



## KEY FACTS



**10,125**  
children under-five are severely acutely malnourished



**132,630**  
school-aged children are out-of-school



Up to **55,890**  
children under-five are not vaccinated against preventable diseases



More than **6,000**  
vulnerable, unaccompanied, and separated children are at risk of recruitment, exploitative labour, and abuse



**322,200**  
people lack access to safe water

# SITUATION IN SOUTH KORDOFAN

## Demography<sup>1</sup>

The population of South Kordofan is almost 2 million people and growing every year with 2.3 per cent. The number of children is 714,200, of which 295,460 children are under-five (Population Projection, 2018). There are 100,362 young people (aged between 18 and 24 years) in South Kordofan state.

Refugees: 40,793

IDPs: 272,923

Returnees: 78,638

Vulnerable residents: 504,868

About 897,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, vulnerable residents and refugees live in South Kordofan and need humanitarian assistance. Between 90,000 (Humanitarian Aid Commission estimate) and 545,000 (Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency estimate) displaced people are estimated to live in the SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.<sup>2</sup>

1 HNO 2022

2 South Kordofan, State Profile (OCHA, 2020)





## Geography

South Kordofan state in the southern part of the country borders the Republic of South Sudan's states of Unity and Upper Nile. As a state, South Kordofan was administratively started in 1994. The state is divided into seventeen localities: three of these localities are fully accessible, 11 localities are partially inaccessible due to being controlled by armed groups while the remaining three (Buram, Heiban and Um Durain) are controlled by SPLM north and remain inaccessible. Difficult access to communities poses great risks to the realization of child rights as vulnerable children are not reached with basic services, such as routine vaccinations. Additionally, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnances cover large parts of the state.

Part of the 'Savannah belt', South Kordofan's lowlands are mostly clay and sandy grasslands, rich with seasonal rainwater for agriculture and post rainy-season pastures for livestock herding. The Goz or the sand dunes, together with the clay lowlands to the south, cover roughly two thirds of the 120,000 square kilometer of the state land area. The rest of the state is covered by the Nuba Mountains (48,000 square kilometers).

## Climate

Large parts of Sudan including Kordofan, continue to face natural disasters including cyclical flooding, drought, and desertification. In addition, acute and chronic food insecurity continues to threaten people's lives and livelihoods, and is driven by prolonged conflict, environmental deterioration and disasters. Research carried-out by the UN Environment Programme found that with rainfall down by up to 30 percent over 40 years and the Sahara advancing by well over a mile every year, tensions in Sahel was increasing between farmers and herders over disappearing pasture and evaporating water holes. Over the past five years (2014-2019), an average of 191,000 per year people have been affected by floods across Sudan, while more than 250,000 people were affected by drought. Season floods during the rainy season make remote parts of South Kordofan temporarily inaccessible by road.

## Economy

The economy of South Kordofan is mainly agrarian with market trading of imported goods in the towns. Around 58 per cent of the local population works in agriculture whereas 31 per cent work in both agriculture and herding - and only 11 per cent work in trade.<sup>3</sup>

Sector	Contribution to GDP
Agro-pastoral sector	52%
Industrial sector	2%
Services sector	30%
Inflation rate	44.1

Strategic oil reserves are located in the vicinity of Heglig (at the South-West Kordofan state border) but sporadic agreement on tariffs for production and transporting of the oil between Sudan and South Sudan, together with low government investment, reduce the economic potential of the state. Gold mines are situated within the government-controlled areas of South Kordofan. Considerable activity is reported around the town of Talodi near the border with South Sudan. The biggest mining operation is located at the localities of Talodi, El Leri and Ghadeer.

3 Source: Security Risk Management (SRM) Area and South Kordofan socio-economic profile (Ministry of Finance, 2017).

# HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

## Humanitarian Access



Humanitarian access has recently seen some improvements in both government and non-government-controlled areas. While humanitarian assistance to the SPLM-N areas resumed in 2021 (after a decade of inaccessibility), with food items now being delivered crossline, families in these areas are in urgent need of basic social services, including healthcare, clean drinking water and education as well as (child) protection services. Most children have not been vaccinated and many have missed several years of school.

Due to conflict, South Kordofan remains at the margin of investment and development from the Government of Sudan, many indicators lagging behind those from other states. Investment in social services is urgently needed in all localities, including in non-government-controlled areas.

