Arab food security monitoring framework

Country reviews

The Sudan

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Key Messages

The monitoring framework highlights the lack of data for tracking food security in the Sudan. Collecting and sharing appropriate data needs to be prioritized. The country profile reviews the impact of COVID-19, early measures against it and their effect on the food situation.

Introduction

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and its partners developed the Arab Food Security Monitoring Framework that helps countries assess their food security situation despite its complex and multidimensional nature.[1] The Monitoring Framework is an outcome of the project entitled "Promoting Food and Water Security through Cooperation and Capacity Development in the Arab Region", implemented in collaboration and partnership with Arab countries, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), academia and other experts, and with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The framework builds on the globally agreed upon definition of food security as existing "when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life",[2] which, as defined, comprises four dimensions, namely availability, access, utilization, and stability, can be evaluated at individual, household, national, regional, or global levels and can be seasonal, transitory or chronic. The framework was developed over a period of three years and involved consultations with more than 200 Arab and international experts. It involved a wide-ranging literature review to account for the latest thinking and experiences in assessing and monitoring food security at national, regional and global levels as well as a mapping of past and present policies, strategies and action plans.

The encompassing review led to the development of a comprehensive monitoring framework that tracks food security at different spatial levels, considers its four dimensions and accounts for both individual and household food security while facilitating a follow-up of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The end result was the Monitoring Framework that expresses food security and nutrition as a function of a multitude of indicators spread in its four dimensions, though approximately five to six indicators under each dimension account for most of the variations and thus are more consequential than the rest. Most of the selected indicators are already widely used globally to monitor aspects of the food system, and the SDGs and other plans of actions are used by major global institutions as development, economic, social, health, or environmental indicators. It was also ensured that the indicators are measurable, relevant to the Arab context and available for at least 50 per cent of Arab countries or the regional population, or both.

1 Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 2019. Tracking Food Security in the Arab Region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2019/4). Beirut. Available at https://www.unescwa.org/publications/tracking-food-security-arab-region.

2 Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2009. Report of the Committee on World Food Security: Final version. Agenda item III, Thirty-fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, 14, 15 and 17 October 2009, CFS:2009/2 Rev.2. Rome.

The 24 indicators that were selected are split into a core pillar with three ex post or outcome indicators — prevalence of undernourishment, moderate or severe food insecurity and obesity, while the remaining 21 ex ante or causal indicators were further split into the four food security dimensions as shown below. All the indicators are global in nature while catering to regional specificities and are grouped as follows:

- **The Core Pillar** comprises three outcome indicators that provide a picture of the prevailing food security and nutrition situation resulting from policies and programmes being implemented as reflected in the form of malnutrition – undernutrition (low caloric intake), overnutrition (excess caloric intake) or nutrient deficiency (low nutrient intake);

1 Core Indicators (CO)

Code	Indicator description	Short name	SDG linkage
CO1	Prevalence of undernourishment Ⓡ %	Undernourishment	2.1.1
CO2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity measured using FIES Ⓡ %	Food insecurity	2.1.2
CO3	Prevalence of obesity in the adult population (18 years and older) Ⓡ %	Obesity	

Ⓡ : Reversed During Normalization

- **The Availability** dimension comprises six indicators reflecting the supply side of food, namely, physical food inflow and outflow at macro and micro levels through production, trade, distribution, and others;

2 Food Availability Indicators (AV)

Code	Indicator description	Short name	SDG linkage
AV1	Primary wheat yield as a percentage of potential achievable yield - %	Yields	2.3.1
AV2	Agriculture Orientation index for government expenditures - Index	Agriculture expenditure	2.a.1
AV3	Food losses (% total food available) Ⓡ %	Food loss	12.3
AV4	Average dietary energy supply adequacy - %	Dietary energy supply	
AV5	Wheat import dependency ratio Ⓡ %	Import dependency	
AV6	Share of water resources used in agriculture out of total renewable water resources Ⓡ %	Agriculture water	6.4.2

- **The Access** dimension comprises five indicators reflecting the ability of the population to acquire needed food through financial means and/or socioeconomic strengths with determinants including income/revenues, prices and supply-chain infrastructure;

