



TOWARDS DEMOCRACY, SOCIOECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND PROSPERITY

UNDP SUDAN



Context ¹

Years of conflict and poor governance have hindered Sudan's economic potential, driving economic stagnation, limited growth, high inflation and a foreign trade imbalance. With a Human Development Index of 0.507, placing Sudan 168th of 189 countries, 65 percent of Sudan's 41.8 million people live beneath the national poverty line and 52.4% are considered multi-dimensionally poor. For Sudan's large youth demographic – 62 percent of the population are under the age of 24 – unemployment languishes around 31 percent, predominantly impacting women and the better educated.

Poverty is on the rise in urban slums, increasing those considered the vulnerable from six to ten million – almost a quarter of the population. Conflict, food insecurity and climate change have contributed to more than two million people displaced, most living in overpopulated IDP camps, with an additional 1.1 million refugees spread across the country. With COVID-19 further exacerbating Sudan's socioeconomic challenges, the transition is under additional stress. But, while the challenges Sudan faces are significant, it retains many assets: a youthful workforce, fertile land, natural resources, and a population determined to achieve a new Sudan.

Strategic vision

Sudan's transition remains a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build an inclusive, nationwide peace process. In realizing the promise of a new Sudan, the transition to sustainable development is critical to prevent the risk of a relapse into poverty, conflict and social exclusion, with integrated humanitarian, peacebuilding, and resilience-strengthening solutions essential. The women- and youth-led revolution of 2019, consolidated in the August 2019 Constitutional Declaration, has resulted in a thus far peaceful transition. Sudan has created an opportunity for fundamental transformational change in its economy and political structure, and an opportunity to refresh the social contract. The challenge is ensuring this transformation remains inclusive, participatory, transparent, peaceful, and just – while overcoming and rebuilding better from COVID-19.

Achieving this will require investment in stabilization and resilience strengthening at all levels of society, in tandem with humanitarian assistance. At the household level, self-sufficiency begins with access to productive assets, generating livelihood and income opportunities and supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. At the community level, equitable access to social and basic services, provision of livelihood and income-generating opportunities, and the promotion of social cohesion for peace and reconciliation will enable a resilient society. This will require central and local institutions with the capacity to deliver needs-based services in an accountable and inclusive manner.

(1) Sources: UNDP Arab Development Portal; UN COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for Sudan; World Bank.

Through a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach, UNDP will support Sudan in building a new social contract, with women and youth at the centre of decision-making. In support of the Transitional Government, and working seamlessly with UN sister agencies and the United Nations Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), UNDP is prioritizing four programme areas:

1  **Inclusive socioeconomic transformation and revival**

3  **Consolidating and sustaining local peacebuilding**

2  **Restoring governance through inclusive and gender responsive and accountable institutions**

4  **Investing in a new Green Deal through solar for agriculture and other sectors**



Scan with your smartphone to learn more about UNDP's work in socioeconomic transformation and livelihood creation, or visit <https://cutt.ly/TuLMhHT>



Nabait Daing, a South Sudanese refugee, farmer and wheat harvester in White Nile State, secured employment as part of a UNDP agriculture programme. With her new livelihood and income, Nabait has been able to support and feed her family and end her reliance on food aid.

1  **Inclusive socioeconomic transformation and revival**

Under the leadership of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, UNDP works closely with the Friends of Sudan on coordinating and mobilizing international support for the Government, including supporting the development of a Mutual Accountability Framework, and preparation for the Sudan

Partnership Conference. In socioeconomic programming, UNDP will focus on the poor and those vulnerable to poverty. As such, UNDP complements the Government Family Support Program by providing new opportunities for access to micro-finance and e-finance. This will boost productive assets and economic development through medium-, small- and micro-enterprises and lay a foundation for socioeconomic resilience.

Our socioeconomic supporting initiatives will:

- Scale up productive social safety nets and crucial trust-building stabilization interventions, to renew the informal economy and enable self-sufficiency for women and youth.
- Support disadvantaged women, youth, and households to access finance and e-banking services, in support of agricultural and livelihood opportunities, including for host communities, returnees, and those in remote areas.
- Support the expansion of agricultural productivity and production to ensure food supply and supply chains, in partnership with FAO and IFAD. This will include developing policy and regulatory frameworks and providing technical assistance on climate adaptation and business loans.
- Contribute to participatory, SDG-based, and equitable pro-poor public budgeting as part of the National Development Planning.
- Reduce increasing poverty levels in urban slums by implementing an Urban Poverty Reduction Program.

Supporting livelihood creation, agricultural productivity and community cohesion, UNDP Sudan has recently:

- Established **16** value chain associations in North and East Darfur, supporting **5,000** vulnerable households.
- Opened **46km²** of new farmland in White Nile State, using **86km** of new or rehabilitated canals, creating **24,000** seasonal jobs.
- Trained youth volunteers in Darfur to recruit **13,000** people into **648** 'savings groups', and create and support **682** micro-enterprises.



Scan with your smartphone to learn more about UNDP's work in gender and governance, or visit <https://cutt.ly/NuL0sZm>



2



Restoring governance through inclusive and gender responsive and accountable institutions

North Khartoum women's rights activist and young political hopeful Roaa Bakri Bilal is one of 1,070 women – two-thirds under the age of 40 – identified during a governance mapping initiative and willing to represent their communities.

