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SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

Two Years of Crisis, Impact, and Pathways to Recovery and Resilience

April 14-15, 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya

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SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

Trends of vulnerability and resilience in Sudan: an overview

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UN ESCWA

April 14–15, 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya



Outline

- Threats to Recovery Pathways
- What are the drivers of High Vulnerability and Low Resilience?
- Conclusion: A Pathway fraught by Risk



Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



The Threats to Recovery Pathways

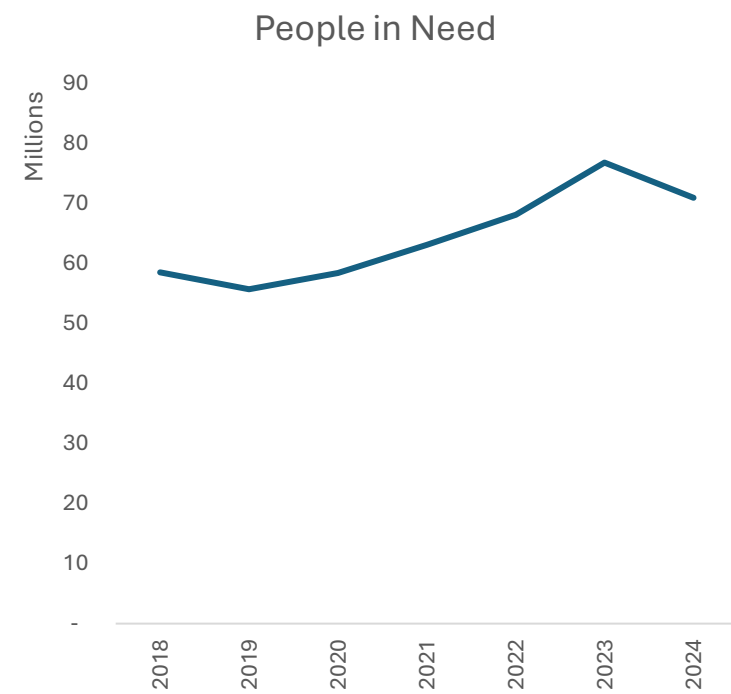
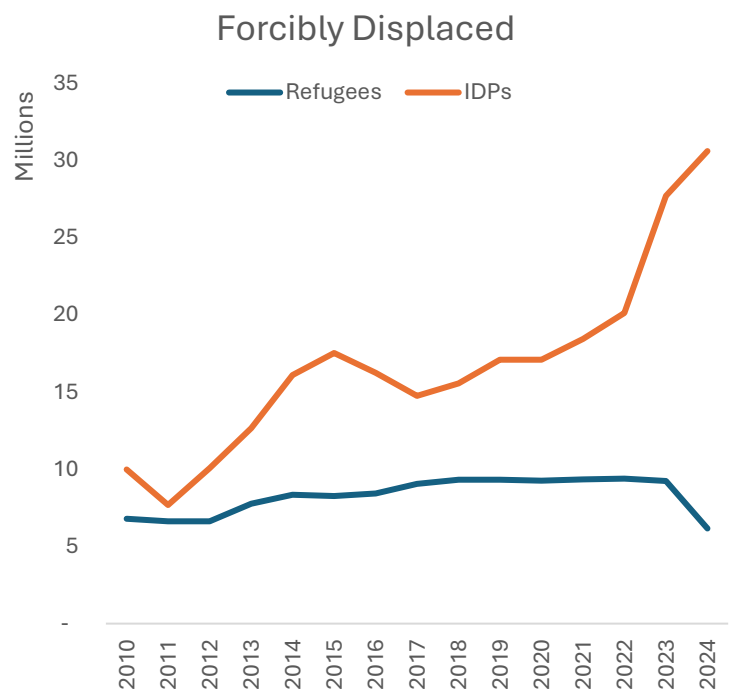
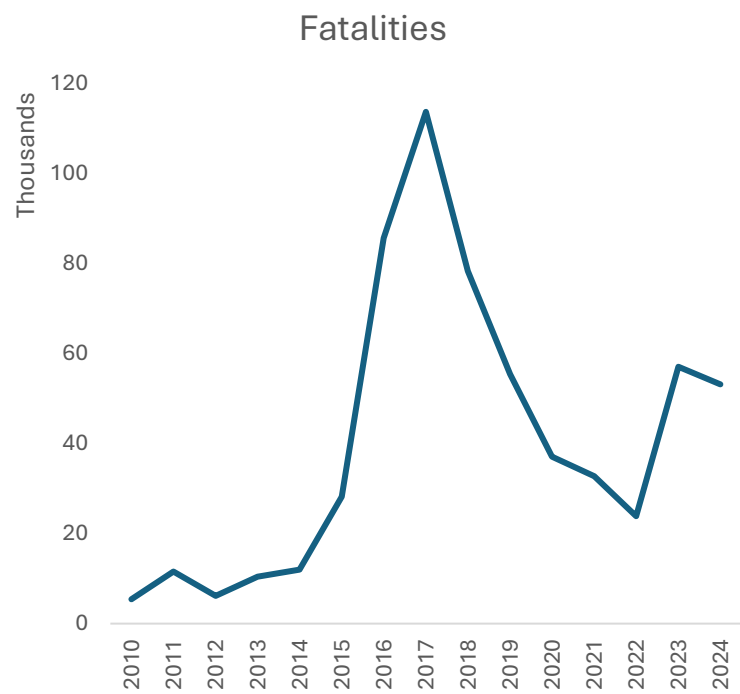
Civil Wars : Never Ending Wars?