3 Food Access Indicators (AC)

Code	Indicator description	Short name	SDG linkage
AC1	Poverty headcount ratio (R) %	Poverty	1.1.1/1.2.1/1.2.2
AC2	Share of food consumption expenditure in total household consumption expenditure (R) %	Food consumption	
AC3	Unemployment rate (R) %	Unemployment	8.5.2
AC4	Logistics performance - index	Logistics	
AC5	Inflation, consumer prices (R) %	Inflation	

- **The Utilization** dimension comprises five indicators touching on nutrition impact or factors affecting it such as availability of basic water and sanitation infrastructure and critical health parameters showing the impact of food unavailability or nutrient deficiency, namely, stunting, wasting and anaemia;

4 Food Utilization Indicators (UT)

Code	Indicator description	Short name	SDG linkage
UT1	The population using at least basic drinking water services - %	Drinking water access	1.4.1/6.1.1
UT2	The population using at least basic sanitation services - %	Sanitation access	1.4.1/6.2.1
UT3	Children under 5 years of age affected by stunting (R) %	Child stunting	2.2.1
UT4	Children under 5 years of age affected by wasting (R) %	Child wasting	2.2.2
UT5	Anaemia among women of reproductive age (15-49 years) (R) %	Women anaemia	

- **The Stability** dimension comprises five indicators highlighting the variability in food production or supply factors that might affect these such as climate change, weather events, price shocks and sociopolitical conditions, all of which might impact the other food security dimensions and the core pillar as well;

5 Stability Indicators (ST)

Code	Indicator description	Short name	SDG linkage
ST1	Climate change vulnerability index (R)	Climate change	
ST2	Food price anomalies standard deviation (R)	Price anomalies	2.c.1
ST3	Political stability and absence of violence - ranking	Political stability	
ST4	Per capita food production variability - $1,000/capita (R)	Production variability	
ST5	Per capita food supply variability - kcal/capita/day (R)	Supply variability	

Data are collected and computed using a dedicated Excel template. The results are presented in the form of a dashboard with two overlapping doughnut charts whose ten rings represent the data normalized to score between 0 (worst performance) and 10 (best performance), as depicted in the graph below. The inner doughnut displays the results of the core indicators while the outer doughnut shows those of the four food security dimension indicators. During the normalization process, indicators with a low value indicating good performance were reversed and are represented with an (R). The doughnut chart is always accompanied by a table presenting the raw indicator data together with the year of data collection and the overall trend between two time periods.

By design, the framework is mechanistic for two reasons: (i) indicators are set and distributed across the food security core pillar and four dimensions; and (ii) the interpretation of results follows a determined path consisting, first, in evaluating results of the three core indicators to identify food security and/or nutritional outcome, and second, in examining the 21 dimension indicators to identify hotspot areas that need immediate action. Stakeholders only need to enter data into the provided Excel template to generate the doughnut graph and related table containing raw data and trends. The data can be sourced at the regional, national and, if available, sub-national levels and disaggregated along gender lines or others noting, however, that a great majority of indicators cannot be disaggregated below the national level.

A complete description of the framework, which was endorsed by the Executive Council of AOAD in March 2019, was published and is available at ESCWA official publication website[3] under the title "Tracking Food Security in the Arab Region".[4] In addition to providing a full background on the framework, the publication presents the key results of tracking food security at the Arab regional level and the trend over the considered years and reviews selected policies and actions that might be considered under each of the indicators to remedy arising concerns. The publication is accompanied by a technical document entitled "Manual for Monitoring Food Security in the Arab Region", which provides a more detailed description for each of the 24 indicators comprising the monitoring framework including, when applicable, computation methodology, justification for selection, linkage to SDGs, potential data sources, and normalization process. It also overviews the use of the accompanying Excel template. Since the completion of the Food Security Monitoring Framework, numerous national agricultural and statistics experts from Arab countries have received in-depth training that took place in Tunis[5] and Beirut[6] and which focused on how to utilize the framework and interpret results for maximum impact for policy and programme design and development.

This report provides a series of food security overviews for the 22 Arab countries, which build on the above-described Arab Food Security Monitoring Framework. Its aim is to further highlight how to use the framework as well as to build capacity on its use with a focus on the national level. As such, it supports Arab countries in their endeavours to utilize the framework in the implementation of food security programmes, to assess the prevailing situation and

3 See https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/tracking-food-security-arab-region-english_1.pdf.

4 See https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/manual-monitoring-food-security-arab-region-english_1.pdf.

