

Poverty & Equity Brief

Africa Eastern & Southern

Sudan

October 2020

There is currently no recent and credible poverty estimate for Sudan. The most recent official estimates of poverty in Sudan are based on the 2014/15 National Household Budget and Poverty Survey. At the time, an estimated 36.1 percent of Sudan's population had levels of per capita expenditure below the national poverty line. The World Bank estimates of poverty headcount using the international poverty lines, suggested the incidence of extreme **poverty—the percentage of population living below \$1.90 per day (2011 PPP)—to be 12.2 percent.** However, when the lower-middle income countries poverty **line—of \$3.20 per day—is** used the incidence of poverty raises to 44 percent (16.7 million **Sudanese**)— about the same as the 2015 average poverty rate of 44.3 percent for LMIC. When poverty was measured against international poverty lines for upper middle-income countries (\$5.50 per person per day), 79.3 percent of the population (i.e. 30.1 million Sudanese) were deemed poor.

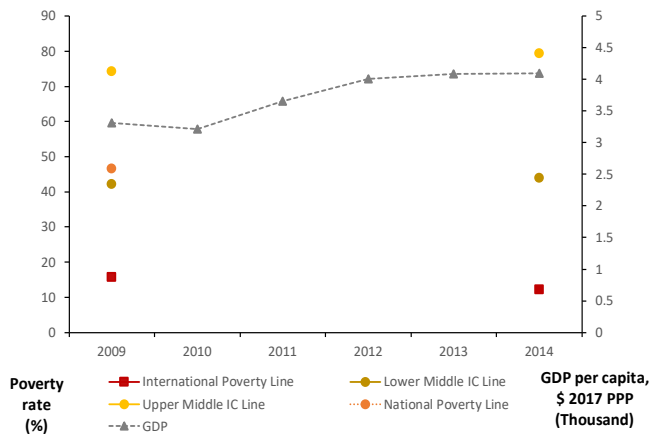
Since then, Sudan has gone through severe challenges including a protracted economic crisis with exchange rate distortions and the recent pandemic. Estimations based on GDP data suggest that, as result of these developments, poverty has increased consistently in recent years. For example, the removal of preferential exchange rates for wheat importers at the beginning of 2018 resulted in sharp increases in the price of basic staples, including sorghum and millet. Simulations suggest that extreme poverty between October 2017 and July 2018 increased by 3.2 percentage points simply as a result of the food price hikes, with the urban poor most affected. The COVID-19 pandemic has further downgraded Sudan's projected GDP growth for 2020 with negative poverty impacts. The ongoing economic crisis, exacerbated by COVID-19, will likely have significantly negative effects on living condition and extreme poverty rate is estimated to increase to 20 percent in 2020.

Poverty in Sudan was urbanizing at a moderate rate (concentrated in Khartoum), while rural areas experienced mild reduction in poverty. Poverty rates vary significantly across states, with above-average poverty rates observed in Red Sea state as well as in Kordofan and Darfur. Overall inequality in Sudan remained moderate compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, standing at 34.2 in 2014 from 35.4 in 2009. Poverty numbers based on the 2014/15 household survey data would not reflect the current macroeconomic imbalances and adjustment measures in Sudan. To obtain a more accurate estimate of poverty, a new household survey is urgently needed.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	15.6	46.5	2009
International Poverty Line 7.7 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	4.6	12.2	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 13 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	16.7	44.0	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 22.3 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	30.1	79.3	2014
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		68.1	2009
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		34.2	2014
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		1.00	2011-2019
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		N/A	N/A

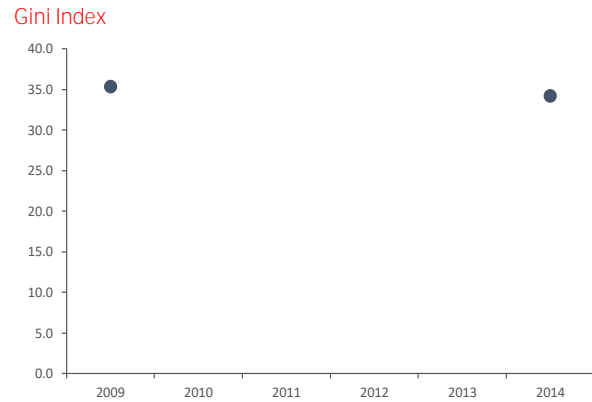
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of September 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2009-2014



Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2009-2014



Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2014	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2009 (% of population)
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	92	8	34	66	Monetary poverty (Consumption) Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person 15.7
Rural population	86	14	43	57	
Males	88	12	40	60	Education At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 33.8 No adult has completed primary education 48.9
Females	88	12	40	60	
0 to 14 years old	85	15	47	53	
15 to 64 years old	90	10	35	65	Access to basic infrastructure No access to limited-standard drinking water N/A No access to limited-standard sanitation N/A No access to electricity 65.9
65 and older	92	8	29	71	
Without education (16+)	90	10	38	62	
Primary education (16+)	90	10	37	63	
Secondary education (16+)	95	5	26	74	
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	98	2	15	85	

Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The 2014/15 National Household Budget and Poverty Survey (NHBPS) saw the consumptions module administered over three rounds, November and December 2014, March 2015, and August 2015, during which the same sample of households was visited. Implemented by Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the survey was planned as a panel study during which the same sample households would be revisited three times. This was done with the intent to measure seasonal effects. The two follow-up rounds in March and August administered only the consumption module. The three consumption aggregates that resulted from three separate visits were then averaged within households across rounds. In addition, it was decided to drop households that were not reencountered in either round two or round three, an additional deviation from the 2009 survey, which entailed only one round of data collection.

Sudan's NPL is considerably higher than the IPL, reflecting the relative nature of national assessments of who is considered poor. It is based on the cost-of-basic-needs method: a food consumption basket that is deemed representative of the diets of the bottom 60 percent of the population is calculated and then scaled to yield a caloric intake considered adequate for humans. The price of this basket is the food component of the NPL. To arrive at the overall NPL, the food component is divided by the food expenditure share of households for which the value of food consumption is close to the food poverty line. Lastly, adjustments are made to account for price differences between rural and urban areas.

Sudan faces the urgent need to produce up-to-date and reliable poverty estimates to inform policy decisions and to comply with the requirements of the re-engagement process. The Government of Sudan has started preparations for a full-fledged household survey to address the need. If full funding will be timely secured new poverty estimates would become available in the summer of 2022.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.