

EU development cooperation with Sudan

1. Context

Sudan is the third largest country in Africa. With around 40 million inhabitants and its geostrategic position, it plays a pivotal role for the stability of the wider Horn region.

Being at the crossroads between East and North Africa, Sudan is a key country of transit, destination and origin of migrants in a fragile region. Sudan is the second largest refugee hosting country in Africa, with 900,000 refugees/asylum seekers. The country has been mired by long-lasting internal conflicts in its southern and western regions (notably Darfur). In Sudan there are still around 2 million internally displaced people (IDPs).

The cooperation provided by the European Union in Sudan adopts a peacebuilding and people-centred approach. Its main objective is to contribute to promoting peace, improved governance and sustainable development for all. The EU cooperation is impacted by the decision of the Government of Sudan to not ratify the revised version of the Cotonou Agreement. This implies that there is no bilateral EU-Sudan development cooperation as such.

The needs of the population are huge and the instruments available are limited. The EU provides direct support to the people of Sudan and vulnerable groups, in particular through actions funded by the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#). Focal sectors for this on-going support include education, health, food security, and rural development. Sudan is one of the EU pilot countries for the implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus, with focuses so far on under nutrition and forced displacement.

Moreover, the EUTF supports joint regional initiatives with the countries of the Horn of Africa to better manage migration, with a particular focus on victims of trafficking and the other vulnerable groups, including smuggled migrants, women and unaccompanied minors. These initiatives contribute to combatting the trafficking and smuggling of persons, and opening legal channels of migration.

Beyond the EUTF financed actions, other financial instruments (e.g. [EIDHR](#), [IcSP](#) and funding under DCI-thematic budget lines [CSO-LA](#) and [GPGC](#)) are also benefitting the country.

Finally, the EU supports the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan to advance the negotiations between the Government and Opposition groups, in Darfur and in the Two Areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

2. The EU response in Sudan

Who are the target beneficiaries?

The main beneficiaries of EU support are vulnerable populations in peripheral areas of the country and in Khartoum, in particular refugees, IDPs, returnees, the local communities hosting them, and migrants. Projects are implemented country wide, with focus in the Eastern States of Gedaref, Kassala and Red Sea, in the Darfur, in Khartoum, and the Kordofan.

How are projects implemented in Sudan?

All activities are carried out by development agencies of EU Member States, UN agencies, other international organisations, and NGOs. No funding is decentralised to or channelled through Sudan's Government structures.

What are the oversight mechanisms?

The European Commission is in charge of tendering, contracting and projects' follow-up. Each project conducts its own monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis. The EU Delegation in Sudan ensures and supervises the implementation of the programs and discusses them with the relevant donor working groups - which meet periodically - as well as with the Sudanese authorities. Close monitoring of project activities and sustained dialogue between donors, national authorities and implementing partners guarantee adequate oversight of projects' implementation.

Are the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) beneficiaries of EU funds?

The RSF are not benefitting and will not benefit from direct or indirect support under any current or future EU funded project.

Is the EU paying the Government of Sudan to stop migrants at its borders?

No, the EU does not provide any funds to the Government of Sudan. The EU stands by the Sudanese population and is working to strengthen its livelihood capacities, and to ensure that people in need receive adequate assistance and protection. This includes refugees, IDPs, people on the move and host communities.

How many funds have been committed for Sudan under the EUTF?

A Special Measure to support the people of Sudan (for an amount of €100 million), was adopted by the Commission in April 2016. The measure was channelled through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). The special measure was accompanied by the [Short Term Strategy 2016/17 for Sudan](#). It (1) supports basic services (education and health), (2) promotes livelihoods and food security, (3) strengthens civil society, local governance and peacebuilding.

Further punctual allocations have been made available to respond to Sudan protracted crises, notably long-term displacement and undernutrition.

Sudan is one of the **EU pilot countries for the implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus**.

There are ongoing projects under the EUTF in Sudan worth € 173.5 million as in the table below. For further information on each of the projects, please see the *Annex* at the end of the Factsheet.