5 See https://www.unescwa.org/events/training1-food-security-monitoring-framework-arab.

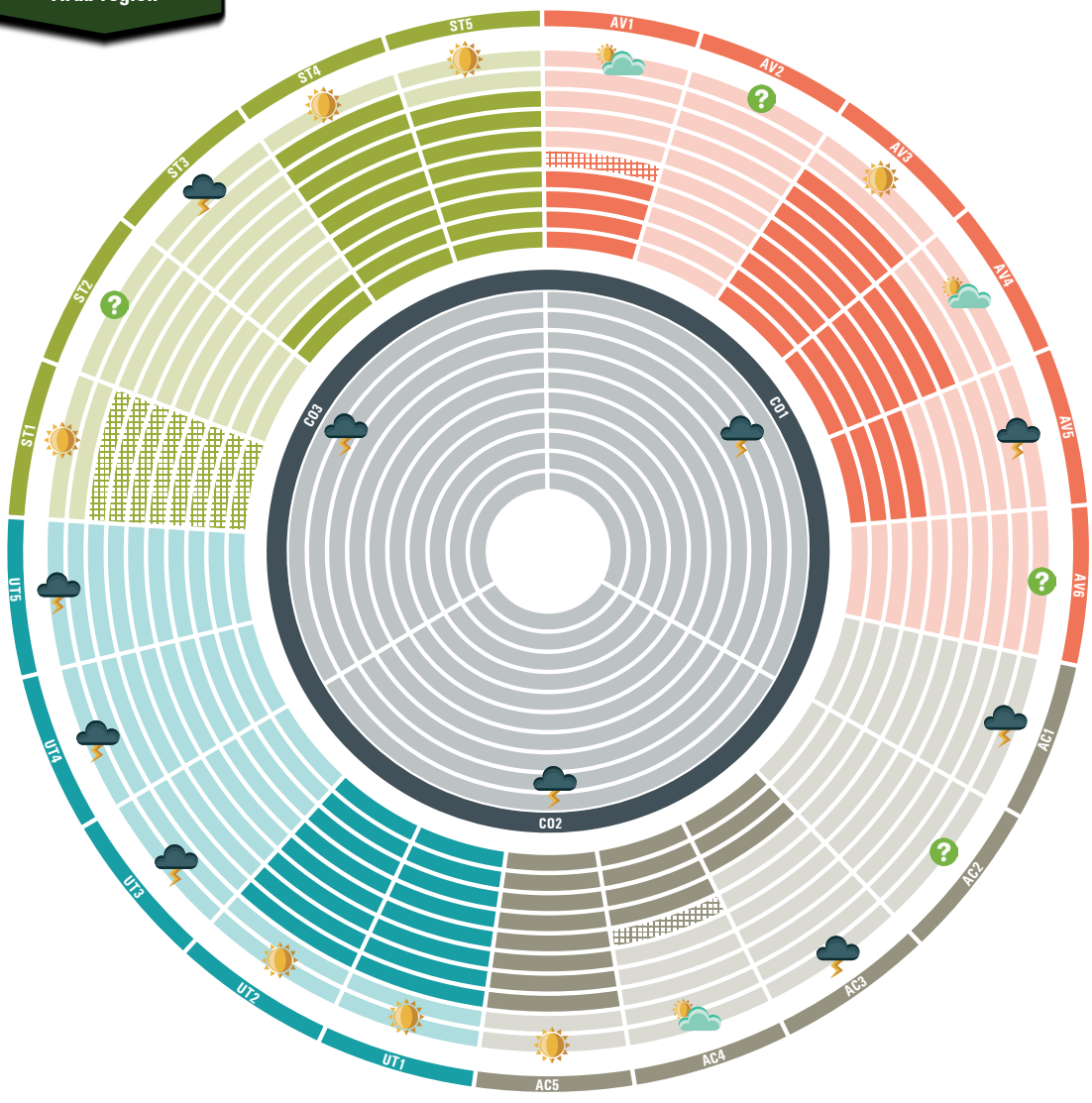
6 See https://www.unescwa.org/events/training2-food-security-monitoring-framework-arab.

to follow up on progress achieved towards the implementation of selected SDGs. It should further enhance capacity at country level and support efforts of national experts to collect focused data, analyse them using a dedicated framework and interpret meaningfully the results to provide policymakers with an overall view of their respective country's food security situation while also outlining alternative paths to address the situation.

