



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK GROUP

SUDAN POVERTY PROFILE

Summary Results of the 2014-2015 National
Baseline Household Budget Survey

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Summary

As part of the implementation of Sudan's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of the Sudan conducted a 2014-2015 national Baseline household budget survey in with the technical and financial support of the African Development Bank. The survey's main objective was to provide socioeconomic information to inform the design and implementation of effective socioeconomic programs and policies.

A sample of 11,953 households was surveyed during the three rounds of data collection across Sudan's 18 states. A household was designated as poor if its consumption fell below the poverty line set at 5,110 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) per capita per year in urban areas, and 4,044 SDG in rural areas.

This brief highlights the key results of the survey, which show that global poverty prevalence in Sudan stands at 36.1 percent. Furthermore, 25 percent of Sudan's population falls below the extreme poverty line. The states with the lowest poverty incidence are the Northern, Al-Gezira and River Nile. The results also reveal that in Southern Kordufan, Western Darfur and Central Darfur, where two in three people are poor, are the states with the highest priority index. Illiteracy and unemployment remain the major cause of poverty.

During the period 2009-2015, inequalities decreased significantly. The Gini index for Sudan as a whole was estimated at 0.292 in 2014, compared to 0.354 in 2009.

This brief on poverty in Sudan is based on the results of the National Baseline Household Budget Survey conducted by Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) over the period 2014-2015. It was prepared by Nirina Letsara (Chief Statistician) and Yassine Jmal (Poverty & Infrastructure Statistics Expert) under the guidance of Kouakou Koua Louis (Division Manager) and Charles Leyeka Lufumpa (Director). The team is grateful for the very productive collaboration with Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics, which led to the successful completion of the survey and the compilation of key indicators under the supervision of the Director General of the CBS, Dr. Karam Allah Ali Abdelrahman. The team is also grateful to the Sudanese government ministries for their invaluable contributions to the study.

Selected SDG indicators and other key figures

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)			
SDG	Target	Indicator	Value
1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions	Share of persons living below the poverty line (National Poverty Line NHBPS 2014/15)	36.1%
2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and vulnerable people, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	Share of food deficient households	32.0%
3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all across ages	3.6 By 2030, halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents worldwide	Share of total population injured in traffic accident in previous 12 months	0.2%
4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	Net attendance rate in: Basic education for persons 6-13 years old by sex Secondary education for persons 14-16 years old by sex	Male: 76.0% Female: 73.0%
	4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	Literacy rate for persons 15 - 24 years old, by sex	Male: 25.0% Female: 28.0%
5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Share of households where at least one person owns a mobile phone.	77.7%
		Share of households where at least one person owns a computer	0.2%
6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water	Share of households with safe main source of drinking water (based on the definition used in the report)	62.9%
	6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations, and end open defecation	Share households with mainly pit latrine, or flush toilet	71.4%
		Share of households with mainly disposable bags or burning used for waste disposal	51.5%

Introduction

The National Baseline Household Budget Survey (NBHBS), conducted by Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in 2014-2015, was the fourth in the series of similar surveys undertaken by the CBS. The main objective of the survey was to provide a wide range of socioeconomic information to inform economic and social programs and policies. It covers the following areas: (i) household expenditure and consumption; (ii) food consumption of the Sudanese population; (iii) welfare of Sudanese households; and (iv) poverty and its determinants in the country. A sample of 11,953 households was surveyed during the three rounds of data collection representatively across 18 States of Sudan.

This bulletin prepared jointly by the African Development Bank and the Central Bureau of Statistics in Sudan aims at disseminating the key findings of the poverty analysis and households' consumption based on the survey data.

