery, and diagnostic services were lost. The militia also looted pharmaceutical factories, pharmacies, cold chains including lifesaving vaccination and insulin doses for children, and ambulances. About 30 percent of the routine health information data was lost due to the destruction of the servers of the electronic health information system (DHIS2). Large number of qualified medical personnel migrated outside the country.

[31] Sudan, UNOCHA: Humanitarian Relief Plan 2024.

The destruction of the health facilities caused remarkable reduction in the services provision, while the health facilities in safer states are severely overburdened by displacement. As a result of the disruption and delay in vaccination, vaccine preventable childhood diseases such as measles emerged and acute malnutrition cases among children U5 increased. Disruption in the routine environmental services resulted in the occurrence of multiple and recurrent vector and water born epidemics such as malaria, dengue fever, and cholera. The situation was further aggravated by soil and water environmental pollution caused by war remnants and corpses, and the damage of water supply stations. Disturbances in PHC led to higher maternal and child mortality. Reduced health care affected large number of people with chronic non-communicable diseases. War and displacement increased the psychological trauma; exacerbated by the absence of mental health support. Some of the health indicators deteriorated (see table 3)

Table 3: Health indicators

Indicator	2021	2022	2023	2024	Note
Maternal mortality ratio	1330	1271	1001	1210	Per 100.000 live birth (LB)
U5 mortality rate	53.4	52	NA	NA	Per 1000 LB
Malaria cases per 1000 persons	32.5	24.7	8	11.07	Source national program of Malaria
TB cases per 1000 persons	67	57	50	54	National TB Program survey
New cases of HIV/ AIDs	2256	3252	1807	1762	National HIV/ AIDs annual survey

Source: Ministry of Health. Report to SDPRU -MOFEP 2025

The Ministry of Health implemented several actions during the conflict to respond to the crises, and to avert the collapse of the health system. These measures included: i) Securing essential medical drugs and medical consumables. ii) Ensuring the continuity of maternal and child health services. iii) Enhancing the country's capacity to combat epidemics and reduce health and environmental risks. iv) Operating hospitals and medical centers to ensure the provision of basic diagnostic and treatment services. v) Leading health efforts with health partners at all levels.

Key reforms were implemented to promote mother and child health including strategies to increase health facility coverage, and deployment of trained community health workers and community midwives, to bridge access gaps, especially in rural and conflict-affected regions. Community Referral Networks have been established in collaboration with local communities to enhance access to maternal health services. Mobile Clinics, particularly in rural and under-served areas, supported by international organizations were deployed to strengthen primary health care services, reduce maternal and child mortality rates, and preventable illnesses. Collaboration with International partners was strengthened to ensure delivery of essential services, and to narrow gaps in maternal and child healthcare services.

Way forward: Several challenges remain to bring back the good health goal back on track. To address these challenges an action plan for the health in Sudan aims at ensuring equitable and sustainable health services was developed. The mission of the plan is achieving SDGs of the healthcare system through working, cooperating, and coordinating with all stakeholders by implementing a policy of integrating health into all policies and contributing to achieving and preserving peace. The core principles of the action plan are to achieve decentralization, resilience, phased approach and agile in the

health sector. The plan rests on certain prerequisites which are, good governance, establish partnerships /Blue Ocean strategy, and promote national capabilities.

The main interventions in the plan aim to i) strengthen the healthcare system to be able to address all health threats and emergencies, while providing good and equitable healthcare services with the aim of achieving comprehensive health coverage; ii) invest in upgrading the capacities of the health staff by training and conclude strategic agreements with diaspora to develop Sudan's healthcare sector; ii) achieve a sustainable financing system by reforming the healthcare system and establish financing synergies between finance, health, and health insurance, drawing on the experiences of other countries in achieving comprehensive insurance coverage and iii) map the health needs and healthcare services

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The progress achieved in education during 2015-2019 continued through 2022, the year before the conflict. Several reforms embedded in the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2023, were implemented by the Ministry of Education. Spending on education has increased; MOFEP earmarked an additional allocation of 1-2 percent of the fiscal transfers to states for education. More schools in primary and secondary education were built, and more teachers were recruited. Curriculum reforms were accomplished. Awareness campaigns and partnerships with community organizations and religious leaders were carried out to boost girls' education. Child friendly schools were also established.

Partnerships with international organizations have played a pivotal role in the enhancement of education in Sudan. Assistance to the sector included construction of classrooms, establishment of water and sanitation infrastructure in schools, teachers training, school grants, learning space for displaced, and innovative e-learning.

As a result of these efforts, total number of primary schools increased by 4 percent in 2022 compared to 2019, and by 23 percent compared to 2015. Total number of secondary schools increased by 3 percent in 2022 compared to 2019, and by about 57 percent compared to 2015. Enrollment rates in primary education increased from 73.1 percent in 2019 to 73.7 percent in 2022, and for secondary education from 39.7 percent to 40.3 percent. Completion rates for primary schools improved by 10 percent and for secondary schools by 2.3 percent in 2022 compared to 2015. Gender parity index in primary education, has improved in 2022, and was in favor of girls in secondary education.

Table 4: General education indicators

	2015	2019	2022
Number of primary education schools	17,173	20,432	21,194
Number of secondary education schools	3,769	5,753	5,913
Completion rate in primary education	56.1	61.6	62.2
Completion rate in secondary education	39.3	42.1	40.2
Percent of trained primary education teachers	64.5	58.5	63.9
Percent of trained secondary education teachers	66.2	62.8	65.8
Parity rate in primary education	0.93	0.95	0.99
Parity rate in secondary education	1.0	1.1	1.1

Source: Ministry of General Education. Report to Report to SDPRU -MOFEP 2025

However, the attacks by the RSF militia in April 2023 devastated the education sector. The conflict halted progress in the education sector reforms. About 5 million children fled their homes. Schools have been destroyed in war-ravaged states. In safer states schools were turned into shelters for displaced people and sustained some damage. The education administration premises in conflict zones including the Ministry of Education were destroyed. Teachers training programs were distributed due to the security situation and displacement of teachers. Schools were closed. Nearly 17 million children have been out of school for two years. [32]

In collaboration with international partners, the government started to gradually restore the education system during the conflict. Schools in safer states have reopened, teachers' salaries started to be paid, temporary schools in IDP shelters were opened, teaching materials were supplied, Sudan School Certificate examination was conducted, many damaged schools in safer states were maintained, textbook were provided, and distant learning facilities were established.

