

Country – capital	Republic of the Sudan - Khartoum
Population	Sudanese Arab (approx. 70%), non-Arab such as Fur, Beja, Nuba, Fallata Total population 46.7 million (estimation 2021)
Geography	South of Egypt, north of Ethiopia, bordering the Red Sea
Languages – official / lingua franca	Arabic (official, language of instruction, and most widely spoken), English (official, language of instruction), several indigenous languages
Writing system	Arabic
Education and literacy	60.7% of adults are literate (read and write), women less (56% in 2018). Education in Sudan is free and compulsory for children aged 6 to 13 years. Primary education consists of 8 years, followed by 3 years of secondary education. Teaching language is Arabic. Sudan has one of the largest numbers of out-of-school children in the Middle East and North Africa region. Over 3 million children, aged 5-13 years, are not in the classroom. 76% of primary age children attend school; in secondary school that figure dips to 28 %.
Religions	Large majority Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority
Conflict history and overview	Fundamental Islamist law was introduced in 1983, which deepened tensions between the Islamic Arab population in the north, and the largely Christian non-Arab population in the south. Civil war (1955-1972 and 1983-2005) killed thousands, and many people from the south were taken as slaves to work in the north. Lieutenant General Omar Bashir led a coup in 1989 and ruled the country until he was ousted by the military in April 2019. In 2011 South Sudan gained independence. Between 2003 and 2008, massacres of civilians in Darfur by a pro-government militia (Janjaweed), supported by the government army, killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions. International observers consider it ethnic cleansing of the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa peoples. In July 2008 the ICC indicted President Bashir with genocide in Darfur. In April 2019 Bashir was overthrown after months of street protests (incl. many women). 25-10-2021 a new military coup dissolved the joint military and civilian council that governed the country since August 2019, leading to mass protests, violence (spike of gender-based violence), social distress.
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 66.8 yrs Population below poverty line: 36.1% (2015) – (was 46% in 2009) In 2021/22 14.3 million people in need of humanitarian aid
Human rights situation	2021 reports: political instability, economic and security problems remain. After the 2021 coup, increasing violence and abuses in Darfur and Eastern Sudan, crackdowns on protesters and human rights defenders.
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate: 311 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.) Early marriages and childbirth prevail, no law against child marriage FGM prevalence: 86 % (declining). FGM was criminalised in 2020 but still widespread.
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex activities illegal, punishable max 7 yrs prison, and imprisoned for life if found 'guilty' 3 times. Acts of 'gross indecency' punishable with > 40 lashes and 1 yr prison. Law enforcement occurs.
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	IDPs within Sudan >3 million (July 2021); 47% women and girls Many refugees stay in neighbouring countries Malta Sudanese sea arrivals: 2021: 100 (12% out of 832). 2020: 28% (out of 2281), in 2019: 39% (out of 3406) Asylum applicants in Malta 2020: 444, in 2021 190

Sources:

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.