Household's consumption as welfare indicator

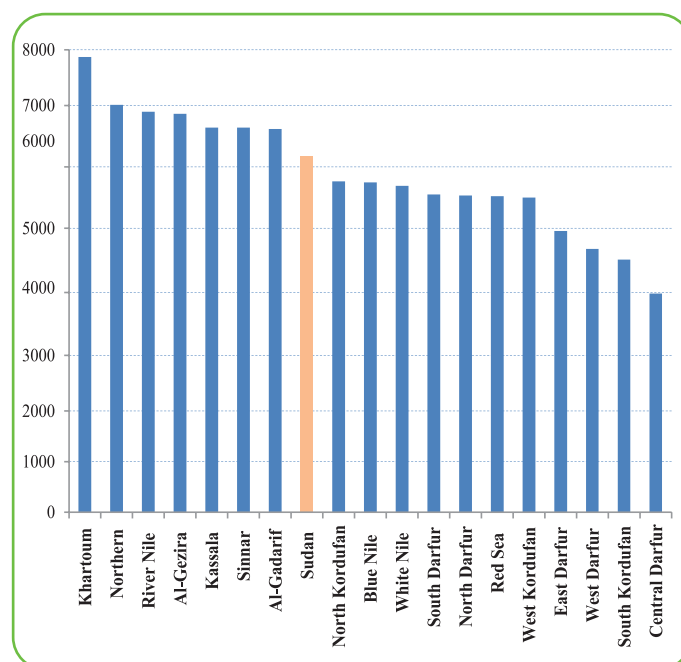
Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon; it refers to a pronounced deprivation in one or more facets of individuals' well-being. Although several approaches to the assessment of the welfare exist, the monetary approach is generally favoured. The per capita consumption was chosen as the welfare indicator, and a national poverty line was estimated based on current consumption patterns.

The annual per capita consumption is a monetary value of goods and services consumed per person from purchase, own production, own stocks and gift during the survey period. It also includes the values of services provided by durables items such as cars, home appliances, etc.

The results of the study show that the annual per capita consumption in Sudan was Sudanese Pounds (SDG) 6,082. Urban areas displayed average consumption levels higher than rural areas, at SDG 7,149 and SDG 5,509, respectively.

Among states, average consumption was the highest in Khartoum, followed by Northern and Nile. The states of Darfur and Kordufan recorded the lowest level.

Graph 1 - Annual per capita consumption (in SDG)



Annual food consumption per capita in Sudan was estimated at SDG 3,636. Food was by far the main category of expenditure and accounted for 60 percent of total consumption, with significant differences between urban and rural areas (53 percent and 64 percent, respectively).

Poverty lines in Sudan

The poverty line indicates a minimum level of consumption that qualifies as a decent standard of living. People living below a poverty line do not have enough to meet their basic needs. Three poverty lines are considered in this study.

The food poverty line is calculated by using an equivalent monetary value of a basket representing the 2,110 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day, considered as the daily energy intake threshold. The lower poverty line (or extreme poverty line) is the food poverty line plus the non-food consumption of households whose total consumption per capita level is exactly equal to the food poverty line.

The higher poverty line (or global poverty line) is the food poverty line plus the non-food consumption of households whose food consumption per capita is exactly equal to the food poverty line.

A specific poverty line is estimated for each of rural and urban area, taking into account Sudanese cost of living in various areas of residence. Food poverty line was estimated at SDG 2,966 in urban areas and SDG 2,698 in rural areas, while the global poverty line was estimated at SDG 5,110 per person annually in urban areas, and SDG 4,044 in rural areas.

Table 1. Poverty lines in 2014-2015

Area	Food poverty line	Extreme poverty line	Global poverty line
Urban	2,966	4,124	5,110
Rural	2,698	3,605	4,044

Poverty incidence

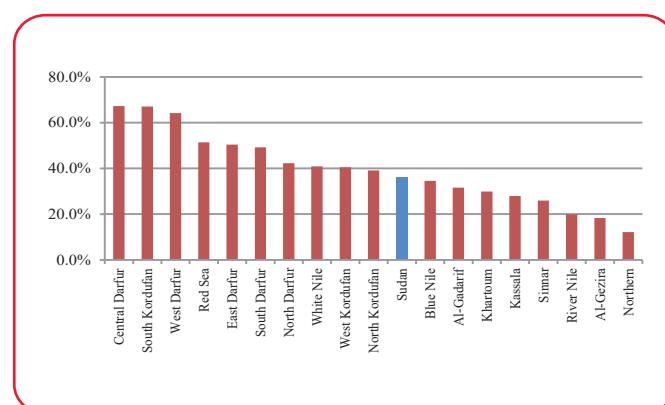
Calculating the percentage of the population with a consumption level below the poverty line constitutes one of the poverty measurement methods. This is referred to as “incidence of poverty”.

