



The Republic of the Sudan

MAL FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

The Republic of the Sudan is in north-eastern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea.

Chief of State: Sovereign Council Chair and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces General Abd-al-Fatah al-BURHAN Abd-al-Rahman
Capital: Khartoum
Gov Type: Presidential republic
Population: 50,467,278

History: Sudan's colonial history was predominately Anglo-Egyptian rule, which lasted from 1899 to 1956. Following the defeat of the Mahdist state by British and Egyptian forces in 1898, Sudan was established as a condominium, a joint authority between Britain and Egypt. Despite this nominally shared governance, the British held the actual power, implementing administrative and infrastructural changes while largely marginalizing Egyptian influence. British colonial policies exacerbated regional and ethnic divisions, particularly between the predominantly Arab-Muslim north and the largely African-Christian and animist south. This divide and rule strategy laid the groundwork for future conflicts. Sudan's path to independence began post-World War II, as nationalist sentiments surged. By 1956, Sudan achieved full independence from British-Egyptian control, but the legacy of colonialism continued to fuel civil strife and shape the nation's political landscape.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Republic of Sudan is about 1,861,484 sq km in total area and has 129,813 sq km of water and has 853 km of coastline.

The climate is hot and dry; arid desert with rainy seasons varies by region. The terrain is generally flat with featureless plains and desert dominates the north.

Natural resources include petroleum, small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, and hydropower.

Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Sudanese

Adjective: Sudanese

Ethnic Groups: Sudanese Arab (approximately 70%), Fur, Beja, Nuba, Ingessana, Uduk, Fallata, Masalit, Dajo, Gimir, Tunjur, Berti; there are over 500 ethnic groups

Religion: Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority

Literacy: 60.7% (Male 65.4%, Female 56.1%)

Population growth is at 2.55%

ECONOMY AND GDP

Sudan's economy is in a deep crisis due to the ongoing civil war. Inflation spiked to OVER 170% in 2024. Sudan's Real GDP has contracted significantly over the course of the conflict due to a reduction in agricultural activity and services. On the demand side, massive displacement alongside major losses in personal income reduced private consumption and demand. Nevertheless, Sudan remains a country rich in potential for agricultural and mineral exports.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$126 billion (2026)

Real GDP Growth Rate: -12.8% (2024), -37.5% (2023), -3.63% (2020)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$984 (2024)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$49 billion (2024)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 176.9% (2024), 145.5% (2023), 138.81% (2022), 359.09% (2021), 163.26% (2020)

GDP - Composition: agriculture: 39.6% (2017), industry: 2.6% (2017), services: 57.8% (2017)

Unemployment Rate: 17.59% (2022), 19.19% (2021), 19.21% (2020)

Youth Unemployment: 35.6% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Sudan is characterized by significant ethnic and regional diversity, which has often led to tensions and conflicts. The north is predominantly Arab-Muslim, while the south has a majority of African ethnic groups practicing Christianity and indigenous religions. These divisions have historically led to marginalization and conflict, most notably the two civil wars between the north and south, the second of which led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 and South Sudan's independence in 2011. However, disputes over borders, oil revenues, and other issues have continued to strain relations between the two countries. Since 2003, the Darfur region in western Sudan has been in a conflict involving government forces, allied Janjaweed militias, and various rebel groups. The conflict has resulted in massive humanitarian crises, allegations of genocide by the ICC, and international intervention.

From 1989-2019, Sudan was ruled by Omar Al-Bashir's military dictatorship, which oversaw the Second Sudanese Civil War, the secession of South Sudan, and the 2003 Darfur war. After severe civil unrest, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF, formally known as the Janjaweed) ousted Al-Bashir, negotiating a transition to a democratic government. In 2023, negotiations over the RSF's integration timeline with the SAF fell through, and the two groups that were leading the government in the interim plunged into civil war.

Sudan's economy is in severe disrepair, and the ongoing civil war remains one of the largest humanitarian disasters, with several million Sudanese people displaced. Recently, both Wagner, the Russian paramilitary organization, and the UAE have been accused of smuggling weapons to Western Darfur, essentially bankrolling the RSF's heinous actions in the region, killing civilians and ethnic minorities.

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