

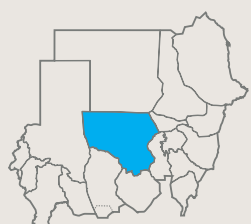
STATE PROFILE | NORTH KORDOFAN

unicef 
for every child



© UNICEF/Sudan

KEY FACTS



11,776
children under-five are severely acutely malnourished



135,796
school-aged children are out-of-school



Up to
93,645
children under-five are not vaccinated against preventable diseases



More than
5,000
boys and girls are at risk of recruitment, exploitative labour, and abuse



937,013
people lack access to basic water

SITUATION IN NORTH KORDOFAN

Demography

The population of North Kordofan state is slightly more than 2,577,044 million people¹. Twenty (20) per cent of the population live in urban, 67 per cent in rural, and 13 per cent in nomadic settings. There are 1.1 million children (aged 0-15) in North Kordofan, and 631,696 youth (aged 18-24). Most of the population do not enjoy their full rights and have significant humanitarian and development needs. The major ethnic groups are the Al-Baggara, Dar Hamid, Kababish, Al-Badriyah, Al-Majdain, Al-Hamar.

Refugees: 9,642

IDPs: 41,054

Returnees: 4,818

People in need of humanitarian assistance: 509,141

1 Simple Spatial Survey Method, 2018

Geography

North Kordofan state is an undulating plain covering an area of 185,302 square kilometers at an altitude of 1,500 feet. El Obeid is the capital of the state. North Kordofan borders Khartoum state, North Darfur, Northern State, South Kordofan, West Kordofan and White Nile. The state is administratively divided into eight localities (Sheikan, Umm Rawaba, Al Rahad, Bara, West Bara, Soudri, Jabra Al Sheikh, Umm Dam Haj Ahmad) and 44 administrative units. Due to its geographic position, North Kordofan is indirectly affected by the current security and conflict situation in Darfur and the protracted situation in South Kordofan.

North Kordofan reaches up to the west bank of the White Nile. It consists largely of plains, with sand dunes and a cover of scattered bush and grasses. Landholdings tend to be relatively large, because the sandy soils are infertile, and yields are low. Mean annual rainfall (which falls between April and December) is below 300 millimeters, is frequently erratic, and is at best marginally adequate for millet cultivation.



Climate

The rainy season is from June to September. Rainfall increases from approximately 100 millimeters per year in the most northerly areas to 350 millimeters in the south, although rainfall is unreliable - with large variation between years. There are no permanent rivers. Soils are generally infertile, with the most productive agricultural land being found in the eastern part of the state. The area has had almost continuous drought since the mid-1960s. Deforestation led to the destruction of the natural vegetation.

Economy

The main sources of income for those that have a higher income are livestock and retail trade. Middle-income households obtain income from agricultural work, goat and sheep sales and gold extraction outside the livelihood zone. The lower-income households have the most diverse livelihood strategies. They normally start with agricultural work and labor from April to December, and then re-deploy their labor to non-farm activities such as odd jobs in urban centers and long-distance migration in search of gold extraction.

The main city, El Obeid, plays an important role in supplying markets in both central Sudan and as a transit point for trade flows between eastern and western Sudan. El Obeid is connected by road and rail to major cities like Khartoum, El Fasher, Kadugli and El Fula. El Obeid also has an airport.

The central and west pastoral zones lie in the northern parts of the state. This is semi-desert, and the economy depends mainly on livestock production; crop production is very low. The higher-income group derive almost all of their cash income from livestock sales and trade, while the middle and lower-income groups obtain most of their incomes from gold extraction, migrant labor, trade (for the middle-income group) and herding (for the lower-income group). This is another zone with highly unequal incomes between the different groups.

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

North Kordofan state is accessible, however, travel from El Obeid, Khartoum, Omdurman, Port Sudan and the other Kordofan states is constrained by long distances and poor road conditions (particularly during the July to September rainy season), which limit the movement of vehicles and traders. For humanitarian workers and international agencies, all of North Kordofan state is accessible with the need for only one vehicle, except two areas in northern part of state (Al Rabaga and Abu Eroog) where two vehicles are needed, the reason being that there is bad network coverage there.



Continued Population Movement

Rural-urban migration in search of employment takes place mainly between January and June and is done mainly by young people. This constitutes a major source of revenue for the poor and middle groups. For the poor the most difficult months are July to September, when less work is available in urban areas and before the next agricultural season. Money earned from migratory labor is increasingly remitted through mobile money services, avoiding the need for laborers to physically return to their homes. Unemployment, high population growth, increased urbanization and single sector economies contribute to social pressures on established social structures. Scarcity of water and arable land compound the problems, especially for people living in rural and remote areas of the state.

Malnutrition and Protection Concerns

The S3M 2018 report shows that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is 11.75 per cent, which is considered as critical as per WHO wasting threshold. Around 67 per cent of people are married at or before 18 years of age, which affects both girls and boys, but it affects girls disproportionately. Child marriage violates the rights of children and widespread and long-term consequences for child brides and grooms. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practiced with around 98 per cent of women being cut. It is thought that the lack of awareness could be one of the reasons behind the high rates of FGM and early marriage.

Conflict and Economic Crises

North Kordofan is indirectly affected by the on-going security and conflict situation in Darfur and the protracted situation in South Kordofan. This has led to a large number of internally displaced people (IDP) and around 9,642 South Sudanese refugees, contributing to high humanitarian needs. Increasing and protracted displacements, the ongoing economic crisis and high inflation rates have impacted food prices, pushing many families deeper into poverty. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation by significantly decreasing commodity movement, market function and cross-border trade. Further still, these measures have compromised livelihoods and daily labour opportunities, reducing families purchasing power and the food access of vulnerable populations.

KEY RESULTS IN 2021

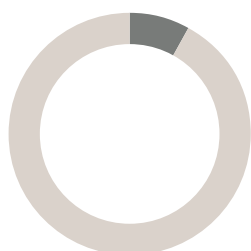
Unicef budget for North Kordofan:

USD 3,168,157

as of 1 April 2021

Funds received ► **14%**

Funding gap ► **86%**



- 8,171** severely acutely malnourished children (SAM) were treated.
- 41,751** bed nets (long-lasting insecticidal nets) were distributed across North Kordofan. These nets are keeping mothers and children safe from malaria and other infectious diseases.
- 35,351** children were reached with PENTA (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and hib) vaccination and 59,295 children with measles vaccinations.
- 13,500** children, women and men were reached with access to drinking water.
- 28** communities in North Kordofan were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). A total of **12,169** people in North Kordofan were reached with sanitation facilities.
- 29,530** girls and boys were reached with learning materials.
- 19,299** children (boys and girls) were reached through school enrolment campaigns.
- 5,866** adolescents (1,977 girls and 3,889 boys) were equipped with knowledge and life skills that reduce their vulnerability and protect them from violence.
- 20,797** youth (12,368 women and 8,429 men) took part in discussions and awareness raising on the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.
- 4,701** children (1,826 girls and 2,875 boys) received psychosocial support.
- 7,204** pupils (3,612 girls and 3,592 boys) in **46** schools have access to psychosocial support services.
- 247** children (226 boys and 21 girls) were identified as unaccompanied, of which **136** children (115 boys and 21 girls) were reunified with their caregivers.
- 39** out of 40 targeted communities declared the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) practices.