- Civil Wars are longer and bloodier than average when: 1) foreign powers intervene, 2) **lots of factions exist** (increase average length by 10 years), 3) **no side can disarm the other**, 4) they don't end by negotiated settlement.
- Two elements required for a negotiated settlement:
 - **A third party willing to enforce peace** (i.e. Pax Syriana in Lebanon 1990-2005)
 - A division of political power amongst the combatants

Only one in four civil wars ends in negotiated settlement; most end in outright victory -> less likely in MENA due to foreign support of proxies with arms, money

(Fearon & Laitin 2008; Wood, Kathman & Gent 2012; Cunningham 2006; James Fearon 2010; Walter 2014; Cederman, Wimmer and Min 2010)

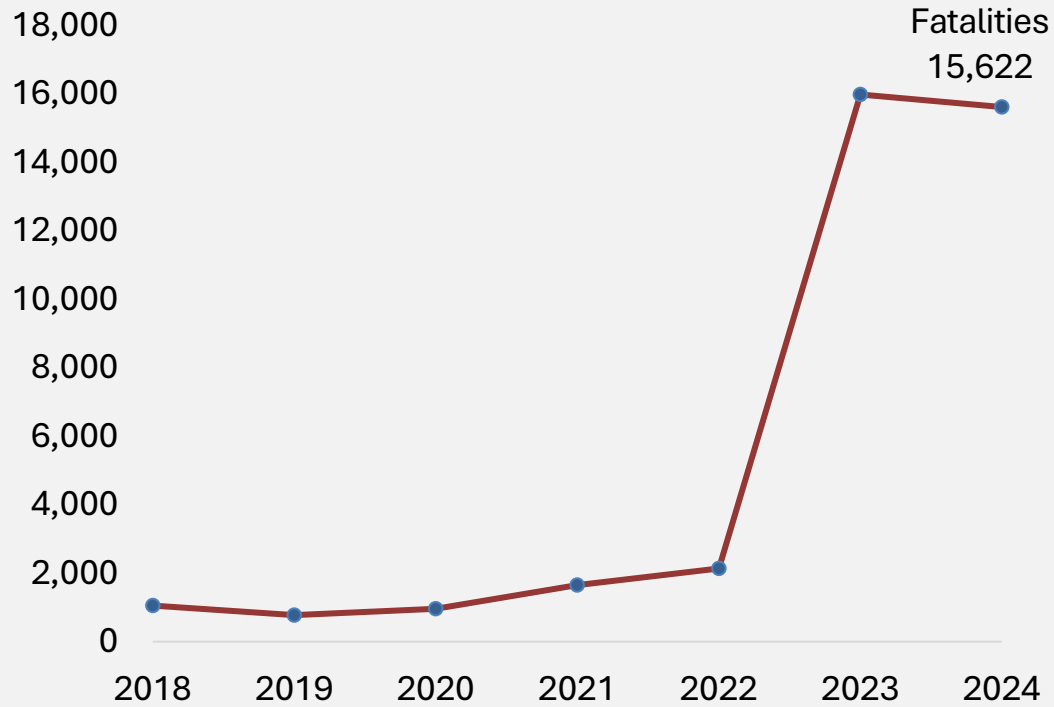
Long Term Impact of Conflict: Hard to Reverse



