

Sudan and South Sudan



Background Briefs
Country/region profiles

Location	Sudan and South Sudan are part of Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, Eritrea, and Ethiopia to the east, Egypt to the north, Libya, Chad, and the Central African Republic to the west and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya to the south. Sudan's capital city is Khartoum and South Sudan's capital is Juba. Maps: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html and https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html
Climate	Sudan is very hot and dry, with frequent dust storms and severe droughts. South Sudan has more rainfall, but half of the year (during the dry season) it also experiences extremely high temperatures.
Geography	Northern and central Sudan consist of desert and flat plains, while South Sudan contains swamplands and rainforests.
Government	Internal conflict has plagued Sudan for nearly a century. Unequal power distribution concentrated in the hands of northern elites has caused two civil wars between the northern and southern Sudanese. A referendum in January 2011 gave the southern Sudanese their independence, and 'South Sudan' became an official country in July. The northern Sudanese, who make up Sudan's government, have also dominated other groups in the country, including people who live in the Darfur region. Conflict in Darfur has displaced over 2 million Darfuris, and caused an estimated 200,000-400,000 deaths. ¹
Environment	Current environmental issues in Sudan include insufficient drinking water, over-hunting of wildlife, soil erosion and desertification (areas becoming more desert-like, causing drought).
Economy	Despite living in a country rich in natural resources like oil and gas, most of Sudan's population has been kept at or below the poverty line by years of civil war, weak infrastructure, (e.g. roads and hospitals) and dependence on subsistence farming. ²
People	In 2015, the population of Sudan was 36.1 million and that of South Sudan was slightly above 12 million. The average life expectancy in the region is 63.68 years. ³
Novels <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park	South Sudan's harsh environment and extreme heat result in inadequate water supplies for people living there. Millions of South Sudanese (mostly women and children) walk for kilometers to get water from ponds, swamps, ditches or wells that are contaminated with parasites and bacteria. ⁴ This contamination results in illness and death, especially in infants and children.
Issue Access to clean water	

1 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "Ethiopia," available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html>

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Water for Sudan, "Dying from Water," available from <http://www.waterforsudan.org/dying-from-water/>

