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3. Key socio-economic indicators with focus on Khartoum

3.1. Socio-economic situation

Sudan's economy has been severely destabilised by the ongoing conflict. Significant economic deterioration was recorded across key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and services,^{[615](#)} alongside the widespread loss of livelihoods and displacement of millions of people.^{[616](#)} The national economy experienced a sharp decline^{[617](#)} and triple-digit annual inflation persisting for years.^{[618](#)} The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from 51.67 billion USD in 2022 to 31.51 billion USD in 2025. Projections suggested a total reduction of 48 % by the end of 2025, equivalent to economic losses of 15 billion USD.^{[619](#)} The inflation rate increased due to the over printing of money, from 200 % in 2020 to 500 % in 2025.^{[620](#)} Consumer price inflation, which reached 359.1 % in 2021, remained extremely high over time reaching 185.7 % in 2023 and 151.1 % in 2024. Data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicated that the public debt rose significantly, reaching 253 % of GDP in 2023 and slightly reduced to 221 % in 2025.^{[621](#)} A financial expert cited by the Sudan Media Forum indicated that 'high inflation and currency depreciation have eroded incomes, significantly shrinking the middle class and expanding poverty.'^{[622](#)}

The national currency has collapsed. ^{[623](#)} The value of the SDG against USD on the black market deteriorated from 55 SDG/ 1 USD in 2020 to 601 SDG/ 1 USD in 2023 and 3 500 SDG/ 1 USD in April 2026.^{[624](#)}

Between 70 and 80 % of industrial facilities have either ceased operations or sustained damaged due to supply chains disruptions and operational challenges. ^{[625](#)}

The conflict has reshaped economic geography by creating separate economic zones under SAF and RSF control, which has inhibited trade flows, raised prices, and reduced access to food.^{[626](#)}

Declining production and persistent logistical disruptions have led to a marked contraction in Sudan's exports — particularly in gold and agricultural commodities.^{[627](#)} Agriculture, a key pillar of the country's economy, has also seen production decline by between 30 % and 50 %.

Contributing factors included 'lack of financing, rising input costs, and logistical constraints.'^{[628](#)}

The introduction of multiple fees on livestock exporters since the beginning of the war has affected further exports operations.^{[629](#)} At the same time, the depreciation of the SDG has driven up import costs, limiting the country's capacity to procure essential goods.^{[630](#)}

The banking system continued to face a liquidity crisis.⁶³¹ Banking operations, most of them based in Khartoum, have been suspended for the most part due to insecurity, power outages, and looting.⁶³² Khartoum Bank lost over 38 % of its funds, and banks entered acute liquidity shortages prompting many users to shift to electronic banking applications licenced by the Central Bank such as Cashie, Cyper Pay, and Bravo. The mobile app Bankak, operated by the Bank of Khartoum, is reportedly widely used, particularly because it allows users to open new accounts entirely online using only the national identification number and allows high financial limits.⁶³³ As of March 2026, the liquidity crisis continued in Khartoum where people rely entirely on banking applications such as Bankak and Okash with transfer fees sometimes reaching fifteen per cent.⁶³⁴

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Map 2: Khartoum reference map⁶³⁵

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Map 3: Khartoum neighbourhoods⁶³⁶

Civilian Infrastructure in the capital Khartoum

Khartoum suffered major infrastructure damage.⁶³⁷ Armed actions have damaged Sudan's infrastructure, including roads, supply chains⁶³⁸ and three major bridges.⁶³⁹ According to a report from July 2025, central areas of the capital — including banks, media offices, government buildings, and the Presidential Palace — suffered major destruction. The Jabal Awliya area showed widespread damage to cars, homes, and military vehicles. The walls of the Ministry of Interior in south Khartoum have collapsed and display evidence of gunfire, while military headquarters and other prominent buildings have also been heavily affected. As Khartoum's cemeteries became full due to the rising number of casualties from the conflict, makeshift burial grounds spread across the capital. Sudanese families resorted to burying their loved ones in public spaces and along roadsides.⁶⁴⁰ UNDP Sudan reported in January 2026 that schools and hospitals in the country were in ruins, wells contaminated, markets shut and electricity and water supplies were failing.⁶⁴¹

Khartoum's electricity network lost 90 % of its capacity due to shelling, theft, and looting. ⁶⁴² As of February 2026, much of the city still lacked power, especially in eastern and southern areas, while some neighbourhoods, like Al-Sahafa, have seen partial restoration. The looting of underground cables and a shortage of transformers— with only 400 arrived out of the 14 000 required — hampered repairs. Despite ongoing outages, sales offices reopened, and public-awareness campaigns warned against dangerous informal connections, with fines up to 300 000 SDG [approximately EUR 95] for violations.⁶⁴³

Telecommunications infrastructure became an early and deliberate target by warring parties, pushing entire regions and cities into prolonged digital isolation.⁶⁴⁴ In February 2024, the RSF had seized control of the data centres of several internet service providers in Khartoum and most areas controlled by the RSF lacked consistent internet connectivity through Sudan's mobile

network operators.[645](#)

Environmental experts warned of a ‘catastrophic’ situation, highlighting that the collapsed infrastructure in Khartoum, together with outdated land distribution and a lack of modern sewage or water networks, posed major challenges to the reconstruction of the city.[646](#) By December 2025, reportedly only one out of thirteen water stations remained operational, severely limiting water supplies.[647](#) As of February 2026, most residents across Khartoum continued to face unresolved drinking water shortages, forcing many returnees to relocate to west, central and east Khartoum.[648](#)

After visiting Khartoum in June 2025, the WFP Sudan representative and country director reported that there was ‘widespread destruction, limited access to water, healthcare and electricity, and a cholera outbreak. In parts of the city, life was returning - but many neighbourhoods remain abandoned, like a ghost city’. [649](#) In December 2024, the government estimated reconstruction costs in areas regained by the SAF at around 200 USD billion.[650](#) By January 2026, the UN had raised the estimate to at least 350 USD billion.[651](#)

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