The country overviews were produced by ESCWA with data delivered by national experts who provided or reviewed the underlying data (see attached list) and from global databases, as appropriate. For some countries, critical data are still missing, which should serve as a call to action to collect and provide the necessary data as the basis of more accurate and focused advice. The data were collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; thus, some results might not reflect the current situation. It is hoped that the report will raise the necessary awareness so that countries can make additional efforts to remediate the lack of data.

Food security dashboard

Arab region



2010 Data: Latest Data:

Performance: High: Proceed Action | Average: More Action | Low: Urgent Action | No Data

Food security indicators, world vs. Arab region

Indicators		World		Arab region			
		Latest		2010	Latest		Trend
Code	Description	Value	Year	Value	Value	Year	
CORE INDICATORS							
CO1	Undernourishment (R) %	10.8	2016	11.5	12.1	2016	🟡
CO2	Food insecurity (R) %	9.2	2018	n.a.	12.2	2016	
CO3	Obesity (R) %	13.0	2016	24.6	28.4	2016	🔴
AVAILABILITY INDICATORS							
AV1	Wheat yields - %	n.a.		76.5	82.2	2017	🟢
AV2	Agriculture expenditure - index	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
AV3	Food loss (R) %	n.a.		7.3	6.8	2013	🟢
AV4	Dietary energy supply - %	n.a.		131	131	2017	🟡
AV5	Wheat Import dependency (R) %	n.a.		62.5	65.0	2012	🟡
AV6	Agriculture water (R) %	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
ACCESS INDICATORS							
AC1	Poverty (R) %	26.2	2015	n.a.	16.6	mult.	
AC2	Food consumption (R) %	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
AC3	Unemployment (R) %	5.0	2018	9.6	10.4	mult.	🔴
AC4	Logistics - index	2.8	2016	2.6	2.7	2016	🟢
AC5	Inflation (R) %	2.5	2018	5.7	12.8	mult.	🔴
UTILIZATION INDICATORS							
UT1	Drinking water access - %	88.5	2015	84.3	86.9	2015	🟡
UT2	Sanitation access - %	68.0	2015	78.9	80.8	2015	🟡
UT3	Child stunting (R) %	22.2	2017	n.a.	22.9	mult.	
UT4	Child wasting (R) %	7.5	2017	n.a.	8.7	mult.	
UT5	Women anaemia (R) %	32.8	2016	34.2	35.5	2016	🟡
STABILITY INDICATORS							
ST1	Climate change (R) - index	n.a.		n.a.	0.1	2019	
ST2	Price Anomalies (R) - index	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
ST3	Political stability - ranking	n.a.		20	14	2017	🔴
ST4	Production variability (R) - $1,000/capita	n.a.		10.3	10.1	2016	🟡
ST5	Supply variability (R) - kcal/cap/day	n.a.		32.8	29.8	2013	🟢

(R): Reversed During Normalization n.a.= Not Available mult.= Multiple years

🔴 Red: Negative Trend 🟡 Yellow: Neutral Trend 🟢 Green: Positive Trend

Source: Computed by ESCWA.

Country background

A. Natural resources

The Sudan spans over nearly 1.9 million km² and links East Africa with the Sahel. The Nile River cuts the country south to north and provides irrigation water for the bordering fertile plains, making them suitable for irrigated farming and livestock production. The 20 million hectares of cultivated land represent less than 10 per cent of the country.

Box 1. Currency crisis affecting food security

Among the outcomes of the separation of South Sudan in July 2011 was a hard currency shortage which is still ongoing. The Sudanese pound was devalued thrice since 2017. Wheat and wheat flour import subsidies were cancelled. The State also limited the withdrawal of hard currency from banks.

In February 2019, the Central Bank of Sudan set the official exchange rate at 47.5 Sudanese pound per US dollar, almost half the black-market rate of 72 Sudanese pounds per US dollar in February. It was 60 Sudanese pounds per US dollar in January.

These financial conditions have resulted in serious hindrances to the import of essential food and non-food items by both private and public sectors. This is worsened by the continued shortage of hard currency and the rapid depreciation of local currency. Shortages of wheat flour continue to be experienced on the local market along with a 60 per cent increase in the prices of food and non-food items since October 2018. Due to fuel shortages, transport costs almost doubled. Agricultural labour wages have followed suit and are reported to have tripled in certain regions.

Source: USAID, 2019.

