



EUROPEAN UNION

EU ACTIONS ON MIGRATION IN SUDAN

Sudan is an important hub for migrants from across Africa. A country of origin, transit and destination, it lies at the heart of migratory routes connecting East and West Africa to the Mediterranean Sea and Europe, the Gulf States and Southern Africa. Sudan is also the **3rd largest refugee hosting country in Africa¹** and in view of ongoing internal conflicts has the **2nd largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) on the continent²,** estimated at 3.2 million². Around 4.8 million people in Sudan, including many refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The EU's engagement on migration in Sudan is therefore vital, particularly given that conflict and insecurity transcend borders, above all for the benefit of the people in Sudan and the wider region. The EU has been providing refugees and IDPs in Sudan with necessary assistance already for decades.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF EU COOPERATION ON MIGRATION?

For decades, the EU has assisted refugees and IDPs in Sudan. Building on this support, EU engagement aims at: (i) increasing stability in peripheral areas, which are also major migratory routes by strengthening the resilience of communities; (ii) providing durable solutions for refugees and host communities by increasing their protection and supporting their long-term development; as well as (iii) improving migration management by contributing to disrupt networks of traffickers and smugglers, affording protection to their victims and offering opportunities for their voluntary return and reintegration into their countries of origin.

HOW DOES COOPERATION ON MIGRATION RELATE TO OTHER ASPECTS OF EU ENGAGEMENT IN SUDAN?

Cooperation on migration forms only one part of a broader EU engagement in Sudan. A human rights-based approach to development is at the heart of all EU interventions. The EU leads efforts to promote respect for human rights and a more conducive environment for civil society in Sudan which should be an essential part of the country's political transformation. This encompasses the EU's continued support to the peace process in Sudan led by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). Besides being an important provider of development assistance (e.g. health, education, livelihoods) in Sudan, the EU is also instrumental in supplying humanitarian aid to people in need.

EU-Sudan relations continue to be impacted by the action of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Sudan which the EU supports, and Sudan's decision not to ratify the revised Cotonou Agreement. The latter means that the EU does not provide any financial support to the Government of Sudan. All EU funded activities in Sudan are implemented by agencies of EU Member States, international organisations, private sector entities and NGOs.

1. Estimated at 800,000 according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
2. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

In 2016, the **EU established a High-Level Dialogue on Migration with Sudan** with the aim to curb human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and to protect the rights of all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and victims of trafficking. The dialogue enables the EU to raise issues of concern with the Sudanese authorities, including **respect of the principle of non-refoulement** and reflects the priorities put forward at the [2015 Valletta Summit on Migration](#).

Sudan is also an active member of the [Khartoum Process](#), a platform for political cooperation and **regional collaboration on migration** amongst the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe.

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT SUDAN?

The EU does not provide any direct financial support to the Government of Sudan. Instead it supports a range of projects to support people in the country.

- In April 2016, the EU made available a [€100 million Special Measure to directly support the most vulnerable in Sudan](#), implemented under the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\)](#). The aim is to tackle root causes of instability, irregular migration and forced displacement by improving the living conditions of refugees, IDPs and their host communities, as well as other vulnerable groups in peripheral areas. The Special Measure is contributing to these objectives: by enhancing the quality and access to healthcare, education, and jobs; by increasing food security and nutrition standards; and by responding to pressures of climate change through the creation of sustainable and alternative livelihoods.

An example of a project funded by the Special Measure: [The Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project](#) contributes to improving livelihoods of conflict-affected populations in Darfur through the sustainable use of natural resources, in particular land, vegetation and water.

Sudan also benefits from several **EU Emergency Trust fund For Africa's regional projects**, such as:

- [Regional Development and Protection Program in Sudan \(RDPP\)](#), which supports the long-term development and protection needs of refugees and host communities in East Sudan (Kassala) and the capital city of Khartoum, by improving access to basic services and creating employment opportunities.
- [Better Migration Management \(BMM\)](#), which contributes to fighting human trafficking and smuggling through technical capacity-building, policy harmonisation, protection of victims of trafficking as well as awareness-raising.
- [Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum \(ROCK\)](#), which aims at creating a platform, where countries of the region can share and analyse information as well as act upon criminal data gathered by coordinating joint cross-border operations to fight trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.
- [Towards Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD region](#), which contributes to the creation of new, and the improvement of existing, avenues for legal migration and mobility between the countries in the region.

A regional project [Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in East Africa \(AMMF\)](#) improves the self-reliance of displaced persons and host communities, supports the establishment of safe centres for migrants and reinforces the fight against trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

The [Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace \(IcSP\)](#) addresses root causes of instability by supporting peacebuilding and stabilisation in Sudan e.g. through encouraging mediation and dialogue or promoting equitable access to and transparent management of natural resources.

Humanitarian aid: People in Sudan also benefit from [EU humanitarian funding](#), which provides support to refugees, IDPs and local communities in forced displacement contexts to ensure life-saving emergency assistance focusing on basic services such as food security, livelihood, health and shelter. These funds are implemented solely by international NGOs, international organisations or UN agencies. The assistance follows targets the most vulnerable.

WHAT DOES THE EU NOT SUPPORT?

- **No EU direct financial support goes to the Government of Sudan.** This means that no EU funding is decentralised nor channelled through the Government. All activities are carried out by agencies of EU Member States, international organisations, private sector entities and NGOs. The EU's implementing partners maintain full control over the funds disbursed and are closely scrutinised by the EU Delegation through strict and regular third party monitoring during projects' implementation.
- **The Rapid Support Forces of the Sudanese military do not benefit directly or indirectly from EU funding.**
- **The EU does not equip Sudanese border forces with dual-use equipment.** Any provision of equipment by the EU to Sudan adheres to the UN embargo on arms and related material as well as a ban on the provision of related services, as translated into the EU acquis. Any decisions to provide civilian equipment to the Sudanese authorities are taken on the basis of thorough case-by-case assessment carried out by the EU and its Member States, following a stringent procurement process and on the basis of comprehensive procurement principles. No military equipment will ever be provided.
- **The EU does not assist or fund the Government of Sudan or other relevant agencies in creating detention facilities for migrants.**