However, Sudan is facing dire situation to restore the education system and bring the SDG goal on education back on track. Challenges that need to be addressed include rehabilitation of schools, supplying school with materials, teachers training and reduce number of dropouts.

Way forward: The Ministry of Education formulated its Transitional Educational Plan 2025-2027. The priorities of the plan encompass: reconstruction of destroyed schools, rehabilitation of schools' sanitation and drainage facilities, provision of seating, textbooks, and teaching materials, and ensuring that school grounds are free from weapons and explosive remnants of war. The plan also targeted increase of enrollment in vocational and technical education, reform of curriculum, and expansion of teachers training. Special interventions were accorded to vulnerable children including children in the war zone, IDPs, nomadic population, refugees, and children with disabilities. Specific interventions that received attention in the plan is the reduction of school dropouts with such interventions like school feeding programs, improving electronic learning facilities, vocational training, and physiological counselling. Building the capacities of the stakeholders in education, especially in emergency situations, was also incorporated as a priority.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

During 2020-2022, several programs were implemented by the Savings and Social Development Bank, and the Family Bank, supervised by the Ministry of Social Development, to empower women economically. The programs included both project financing and capacity building for women. Women were also supported by the Ministry of Social Development in programs of food security and other interventions designed to face climate change particularly in the agriculture sector.

The conflict has interrupted programs targeting women. Security concerns prohibited women from farming. The massive destruction to the economic base, markets, and factories in addition to displacement, resulted in loss of jobs and incomes for women. Moreover, the conflict has intensified women's marginalization. It has displaced more women; females constitute over half of the IDPs. Most

[32] UNICEF: Geneva Palais briefing note: Children in Sudan: a generation at risk -14 March 2025

displaced women are unable to secure clean water due to affordability, safety concerns, and distance. GBV has increased resulting in more suffering for women.

Despite challenges imposed by the war, the Ministry of Social Development has implemented several social protection programs to economically empower women and girls. Programs were implemented within the framework of rural women project and projects targeting local communities affected by the militia attacks in 11 states.

Way forward: The government vision targeted women as cross-sectional interventions in all the sectors. Women empowerment is a major pillar in the vision for the Social Development sector. Measures will be taken to eliminate violence against women, and all other form of harmful practices against women. More women will be targeted with social development programs and projects. These projects will include microfinance projects to alleviate poverty and unleash the productive capacities of the communities. Funding will be secured for women from the resources deposited by MOFEP in the Savings and Social Development Bank. Coverage of women with training programs that will help them in self-employment and improve the role of women in the decision-making process will be expanded.

Priority will be given to the protection of women in conflict affected areas. The government will prepare the second executive plan for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) linking gender equality to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all policy.

About 70 percent of households have access to improved drinking water sources, before the conflict, an increase from 60 percent in 2013, benefiting from investment undertaken by the government and the development partners.

However, the conflict affected the water supply sector. The water stations, treatment plants and sanitation facilities in conflict areas were under attacks and suffered losses. About 8 water stations in Khartoum state, producing 800,000 cm per day representing 50 percent of the total water production in the state, housing about 22 percent of Sudan's population. Water treatment plant in Khartoum North was damaged in the first days of the conflict and stopped operating; the plant produced more than 300,000 cub m per day covering most of the areas in Khartoum North. Consequently, households in these areas resorted to the consumption of contaminated water from venders. Water yards stopped operating in some conflict areas due to power shortage from the national grid or due to the shortage in fuel for the generators. Solar systems installed in the water stations were looted. In safer states, pressure on the existing water facilities due to large numbers of displaced population, is mounting, leading to water shortages and contamination. Water stations were also affected by frequent power cuts, resulting in reduced supply. The conflict also caused disruption of the supply chains, maintenance, and repairs, in the water sector along with brain drain of technical staff. Rural water facilities were also damaged. These factors have contributed to a significant decline in access to safe drinking water, reversing progress on improved water supply access.

The water authorities restlessly worked to maintain, provide treatment materials, and operate Al Manara water station, which was damaged by the conflict. Their efforts have created a success story in the water sector as the station continued to provide water supply during the conflict and up until now for the

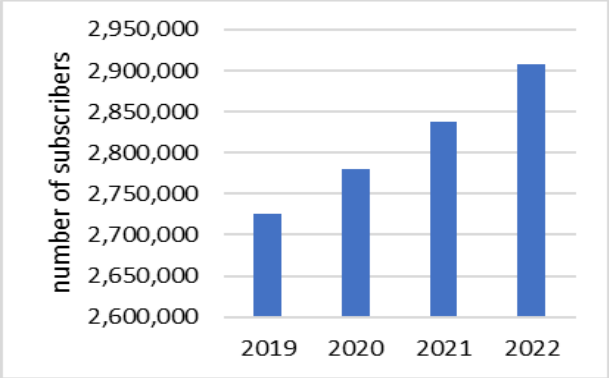
population of Omdurman city. Local communities and international partners played a crucial role in the resumption of damaged water supply in many areas. The water sector realized interlinkages between WASH, health, and renewable energy has intensified its coordination activities with the relevant sectors to ensure better integration of water and sanitation with the other sectors.

Way forward: Future plan for the water sector in the post-conflict reconstruction vision, includes: rehabilitation of the destroyed water facilities, establishing new water supply and water treatment facilities, encouraging private sector to participate in increased water supply provision and maintenance, using seasonal water sources to establish water harvesting techniques to increase water supply, expanding water harvesting projects, applying administrative reforms to increase water use efficiency, improving information for better water sector planning, and providing training.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

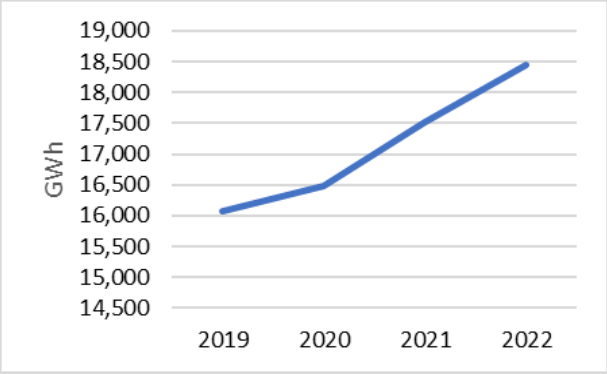
Despite efforts to increase electricity thermal and hydro generation in the past, however, about 60 percent of the population do not have access to electricity as of 2022. Sudan had plans to invest more in thermal generation. Efforts exerted by electricity resulted in increased number of electricity subscribers.