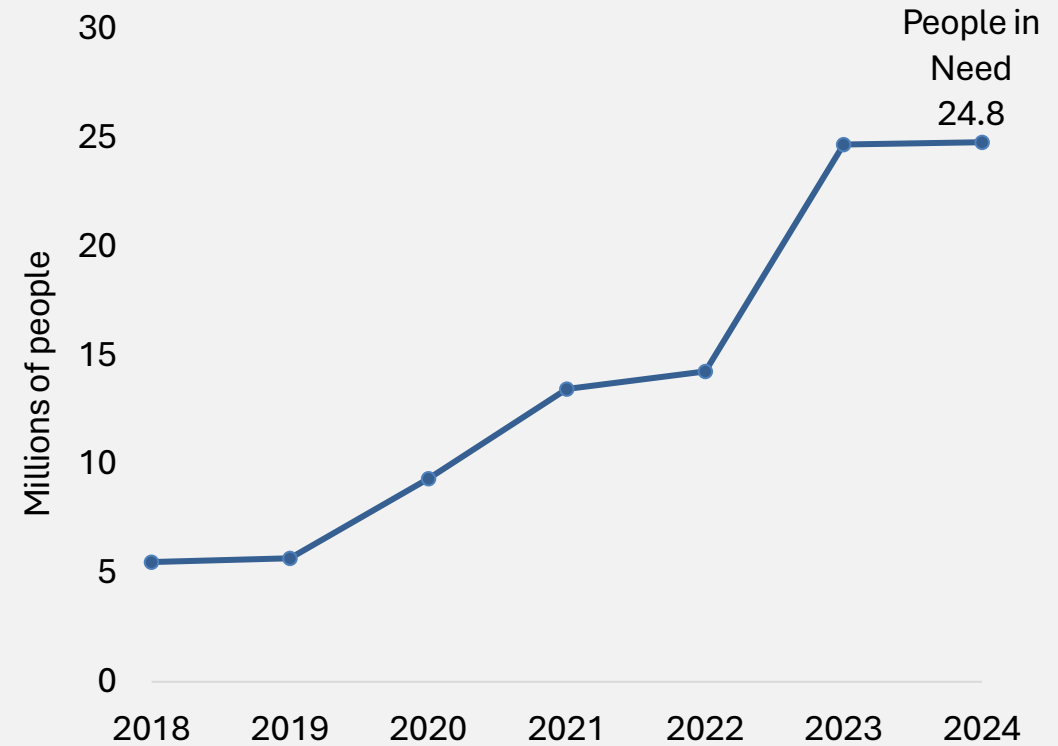
➔ 45.7% of IDPs (30.6 million) in the world are in the Arab region (Arabs are 5.9% of the world population)

Source: ACLED, (left); UNHCR, UNRWA, IDMC (center); OCHA (right). Note: Only Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) have been included.