B. Socioeconomy

Total population exceeded 40 million in 2017, growing at 2.5 per cent per year, of which nearly two thirds are still rural, and 40 per cent is below 15 years of age. The gross domestic product (GDP) growth has been steady, and GDP per capita is

now about $1,959 per year.[1] Agriculture contributes almost one third of the country's $117 billion GDP and about two thirds of its employment.[2]

C. Agriculture and food security

The food self-sufficiency ratios (SSRs) for the Sudan are among the highest in the Arab region: during 2012-2013, SSRs were 82 per cent for cereals, 100 per cent for meats and 98 per cent for fruits and vegetables.[3] About 20.4 million people were classified as moderately to severely food insecure.[4]

Despite its generous natural endowment, the Sudan suffers from a limited availability of major staple grains (sorghum, millet and wheat), which form the basis of the local diet. Growth in yield has been slower than population growth, essentially due to poor land, water and labour productivities. The country imported 2.7 million tons of wheat in 2019, a nearly 5 per cent increase from the previous year when bumper crops reduced imports by 3 per cent. The Sudanese Government is striving to increase wheat acreage in order to reduce dependency on trade, but efforts are severely limited by a lack of technical expertise and financial and human resources.

Livestock is an important sector, which accounted for 50 per cent of the total agricultural export revenue in 2012. The sector, however, also suffers from low productivity issues and is vulnerable to climate vagaries. Milk and meat consumption are still very low.[5]

Generally, the Sudan has a low level of food and nutrition security. The situation is exacerbated by the presence of refugees from South Sudan, whose number is expected to reach close to one million this year.[6]

1 World Bank, n. d.
2 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2015.
3 FAO, 2019.
4 FAO and others, 2020.
5 FAO, n. d.a; USAID, 2019.
6 USAID, 2019.

Data and trends

A. Core indicators

- **Prevalence of undernourishment (CO1)** data are not available;
- **Prevalence of severe food insecurity (CO2)** data are not available;
- **Prevalence of adult obesity (CO3)** data are not available.

B. Availability

- **Wheat yield to potential (AV1)** data are not available;
- **Agriculture orientation index (AV2)** data are not available;
- **Food losses to food available (AV3)** increased from 3.4 per cent in 2010 to 4 per cent in 2018; data might not be completely accurate as many produces lacked data on losses;
- **Average dietary supply adequacy (AV4)** data are not available;
- **Wheat import dependency (AV5)** data are not available;
- **Water resources used in agriculture (AV6)** data are not available.

C. Access

- **Poverty ratio at $3.2/day (AC1),** according to official data, was at 36.1 per cent in 2014. The poor are concentrated in rural areas (57.6 per cent), and there are strong variations between states;[7]
- **Food consumption share of expenditures (AC2)** data are not available;
- **Unemployment rate (AC3)** increased between 2010 and 2018 from 17.7 per cent to 22.2 per cent, respectively, as reported

7 World Bank, n. d.

by official national sources, with female unemployment recorded at 23.2 per cent, whereas male unemployment was at 9.1 per cent.[8] FAO quotes a figure of 22 per cent for youth (15-24) unemployment in 2011-2015, which is aligned with global figures;[9]

- **Logistics performance (AC4)** data are not available;
- **Inflation, consumer prices (AC5)** is high and increased from 13 per cent in 2010 to 43.6 per cent in 2018. This inflation rate is well above the Arab average of 12.8 per cent. The high fluctuation in prices negatively affects the food security of the poorest and in remote regions.

D. Utilization

- **Population using basic drinking water services (UT1)** data are not available;
- **Population using basic sanitation services (UT2)** data are not available;
- **Stunting in children under five years (UT3)** data are not available;
- **Wasting in children under five years (UT4)** data are not available;
- **Prevalence of anaemia among women (UT5)** was reported by official data at 51.7 per cent in 2018 indicating that it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