Based on the consumption aggregate described previously, analysis of the data indicates that the prevalence of the global poverty in Sudan was 36.1%. One in four Sudanese falls below the extreme poverty line.

Table 2. Poverty incidence in 2014-2015

	Population below the extreme poverty line	Population below the global poverty line
Urban	22.6%	37.3%
Rural	26.5%	35.5%
Sudan	25.2%	36.1%

Graph 2 - Population below the global poverty line



States and priority index

A state's priority index is calculated as the ratio of its relative contribution to poverty to its population share. This indicator reflects the extent at which the concentration of poor is higher or not compared to the region's population share. If it is greater than 1, then the share of poor in the region exceeds its population share. The states with the lowest poverty incidence are the Northern, Al-Gezira, followed by River Nile. Kordufan and Darfur are the poorest regions.

A breakdown of the incidence of global poverty by state (Table 3 below) presents the poverty profile in Sudan. In this section, the profile is supplemented by an index of priority that shows which region should be prioritized for poverty reduction measures. The priority index is constructed to identify states that must be treated as a priority.

Table 3 indicates also that the regions of South Kordufan, Western and Central Darfur, in which two in three people are poor, have the highest priority index—over 1.8. The Red Sea, Eastern and Southern Darfur are potential priority states. The intervention priorities do not change regardless of the poverty lines used. The conclusion is that the Darfur and Kordufan are the main vulnerable regions in terms of poverty. These regions require special attention from policy makers.

Table 3. Poverty decomposition by State

State	Poverty incidence	Population share	Absolute ¹ contribution	Relative ² contribution	Priority index
Northern	12.2%	2.2%	0.3%	0.7%	0.32
River Nile	19.9%	3.9%	0.8%	2.1%	0.54
Red Sea	51.4%	3.7%	1.9%	5.3%	1.43
Kassala	27.9%	5.6%	1.6%	4.3%	0.77
Al-Gadarif	31.6%	5.1%	1.6%	4.4%	0.86
Khartoum	29.9%	17.4%	5.2%	14.4%	0.83
Al-Gezira	18.3%	11.5%	2.1%	5.8%	0.50
White Nile	40.9%	5.9%	2.4%	6.7%	1.14
Sinnar	25.9%	4.6%	1.2%	3.3%	0.72
Blue Nile	34.6%	3.1%	1.1%	3.0%	0.97
North Kordufan	39.1%	9.3%	3.7%	10.1%	1.09
South Kordufan	67.0%	2.5%	1.7%	4.6%	1.84
West Kordufan	40.5%	2.5%	1.0%	2.8%	1.12
North Darfur	42.3%	6.9%	2.9%	8.1%	1.17
West Darfur	64.1%	2.6%	1.7%	4.7%	1.81
South Darfur	49.2%	7.8%	3.8%	10.6%	1.36
Central Darfur	67.2%	3.3%	2.2%	6.1%	1.85
East Darfur	50.4%	2.0%	1.0%	2.8%	1.40

1. The contribution of the state in the total poverty incidence of 36.1%.

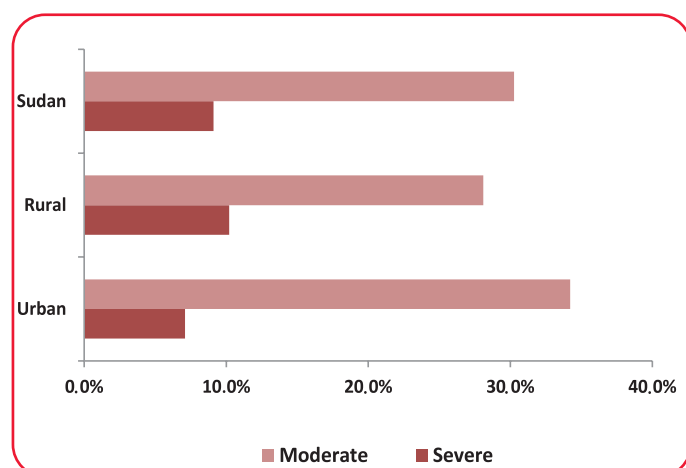
2. This represents the state's poverty share (as percentage of total number of poor in Sudan).