Sudan - Conflict Impact



Source: Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)

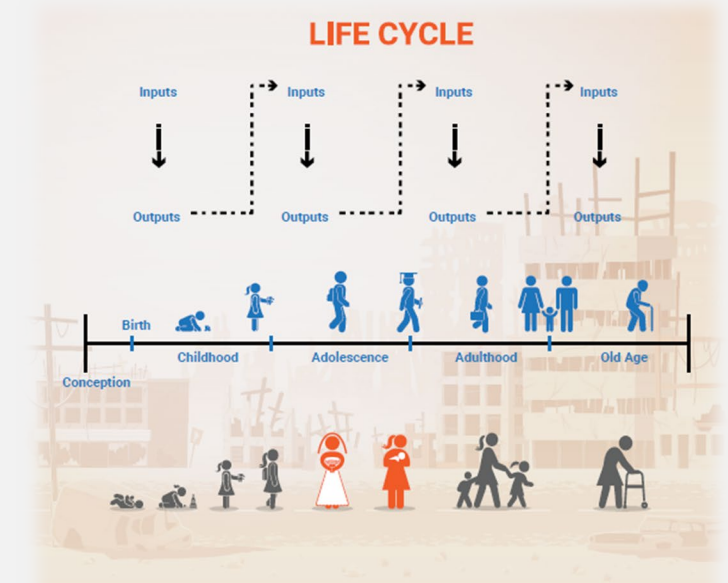
Generational & life-cycle impacts of conflict

- More than **193 million people** live in countries suffering conflict or occupation (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen)
- **71 million people** or around 24% of people **in need of humanitarian assistance** in the world are in the Arab region

Generations lost, poverty traps of early marriages, malnutrition, stunting



Human Development Compromised -> Reducing the likelihood to realize full productive potential in all outcomes of life



Challenges for Development in Current Conflict Settings
The Impact of Conflict on Child Marriage and Adolescent Fertility