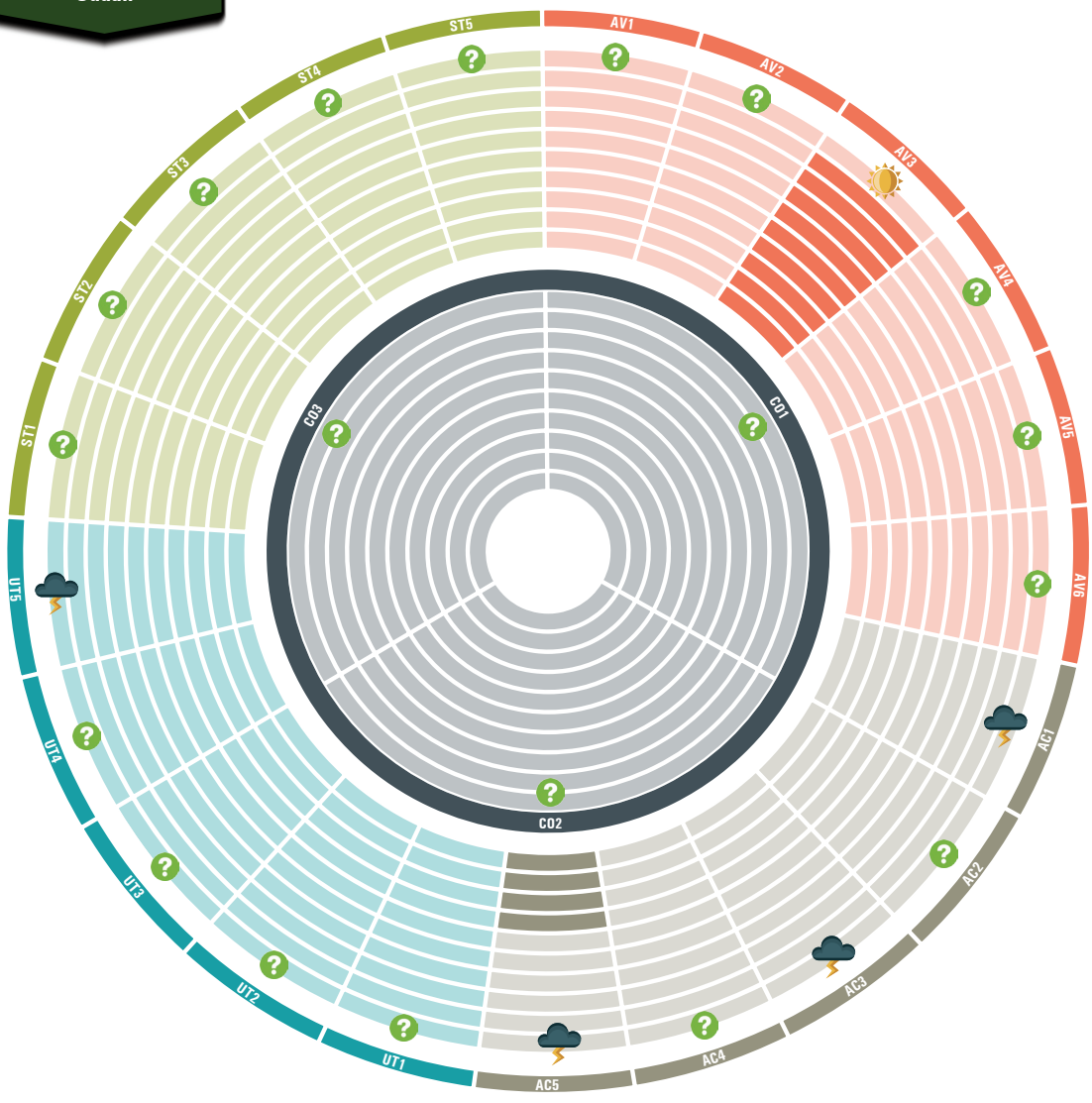
E. Stability

- **Climate change vulnerability (ST1)** data are not available;
- **Food price anomalies (ST2)** data are not available;
- **Political stability (ST3)** data are not available;
- **Food production variability (ST4)** data are not available;
- **Food supply variability (ST5)** data are not available.

