STATE PROFILE | RED SEA

KEY FACTS

- 24,460 children under-five are severely acutely malnourished
- 39,030 school-aged children are out-of-school
- Only 56 per cent of the population has access to safe water, and
- Only 22 per cent to sanitation facilities
- Only 71.5 per cent of births are registered, leaving 28.5 per cent of new-borns without a birth certificate
## SITUATION IN RED SEA

### Demography

Red Sea state has 1,566,808 inhabitants of which more than half live in urban areas. The state also has a large population of nomadic people (19 per cent) that move with their cattle. The majority of the people do not enjoy their full rights; most have significant humanitarian and development needs. The major ethnic groups are the Beja and the Hadandwa.

### Geography

Red Sea State is located in the eastern part of Sudan and covers an area of 212,800 square kilometers. It shares international boundaries with Egypt in the north and state boundaries with River Nile and Kassala states in the west and south respectively. The east part of the state borders the Red Sea. The state is administratively divided into ten localities namely Agig, Dordeb, El Ganab El-Awlait, Japoot El-Maadin, Halayeb, Haya, Port Sudan, Sinkat, Suakin, and Tokar. Port Sudan is the capital of the state.

### Climate

Red Sea state has a desert climate with extremely hot summers and moderately hot winters. Over 90 per cent of the annual rainfall falls between October and January, mostly in November. The average annual rainfall is 76 millimeters and the average temperature is 28.4 degrees Celsius.
Economy

Port Sudan (harbour) handles the majority of the country’s international trade. Major exports include oilseed, hides and skins. Imports include construction materials, heavy machinery, and vehicles.

The total arable land is 750,000 feddan\(^1\), only 138,000 fedan representing 18.4 per cent is exploited with productivity of less than three sack per feddan, which is very low compared with the national standard. This is due to environmental factors, especially fluctuation of rainfall, as well as administrative complications.

Livestock estimate in Red Sea state is 1,620,677 heads of cattle.

The inflation rate has significantly increased since 2019. This caused high prices of goods and transportation costs.

\(^1\) Feddan is a unit of area used in Egypt, Sudan, Syria and Oman. It is more or less equal to 4,200 square metres.
**Scattered Populations**

As Red Sea state is a hub for trade and industry, it receives many migrants from different parts of Sudan who work in the seaports of Port Sudan and Suakin. Many inhabitants of the state live in remote, rural areas, with limited access to social services such as healthcare and education. The scattered population also increases the operational cost for running social services. Sustaining services to nomads and migrants, and responding to the needs of remote populations, is a major challenge for humanitarian organisations and government authorities alike. Coordination between all stakeholders is crucial for timely and effective service delivery.

**Poor Social Indicators**

Red Sea state shows worse social indicators related to child health and development, especially when it comes to nutrition indicators. According to MICS 2014, the highest prevalence rate of stunting (45 per cent) and wasting (14 per cent) occurred in Red Sea state. Only 42 per cent of children are vaccinated, only 44 per cent of school-aged children attend primary school, and the prevalence of open defecation (35 per cent) and female genital mutilation (at 89 per cent) are high. During the past years, the Government of Sudan has made efforts towards improving availability and accessibility of social services However, much needs to be done to address the root causes of vulnerability.

**Conflict and Climate Change**

Social cohesion in Red Sea State is fragile. The state recently witnessed serious tribal conflict in port Sudan locality. While the situation has since then calmed down, the warring parties did not reach a final consolidation and agreement. UNICEF Sudan intervention related to conflict-sensitivity and social cohesion are essential for creating resilience, and for empowering young people to become leaders and role models for their communities.

Another major concern for Red Sea state is climate change, as water scarcity affects populations access to clean water, sanitation and also impacts agricultural productivity and food security.
13,423 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (6,309 girls and 7,114 boys) received therapeutic treatment and care.

3,373 children under-one year of age (1,585 girls and 1,788 boys) were reached with measles vaccination.

26,538 girls and boys under-five years of age received integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) services.

36 communities were reached with information on open defecation free environments.

6,116 children received subsidies, scholarships, grants or social assistance from UNICEF to attend school.

746 children (133 girls and 613 boys) benefitted from legal and social services, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, through the family and child protection units.

3,355 children in humanitarian situations benefitting from psychosocial support.