Figure 6 Number of electricity subscribers 2019-202



Source: Source: Sudan Electricity Holding Company. Report to SDPRU -MOFEP 2025

Figure 7: Electricity generation in GWh 2019-2022



Source: Sudan Electricity Holding Company. Report to SDPRU -MOFEP 2025

and an increased generation capacity during 2019-2022 as shown in the figures 6 and 7 below. New projects including Fula (700 MW), Gerri 3 (530 MW) Kalneeb Port Sudan (374 MW) were prepared awaiting financing. In addition, plans to increase electricity imports from two neighboring countries, Ethiopia and Egypt were finalized. These developments were expected to add about 40 percent of power to the existing electricity supply system and increase electricity coverage to about 80 percent of the population.

However, the militia systematically attacked the power sector during the conflict. Electricity thermal and hydro stations were viciously attacked by drones, and several other power stations were occupied by the militia. The security risks and occupation of the electricity stations have also delayed regular maintenance operations. These damages resulted in many people being left without electricity supply

while others are facing frequent blackouts and shedding. Electricity revenues dwindled, debt accumulated, and buildings, office equipment damaged, and vehicles of the electricity companies were damaged, staff records missing, qualified staff migrated, shortages in spare parts emerged, security problems and difficulty of movements hindered maintenance operations, and the national grid is fragmented. Major new projects that are expected to increase the supply of electricity coverage were put on hold.

Electricity staff working under extremely high pressure, and drone attacks, managed to return power supply to many parts of the country, exerting laborious maintenance work. The electricity company managed to provide spare parts and inputs like fuel to resume electricity generation in the damaged electricity stations. The national grid was being operated with high efficiency despite the fragmentation difficulties. Rehabilitation and refurbishment of staff accommodation and offices and provision of mobility means to create conducive environment for the staff to resume their work has commenced.

Way forward: Electricity has developed a short-term plan for the year 2025. The objective is to provide stable and regular power supply with optimal cost, attain 11 million GWh of electricity generation in 2025, increase generation and distribution from existing capacities, enhance maintenance, and provide specialized training for at least 35 percent of the workers. In hydropower sub sector, the aim is to upgrade Roseries power station, establish new power stations in Sennar dam, Roseries dam and Merwe dam. The plan also targets, restarting operations in Geri 4, four turbines in Geri1, maintenance of Umdabaker power station, resume working in Geri3 and Clanaiaab thermal plant, and procure mobile units for Port Sudan. A priority in the electricity distribution system is to undertake emergency and preventive maintenance for the transmission lines and transformers stations, procuring transformers and establish the transmission line of Port Sudan Atbara Alkabashi (760 km). The plan will also achieve modernization in prepaid electricity billing system, implement the studies of establishing solar power plants that are connected to the national grid in 6 states, expanding the establishment of isolated solar mini grids, conclude agreements with regional and international partners to invest in power, improve electricity management, monitoring and information systems, enhance protection protocols, and expand training.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

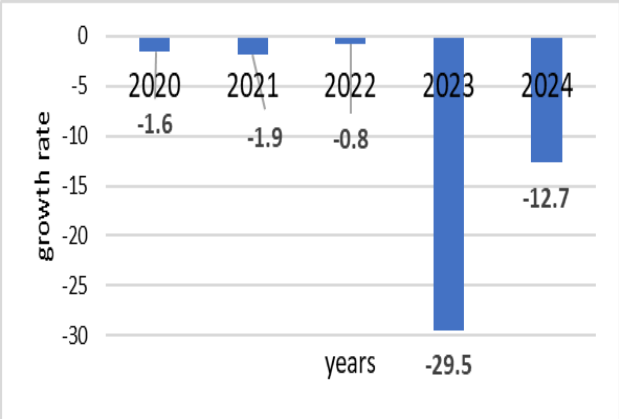
Economic growth: GDP recorded -1.6 percent 2020.-1.9 percent in 2021 and -0.8 in 2022.[33] This improvement during 2021-2022 was driven by expanded agriculture and livestock production and growth in gold exports and better access to services. The economy was expected to turn positive in 2023 at 1.4 percent and to gain momentum thereafter.[34] Instead, because of the conflict, the economic growth shrunk by about 30 percent in 2023 and 13 percent in 2024 far from the SDGs target of 7 percent annual growth rate per annum (see figure 8).

The dismal performance of the economic growth was driven by the militia attacks on the economic sectors, affecting all the sectors: agriculture, industry, and services. The conflict has caused a decline in

[33] CBS: National Accounts Report 2018-2023
[34] MOFEP: 2023 budget document.

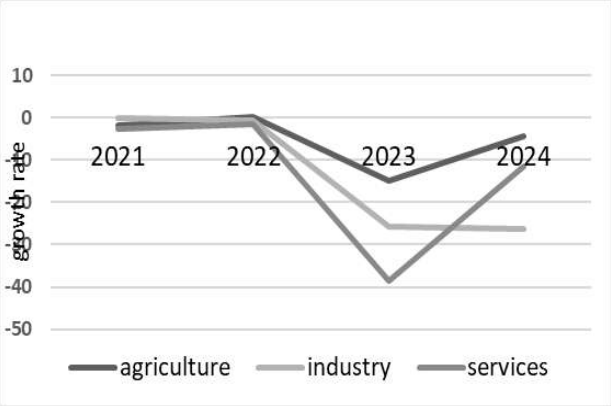
agriculture production. Agriculture production suffered scarcities in critical inputs such as, fuel, improved seeds, fertilizers, and interruption in the supply chain. Agriculture growth contracted by 14.9 percent in 2023. The Industrial sector growth declined by about 26 percent during the conflict. Most of the factories in Khartoum have been either destroyed or reported moderate damage. Several small and medium firms were looted, and many are operating on reduced capacity due to disruption of the supply chain. The conflict has halted oil production and destroyed oil facilities in the energy sector. The services sector which constitutes about half of the GDP witnessed negative growth rates of -38 percent in 2023 and -11 percent in 2024[35], on account of the disrupted trade and markets, communications, banking and government services (see figure 9).

