

COUNTRY PROFILE ON NUTRITION 01/2021

SUDAN

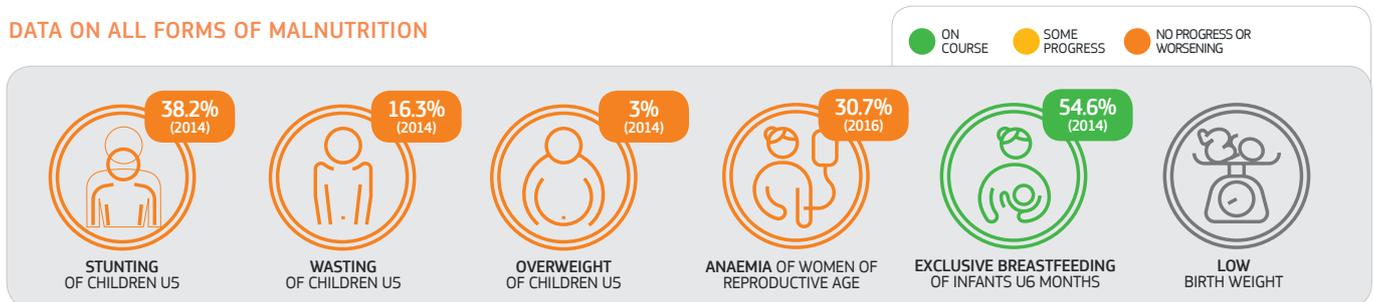
Nutrition situation in Sudan

AT A GLANCE

Sudan has a population of 44 million¹ and is Africa's third largest country. Two million Sudanese are internally displaced due to political conflict. Parts of the country (Darfur, Blue Nile, Red Sea and Kassala) still face a protracted emergency with persistently high levels of maternal and child malnutrition despite years of humanitarian action. In recent years political instability across the country led to the removal of subsidies, high inflation and limited access to essential commodities and services, eroding people's livelihoods and food security². Most nutrition indicators have deteriorated, especially in rural areas affected by conflict and food insecurity and in the lower wealth quintiles. The

number of women of reproductive age attaining minimum dietary diversity and of children under 24 months getting a minimum acceptable diet are very low. Lack of basic services, gender inequality, and abuse/conflict over land rights are key underlying issues. Agriculture is fundamental to the economy³ and the livelihoods of rural Sudanese. Agriculture policy need to be more inclusive of smallholders and rainfed cultivation. Since a change in the political landscape in mid-2019, there is hope for achieving fundamental social change. Sudan has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.545 and is ranked at 138 of 162 countries in the 2019 index.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

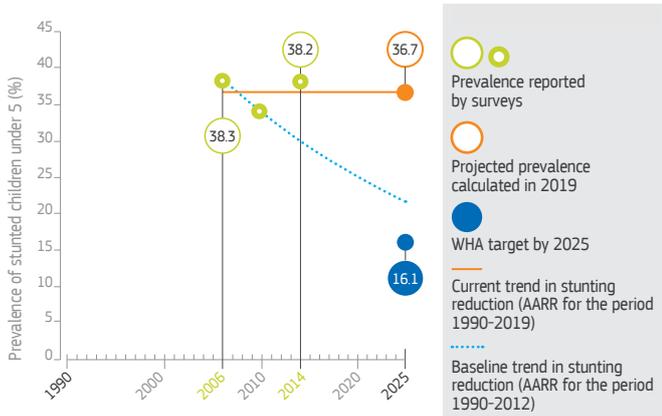
- Sudan joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2015.
- In 2016, a Letter of Understanding was agreed by several international organisations (UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, IFAD, UNFPA and the World Bank) to accelerate the scaling-up of joint efforts to address malnutrition in Sudan.
- The national nutrition strategic plan (NNSP) 2014-2025 has a strong focus on health interventions.
- A nutrition investment case launched by the Government of Sudan, UNICEF and WFP in 2016 estimated the cost of scaling up high-impact, cost-effective nutrition interventions within the NNSP and highlighted a significant funding gap.
- Sudan's main platforms to coordinate nutrition are: (i) the Higher Council of Food Security & Nutrition (established in 2014) supported by a Food Security and Nutrition technical secretariat at federal level and in six states; (ii) the National Nutrition Program office in the Ministry of Health responsible for coordination and reporting to the Vice-Presidency; and (iii) the National Nutrition Committee which engages with multiple stakeholder groups.
- Since 2017 national technical regulations on fortified wheat flour and iodized salt have been issued (with support from the EU).