With a changing political landscape and a nationwide wish for peace, UNICEF hopes that all children in Sudan – especially those living in the conflict-affected areas of the state – gain and keep access to quality and equitable basic social services. UNICEF stands ready to provide lifesaving basic services to communities in the ‘grey areas’ and the three inaccessible areas. However, significant gaps exist between humanitarian support needs and response, resulting from a shortage of funding and lack of implementing partners with the required technical skills.

## Children at Risk of Child Rights Violations

Sudan's ongoing conflict in Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan has driven displacement, separated children from their families and left thousands of children vulnerable to grave violations, including child recruitment. Children and adolescents in affected and vulnerable communities have been exposed to high levels of risks and vulnerabilities, including being associated with or recruited by armed groups. Poverty, lack of employable skills and opportunities, family pressure and shortage of social services were listed as root causes of child recruitment.

UNICEF provides crucial protection and reintegration services for children associated with armed conflict. UNICEF's work includes training of armed forces on child rights, development of standard operating procedures on reintegration of children associated with armed groups/forces, strengthening of community-based child protection networks, as well as life skills and vocational training for adolescents at-risk of recruitment. Many adolescents and youth have started their own business after receiving such training and supportive 'start-up kits'.

## Food Security

Due to the economic crisis (shortage of funds and diesel fuel) witnessed since late 2018, household purchasing power has declined among vulnerable households in South Kordofan. Seventy percent of displaced households and around 64 per cent of non-displaced households are experiencing well below average incomes due to low levels of rainfall during the last rainy season, which prevented people from harvesting the larger farms, and instead planted in hilly areas where soil is poor. The latest Sudan Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis found that about 15 per cent of the population in South Kordofan is in crisis and above levels of food security. In order to survive agricultural and economic shocks, families have employed various coping strategies, such as restricting food consumption of adults to feed their children, reducing the number of meals consumed each week, and limiting portion size at meals. About 89,000 people living in South Kordofan are malnourished (HNO 2022).

# KEY RESULTS IN 2021

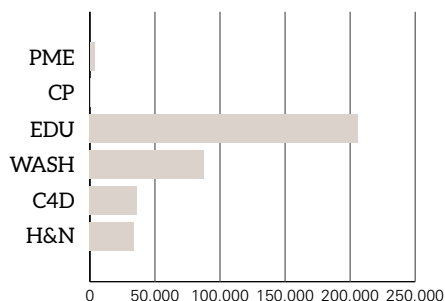
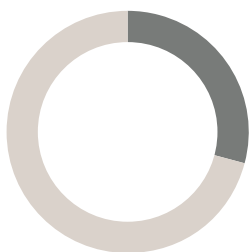
Unicef budget for South Kordofan:

**USD 7,388,795**

as of 1 April 2022

Funds received ► **27%**

Funding gap ► **73%**



Over **8,840** severely acutely malnourished children under-five years of age received nutrition treatment.

Nearly **12,000** bed nets (long-lasting insecticidal nets) were distributed across the state to prevent malaria.

**295,309** children received vitamin A while **37,612** children affected by humanitarian crisis received their first dose of measles vaccine.

**Solar systems** increased cold chain functionality in health facilities.

**58,850** people gained access to safe water.

Over **6,000** people gained access to basic sanitation facilities while around **6,350** people benefited from temporary sanitation solutions; additionally, over **20,650** people affected by emergencies learned to improve their basic hygiene practices.

**12,080** children gained access to safe learning environments.

Nearly **7,730** out-of-school children in humanitarian situations gained access to either formal or non-formal basic education.

**114** schools implemented safe school protocols for COVID-19 prevention and control.

A free-of-charge birth registration campaign was launched for children under-five years of age.

More than **1,500** most vulnerable boys and girls, including children affected by armed conflict, benefited from activities aimed at reintegrating them into their communities.

**40** communities were engaged in activities to reduce violence against children, including female genital mutilation/cutting.

**11,500** girls and boys received community-based psychosocial support activities.

**140** Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) personnel and other para-military personnel were trained on the prevention of grave violations against children during armed conflict.

**1,298** children benefitted from Family and Child Protection Unit's services, including legal, medical, and psychosocial support.

**80** alternative learning programme teachers were trained on mine risk awareness in a joint education and child protection activity to benefit **1,600** students.