Name of programme	Total commitments (in M€)	implementing partners	decision's adoption year
1. Strengthening Resilience for IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in West Darfur	7	IMC, CONCERN	2016
2. Strengthening resilience for refugees, IDPs and host communities in Eastern Sudan	12	AICS	2016
3. Greater Stability in Eastern Sudan through better and more informed Decision-Making in Food Security	6	FAO	2016

4. Sudan RDPP: Enhancing alternatives to first and secondary movement from Sudan	15	UNHCR, UNIDO, AICS, RVO, GIZ	2016
5. Mitigate the effect of El Niño for the host and IDP population in Red Sea, White Nile and North Darfur, Sudan	8	Weltungerhilfe, COOPI, ADRA	2016
6. Education Quality Improvement Programme in Sudan (EQUIP-Sudan)	22	UNICEF, Expertise France, British Council, SOFRECO	2016
7. Livestock Epidemio-Surveillance Project to Support Livelihoods of vulnerable rural smallholders and pastoralists (LESP SLSP)	9	IFAD	2016
8. Improving Nutrition and Reducing Stunting in Eastern Sudan through an Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Approach	8	WFP	2016
9. Wadi El Ku Integrated Catchment Management Project (Phase 2)	10	UNEP	2017
10. Technical Cooperation Facility for Sudan 2018 – 2020	4	multi	2017
11. Integrated Measures to promote rural-urban value addition and Employment (IMPROVE-EU) – East Sudan	8	GIZ	2017
12. Fostering Smallholder Capacities and Access to Markets in Food Insecure Areas of Darfur	8	WFP	2017
13. PROTECT – Protection of Persons of Concern (PoC) and vulnerable migrants along migratory routes in Sudan	4	IOM, Danish Red Cross	2017
14. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Simple, Spatial, Survey Method (S3M) for Sudan	1	UNICEF	2018
15. Youth, Employment, Skills (YES) - Sudan	15	GIZ	2018
16. Provision of air services to allow access for humanitarian and development actors in Sudan	1.5	WFP/UNHAS	2018
17. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Building Resilient Communities in West Kordofan (BRICK), Sudan	10	UNICEF, Concern	2018
18. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Joint Nutrition Resilience Programme in Red Sea State (JNRP-RS), Sudan	15	FAO, UNICEF, WFP	2018
19. Integrating refugee children into the Sudanese Education System	10	UNICEF	2018
Total	173.5		

The EUTF projects focus on the geographical areas that have been most affected by conflicts and host large numbers of refugees, IDPs and returnees, and are key transit points in the migratory routes exploited by criminal networks of traffickers of human beings and smugglers of migrants.

The EUTF prioritises populations who are destitute, deprived of livelihoods and socioeconomic opportunities, and at risk of being pushed into irregular migration and displacement and/or of falling prey to human traffickers and smugglers.

Annex – Summary of EUTF ongoing programmes benefitting Sudan*

*All amounts indicated in this factsheet refer only to the EU contributions to projects, and therefore do not take into account co-financing from other partners

a. National Projects

1. Strengthening Resilience for IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in West Darfur (€7million).
Implementing partners: CONCERN and International Medical Corps.

&

2. Strengthening resilience for refugees, IDPs and hostcommunities in Eastern Sudan (€12million).
Implementing partner: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

These two actions aim to strengthen community resilience, social cohesion and peacebuilding in areas affected by flows of returnees from Chad (such as it is the case in West Darfur) as well as by internal displacement and refugees (such as it is the case in East Sudan and West Darfur). They aim to do so by improving the access to and quality of health services, whose absence is recognised as one of the main push factors of forced displacement.

3. Greater Stability in Eastern Sudan through better and more informed Decision-Making in Food Security (€6 million). *Implementing partner: FAO.*

This action aims at improving the capacity of central and local authorities to collect, analyse and disseminate data and evidence on food security in order to better inform decision-making processes at policy level and project design. By improving the quality of decision-making on food security, it is expected that the project will contribute to more effectively build resilience of vulnerable populations, hence addressing a root cause of internal displacement and outward migration.