Figure 8: GDP growth rates 2020-2024



Source: CBS: National Accounts Reports for 2018-2023 and 2023-2028.

Figure 9 :Sectoral growth rates 2021-2024.



Source: CBS: National Accounts Reports for 2018-2023 and 2023-2028

Employment: Unemployment rate is high in Sudan with unemployment rate of about 20 percent in 2020, with women unemployment rate over twice those of men during 2015- 2020. The situation deteriorated further in last two years 2023 and 2024 because of the conflict.

The conflict has displaced people approximately 31 percent of urban households now reside in states different from their pre-conflict locations. The conflict has also decreased economic activities. This situation has resulted in job losses leaving many without access to employment opportunities. The proportion of urban households reporting having no income or employment has escalated to 18 percent compared to 1.6 percent pre-conflict. Few companies supported their employees and workers with partial payments, but most firms laid off employees (20 percent of firms) or having them on unpaid leave (47 percent of firms).[36] Unemployment is projected to surpass 45 percent by the end of 2024.[37]

[35] CBS: National Accounts Report 2023-2028

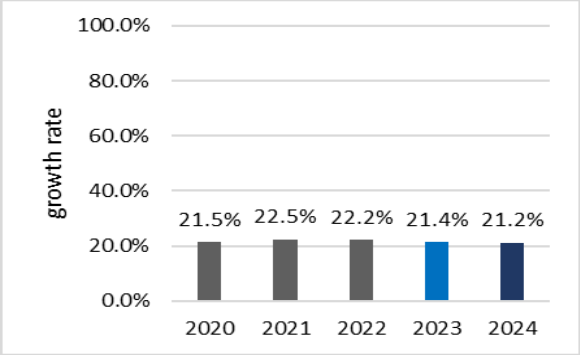
[36] UNDP and IFPRI: The Socio-Economic Impact of Armed Conflict on Sudanese Urban Households November 2024

[37] Sudan Sovereign Council: A study on Sudan economy before and after the conflict -prepared by the High Committee for post-conflict Economic Vision, Reconstruction, and commendations' Aug. 2024

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

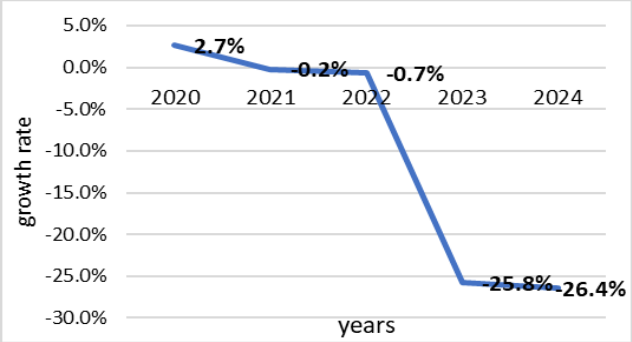
During 2020-2022, the government gave priority to agro-industries and food processing to increase economic growth and employment. Efforts were exerted to address challenges facing the industrial sector, particularly manufacturing, mainly power cuts, infrastructure weakness, and scarcity of imported inputs. During this period, the industrial sector growth was negative, and its share in GDP remined unchanged (see figure 10 and 11).

Figure 10: Share of the industrial sector in GDP.



Source: CBS Sudan, National Accounts report for 2018-2023, September 2024 and National Accounts report for 2023-2028

Figure 11: Industrial sector growth rates.



Source: CBS Sudan, National Accounts report for 2018-2023, September 2024 and National Accounts report for 2023-2028

The militia attacked the industrial establishments in Khartoum, the main industrial hub in the country. About 66 percent of the factories were destroyed or reported massive direct destruction of their equipment, and 20 percent reported moderate damage.[38] Most of the remaining factories were closed because of the security concerns, while a small number of firms are either still in operation but on reduced capacity or have moved operations to other locations considered safe. The raw materials also in the storage facilities of the processing firms may have been rendered unusable following power disruptions or destroyed and looted.

Way forward: The plans for the industrial sector incorporated several reforms as envisaged by the Ministry of Industry. Priorities will be given to rehabilitate, improve and modernize the industrial areas, establish technology intensive industries to improve productivity, improve efficiency of operations in the existing industries, give due consideration to issues of quality, standards and specifications in manufacturing, promote small and medium scale industries, improve the regulatory environment for the

[38] IFPR Sudan: Armed Conflict and Business Operations in Sudan Survey Evidence from Agri-food Processing Firms - Aug 2023.

private sector by issuing the law of Organization and Development of Industries, and improve the PPP law.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Inequalities exist between geographical regions, and between men and women. There are several interventions advocated by the government in the PRSP 2021-2023 and measures agreed upon in Juba Peace Agreement to address inequalities, including. inclusive growth, extending the national electricity grid to western Sudan, equitable access to basic services, affirmative actions in favor of conflict affected areas in livelihood opportunities, education and civil service employment, and rehabilitating war affected areas. The strategic plans in education, health, social programs, also advocate spatial equality in service provision and empowering women to address gender inequalities.

However, the conflict has exacerbated vulnerabilities and deepened structural inequalities. The conflict has led to increased poverty in the states which already have the highest poverty rates; namely states of Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and Blue Nile. The conflict has resulted in mass displacement from these states. About one third of displacement originated from only two states in Darfur: South Darfur state (18 percent) and North Darfur state (15 percent). The conflict has resulted in the destruction of the already poor critical infrastructure and facilities, halted production activities, disrupted the supply chain in many of the states with the highest poverty rate and stopped education activities. Acute malnutrition rates have reached alarming levels, soaring to 30 percent in areas of North Darfur compared to 15 percent in the rest of the country. Humanitarian assistance hardly reaches these regions due to the intensity of the violence.

