

# STATE PROFILE | WHITE NILE

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## KEY FACTS



**40 per cent** of children under-five are suffering from stunting, while **9.5% children** of children under-five suffer from wasting (S3M survey, 2018).



**34.6 per cent** of school-aged children (5-13 years old) are out-of-school (EMIS 2017)



**20 per cent** of children are not fully vaccinated



**70 per cent** of the population has no access to basic sanitation and **42 per cent** of the population has no access to basic water (S3M survey 2018)



At the start of 2022, **7,802 children** were identified as separated or unaccompanied (UNHCR dashboard, State Council for Child Welfare, UNICEF reports)

# SITUATION IN WHITE NILE

## Demography<sup>1</sup>

The population of White Nile state is slightly more than 2.9 million people. There are approximately 950,000 children (aged 0-18) in White Nile, the average family size is five and the average population density is 35 people per square kilometer. Three-quarters of the population lives in rural areas.

White Nile State is divided into nine localities namely Kosti (472,892 inhabitants), Rabak (286,183 inhabitants), Al Duweim (383,843 inhabitants), Al Gutaina (204,157 inhabitants), Tendalti (179,119 inhabitants), Al Jabalain (204,157 inhabitants), Al Salam (157,423 inhabitants), Guli (281,916 inhabitants) and Um Rimta (119,033 inhabitants). The annual population growth rate is 2.9 percent.

## Refugees: 250,590

After the separation of South Sudan and the subsequent civil war, many people fled to Sudan with the majority staying in the border regions. White Nile is hosting most South Sudanese refugees in Sudan (around 276,050 people). Some of them live in nine camps in Al Salam and Al Jabalain localities, while more than 103,969 South Sudanese refugees live out-of-camps.

## Returnees: 30,500

The civil war in South Sudan which started in 2013 and continued for many years forced thousands of Sudanese people who were living in South Sudan to return to their original location in White Nile state mainly to Al Salam and Al Jabalain localities. However, lack of access to basic services in their communities, with infrastructure being destroyed or neglected in hard-to-reach or abandoned areas, this group need humanitarian support.



## Geography

White Nile State is located in the southern part of Sudan and occupies an area of about 150,000 square kilometers. It borders South Sudan with Goda, Al Meganis, and Al Kewaik as the main entry points, which serve as customs centers, routes for immigrants, displaced, and refugees of both countries. White Nile state borders Khartoum in the northeast, an area characterized by agricultural as well as grazing land. Old nomadic routes cross the state into South Sudan.

## Climate

White Nile has been severely affected by climate change and is considered to be among the most rapidly warming locations in Sudan, with air temperatures increasing by one degree Celsius every year since the 1970s. In addition to a thirty-year trend of declining rainfall, there is evidence that rainfall is becoming more erratic. Further, groundwater depletion such as in Al Salam and Al Jabalain localities, drought in Al Gutaina locality, and recent floods along the White Nile River all contribute to environmental degradation. Epidemics such as cholera are becoming recurrent phenomena. Intensive cutting of trees for charcoal making (especially in Al Salam and Al Jabalain), as well as inappropriate management of liquid and solid waste, have severely contributed to environmental degradation as well as a deteriorating socio-economic situation for many communities.

## Economy

The removal of Sudan from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism followed by relief of most of the debt provided opportunities for international financing support through IMF and the World Bank. The economic reforms made by the transitional government will definitely improve the economic situation of the country, but the improvement may not be as quick as expected, as inflation rates are still high and affecting the whole country. It is expected that the current economic crisis will continue to drive humanitarian needs in 2021 and beyond. White Nile state has an abundance of natural resources such as vast agricultural lands, especially used for the production of sugar cane (the state is hosting the three main sugar factories in Sudan) as well as cotton production, animal husbandry, and fishery. In addition, the state is investing in its river port and railway, which are linking the northern and southern parts of Sudan. Unfortunately, these economic activities did not sufficiently raise incomes and reduce poverty, mainly due to the overall deteriorating economic situation in Sudan.

# HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

## South Sudanese Refugees

White Nile State hosts an estimated 273,601 South Sudanese refugees, who have been arriving in the state since the civil war in South Sudan started in 2013. Around sixty percent of the refugees live in ten (10) camps in Al Salam and Al Jabalain localities where UNHCR is leading the provision of essential lifesaving operations. Around 40 percent of the refugees are living out-of-camps in host communities, and UNICEF together with government counterparts are responsible for the delivery of basic social and protective services to refugees and host communities alike. While out-of-camp refugees were a common phenomenon in states like South Kordofan, West Kordofan, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur, and Khartoum, it was not well-known and understood in the White Nile state. This constituted a major barrier to planning and the delivery of an effective humanitarian response for the population. A needs assessment is essential to identify the out-of-camp locations of refugees as well as the challenges they are confronted with.

## Flooding

In the past years, the White Nile state witnessed heavy rains and flash floods in various localities. The localities that were severely affected by floods were Jabalain, Al Gutaina, As Salam, Guli, Tendalti. In Jabalain around 16,000 families (80,000 people) were affected by the floods in September 2021, which also impacted refugee communities (Alganaa camp was completely flooded). Erratic and heavy rains have become a more common occurrence in the past years, affecting accessibility by road and damaging buildings. UNICEF focuses on better preparedness, such as pre-positioning supplies before the start of the rainy season in areas that might become inaccessible by road due to flooding, in addition to emergency response to the flood-affected people.



# KEY RESULTS IN 2021

Unicef budget for White Nile:

**USD 6,236,448**

as of 1 April 2022

Funds received ▶ **30%**

Funding gap ▶ **70%**



**17,481** severely acutely malnourished children (SAM) (under-five) were treated with therapeutic food and care.

**1.1 million** bed nets (long-lasting insecticidal nets) were distributed across White Nile state. These nets are keeping mothers and children safe from malaria and other infectious diseases.

**12,578** children were reached with measles vaccinations.

**9,749** OSC enrolled in schools and ALP centers and benefited from education supplies. Furthermore, seven schools were supported with classrooms and rehabilitation reaching over **1,392** children.

**13,896** children (6,201 girls) were reached with psychosocial support, it is worth mentioning that Grade 8 students were supported with psychosocial support during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

**661** children in contact with the law were diverted out of the judicial system. In addition, three communities abandoned the practice of female genital mutilation.

**3** communities with **3,900** people were certified as opened defecation-free communities. Besides eight schools were provided with improved sanitation facilities. Around **120,940** crisis-affected people were reached with hygiene messages.

**24,500** people were reached with a sustainable basic water supply, and **145,800** crisis-affected people were reached with water disinfection and support with the operation and maintenance of water sources. **Six** schools were provided with improved water supply.