There is currently no recent and credible poverty estimate for Sudan. The most recent official poverty estimates are based on the 2014-15 National Household Budget and Poverty Survey. At the time, 61.1 percent of Sudan's population had per capita expenditure below the national poverty line. Poverty rates vary significantly across states, with above-average poverty rates observed in Red Sea state, Kordofan, and Darfur. If the World Bank international poverty line is used, the incidence of extreme poverty was 15.3 percent, equivalent to 5.6 million Sudanese in 2014. Overall, inequality (Gini index of 34.2 in 2014) remained moderate compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sudan has faced a series of unprecedented challenges since 2015, which have caused severe economic and humanitarian crises. These challenges include exchange rate distortions, the COVID-19 pandemic, a military takeover in October 2021, historic flooding since the onset of the rainy season in May/June 2022, and overall economic deterioration. As of 2023, the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance has increased to 12.5 million, reaching a third of the country's population, as estimated by OCHA. Additionally, the food security situation in Sudan has continued to worsen, with the number of acutely food insecure people increasing for the third consecutive year, reaching a record 11.7 million people in IPC Phase 3 and above between June-September 2022. This dire situation can be attributed to a variety of factors, such as dry spells, conflict, reduced grain production, high prices, and eroding livelihoods resulting from the multi-year economic crisis and protracted displacement.
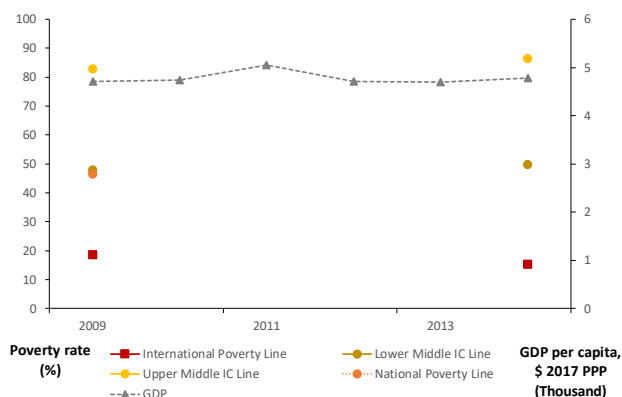
The results of the high-frequency surveys conducted in Sudan confirm a concerning trend of worsening food security, with 36 percent of households experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity and 12 percent facing severe food insecurity as of July/August 2022. These figures represent a significant increase from February to April 2021, when only 13 percent and 2 percent of households reported moderate and severe food insecurity, respectively.

Projections based on GDP data suggest that the share of the population living with less than US $2.15 per day has increased consistently in recent years and become more urbanized, reaching 33 percent in 2023 from 20 percent in 2018. To turn the trend, the expansion of social programs like cash and food transfer to the poor and vulnerable is needed.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	15.6	46.5	2009
International Poverty Line 8.2 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US$2.15 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	5.6	15.3	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 14 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US$3.65 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	18.4	49.7	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 26.2 in Sudanese pound (2014) or US$6.85 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	31.9	86.2	2014
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		52.5	2014
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		-2.47	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, PIP as of April 2023, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.
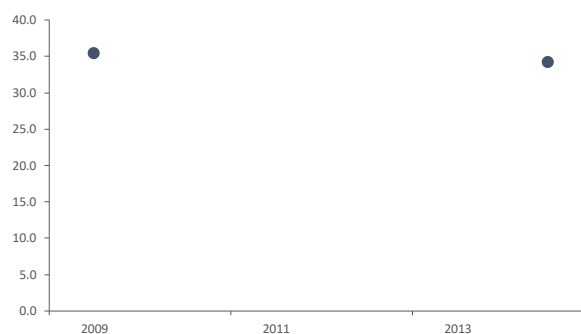
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2009-2014

Poverty rate (%)		GDP per capita, $ 2017 PPP (Thousand)
■ International Poverty Line	● Lower Middle IC Line	
● Upper Middle IC Line	● National Poverty Line	
--▲-- GDP		

Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2009-2014
Gini Index

Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2014	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60
Urban population	89	11	34	66
Rural population	82	18	43	57
Males	85	15	40	60
Females	85	15	40	60
0 to 14 years old	81	19	47	53
15 to 64 years old	87	13	35	65
65 and older	90	10	29	71
Without education (16+)	87	13	38	62
Primary education (16+)	87	13	37	63
Secondary education (16+)	93	7	26	74
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	97	3	15	85

Source: World Bank using NBHS/SSAPOV/GMD

Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2014	(% of population)
Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Daily consumption less than US$2.15 per person	15.3
Education	
At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	22.7
No adult has completed primary education	40.2
Access to basic infrastructure	
No access to limited-standard drinking water	44.9
No access to limited-standard sanitation	92.9
No access to electricity	48.5

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) was implemented by Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). This survey administered the consumptions module over three rounds, November/December 2014, March 2015, and August 2015, during which the same sample of households was visited. This was done with the intent of measuring seasonal effects. The two follow-up rounds in March and August administered only the consumption module. The three consumption aggregates from three separate visits were averaged within households across rounds. At the same time, the households not reencountered in either round two or round three were dropped. These two features are new in the 2014/15 NHBPS and were not included in the 2009 survey.

Sudan's NPL is considerably higher than the IPL, reflecting the relative nature of the national assessments of who is considered poor. The NPL is estimated based on the cost-of-basic-needs method: a food consumption basket 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 urgently needs to produce up-to-date and reliable poverty estimates to inform policy decisions. In collaboration with the World Bank, the Government of Sudan started preparing a new national household budget and poverty survey to address this need. However, following the military takeover on October 25, 2021, the World Bank Group paused disbursements in all its operations and stopped processing any new operations, and the preparation of the survey is paused as the World Bank group closely monitors and assesses the situation.

Note on new global poverty lines: Poverty data are now expressed in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) prices, versus 2011 PPP in previous editions. As price levels across the world evolve, global poverty lines have to be periodically updated to reflect the increase of the value of the lines in nominal terms. The new global poverty lines of $2.15, $3.65, and $6.85 reflect the typical national poverty lines of low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries in 2017 prices. In addition to reflecting updates in nominal terms, upper-middle-income countries raised the standards by which they determine people to be poor from 2011 to 2017. Hence, the increase in the upper line is larger, and the population that does not meet the new standard is higher in most countries than it was with 2011 PPPs. See pip.worldbank.org.

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 three 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.

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