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

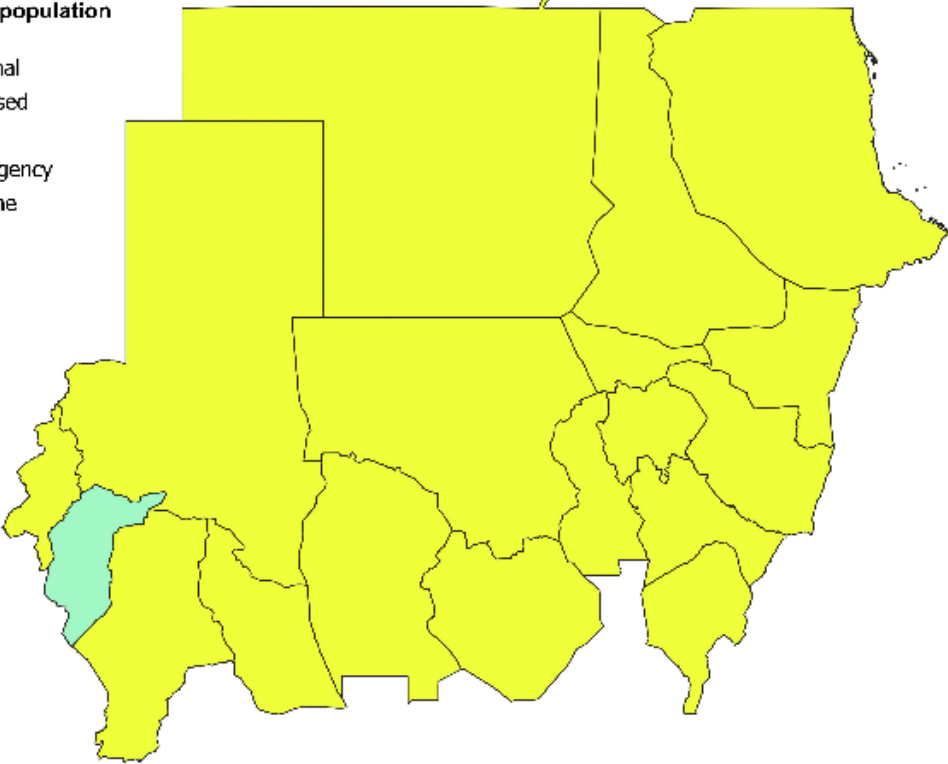


Food Insecurity and Health Challenges are Exacerbated

2020

Highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population

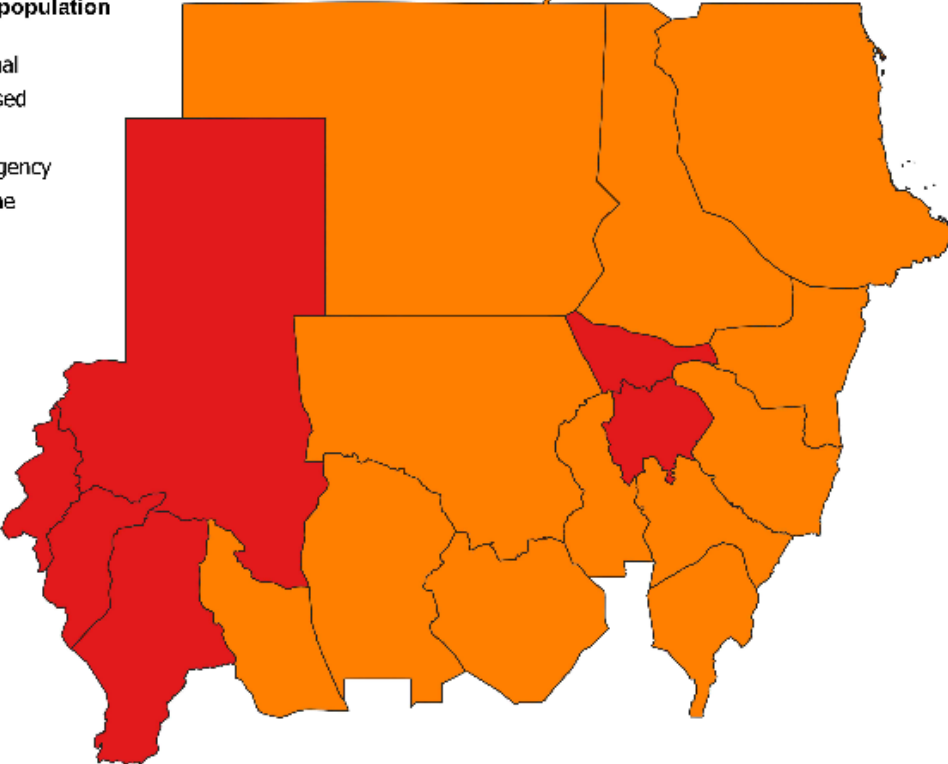
- Phase 1 - Minimal
- Phase 2 - Stressed
- Phase 3 - Crisis
- Phase 4 - Emergency
- Phase 5 - Famine



