

SUDAN

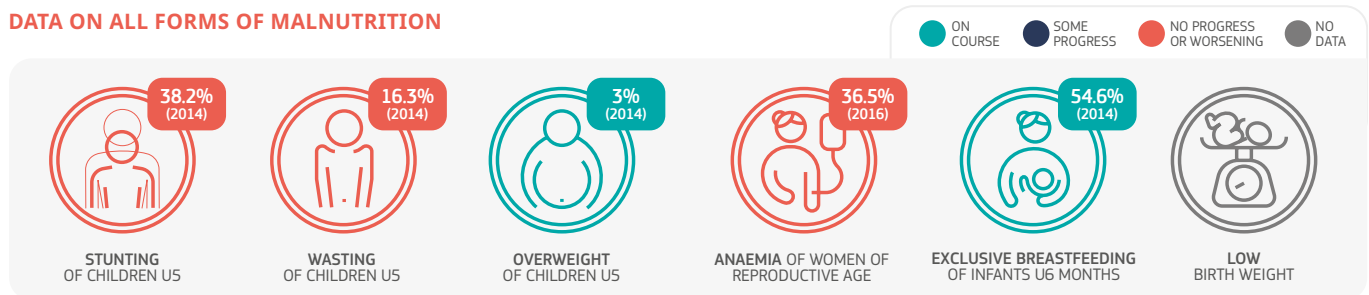
Nutrition situation in Sudan

AT A GLANCE

Sudan has a population of 48.1 million people¹ and is Africa's third largest country. In recent years political instability across the country has led to the removal of subsidies, high inflation and limited access to essential commodities and services, eroding people's livelihoods and food security. The humanitarian situation in Sudan has significantly worsened after conflict erupted across the country in mid-April 2023. More than 1 million Sudanese have fled the country and over 20 million people are classed as food insecure with food prices in 2023 being 228 percent higher than two years ago. Most nutrition indicators have deteriorated, especially in rural areas affected by conflict and

food insecurity, and in the lower wealth quintiles². 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, with lack of basic services, gender inequality, and abuse/conflict over land rights being key underlying issues. Agriculture, which is being constrained by conflict in several parts of the country, is fundamental to the economy and the livelihoods of rural Sudanese, and agricultural policies need to be more inclusive of smallholders and rainfed cultivation. Sudan has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.548 and is ranked at 140 of 166 countries in 2022.

DATA ON ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION



The data reported in the 2023 EU Nutrition Country Profiles is drawn from the UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).

NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

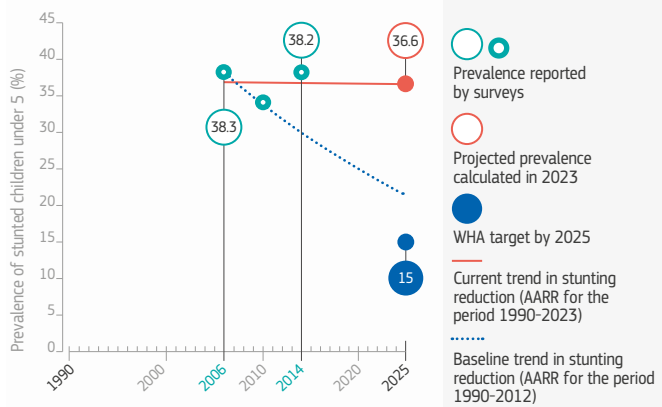
- Sudan joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in 2015.
- In 2016, a Letter of Understanding was agreed by several international organisations (UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, IFAD, UNFPA and the World Bank) to accelerate the scaling-up of joint efforts to address malnutrition in Sudan.
- The national nutrition strategic plan (NNSP) 2014-2025 has a strong focus on health interventions.
- In 2021, Sudan's National Multistakeholder Platform (established in 2018) developed a national SUN Movement Roadmap 2021-2025, which sets out a pathway to catalyse and scale up efforts to reduce malnutrition.
- 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 24 million is complemented by German and Swedish government funding). Drawing from the 2016 nutrition investment case strategy, it 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 targets 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

