

EU development cooperation with Sudan

1. Context

Due to its geostrategic position, Sudan plays a pivotal role for the stability of the region. Being at the crossroad between East and North Africa, Sudan is a key country of transit, destination and origin of migrants in a fragile region. Sudan is among the top-three largest refugee hosting countries in Africa, with UNHCR reporting a total figure of 924,810 refugees/asylum seekers (December 2017). The country is mired by long-lasting internal conflicts in its southern and western regions (notably Darfur). Sudan accounts for the second largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa (estimated at 3.2 million).

The cooperation provided by the European Union in Sudan adopts a peacebuilding and people-centred approach. Its main objective is to contribute to promoting an inclusive political settlement and improved governance and effective conflict resolution, as the only means to reach peace and a sustainable reduction of poverty. In 2016-2017, the EU scaled up its efforts through direct support to the people of Sudan and vulnerable groups in particular, with targeted actions funded by the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#). Focal sectors for this on-going support include education, health, food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and protection.

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

All EU cooperation on migration with Sudan responds to the priorities set at the Valletta Migration Summit in November 2015, and it is mainly channelled through the EUTF.

Finally, through the African Peace Facility, the EU supports 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. 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 in Darfur, Southern Kordofan*, Blue Nile* and the Eastern States of Red Sea, Kassala, Gedaref, Khartoum and Northern State.

*Security conditions permitting

What is the Special Measure for Sudan?

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 is channelled through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). The special measure is accompanied by the [Short Term Strategy 2016/17 for Sudan](#). Three sectors have been singled out through the Strategy: (1) support to basic services (education and health), (2) support to livelihoods and food security, (3) support to civil society, local governance and peacebuilding. The Special Measure focuses on the geographical areas mentioned in the previous paragraph, which are those most affected by conflict and hosting large numbers of refugees, IDPs and returnees, and key transit points in the migratory routes exploited by criminal networks of traffickers of human beings and smugglers of migrants (notably Darfur and East Sudan). It 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.

A new envelope worth €60 million has been made available in October 2017 to continue the EU support to displaced persons, migrants and host communities. The package is also an opportunity to implement the humanitarian-development nexus, as Sudan has been selected as one of the pilot countries in this regard.

Have projects already been approved for Sudan under the EU Trust Fund?

Within the EUTF, 13 bilateral programmes have been adopted for Sudan, for a total committed amount of €121 million (out of which €94 million from the Special Measure). Sudan also benefits from regional programmes. Full details of bilateral projects approved under the EU Trust Fund for Sudan or regional EUTF programmes including Sudan are listed below.

Does Sudan receive funding from other EU instruments?

Sudan is also a beneficiary of funding from the EU's Food Security and Non-State Actors Programmes, the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programmes, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Sudan also benefits from funding under the African Peace Facility.

How are projects implemented in Sudan?

All activities are carried out by development agencies of EU Member States, UN agencies and other international organisations, and NGOs. No funding is decentralised to or channelled through Sudan's Government structures. This being said, national authorities, particularly those at local level, may *benefit from* some activities in the form of technical assistance conducted by resource expertise from implementing partners.

What are the oversight mechanisms?

Funds are managed by the European Commission, who is in charge of tendering, contracting and project follow-up. Each project conducts its own monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis. Progress in the implementation of the Special Measure is discussed in 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 ensures adequate oversight of project 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.

3. 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 financed by the Special Measure for Sudan

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.

Strengthening resilience for refugees, IDPs and host communities in Eastern Sudan (€12 million).

Implementing partner: Italian Development Cooperation.

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Strengthening Resilience for IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in West Darfur (€7 million).

Implementing partners: CONCERN and International Medical Corps.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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 private sector.*

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.

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.

Technical Cooperation Facility in support of the Special Measure for Sudan (€4 million). *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.

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.

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

b. National Projects financed outside of the Special Measure for Sudan

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, Italian Development Cooperation 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.

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

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.

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.

*** This is the first project financed through the €60 million envelope approved in October 2017 mentioned above.

c. Regional Projects relevant to Sudan

Better Migration Management (in support of the Khartoum Process) (€40 million). *Implementing partners: a consortium of EU Member States bodies (GIZ, CIVIPOL, British Council, UK Home Office, and the Italian Ministry of Interior).*

This action aims at better managing migration at regional level, through the provision of capacity building to government 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.

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

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, with an initial focus on the labour migration corridor between Sudan and Ethiopia

Regional Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas (€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 is expected to be concluded very shortly.

Facility on Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration in support of the Khartoum Process (€25 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 led by Civipol in consortium with 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, 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.