Inequalities exist between men and women, due to economic, and social norms as indicated in 2022 VNR, however, the situation is made worse by the conflict whose impacts disproportionally affect women. Food insecurity created by the conflict exacerbates gender inequality. About 64 per cent of female-headed households experienced food insecurity compared to 48 per cent of male-headed households in ten states. Sudan humanitarian crisis has catastrophic impact for women and girls, with two-fold increase of gender-based violence.[39]

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Metropolitan Khartoum is one of the most populated cities on the African continent, houses about 20 percent of the total population of Sudan. The major problem facing the cities in Sudan including Khartoum is the poor infrastructure. Khartoum has plans to develop new housing areas and improve infrastructure and services. However, the war in April 2023 disrupted these plans.

[39] UN women Press release: Sudan humanitarian crisis has catastrophic impact for women and girls, with two-fold increase of gender-based violence-27 September 2024

The Sudanese capital of Khartoum has been the epicenter of the war. Khartoum incurred great physical, economic, social, and cultural losses. The attacks have forced more than 3 million people to flee the state. The war has resulted in the dramatic expansion of certain cities to exceed triple their original population, while other cities particularly in war affected zones shrined considerably. The population of Khartoum declined by 69 percent. The fighting destroyed many homes. Infrastructure was severely damaged. Three main bridges (Jabel Aulia, Shambat, Halfaya) out of the ten bridges connecting the different parts of the state were damaged. Shelling, direct attacks, and looting have damaged water stations and pipes. People in Khartoum were forced to rely more on small wells that are more susceptible to contamination because of the lack of water treatment options. Most of the hospitals in Khartoum state, have been damaged. Landmark skyscrapers, commercial towers, were damaged, and almost all the markets were looted, and many were burned. The damage also extended to other towns like Medini, El Fasher, El Obied, and Nyala



SDGs have encouraged the strengthening of efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. The militia attacks have devastated the culture and heritage of Sudan. Sudan has influences from different civilizations; Ancient Nubia, Pharaonic, Christian Kingdoms, such as Nobatia, Makuria, Alodia, Islamic civilizations like the Funj and Darfur Sultanates, as well as Ottoman and Mahdist, which produced strong heritage and culture. The militia attacked all key historical sites, museums, libraries, and art exhibitions.

The risk facing culture in Sudan is unprecedented, with looting of museums, heritage and archaeological sites and private collections.[40] The National Museum, housing the world's greatest Nubian archaeological collection, antiques, and archaeological collections of high historical value, including embalmed mummies, among the earliest in the world, dating back to 2,500 BC, suffered large-scale looting and smuggling operation. The Ethnographic Museum, Sudan Natural History Museum, were damaged. The rare historical utensils and manuscripts of Khalifa House Museum in the Omdurman were looted. Sultan Ali Dinar Museum in El Fasher, have also suffered damage, Al Geneina Museum was attacked and looted, Nyala Museum and its archaeological collections have been levelled to the ground, and Military Museum and Republican Palace Museum were damaged. There were some threats to the Island of Meroe, in Sudan, whose archaeological sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, due to military activities.

Historical buildings were affected by the conflict. The University of Khartoum and its complex historical buildings, and the old historical building of the Republican Palace sustained partial damage. Records

[40] UNESCO press release 12 September 2024: UNESCO raises the alarm on reports of illicit trafficking of cultural heritage.

were also impacted. The National Records Office, and the Sudan National Library were among the most affected sites. The archive of Sudan's National Television and Radio of Sudan has been vandalized.

Way forward: The National Council for Urban Development has prepared a five-year plan: "Towards a comprehensive and sustainable urban plan" covering the period 2022-2027. The council has also issued construction code for persons with disabilities and is currently formulating a national strategy for the reintegration of IDPs in urban planning (Urban development strategy 2025-2050). The council in cooperation with international partners is currently working on city profiling with priority for cities affected by the war.

UNESCO conducted risk and damage assessment of the World Heritage properties of "Gebel Barkal and the sites of the Napatan Region" and the "Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe" as well as other historical sites. With external assistance from UNESCO and the British Council, endangered collections in some museums were packed and secured, evacuated to safe places and objects have been inventoried and digitized. Efforts are being exerted by the "Heritage Emergency Fund" of UNESCO to protect the components of Sudan's World Heritage Sites. "

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Mercury contamination stemming from artisanal and small-scale gold mining operations across the country poses significant environmental and health concerns. Plastic bags are widely used and laws prohibiting their use is not enforced. Sudan is also facing a problem of solid waste, especially municipal solid waste. Solid waste management practices throughout Sudan are uniformly poor.

The recent violence has vastly compounded the situation of toxic waste. The war was fought in the capital city and major cities in the country. Reports indicated that there are many hazardous materials in Khartoum and other war areas. Toxic materials released from explosive ordnances create risks for households and affect water facilities and distribution network. Debris of destroyed buildings is mixed with hazardous materials. Looting and destruction of specialized laboratories, hospitals, and pesticide stores, will likely create a potential leakage of dangerous materials. Furthermore, accumulated solid waste in urban areas especially in Khartoum, pollution from the extensive use of weapons in populated areas and the large volumes of military waste, including destroyed military vehicles, and civilians' vehicles, create a major clean-up challenge. Efficiency of garbage collection deteriorated from 79.5 percent to 65.9 percent in certain states and medical waste increased by 40 percent creating serious threat to the environment.[41]

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

The conflict in Sudan has contributed to further deterioration of the environment. The war remnants resulted in water pollution affecting more than 60 percent of the population, and the tiny practices

[41] NCENR report to 2025 VNR.

released by war remnants have polluted the air. The green cover was also destroyed, and agriculture land was lost because of displacement and use of firewood.

The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) has plans to address this deterioration by promoting climate adaptation polices and regulations to address the impacts of the conflict on the environment. The proposed measures will focus on reducing carbon emission by use of clean energy sources and reafforestation and improving early warning system and better planning for avoiding the negative impacts of droughts and floods particularly in areas mostly affected by displacement due to the conflict. Efforts of post conflict reconstruction will have to be carried out within environmental recovery to ensure a sustainable use of resources and achieve effective climate change adaptation. The government efforts in climate change requires close collaboration with international organizations.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

HCENR is coordinating with several concerned bodies to protect the Red Sea and marine resources from deterioration caused by human activities and ensures sustainable development. Several projects were initiated to identify coastal wetland's locations to be part of Ramsar list and issue regulations for their protection. The HCENR has updated its policy and strategy of protecting marine ecosystems and biodiversity. HCENR has organized several awareness workshops and training secessions on the Biological Diversity Convention and its protocols as well the national strategies for biodiversity.



