



## KEY FACTS



**9,783**  
children  
under-five are  
severely acutely  
malnourished



**136,400**  
school-aged  
children are  
out-of-school



Up to  
**102,646**  
children  
under-five  
are not  
vaccinated  
against  
preventable  
diseases



**1,315**  
unaccompanied,  
and separated  
children are  
at risk of  
recruitment,  
exploitative  
labour, and  
abuse



**647,834**  
thousand people  
(33 per cent)  
lack access to  
basic water

# SITUATION IN WEST KORDOFAN

## Demography

West Kordofan is one of the three states that compose the region of Kordofan in southern Sudan. The state has a population of 1,945,450 people (2014 census), of which 984,969 children (aged 0-18). The population of West Kordofan belongs mainly to two ethnic groups; the Arab and African tribes. The Arab ethnic group comprises of the Mesarya and Hamar tribes who are predominantly nomads. The African ethnic group consists of the Nuba tribe in the north east, and several Darfurian tribes who are mostly farmers. Communal conflicts on grazing land remain a destabilising factor in West Kordofan, with pastoralists crossing the farmlands of farmers during their seasonal migration to the south.

Refugees: 67,381

IDPs: 91,343

Returnees: 10,694

People in needs: 370,000

## Geography

West Kordofan borders with South Sudan in the south, as well as the states of East Darfur, North and South Kordofan. The current administrative split of the state in North, South and West Kordofan occurred in 2013. West Kordofan state is divided into fourteen localities, most of these are accessible and covered by Government of Sudan and UNICEF social services. The Abyei Area in the south of the state, is an area of 10,546 square kilometers on the border between Sudan and South Sudan that has been accorded 'special administrative status' by the 2004 Protocol on the Resolution of the Abyei Conflict (Abyei Protocol) in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the Second Sudanese Civil War. Under the terms of the Abyei Protocol, the Abyei Area was considered, on an interim basis, to be simultaneously part of both the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, effectively a condominium.





## Climate

The climate in West Kordofan state can be described as semi-desert in the northern part of the state where the rainfall rates decreased. When you travel further south, the climate gradually changes to a 'dry savannah' climate, where the rainfall increases gradually in line with the temperature. West Kordofan has a great diversity in soil; from sand in the northern parts of the state to clay/mud in the southern part of the state.

The absence of a structured drainage system in West Kordofan often results in severe flooding in commercial and residential areas. This situation leads to the spread of water-borne diseases (cholera, typhoid, dengue fever, malaria), and impedes road movements. The weather condition during the dry season (October to May) is characterised by extreme heat and sandstorms 'haboob' depending on the year and the season, associated with strong winds. Fire hazards are also common during the dry period.

## Economy

The economy of West Kordofan is predominantly dependent on agricultural production consisting of rain-fed cultivation and traditional livestock-raising practiced by nomadic and semi-nomadic agro-pastoral and sedentary groups. The traditional land use pattern of the various tribes in the state is farming of crops as well as open grazing for cattle. Recently their life began to change as a result of oil exploration which affected their livelihoods pattern economically, socially, and environmentally.

'Abyei' is situated within the Muglad Basin, a large rift basin which contains a number of hydrocarbon accumulation. Oil exploration was undertaken in Sudan in the 1970s and 1980s. A period of significant investment in Sudan's oil industry occurred in the 1990s and Abyei became a target for this investment. By 2003 Abyei contributed more than one quarter of Sudan's total crude oil output. Production volumes have since declined and reports suggest that Abyei's reserves are nearing depletion. An important oil pipeline, the Greater Nile Oil Pipeline, travels through the Abyei area from the Heglig and Unity oil fields to Port Sudan on the Red Sea via Khartoum. The pipeline is vital to Sudan's oil exports which have boomed since the pipeline commenced operation in 1999.

Despite of the huge oil resources generated from the area, communities are still lagging behind and suffering from the lack of sustainable social services such as access to clean water, healthcare and education. The location of oil industry installations along grazing routes and the failure to resolve the Abyei issue contributes to widespread poverty and tribal clashes.

# HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

## Humanitarian Access (During the Rainy Season)

West Kordofan's road system is weak and becomes largely inaccessible during the rainy season, when roads flood and remote communities are cut-off from humanitarian assistance. There are associated vulnerabilities relating to road conditions, road worthiness, competence of the vehicle operators and acts of criminality. The insufficient and improper management of floods by the government in the town of El Fula during the raining seasons impacted community life, family income and security due to the loss and damage to property and possessions.