8 Ibid.
9 FAO, 2019.

Food security dashboard

Sudan



2010 Data: Latest Data:

Performance: High: Proceed Action | Average: More Action | Low: Urgent Action | No Data

Food security indicators, Sudan

Indicators		Arab		Sudan			
		Latest		2010	Latest		Trend
Code	Description	Value	Year	Value	Value	Year	
CORE INDICATORS							
CO1	Undernourishment (R) %	12.1	2016	n.a.	n.a.		
CO2	Food insecurity (R) %	12.2	2016	n.a.	n.a.		
CO3	Obesity (R) %	28.4	2016	n.a.	n.a.		
AVAILABILITY INDICATORS							
AV1	Wheat yields - %	82.2	2017	n.a.	n.a.		
AV2	Agriculture expenditure - index	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
AV3	Food loss (R) %	6.8	2013	3.4	4.0	2018	●
AV4	Dietary energy supply - %	131	2017	n.a.	n.a.		
AV5	Wheat Import dependency (R) %	65.0	2012	n.a.	n.a.		
AV6	Agriculture water (R) %	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
ACCESS INDICATORS							
AC1	Poverty (R) %	16.6	mult.	n.a.	36.1	2014	
AC2	Food consumption (R) %	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
AC3	Unemployment (R) %	10.4	mult.	17.7	22.2	2018	●
AC4	Logistics - index	2.7	2016	n.a.	n.a.		
AC5	Inflation (R) %	12.8	mult.	13.0	43.6	2018	●
UTILIZATION INDICATORS							
UT1	Drinking water access - %	86.9	2015	n.a.	n.a.		
UT2	Sanitation access - %	80.8	2015	n.a.	n.a.		
UT3	Child stunting (R) %	22.9	mult.	n.a.	n.a.		
UT4	Child wasting (R) %	8.7	mult.	n.a.	n.a.		
UT5	Women anaemia (R) %	35.5	2016	n.a.	51.7	2018	
STABILITY INDICATORS							
ST1	Climate change (R) - index	0.1	2019	n.a.	n.a.		
ST2	Price Anomalies (R) - index	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.		
ST3	Political stability - ranking	14	2017	n.a.	n.a.		
ST4	Production variability (R) - $1,000/capita	10.1	2016	n.a.	n.a.		
ST5	Supply variability (R) - kcal/cap/day	29.8	2013	n.a.	n.a.		

(R): Reversed During Normalization n.a.= Not Available mult.= Multiple years

● Red: Negative Trend ● Yellow: Neutral Trend ● Green: Positive Trend

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all data figuring in this table and framework were received from national sources.

Food security snapshot

A. Drivers and determinants

Official data are lacking to conduct a meaningful assessment of food security in the Sudan as shown in the framework table and graph above.

However, based on global data sources, the framework-based analysis showed that the situation in the Sudan was either stagnant or worsening. Both undernourishment (CO1) and severe food insecurity (CO2) were alarming according to global data sources putting the Sudan at the border of famine and on emergency in selected states. Little data are being systematically collected and, as such, it would be difficult to put in place the appropriate strategies for enhancing food and nutrition security. Data collection and data sharing should, therefore, be prioritized as they are the backbone of any monitoring programme.

B. Action areas

The framework unveils a bleak picture, one of a country with potential, but unable to fully make use of it due to a set of intrinsic and extrinsic conditions. The reliance on wheat, for instance, is associated with a nutritional transition that has led to the abandonment of the more adapted and less water-demanding sorghum and millet.

The livestock sector suffers from poor access to animal health and to other forms of support and is, therefore, operating largely under its basic potential. Poverty is widespread, but more so in rural areas, which are experiencing out-migration towards the urban centres and their swelling slums, and unemployment is rife.

These conditions overlaid onto extremely limited access to clean water and to sanitation contribute to very poor nutritional performance especially for women and children and the vulnerable. There is a significant variability between states, exacerbated by a poor logistic performance index indicating major hindrances of proper food availability and accessibility. The situation in the Sudan is one of emergency caused by an extended chronic condition. Conflicts and refugees add to the existing burden.

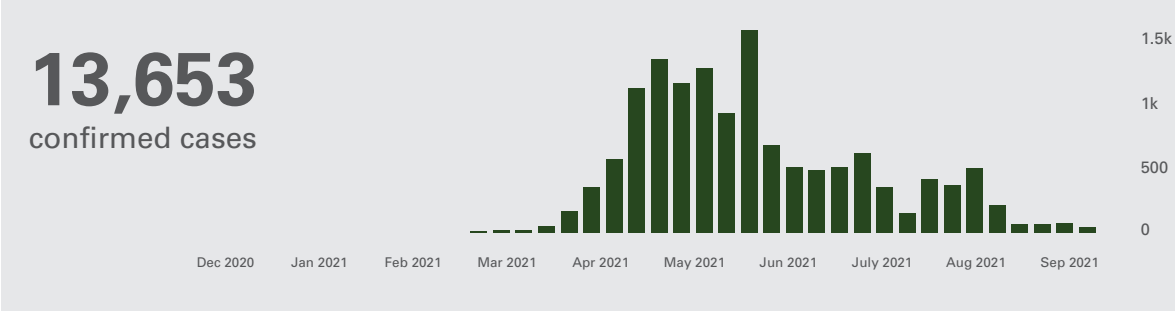
The 2015 food security policy plan put forth by the Ministry of Agriculture provides a pertinent analysis of the causes underlying poor food security and nutrition.[10] The results it shows resemble those derived from this framework. The policy recommendations proposed by the Ministry are pertinent and can serve as a solid base for future action.