3. Priority = Relative contribution/Percentage of Sudanese living in this region - if Priority > 1 the region must be deemed to be priority

Food insecurity

People who have a total consumption level below the food poverty line face severe food insecurity. They are not able to satisfy their basic food needs. Survey data show that the incidence of food insecurity in Sudan was over 9 percent in 2014. However, some people may have income above the food poverty line but their food consumption level is below this line. Therefore, they are still facing food insecurity. They are called in a moderate level of food insecurity and in Sudan, they represent 30 percent of population.

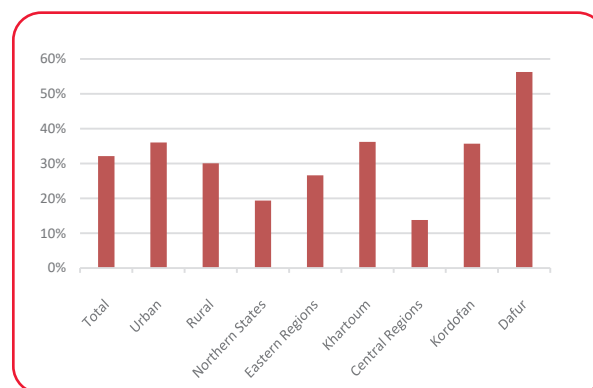
Graph 3 - Food insecurity incidence in Sudan



Sudan's average national food energy consumption is 2,376 Kcal per capita per day. The average consumption in rural areas is 2,445 kcal, which is significantly higher than the average food energy intake in urban areas of 2,247 kcal. Food energy deficiency occurs in households that do not consume enough food over the reference period to meet all its member's energy requirements for light activity. Daily food consumption below the threshold is a strong indicator of food insecurity.

The share of food energy deficient households in Sudan is 32 percent. In urban areas the share is 36 percent, compared to 30 percent in rural areas. Graph 3 shows that the Central Regions have the lowest prevalence of food energy deficiency (14 percent), while Darfur has the highest level (56 %).

Graph 4 – Energy deficiency incidence by regions



Poverty profiles

Unemployment is a major cause of poverty in Sudan. While individuals living in households with unemployed heads represent only 2.4 percent of the total population, they account for 50 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Naturally, the lack of financial resources is a factor accounting for extreme poverty. The heads of most poor households are unpaid family workers (see Graph 3). These results are confirmed when priority indexes are considered by the professional category (see Table 4).

Graph 5 – Poverty incidence by professional category

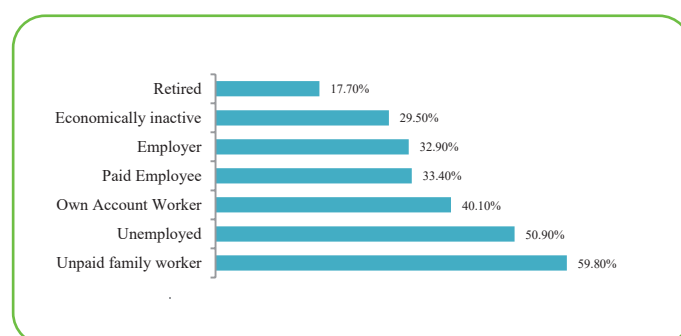
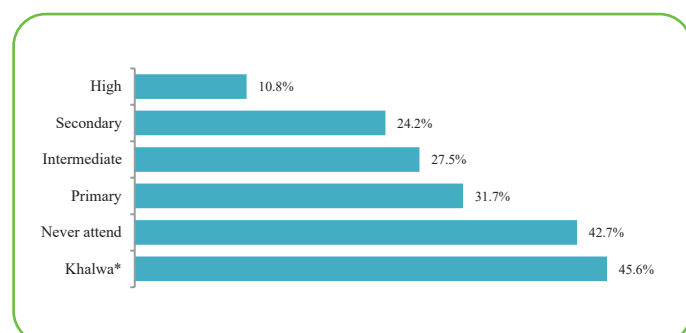