HCENR strongly advocated the activation of national frameworks to address the impacts of the conflict on the issues of climate change and biodiversity. It also accords high priority to international cooperation in seas and marine environment protection within the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

As of 2022, forests covered approximately 12% of Sudan's total land area, a proportion that has remained stable over recent years. However, this apparent stability masks underlying issues such as deforestation and land degradation. The absence of comprehensive data represents a critical gap in assessing the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

Protected areas in Sudan cover about 6.96% of sites critical for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity. This limited coverage underscores the need for expanding conservation zones to safeguard the country's rich biodiversity. Notably, data on the protection of mountain biodiversity and the Mountain Green Cover Index, indicating areas requiring immediate attention and research, is lacking.

Sudan has been actively pursuing sustainable forest management to balance environmental conservation with socio-economic development. Progress included a comprehensive forestry information system to aid in effective planning and policy analysis. Sudan is engaging communities in forest management to enhance sustainable livelihoods and preserving ecosystems. Sudan implemented the Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SNRMP) to improve the livelihoods of local communities while ensuring the conservation of forest resources. Significant strides were made in REDD+ Readiness initiatives. to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by mobilizing nationwide multistakeholder support and developing strategies for sustainable forest management. Activities to improve soil fertility and promote sustainable land use practices are implemented as part of the Pan-African Great Green Wall initiative. Despite these efforts, Sudan faces challenges such as deforestation driven by agricultural expansion, fuelwood collection, and infrastructural development.

Land degradation affects approximately 12 percent of Sudan's land area, a figure that has remained constant but necessitates proactive measures to prevent further deterioration. The persistent rate of degradation calls for integrated land management strategies and rehabilitation programs to restore soil health and productivity.

Mountain green cover index remined stable at 10 percent for 2022-2023. Sudan has prepared and adopted the Benefit Sharing Law. Sudan has also made steps in adopting legislative frameworks for benefit-sharing related to genetic resources, aligning with international agreements. However, the effectiveness of these frameworks in reduction wildlife poaching and trafficking remains uncertain due to insufficient data. Similarly, the lack of information on national legislation addressing invasive alien species points to potential vulnerabilities in ecosystem management.

Sudan has implemented initiatives to educate the public and stakeholders on the value of biodiversity in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Efforts have been made to integrate biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies, but challenges remain.

Sudan has focused on reducing habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. Despite these efforts, habitat loss remains a significant challenge due to factors such as agricultural expansion and infrastructure development. The country efforts in promoting sustainable management practices in agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, has been uneven, with varying degrees of success across different sectors.

Progress in Pollution Reduction Efforts has been limited, with ongoing challenges in managing pollution sources. Sudan has identified and prioritized invasive alien species and their pathways, implementing measures to control or eradicate priority species. However, the effectiveness of these measures has been constrained by limited resources and capacity.

As of 2021, protected areas in Sudan covered approximately 4.6% of terrestrial and inland water areas, which is below the Aichi Target of 17%. Efforts have been made to prevent the extinction of known threatened species. Despite these efforts, certain species continue to face significant threats, and more targeted actions are needed. Initiatives to enhance ecosystem resilience through conservation and restoration have been implemented. The impact of these initiatives has been variable, with some ecosystems showing signs of recovery while others continue to degrade. Sudan has aimed to improve the sharing and application of scientific knowledge and technologies relating to biodiversity. Progress in this area has been gradual, with ongoing efforts to enhance data collection and dissemination. Sudan faces several challenges in fully achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including limited financial resources, capacity constraints, and socio-economic pressures, however Sudan is committed to achieve biodiversity targets. Official development assistance and public expenditure dedicated to biodiversity conservation in Sudan is not well-documented, which impedes the evaluation of financial commitments and the identification of funding gaps.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Conflict casualties: Over 18,000 civilians have been reported killed and 33,000 injuries since the beginning of the conflict in April 2023. The true toll is likely far greater.[42]

Violence: Violence has increased because of the conflict. Ethnically motivated attacks by the militia against African ethnic groups, were reported[43]. The number of people at risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, has tripled since the beginning of the war. Women and girls in Sudan were disproportionately impacted by ongoing violence. The number of children killed, injured or facing other grave violations in Sudan soared six-fold in 2023. Over 480 children killed, 764 maimed, and over 200 recruited into the conflict. At least 114 girls were also raped or subject to sexual violence. [44]

Trafficking: Prior to the conflict, Sudan was a primary transit point for irregular migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa seeking to reach Europe. However, the migration routes through Sudan were disrupted by the conflict, resulting in fewer migrants transiting Sudan. The government took some steps to address trafficking, including convening several virtual meetings of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT). A government policy or pattern of prohibiting employing or recruiting child soldiers existed. However, with the conflict, the government ability to reduce anti-trafficking efforts was largely reduced. NCCHT lost much of its operational effectiveness due to the conflict, and efforts to implement the 2021-2023 National Action Plan stalled.

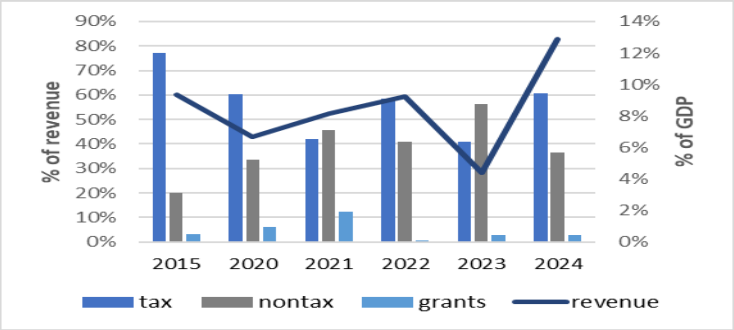
[42] UN Sudan, July 29, 2024
[43] UN News Sudan 17 January 2025
[44] The cases documented in the UN's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict

