

# SUDAN COUNTRY REPORT



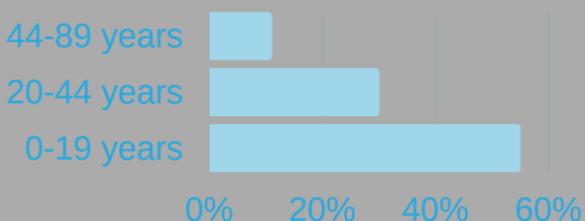
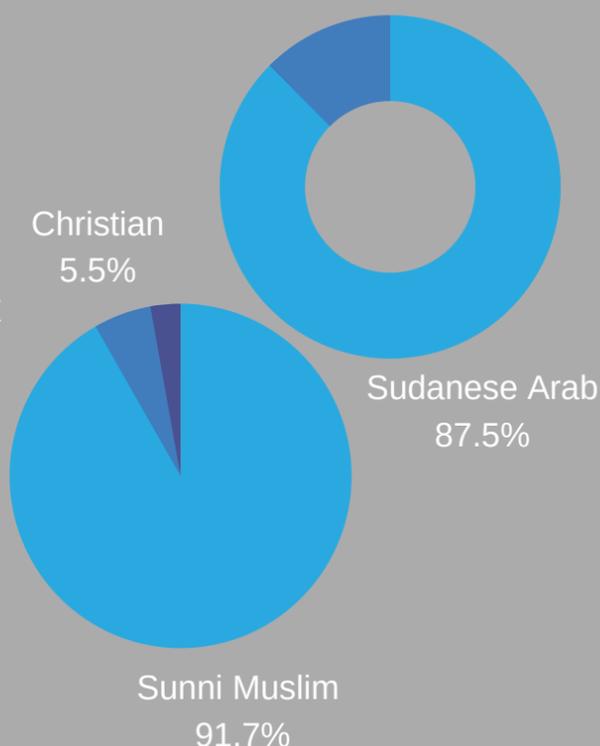
## POPULATION

Sudan is the 31st largest country in the world in terms of population (45,561,556). African ethnicity (Fur, Beja, Nuba and Fallata) 12.5%

Sudan has over 500 ethnic groups, with the largest being the Sudanese Arab and the African ethnic groups Fur, Beja, Nuba & Fallata.

There are over 400 languages spoken in Sudan, but the two official ones are Arabic and English, with Nubian, Ta Bedawie and Fur following up in popularity.

64.5% of the population lives in rural areas.



The majority of the Sudanese population is under 19 years old.

CIA World Factbook Sudan: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html>

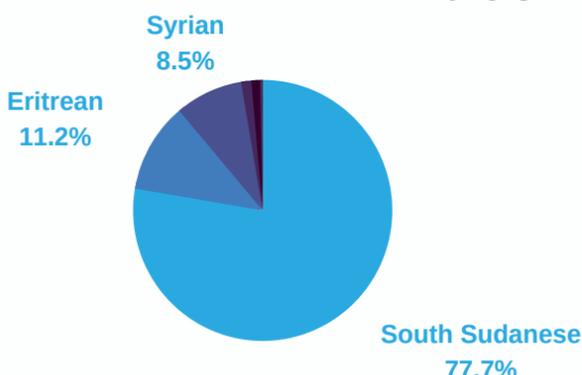
## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Over **2 million** people have been **internally displaced** in Sudan, the majority living in South, North and Central Darfur States. Due to ongoing violence in Darfur since the genocide in 2003 and tribal violence, many Sudanese people have been forced to flee their homes. A large part have also fled because of food insecurity and natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding and drought.

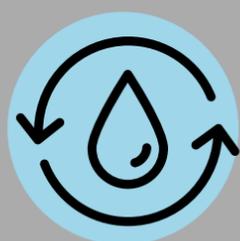
UNHCR (2020), Sudan Fact Sheet  
IDMC Sudan Report: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sudan>

## REFUGEES

Over **1 million refugees** have entered Sudan, the majority staying in Darfur, Khartoum, Kassala or the White Nile region. Over 1/3 of them are **children**.



## HEALTH AND DISEASE



44.5% of the Sudanese population has no access to clean water.

76.4% of the Sudanese population has no access to sanitation facilities.



**Maternal Mortality Rate:**  
216  
deaths/100,000  
births

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 4.8  
deaths/100,000  
births

**Vectorborne diseases:** malaria, dengue fever, and Rift Valley fever

**Animal contact diseases:** rabies

**Food or waterborne diseases:** bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, schistosomiasis and typhoid fever

**Respiratory diseases:** meningococcal meningitis

CIA World Factbook Sudan

Due to an arid climate, Sudan experiences numerous natural disasters and droughts, which has led to food insecurity. Malnutrition is prevalent amongst Sudanese children. 2.4 million children suffered from malnutrition in 2019. Sudan is one of the 14 countries where 80% of the world's stunted children live.



1/3 of Sudanese children are stunted (too short for their age).