In fostering institutional capacity, including via dedicated support in response to COVID-19, UNDP ensures business continuity of core government functions. Doing so safeguards the ability to govern at all levels and prepares for a refreshed, mutually accountable social contract as stipulated in the Constitutional Declaration. UNDP will continue its work and scale up:

- Support to Line ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office, Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning, Justice, and Labor and Social Development, as well as the Peace Commission, Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, and similar entities.
- An inclusive and participatory constitution-making process to accompany the transitional authorities in their consultations.

- Together with UNITAMS, support for the transitional authority to prepare and conduct free, inclusive, and fair elections with women's and youths' equal and meaningful participation, while promoting democratization and civic engagement.
- Opportunities for e-governance in public administration, while ensuring connectivity between and among different levels of state authorities.

Ensuring gender representation, Government business continuity and protection of human rights, UNDP Sudan has recently:

- Identified **1,070** potential candidates for the **40%** female representation in the Transitional Legislative Council, and other posts.
- Supported **7** key Government institutions with teleconference technology for COVID-19 safe operations.
- Trained **221** rural and district court judges and administrators in human rights mainstreaming, conflict resolution or court management.



Scan with your smartphone to learn more about UNDP's work in governance and stabilization, or visit <https://cutt.ly/NuL0sZm>



Musa Awadallah Mohamed is one of hundreds of community leaders in Darfur to receive peacebuilding and conflict resolution training.

3



Consolidating and sustaining local peacebuilding

UNDP has contributed to a peaceful transition since August 2019 through continuous investment in local conflict prevention capacity, and by addressing access to livelihoods, land, human mobility, climate security and distrust as the drivers of conflicts. Working with UNITAMS, UNDP will scale up

efforts towards implementation of peace agreements to sustain a peaceful transition for the whole of Sudan. Our supporting initiatives will:

- Maintain regional peace dialogues and deliver peace and transition dividends in disadvantaged communities impacted by conflict and economic grievances, including through community-based conflict-resolution mechanisms, and promoting tolerance and social cohesion.
- Support peace and community security including through climate security, gender, and human rights provision.
- Enhance perceived and real security perception through strengthened rule of law, human rights, gender justice, security, and justice institutions, including transitional justice and anti-corruption.
- Support national and local efforts towards reintegration as part of a national strategy on ex-combatant Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, including community-based reintegration and reduction of violence as part of peace agreements.
- Generate livelihood opportunities in rural, urban, and peri-urban areas, focusing on the most vulnerable, including IDPs and refugees in border areas, with UNHCR for the promotion of durable solutions for return.

Fostering social cohesion, and enhancing national capacities for sustaining peace, UNDP Sudan has recently:

- Established and maintained **135** Community-based Reconciliation Mechanism (CBRMs) in Darfur, resolving **1,147** cases. **14** CBRMs were established in Golo alone.
- Repaired or created **137** ‘tangible’ community assets (i.e. markets, community centres, classrooms) to support community stability.



Scan with your smartphone to learn more about UNDP's work in solar for agriculture, or visit <https://cutt.ly/iuL9iwn>



A UNDP-supported solar water-pumped farm in Northern State, one of almost 1,900 planned nationwide. Since replacing diesel with solar energy, cultivated land has increased 46% and crop production 47%, and new high-value crops like watermelon and cotton have been introduced or expanded.

4 Investing in a new Green Deal through solar for agriculture and other sectors

UNSCR 2524 recognizes climate change as a key driver of tensions in Sudan. At the same time, Sudan has an enormous untapped agricultural potential, high sunshine hours and strong energy needs. UNDP Sudan, in support of the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy has a successful

record of agricultural production boosting solar solutions, including climate security and climate risk financing mechanisms. The opportunities for renewable energy to unlock Sudan's agriculture potential, and support development in health, rural livelihoods, micro- and small-sized enterprises are immense. Investing in a new Green Deal will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and subsidy expense, directly contributing to economic reform efforts. Our supporting initiatives will:




- Help develop and implement a National Renewables and Solar Fund, delivering solar innovation at scale, anchored by national finance combined with internationally sourced finance. The Fund will support small and medium farmers access to solar solutions in the agricultural sector, including solar-powered water irrigation systems and wind energy.
- Engage closely with the private sector to expand the renewable energy industry in Sudan.
- Support powering health facilities in rural areas with decentralized solar PV systems, improving Sudan's ability to respond to current and future health crises.
- Scale up solar home system adoption and access in rural communities, utilizing innovative finance mechanisms.
- Promote and increase domestic commercial investment in solar mini-grids for more energy-intensive applications (e.g. cold chain products, ovens, mills, grinders), particularly in rural areas.

Tackling emissions, lack of electrical grid access, desertification and water scarcity, UNDP Sudan has recently:

- Improved lives for **46,720** people in **6** states with clean, affordable and sustainable solar energy.
- Supported solar in **62** health facilities across **9** states.
- Enabled cultivation of **463** acres of farmland with solar power.



UNDP resource mobilization budget (US\$)

	2020	2021	2022	Total
 Inclusive socioeconomic transformation and revival	05	35	20	60
 Restoring governance through inclusive and gender responsive and accountable institutions	10	35	30	75
 Consolidating and sustaining local peacebuilding	15	30	35	80
 Investing in a new Green Deal through solar for agriculture and other sectors	05	20	25	50
Total	35	120	110	265