Personal IDs for children: Families have fled their homes, leaving behind personal identification. During conflicts, the lack of this simple but essential document- a birth certificate- can block access to lifesaving services like education, healthcare, food relief, emergency support. The government with support from the international partners, initiated a campaign, registration teams- including a Judge- who streamlined the process, and provided children with birth certificates.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Government revenues: Revenue has increased from 6.7 percent of GDP in 2020 to 9.2 percent of GDP in 2022 mainly driven by tax revenue. However, the conflict reduced economic growth and disrupted businesses. Khartoum business community contributes the major share of customs, VAT, and business profit tax. Khartoum has been Sudan's primary industrial, commercial, and manufacturing hub, hosting two thirds of the country's manufacturing establishments and 44 percent of bank branches in Sudan. However, these businesses were destroyed or forced to close resulting in significant reduction of taxes. In addition, demand for imported goods has significantly declined because of the conflict and consequently taxes from customs largely dropped. Total revenue declined by more than half in 2023, the first year of the conflict, compared to the year before the conflict. Efforts were made by MOFEP to expand the tax base, improve tax collection, and implement the electronic payment system. Revenues increased threefold from 4.4 percent of GDP in 2023 to 12.9 percent in 2024 (see figure 12).

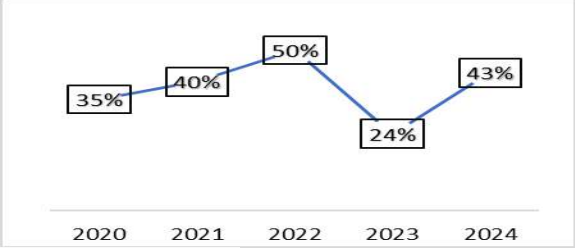
Figure 12: Government revenues composition as share of GDP!



Source: MOFEP-Sudan

The percent of domestic expenditure being met from domestic revenues has increased during 2020 - 2022 driven by improved tax revenues (figure 13). However, a major drop occurred in 2023 because of the conflict which resulted in enormous revenue reduction. In 2024, after the government regained control over the economy, more expenditures are being covered from the domestic revenues.

Figure 13: Percent of domestic expenditures covered by domestic revenue.



Source: MOFEP Sudan

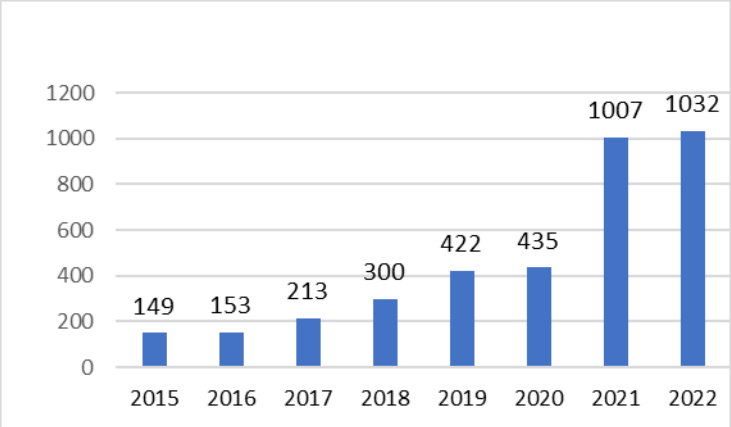
According to the post conflict recovery vision, economic production is expected to increase, and private businesses will recover. Economic rate of growth is expected to turn positive from 4-6 percent during the recovery period 2026-2028. Revenues will increase accordingly, supported by expansion of the tax base and enhanced revenue collection.

ODA: ODA has increased to 4.9 percent of GDP in 2021 compared to about 3.5 percent on average during 2019-2020 but declined to 2.9 percent in 2022. ODA continued to be dominated by humanitarian assistance. In 2021, Sudan started to improve its relationship with the development partners. They committed large amounts of development assistance in 2021. The amount of funding committed by the donors included US$ 2.6 billion of projects funding from the World Bank; US$ 700 million from USA, US$ 579 million funding of cash transfers to households from other donors, in addition to other funding of about US$70 million from the African Development Bank and other European donors. However, after the military take over on the 25th of October 2021, donors immediately stopped funding, paused disbursements in all their operations in Sudan and stopped processing any new operations. The situation was also compounded when nontraditional donors like Islamic Development bank and the Arab funds suspended their operations because of the accumulated arrears. Aid in 2023-2024 was confined to humanitarian assistance.

Remittances: Most of remittances are channeled through the parallel market rather than the official market on account of the higher exchange rate in the parallel market compared to the official one. Significant increase in remittances transferred through the official channels were realized in 2021 and 2022 because of the unification of the exchange rate (figure 14). There is no data for 2023-2024.

Indications however show that Sudanese in diaspora increased their assistance and relief to civilians across Sudan, supporting the crucial work of civil society and grassroot organizations to alleviate the sufferings of the conflict. Transfers are also being sent, through nonofficial channels for families who lost their homes, belongings and incomes due to the conflict. Remittances were also transferred to Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries, like Egypt, and Ethiopia.

Figure 14: Remittances in US$ million



Source: CBOS. A report on the Development of the Sudanese Economy in 2023.

External debt: Sudan is in debt stress and was eligible for the debt relief under the HIPCS (figures 15-17). It has reached the decision point of the HIPCs on 28 June 2021 and was engaged in a 39-month IMF Extended Credit facility (ECF) program to reach the completion point for full debt relief. However, the process was suspended since 2021 by the international partners because of the army coup, having ousted its civilian partners from power. The debt continued to increase at unsustainable levels reaching 128 percent of GDP in 2022 and 221 percent of GDP in 2023 far above the threshold of sustainable debt. Resumption of the HIPCs process remains the only option for the debt relief.