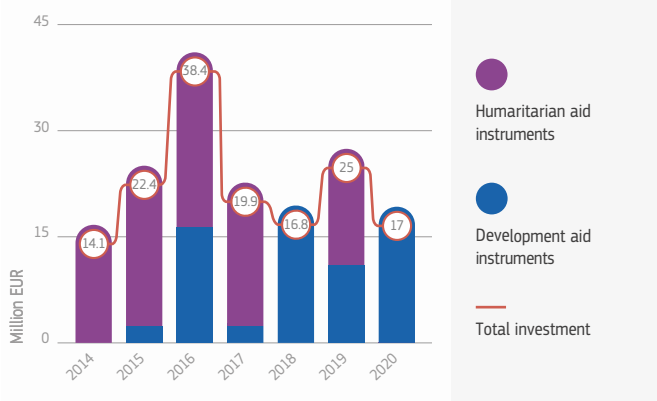


Progress on the two EU pledges for nutrition



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 0.03% in 2022; if this continues, then over 2.7 million children are expected to be stunted in 2025.



EU FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO NUTRITION BETWEEN 2014 AND 2020 – A TOTAL OF EUR 153 MILLION

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. Funding has been availed for a humanitarian-development nexus approach as follows: 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 24 million, described above).

In 2021 the EU committed EUR 15.2 million for nutrition, solely for humanitarian purposes. In 2022 an additional EUR 62.5 million was committed for nutrition; EUR 30 million for inclusive quality education for the most vulnerable children, and EUR 32.5 million for humanitarian activities³.

Planning for nutrition 2021-2027

At 2021 Tokyo [Nutrition for Growth Summit](#), among a number of commitments Sudan set out its intention to reduce stunting to 22.1% by 2030, as listed in the N4G Compact Annex, while in preparation for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, Sudan developed the position paper 'Develop a resilient, equitable, sustainable and resilient food system, leaving no one behind'.

Nutrition forms part of the 360-degree approach of the EU's Global Gateway. In 2023 the EU is using Individual Measures for Sudan rather than its Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 with an envelope of EUR 130 million, of which EUR 40 million of which is for health and nutrition and EUR 90 million is focused on food security.

The health component includes the sustained delivery of essential health care and nutrition services for vulnerable populations among displaced and host communities in indicatively nine States of Sudan. The proposed investment will support the local health care structures at primary health care (PHC) level. These will include nutrition services, access to preventive and curative health care, retention of health workforce, ensuring the supply chain of essential drugs and the referral system. A participatory approach will address behaviour change interventions targeting nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), sexual reproductive health, family planning, among others. This will be complemented by addressing financial barriers to accessing health care through bolstering National Health Insurance Fund subscriptions as well as through cash transfers to pregnant and lactating mothers. Active engagement and coordination of partners, beneficiaries, and local communities will be ensured, in line with the PHC model of care. This is intended to contribute to the EU's priority of Human Development through sustainable universal access to quality health services within a resilient and responsive local health care system.

The Team Europe Initiative on 'Enhancing Food Security and Resilience of Rural Communities in Sudan', will aim at increasing food security and at protecting livelihoods by focusing on agro-ecological practices. The action will improve availability and access to healthy diets for the rural population, by increasing the availability of nutritious food on the local markets through the reinforcement of the agro-value chains. The focus will be on rainfed agriculture, pastoralism, and especially addressing gender, and inequality issues. Interventions that promote women's empowerment and generate more diverse nutritious foods are key to improving diets and health at the household level.

1 - UNDESA [World Population Prospects 2022](#), population estimate July 2023.

2 - [In 2022 a factory producing 60% of the Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food \(RUTF\) to treat SAM in the country was burnt down](#)

3 - Data in this section excludes some regional, global and policy/research/information commitments that could not be disaggregated by beneficiary country. Data for 2022 are preliminary. The European Commission applied the methodology of the SUN Donor Network for nutrition resource tracking 2014-2020 and the OECD DAC's nutrition policy marker from 2021 onwards. The data are therefore not directly comparable.