10 FAO and Government of Sudan, 2015.

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic reached the Sudan in mid-March 2020 and, by October, had affected more than 13,600 people with more than 800 deaths recorded.

Weekly cases



Source: World Health Organization (WHO), n. d.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis showed that 9.6 million people were experiencing poor food security between June and September 2020 and were in urgent need for humanitarian assistance;[11] including herein are 6.2 million people in need for food and livelihood support.[12] The unemployment rate was 22.1 per cent in 2019 and increased to 25 per cent in 2020.[13]

Food availability is anticipated to be much affected by lockdown measures[14] that interrupted working capacities and infrastructural services.[15] Curfew measures and border closures with neighbouring countries led to a shortage in labour, decrease in the value of the local currency against foreign currencies and interruptions to the fish and livestock export chain to Saudi Arabia.[16] The Sudan also witnessed

11 These are mainly the internally displaced people, returnees, refugees, poor agropastoralists and pastoral communities, and those living in urban and semi-urban centres.
12 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 2020; and OCHA, 2020a.
13 International Monetary Fund (IMF), n. d.
14 Closure of all air and land borders, educational institutions, dining-in venues, together with a 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. curfew.
15 IPC, 2020.
16 Ibid.

a drop in local production of sorghum and millet, the harvest of which is 19 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, lower than the five-year average.[17] Floods, affecting more than 250,000 people, and locust infestations exacerbated this decrease.[18] All the factors mentioned above, in addition to high transportation costs and panic buying, contributed to a 50 per cent increase in the prices of staple food.[19]

The annual inflation rate increased from 98.8 per cent to 114.23 per cent in one month, namely, between April and May 2020,[20] and reached 167 per cent in September. The price of sorghum and millet doubled between February 2019 and October 2020 and that of meat increased from $9.00 to $14.47.[21] Prices are expected to remain high throughout the year. At the same time, the purchasing power of residents is decreasing as unemployment increased, local currency devalued and food prices increased.[22] The price of a basic food basket is around 75 per cent of a household income.[23]

With only one third of the population having access to clean water, proper hygiene and sanitization services are inadequate leaving the community more susceptible to catch the virus.[24] Around 12 million people, 28 million people and 7.5 million people lack access to clean water sources, improved sanitation and hygiene services, respectively.[25]

17 Ibid.
18 OCHA, 2020b; and FAO, 2020.
19 The Guardian, 2020.
20 IPC, 2020.
21 The Guardian, 2020.
22 IPC, 2020.
23 OCHA, 2020b.
24 IPC, 2020; and OCHA, 2020b.
25 United Nations Country Team (UNCT), 2020.

Box 2. Examples of initiatives

Government-led

A COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan was developed by the Government, humanitarian partners and United Nations agencies. It includes eight pillars of which three focus on food security and livelihoods, nutrition and the WASH programme.[a]

Other initiatives

United Nations humanitarian assistance was able to reach 1.7 million people during the first three months of 2020.[b]

A wheat production programme by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yielded around 202 tons using modern farming technology, in an attempt to improve food security and livelihoods in an area that hosts 260,000 refugees and internally displaced people.[c]

In May 2020, $23.1 million were allocated by the United States' Government to help the Sudan mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19, out of which $5 million was distributed as cash assistance to vulnerable families affected by the pandemic, more than $1.3 million to support agriculture and other livelihood activities of vulnerable people enabling them to meet their nutritional needs, and $16.8 million for WASH-related programmes.[d]

In June 2020, the United Nations mission in Darfur distributed 1,000 liters of clean drinking water and more than two water containers.[e]

a United Nations Country Team (UNCT), 2020.
b OCHA, 2020c.
c OCHA, 2020a.
d Ibid.
e Ibid.

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