4. Regional Development and Protection Programme in Sudan: Enhancing alternatives to first and secondary movement from Sudan (€15 million). *Implementing partners: UNHCR, UNIDO, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and GIZ.*

This action falls under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) framework and aims to support refugees and host communities in Eastern Sudan and Khartoum. It focuses on the creation of sustainable development and protection solutions for refugees and host communities, through enhanced protection and assistance, greater employment opportunities and improved service delivery.

5. Mitigate the effect of El Niño for the host and IDP population in Red Sea, White Nile and North Darfur (€8 million). *Implementing partner: Weltungerhilfe, COOPI, ADRA*

This action was developed as part of a wider response to the El Niño and food security crises in the Horn of Africa region. The project will strengthen sustainable and alternative livelihoods of local

communities, displaced populations and potential migrants in North Darfur, Red Sea and White Nile, in order to avoid a deterioration of the food security and economic situation which would fuel further displacement. Its focus is on water, drought- resilient agriculture, livestock and sustainable income opportunities.

6. Education Quality Improvement Programme in Sudan (€22 million). *Implementing partners: Agence Française d'Expertise Technique Internationale, France (AFETI), British Council, UNICEF, Save the Children and SOFRECO.*

This programme targets Eastern and Southern Sudan as well as Khartoum, where education enrolment and completion rates are still low, and the increasing presence of refugees, IDPs and migrants is stressing the capacities of host communities. It aims to ensure equitable access and completion of quality primary education, with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, including migrants, IDPs and refugees, especially girls.

7. Livestock Epidemio-Surveillance Project to Support Livelihoods of vulnerable rural smallholders and pastoralists (€9 million). *Implementing partner: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).*

This programme recognizes the central role of the livestock sector within the Sudanese economy, especially for export and trade. Supporting livestock facilitates income generation, thereby allowing local and displaced communities to improve their livelihoods and resilience. Its focus is on vulnerable rural smallholders and pastoralists in main livestock production areas of South-Eastern Sudan.

8. Improving Nutrition and Reducing Stunting in Eastern Sudan through an Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Approach (€8 million). *Implementing partner: World Food Programme (WFP).*

This project aims at reducing stunting through interventions in the area of nutrition. The project focuses on children in their first 1,000 days of life, households with pregnant and lactating women and children under 5. The estimated number of beneficiaries is around 400,000, with a geographical scope focusing on localities in Red Sea, Kassala and Geradef States.

9. Wadi El Ku Integrated Catchment Management Project (Phase 2) (€10 million). *Implementing partner: UN Environment (UNEP).*

This project focuses on North Darfur, where 70% of the population faces extreme poverty under the dual threat of man-made conflict and environmental degradation. This project aims to ensure the cooperative, inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources (particularly water) in areas where environmental degradation is fast expanding and leading to increased conflict between farmer and pastoralist communities over the use of resources.

10. Technical Cooperation Facility in support of the Special Measure for Sudan (€4million). *Implemented through service and grants contracts.*

This project supports the sound implementation of EU actions for Sudan, notably the ones adopted under the EU Trust Fund. It aims to cover monitoring and other follow-up project activities, such as specific studies, organisation of workshops, public events, and other support measures. It also aims to support the identification and formulation of new actions, and well as to facilitate when required the policy dialogue with the Government, through the commissioning of short-term technical assistance and specific resource expertise.

11. Integrated Measures to promote rural-urban value addition and Employment - IMPROVE East Sudan (€8 million). Implementing partner: GIZ.

This project targets refugee camps and surrounding communities in the states of Kassala and Gedaref in Eastern Sudan and addresses 1,600 farmer households. The action aims at improving livelihoods of refugees, migrant workers and host communities by increasing farmers' incomes; providing viable solutions to adapt farming systems to markets and to climate variability; and empowering farmers with new techniques to increase their production.