Conflict, floods and droughts also impact the food security situation in the state. The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2022 mentions 1,747,794 people in West Kordofan are in the food security 'severity phase', this includes: 417,677 people in 'stress phase', 181,906 people in 'severe phase', 256,942 people in 'extreme phase' and 32,464 people in the 'catastrophic phase'. It adds that 316,170 people live in life-threatening conditions and 461,698 people in life-sustaining conditions, among which children and women being the most affected. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), priority needs to be given to the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security/ livelihood, and health sectors.

## Border Tensions

With the strategic oil production town of Heglig located in West Kordofan, the government has maintained a strong military presence in the state. The Sudan Armed Forces have pulled back from border areas since the 'détente' with South Sudan of 2013. Nevertheless, the border areas remain sensitive and porous and are closely monitored. Also little to no progress has been made on the implementation of the 2012 Cooperation Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan, including (border) security arrangements. The presence of a large number of Popular Defense Forces (PDF) and armed militias is assessed as a potential security threat in West Kordofan and may be the source of sporadic instability in the area.

The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism is not allowed to carry-out ground patrols and establish (temporary) team sites in the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone. Meanwhile, Khartoum threatened to close its recently opened border with South Sudan if Juba would fail to expel Sudanese rebel groups from its territory. On 5 June 2016, however, following meetings in Khartoum, the two countries signed a series of security agreements, including immediate re-deployment of joint military forces along the border zone, and approved a plan to stop supporting and harboring rebels as well as open the crossings points. The Juba Peace Agreement, signed in 2020, paved the way to closer cooperation between Sudan and South Sudan.



## Tribal Conflict

The comprehensive peace agreement signed in 2005 between Sudan and South Sudan affected the long-established migration routes of nomads and their cattle and this created seasonal conflict - especially during the dry season - between Dinka and Misiya over grazing land. Most tribes in West Kordofan were armed by the Government of Sudan during the civil war, which led to the separation of North and South Sudan. The proliferation of small arms remains a key challenge and is one of the reasons for high crime rates in the state.

In 2021, West Darfur state experienced an inter-tribal/communal clash in and around Nuhud and Sunut localities at the boundaries between Mesarya and Hamar land plots (Hakouras). This led people to flee and seek refuge into safer areas of the state, and in some cases IDPs moved from the northern part of the state to the southern part of the state to seek safety and security.

## Refugees and Pressure on Social Services

The additional pressure on resources created by the high number of South Sudanese refugees in West Kordofan, has resulted in shortages of supplies: classrooms, learners' desks, teaching and learning materials, as well as lower levels of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The shortage of supplies has resulted in learning environments that are not conducive for learning due to significant overcrowding and unhygienic practices in existing learning facilities in the host communities. These push factors contribute to increasing children's chances of being out of school as well as put children at risk of dropping out.



# KEY RESULTS IN 2021

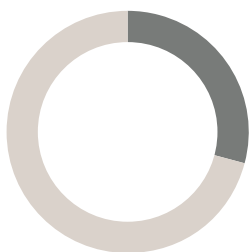
Unicef budget for West Kordofan:

**USD 5,147,383**

as of 1 April 2022

Funds received ► **27%**

Funding gap ► **73%**



**14,761** severely acutely malnourished children (SAM) were treated in 2020.

**889,200** bed nets (long-lasting insecticidal nets) were distributed. These nets are keeping mothers and children safe from malaria and other infectious diseases.

**61,652** children under-five were reached with integrated management of childhood illness services.

**394,955** children received vitamin A supplementation during an integrated polio campaign conducted in the state.

**35,322** children, women and men were reached with access to drinking water during 2020 through UNICEF direct support.

**23** communities in West Kordofan were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). A total of, **9,027** people in West Kordofan were reached with sanitation facilities.

**6,188** girls and boys were reached with learning materials and **3,840** children gained access to safe learning environments in 2019. Furthermore, **24** classrooms were constructed, and **13** schools were rehabilitated. Families of school-going children were indirectly supported by providing cash assistance to schools (school grant) to take away the financial burden of schooling from children's families

**2,302** vulnerable girls and boys – at risk of recruitment and child labour – accessed vocational training. They are equipped with the skills necessary to start their own business and generate an income.

**2,422** children received psychosocial support. Children with special needs are referred to specialised services, such as medical care, legal support or alternative learning programmes.

**183** unaccompanied or separated children were reunified with their families and alternative care.

**3,036** mother support groups were established, and **24,371** mothers/caregivers received counseling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF).

**791,214** community members were reached with awareness messages on COVID-19 prevention and birth registration.