Example of EU support

Since 2016 the EU has supported a WFP intervention to 'Reduce Stunting in Eastern Sudan through an Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Approach' (EU contribution of EUR 8 million is complemented by German government funding). It draws from the strategy outlined in the nutrition investment case launched in 2016 and adopts a humanitarian-development nexus approach. Children in the eastern states of Red Sea, Gedaref and Kassala suffer from alarmingly high and persistent stunting prevalence ranging from 45-55%. The project addresses nutrition during the first 1 000 days, school age, adolescents and adults (particularly women of reproductive age) and is estimated to reach 430 000 beneficiaries. It aims to target both the direct and underlying causes of stunting, including nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions ranging from nutrition treatment, social and behaviour change communications to nutrition education, productive safety net cash transfers, livelihood support and nutrition governance at a decentralised level. The EU also supported UNICEF to conduct a Simple, Spatial, Survey Method II (S3MII) in 2019 which indicated some improvements in under-five stunting and wasting in Gedaref and Kassala States, while in Red Sea State wasting has improved.

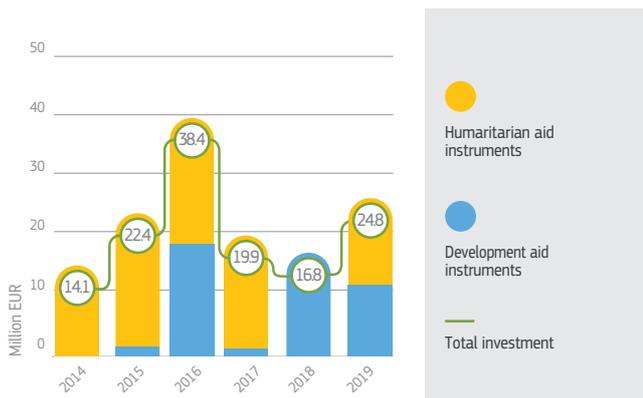
Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition

TREND, PROJECTION AND TARGETS IN THE PREVALENCE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (U5) STUNTED



Unlike most countries on the continent, Sudan has experienced an increased prevalence of stunting since the mid 2000s, along with an increase in the number of children stunted also due to population growth. The rate of decline in the number of children stunted has decelerated considerably, from 2.86% in 2012 to 0.02% in 2019; if this is maintained, then over 2.5 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025, higher than recent figures.

EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019 – A TOTAL OF EUR 136.4 MILLION



Since Sudan is not a signatory to the Cotonou Agreement, there is no National Indicative Programme for Sudan, and the EU funding is limited largely to EU trust funds. Nutrition has mainly been funded through regional facilities for food security, resilience and migration for projects managed by UN and NGO partners. These have focused on areas where the prevalence of child malnutrition is high and persistent: Darfur in the west of the country and the Eastern Sudan States. Most recently funding has been availed for a Humanitarian Development Nexus: Joint Nutrition Resilience Programme in Red Sea State (EUR 15 million), Building Resilient Communities in West Kordofan (EUR 10 million), and Improving Nutrition and Reducing Stunting in Eastern Sudan (EUR 8 million, described above). Additional support has been provided for food fortification.

¹ UNDESA World Population Prospects 2019 population estimate 2020.

² Sudan is ranked 94 out of 107 countries with a 2020 Global Hunger Index of 27.2, categorised as serious.

³ The agriculture sector's share in GDP declined from 40% between 1996 and 2002 to 31% in 2018.