2024

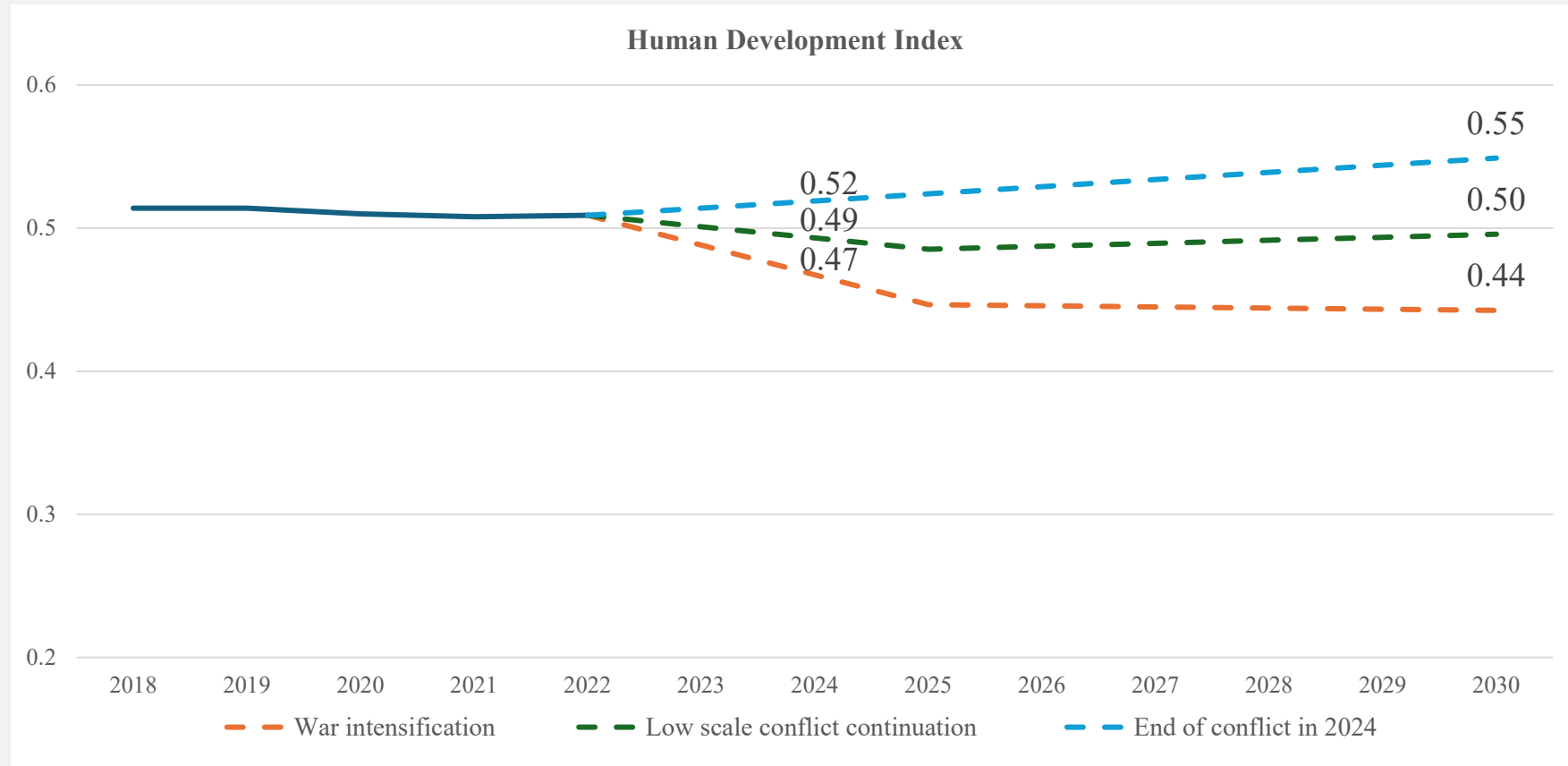
Highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population