Figure 15: Nominal external

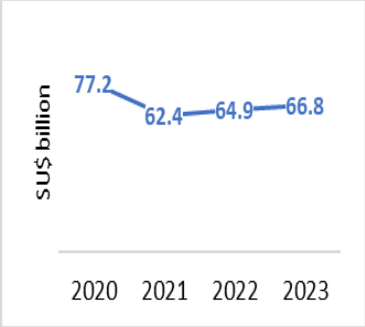


Figure 16: External debt in percent of GDP

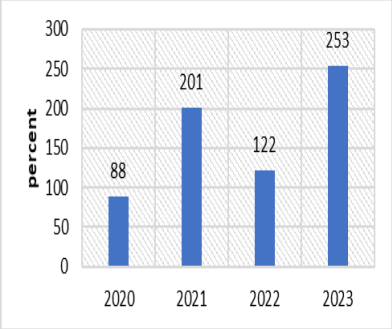
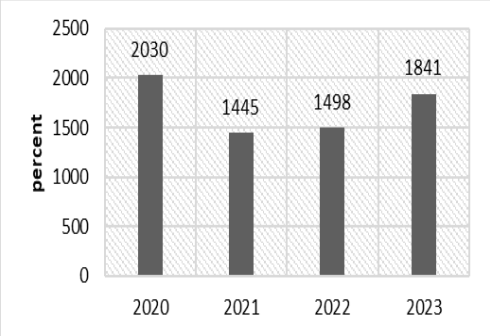


Figure 17 External debt in percent of exports



Source: CBOS Annual reports 2020-2022 and Economic and Financial Statistics Review - December reports for the years 2020 to 2023

Telecommunications: The war has destroyed 32 percent of the telecommunications infrastructure, including towers and communication centers. About 44 percent of the telecommunication assets were partially damaged. Access to the servers housing the information related to most of government units was not possible. Services of about 1600 government units, which were linked to the national telecommunications network have seized to operate. The performance of the sector declined to 65 percent; reasons are mainly attributed to expansion of the distance between the service providers and users, withdrawal of many service stations, and destructions of the telecommunication services in conflict zones. Pressure on telecommunications exerted by displaced population in safer because has reduced the quality of the telecommunication services. Telecommunication services were also affected by electricity shedding and shortages of fuel to operate standby generators. Subscribers in telecommunications have declined by about 25 percent.

Despite these difficulties, the government was able to quickly regain control over the telecommunication services. Efforts included restoring the services of the mail system, the National Center for Information system, banks systems and applications, and establishing new telecommunications operating centers by the operators. Many institutions and businesses resorted to cloud hosting. Education institutions operated their remote learning systems.

The plan for the sector includes support to the telecommunications sector, creating necessary legal and institutional frameworks and create strong oversight for digital transformation, provide necessary public funding for the telecommunications project, strengthen the e- government, rehabilitate telecommunications infrastructure, support financial inclusion, and encourage PPPs in digital transformation.

9. Implementation arrangements

Sudan will deal with a complex financing situation and may not be able to put SDGs back on the right path and make significant strides towards achieving sustainable development unless financial resources are unlocked from domestic and external sources.

The narrow fiscal space has been a formidable challenge for Sudan prior to the conflict. Tax collection falls behind that of comparator countries. Sub-Saharan African countries collected 14 percent in taxes as a share of GDP in 2021 compared to 4 percent for Sudan during the same period.[45] The situation is expected to be more difficult after the conflict. Tax mobilization in Sudan is driven by the value added tax and imports customs; performance of these taxes is dependent on the private sector businesses. However, the conflict destroyed the economic base, disrupted economic activities, and crippled the private sector, limiting sizable tax revenue increases.

However, revenue is expected to gradually improve with the advancement of the rehabilitation and resumption of normal economic activities, following the end of the war. MOFEP initiated serious PFM reform efforts to boost domestic revenues. Instructions to prohibit retention of revenues by the revenue geniting units were issued. Financial oversight mechanisms (internal audit, general audit, and accounting and financial procedures regulations) were activated. Revenue collection using electronic systems following the termination of manual and cash revenue collection were enforced. All government obligations will be paid through the banking system, benefiting from banking applications (electronic collection and payment project -(Esali) and a new PFM law is being drafted.

The government is also cognizant of the importance of the private sector resources. Measures to create a business-friendly environment were adopted to mobilize these resources. The Executive Procedures for the PPP Law was approved in February 2025 to facilitate the implementation of the PPP law (2021). The new Investment Law for 2024 was approved following wide scale consultations with stakeholders to facilitate internal processors and improve incentives. Standard and Metrology Law was approved in 2025.

Humanitarian assistance to meet immediate needs is required. Sudan, realizing the importance of humanitarian assistance, has taken adequate measures to facilitate aid flow. Twelve corridors were opened, including Chad to Darfur via the Adre border crossing point, Tina crossing from Chad to El Fasher, supply routes from Port Sudan to El Fasher via Atbara, Egypt via the Red Sea Road to Port Sudan, Wadi Halfa-Dongola crossing, the land route from South Sudan , Renk- Kosti road , the airports of El Fasher, Kadugli (South Kordofan), El Obeid (North Kordofan) and Port Sudan. Procedures for entry, movement and issuance of permits were facilitated.

Valuable humanitarian assistance was delivered to Sudan during the conflict crises. However, funding was less than the needs. The revised 2023 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires US$2.6 billion, while the appeal is only US$ 1.3 billion (51 percent had been funded). Humanitarian assistance, for 2024 required US$ 2.7 billion, and amount received was US$ 1.8 billion, indicating 67 percent had been funded. In 2025 the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) seeks US$ 4.2 billion, until mid-April only US$ 437 (10.5 per cent of the funding has been received). As stated by the UN "Key donors recently announced sweeping funding reductions and suspensions, cutting off significant support

[45] World Bank: Increasing Tax Collection in African Countries: Sep 2022 and Government budget actual performance 2021 MOFEP.

to humanitarian organizations working to reach about 21 million people in desperate need in Sudan this year."[46]

The recovery and reconstruction need for Sudan, given the level of destruction, are enormous and unprecedented and cannot be met from domestic resources and humanitarian assistance only. Immense external funding remains critical to achieving the recovery and reconstruction goals. Sudan is counting on the commitment of the international community to be assisted as a country in a post-conflict situation with special needs to sustain peace and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.

Sudan will also require external concessional borrowing. However, the country shoulders the burden of a large unsustainable external debt that deprives the country of much-needed access to external concessional borrowing. Sudan reached the HIPC Decision Point on June 29, 2021, and agreed to implement a 39- Month Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility in June 2021 to reach the HIPC Completion Point. However, the process was suspended, after what the international community considered as a military coup against the transitional government in October 2021. Sudan will benefit from resumption of the debt relief process under the HIPCS to mobilize external resources from concessional borrowing for the benefit of the SDGs.

[46] Statement by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami - Port Sudan, 10 March 2025.