12. Fostering Smallholder Capacities and Access to Markets in Food Insecure Areas of Darfur (€8 million). Implementing partner: World Food Programme (WFP).

This project targets several localities in South Darfur, West Darfur, and Central Darfur States, directly benefitting 21,700 farmers in each of them. The rationale of this project is to develop a pilot approach aiming to set a model for Post-Harvest Loss reduction in Darfur. The action aims at increasing household food availability by reducing pre-farm gate losses; empowering smallholders to sell surplus grain at higher prices; and strengthening capacity of smallholders and farmer's groups to access markets and value chains.

13. PROTECT – Protection of Persons of Concern (PoC) and vulnerable migrants along migratory routes in Sudan (€4 million). Implementing partners: Danish Red Cross and International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

This project will be carried out in the Sudanese states of Northern and Khartoum within the framework of the joint EU Communication on the Central Mediterranean route. It aims at promoting a people-centred and rights-based approach (RBA) to migration management in Sudan. The action will contribute to the protection of Persons of Concern (PoC) and other vulnerable migrants. The action will have two related focuses: i) provision of safe and adequate shelter as well as psychosocial support, medical aid, food and non-food items and legal aid; ii) training law enforcement and judiciary authorities in migrants' protection, assistance and in the referral system between the States and Khartoum.

14. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Simple, Spatial, Survey Method (S3M) for Sudan (€1 million). Implementing partner: UNICEF

The project wants to contribute to fight malnutrition in Sudan by collecting and disseminating disaggregated data on multiple indicators pertaining to key determinants of malnutrition in young children and pregnant and lactating women. It does so through undertaking a Simple, Spatial, Survey Method (S3M) survey in Sudan. The S3M survey utilises an internationally recognised approach for obtaining disaggregated data on multiple indicators pertaining to key determinants of malnutrition in young children and pregnant and lactation women.

15. Youth, Employment, Skills (YES) - Sudan (€15 million). Implementing partner: GIZ

The project's objective is to empower youth and disadvantaged groups among host communities, refugees and IDPs in Darfur. The project strengthen the ability of young women and men to find employment or establish and grow their businesses through expanding and improving market oriented, equitable (also removing regional inequities) and gender-balanced Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Due to the focus on urban economic development of the action, project activities will target the capitals of North Darfur, West Darfur and South Darfur (El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala).

16. Provision of air services to allow access for humanitarian and development actors in Sudan (€1.5 million). Implementing partner: WFP/UNHAS

Big as one third of the entire EU, Sudan is an immense country, with remote areas in need of help. This project provides humanitarian and development actors, donor organisations and diplomatic missions in Sudan with safe flight connections to beneficiaries, especially vulnerable communities in hard-to-reach project implementation sites. This is done through UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS). Additionally, the project guarantees humanitarian and development actors with relocation capacity for both medical and security evacuations within Sudan whenever required.

17. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Building Resilient Communities in West Kordofan (BRICK) (€10 million). Implementing partners: UNICEF, Concern

The project has been conceived in close cooperation with DG ECHO to ensure sustainable development in three localities in West Kordofan: Meriam, Abyei-Muglad, and Keilak. They host more than half of the refugee population in the West Kordofan State. By improving the nutritional and health status of the communities living there, their primary education and food security, the project will increase their ability to cope, creating communities that are more resilient and less likely to resort to migration in the face of crises.

18. Humanitarian Development Nexus: Joint Nutrition Resilience Programme in Red Sea State (JNRP-RS) (€15 million). Implementing partners: FAO, UNICEF, WFP

The project targets the localities of Tokar and Senkat, which show some of the worst indicators country-wide in terms of malnutrition and maternal mortality, and are affected by serious gender disparities. The project aims to strengthen the nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive services in the targeted localities, therefore improving the food and nutrition status the population, particularly of

women and children. The action builds on the comparative advantages of the three UN agencies selected as implementing partners in the areas of nutrition and food security.