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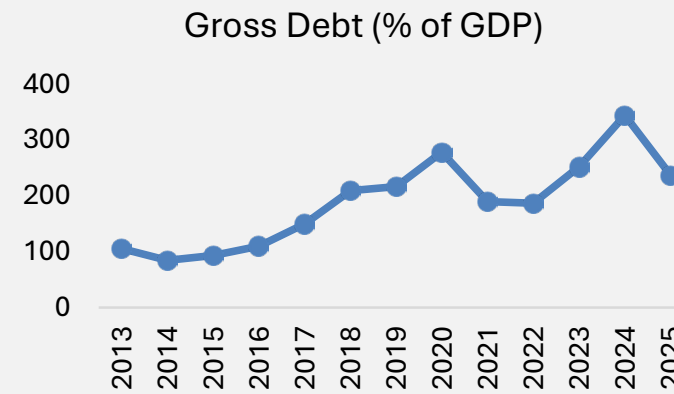
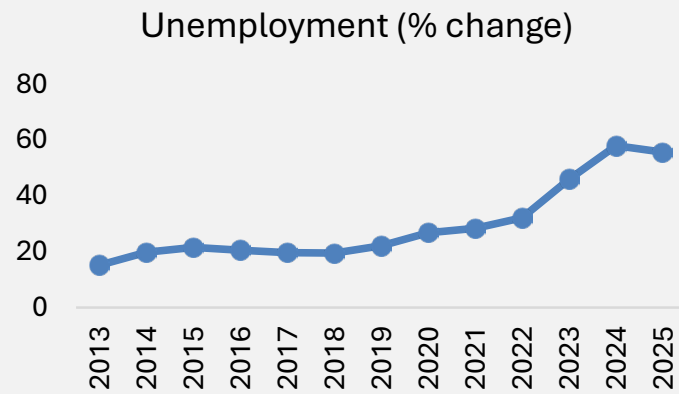
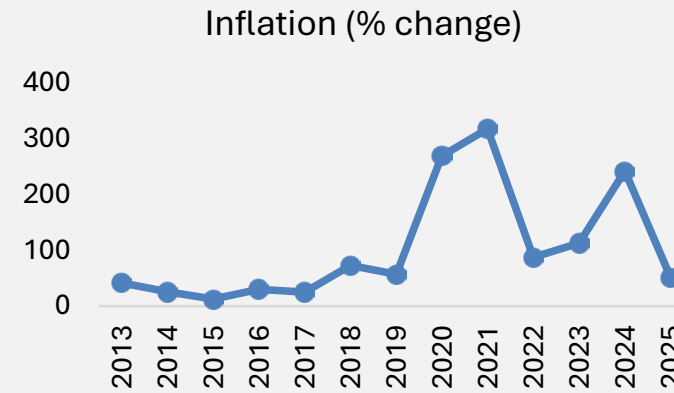
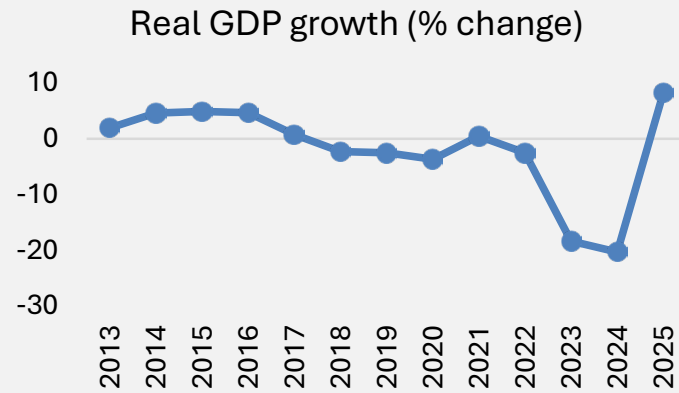
Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Continued War: HDI to Decline Further



Source: ESCWA's elaboration based on UNDP, 2023

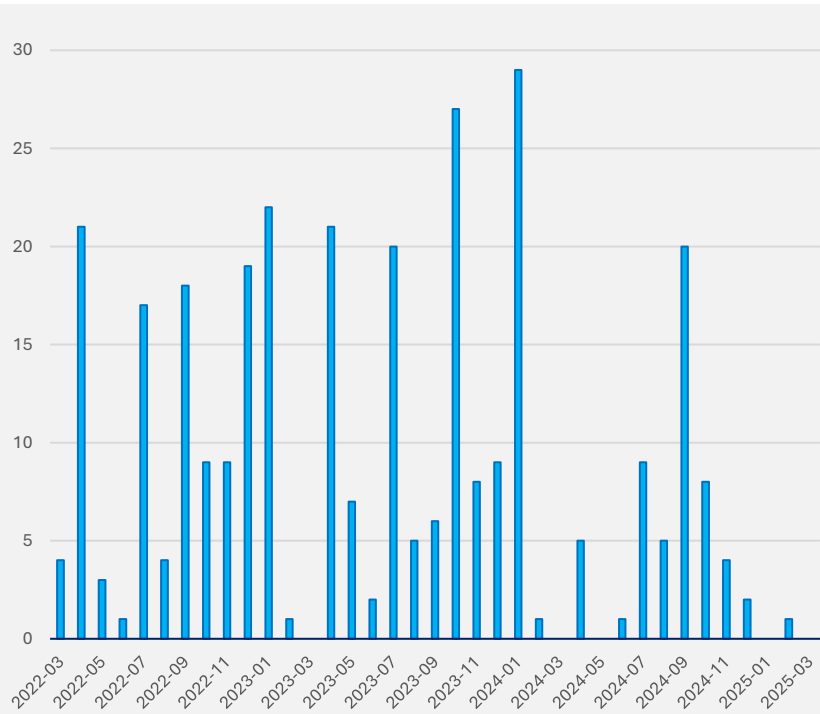
Macroeconomic Fundamentals Decimated by 2025: Recovery Impossible with Hostilities