CIA World Factbook Sudan

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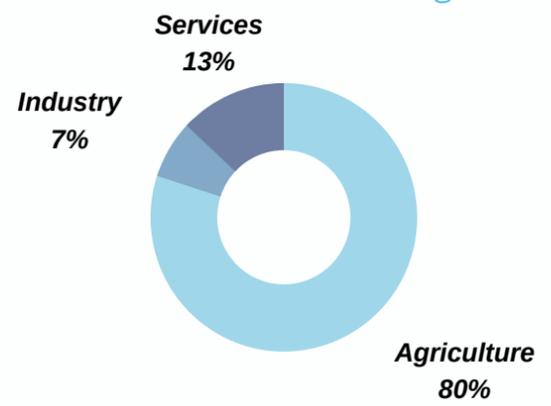


## THE SUDANESE ECONOMY

### ECONOMY OVERVIEW

Due to protracted social conflict and political instability, as well as its dependency on oil production and large agricultural workforce, Sudan has suffered several economic losses. In 2011, following the secession of South Sudan, oil production was paused and oil transit fees were lost. Additionally, Sudan experienced economic sanctions from the US from 1997 to 2017, which weakened an already turbulent economy influenced by ongoing conflicts in South Kordofan, Darfur and the Blue Nile States. Since the South Sudan secession, the value of Sudan's currency has fallen and inflation rates have gone as high as 47% in 2012.

The majority of the Sudanese population works in agriculture.



Sudan's unemployment rate is as high as 16.525%.

*Human Rights Watch (2020), Sudan Events of 2019: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/sudan#>*

## THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT

Officially, the politics of Republic of Sudan take place in the framework of presidential representative democracy. However, following the civil war and the still ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan was internationally and widely recognised as a totalitarian State under the power of president al-Bashir who had ruled the country from 1989 until 2019. The legal system in Sudan is based on Islamic Sharia Law.

*Human Rights Watch World Report Sudan (2019),*

### TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

In 2019, following growing demonstrations over the increase of bread prices and poor living conditions, President al-Bashir was removed from office and replaced by the Transitional Military Council (TMC). A new Constitutional Declaration Document was signed by the Forces for Freedom and Change and the TMC, a power sharing agreement between the military and civilians supported by peace processes from the African Union and Ethiopia. This government will hold until 2022 in the process of transitioning to democracy.

*Human Rights Watch (2020), Sudan Events of 2019*

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

In 2005, a peace agreement called The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed between the Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement. This agreement ushered a new era for Sudan, ending over 20 years of civil unrest and paving the way for the independence of South Sudan in 2011 (OHCHR, 2020). However, **the human rights situation in Sudan continues to ensue multiple challenges.**

While progress has been made since 2005 in several areas, including legislations, policies and institutional reforms, many democratic reforms are still needed. Most notably, harmonisation of national laws with international human rights principles and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms have advanced at a minimal level. **Restrictions on civil and political rights,** peaceful oppositions are often met with arrests, detention and torture by security forces.

Excessive violence is also predominant in the conflict-ridden zones of Sudan. According to Amnesty International, systemic human rights abuses continue to happen including **killings, torture, rape, looting and destroying of properties** by all parties involved in the country's conflicts, predominantly in Darfur. According to reports made by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and No to Oppression Against Women Initiative, human rights challenges in Sudan persist in **terms of women's rights and gender inequality, child soldiers, LGBTIQI rights, religious persecution, persecution of human rights defenders and political activists, and prisoner abuse,** among others.

**The Sudanese Revolution:** In December 2018, a series of peaceful demonstrations with demands for urgent economic reforms broke out in different parts of the country. The violence of the government's reaction to these protests sparked international concern. In December, authorities used tear gas, live ammunition and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. Internet censorship to social media and messaging services were issued. In January 2019, more than 800 protestors were arrested, and 19 killed, including security forces. Meanwhile doctors, hospitals and ambulances were targeted by security forces. Media coverage of the protests was strictly controlled by authorities. In April 2019, al-Bashir was ousted from presidency and put under house arrest by the military (TMC). Between June 3-11, 2019 the Khartoum massacre took place while under the leadership of the TMC with 118 people being killed, 70 raped and hundreds injured as a result of a Sudanese armed forces storming a camp and opening fire on protesters. A 3-day national 'civil disobedience' campaign was carried out in response. At the end of July 2019, the political negotiations and agreements processes began for a 39-month to return Sudan to civilian democracy. As of July 2020, Sudan banned female genital mutilation, decriminalised apostasy, ended public flogging and lifted a 36-year ban on the consumption of alcohol for non-Muslims, according to Ministry of Justice of Sudan. However, human rights abuses such as prosecutions of political activists, sexual violence towards women, unlawful deportations of refugees and conflict and abuses continue to happen in the country.

*Freedom House 2020: <https://freedomhouse.org/country/sudan/freedom-world/2020>*

*UNDP, (2019), Sudan Human Development Report: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/SDN.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/SDN.pdf)*