19. Integrating refugee children into the Sudanese Education System (€10 million). *Implementing partner: UNICEF*

Although Sudan is not a CRRF country, it signed the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education (2017), which is fully in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The action follows the CRRF logic of intervention since it will sustainably improve the provision of basic education services for local communities and vulnerable and refugee children at risk, reduce tensions between host and displaced communities, improve resource management, resilience, protection and human development. The action targets communities in South Darfur and South Kordofan. Activities aim 1) to support public authorities with the development of a national inclusive education policy and action plan for refugees and host communities, including IDPs, 2) to increase access to safe and inclusive quality pre-school and basic education for 20,000 children from refugee and host communities, including IDPs.

b. **Regional Projects relevant to Sudan**

Better Migration Management (in support of the Khartoum Process) (€40 million). *Implementing partners: a consortium of EU Member States Agencies led by GIZ*

This action aims at better managing migration at regional level, through the provision of capacity building to public institutions from countries members to the Khartoum process, developing and harmonizing policies and legislative frameworks on trafficking and smuggling, ensuring protection of victims, and raising awareness about the perils of irregular migration and options for legal migration and mobility. For more information on the BMM programme in Sudan, please have a look to the [Sudan Concept Note](#).

Towards Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD region (€10 million). *Implementing partners: International Labour Organisation (ILO) and IGAD.*

The action is in support for the process of adoption of the IGAD protocols on free movement of persons and livestock corridors, which will be of great benefit to pastoralist communities in particular. It will also improve the opportunities for regulated labour mobility by undertaking an analysis of the labour market, including on the labour migration corridor between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas of the Horn of Africa Region (€63.5 million). *Implementing partners: NGO/private sector consortia, IGAD, GIZ, UNDP*

This project aims at supporting investments in border communities in four different cross-border regions of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan, through peacebuilding, economic development and

resilience activities. Communities in these remote areas are expected to become more resilient as a result of skills training, access to credit for business development, improved community infrastructure, livestock value chain support, natural resource management and strengthening peace structures, and the borderlands will be transformed into areas of opportunity. Contracts have been finalised for the areas involving Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and an agreement with GIZ for the Eastern Sudan/Western Ethiopia cluster was signed during 2018.

Facility on Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration in support of the Khartoum Process (€45 million). *Implementing partner: IOM.*

The overall aim is to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of migrants through community-based approaches, to strengthen the capacities of governments to manage return, readmission and reintegration, and assisted voluntary return from major countries of transit. The Facility focuses on the main migratory routes in the context of the Khartoum Process.

Regional Operational Centre in support of the Khartoum Process and AU-Horn of Africa Initiative (€5 million). *Implementing partners: Consortium of EU Member States Agencies and Interpol.*

The overall aim is to establish a platform where member countries of the Khartoum Process can share and analyse information, and act upon criminal data gathered by undertaking joint cross-border operations to fight trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (€40 million). *Implementing partner: Austrian Development Agency (ADA), IGAD*

This project provides support for IGAD and national governments of the Horn of Africa region in moving towards sustainable peace, security and stability. It has four components: (i) improving the IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism systems; (ii) tackling transnational security threats; (iii) enhancing capacity for preventive diplomacy, mediation and peace-building; and (iv) improving the organisational effectiveness of IGAD's Peace & Security Division.

Research and Evidence Facility (REF) (€6.6 million). *Implementing partners: consortium of research centres and universities led by SOAS University of London*

The overall purpose of the action is to fill knowledge gaps about the causes and drivers of instability, including violent conflict, irregular migration, forced displacement at regional, national and local levels, capture lessons learned, generate evidence of impact, and feed this knowledge into operational, programming policy and political practice. Evidence will be used to inform a wide variety of stakeholders such as relevant government bodies, regional organisations, other donors, implementing partners and civil society. All REF research outputs are available on the SOAS University of London website.

Have a look to the study *Darfuri migration from Sudan to Europe*:

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12385.pdf>