Table 4. Poverty incidence and priority index

State	Poverty incidence	Population share	Absolute contribution	Relative contribution	Priority index
Paid employee	33.4%	39.9%	13.4%	37.0%	0.93
Employer	32.9%	8.8%	2.9%	8.0%	0.91
Own account worker	40.1%	33.0%	13.3%	36.7%	1.11
Unpaid family worker	59.8%	3.3%	2.0%	5.5%	1.66
Unemployed	50.9%	2.4%	1.2%	3.4%	1.41
Retired	17.7%	2.3%	0.4%	1.1%	0.49
Economically inactive	29.5%	10.2%	3.0%	8.3%	0.82

The results of the survey also show a direct correlation between the education level of the household head and household well-being (Graph 6). As the education level increases, the likelihood of being poor diminishes significantly. Two in three poor people in Sudan belong to households whose head is illiterate.

Graph 6 – Poverty incidence by level of education

*/ People who had attended only koranic school

Poverty gap

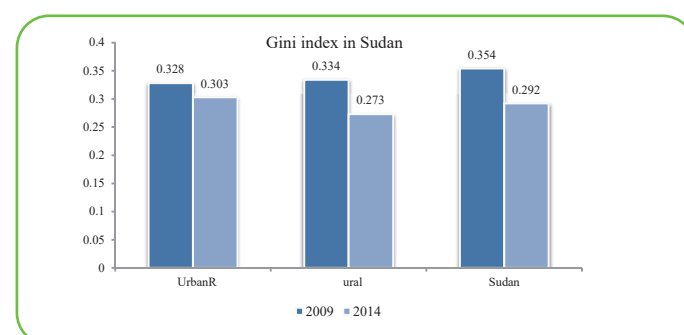
Poverty gap is a measure of the distance, in percentage terms, between actual level of consumption of the poor and the poverty line. It records the average collective deficit, in relation to the poverty line, for the entire population. In other words, it helps to estimate the total resources needed to bring the poor population over the poverty line. Table 5 (below) shows that South Kordufan, West and Central Darfur, with poverty incidence higher than 60 percent, are Sudan's poorest states. Moreover, these states are the more severely hit by a high level of poverty than any other Sudan state, as revealed by their poverty gap indicators. This implies that, without external support and deliberate public policy interventions, these states' poor populations are likely to remain in this situation.

Table 5 - Poverty gap by State in Sudan (2014)

States	Extreme poverty	Extreme poverty
Northern	0.7%	1.7%
River Nile	1.9%	3.9%
Red Sea	7.3%	12.8%
Kassala	3.0%	5.8%
Al-Gadarif	3.5%	6.7%
Khartoum	4.2%	8.0%
Al-Gezira	1.1%	2.7%
White Nile	6.4%	10.2%
Sinnar	2.5%	4.8%
Blue Nile	3.4%	6.6%
North Kordufan	6.4%	9.7%
South Kordufan	12.9%	19.1%
West Kordufan	7.3%	11.0%
North Darfur	7.7%	11.3%
West Darfur	16.4%	21.6%
South Darfur	8.2%	12.7%
Central Darfur	16.4%	22.1%
East Darfur	9.2%	14.0%

Inequality in Sudan

There are several indices for measuring distribution inequalities. The two main indices which are used in this brief are the Gini inequality index and the poorest quintile share. The poorest quintile share increased from 6.2 percent of total consumption in 2009 to 8.9 percent in 2014. The Gini inequality index is a value ranging from 0 to 1, whereby 0 implies complete equality, and 1 extreme inequality. The results of the survey showed that during the period 2009-2014, inequalities in Sudan decreased, with the Gini index for the country as a whole dropping from an estimated 0.354 in 2009 to 0.292 in 2014.

Graph 7 – Gini Index 2009 vs 2014

Conclusion

This brief provides some highlights of the main results of the Sudan National Baseline Household Survey of 2014-2015. Per capita consumption was chosen as the welfare indicator, and a national poverty line was estimated based on current consumption patterns. The results reveal that poverty and food insecurity are common occurrences in Sudan and affect over a third of its population. Although the incidence of poverty in urban areas is lower than in rural areas, the level of food insecurity is much higher in the urban population than in the rural areas. This is due to relatively much higher cost of food in urban areas. Poverty is lowest in Sudan's northern states and in the districts of Khartoum City. The highest concentrations of poverty are in the southern and western states.