Source: International Monetary Fund, 2024

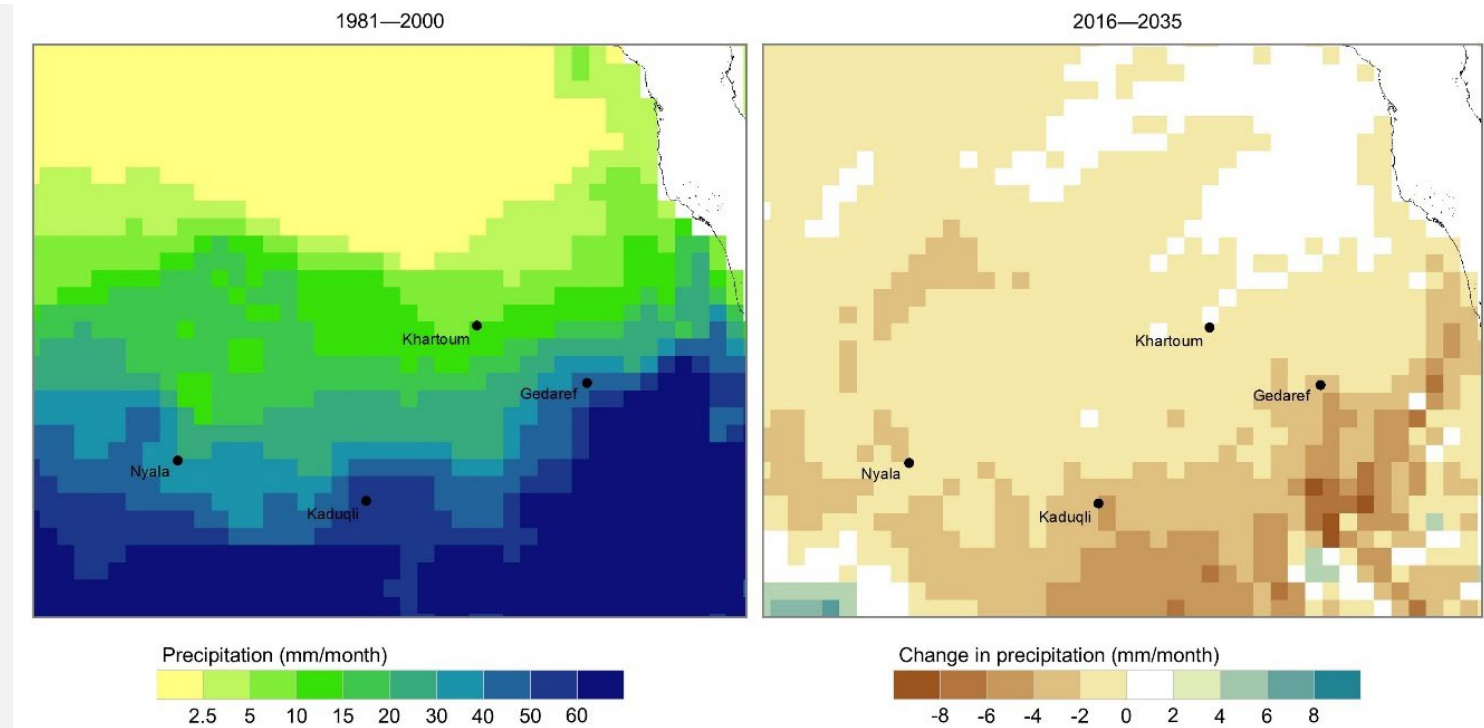
Climate risks will remain if not Increase

Number of floods in Sudan 2022 - 2025



Source: Data Commons 2025

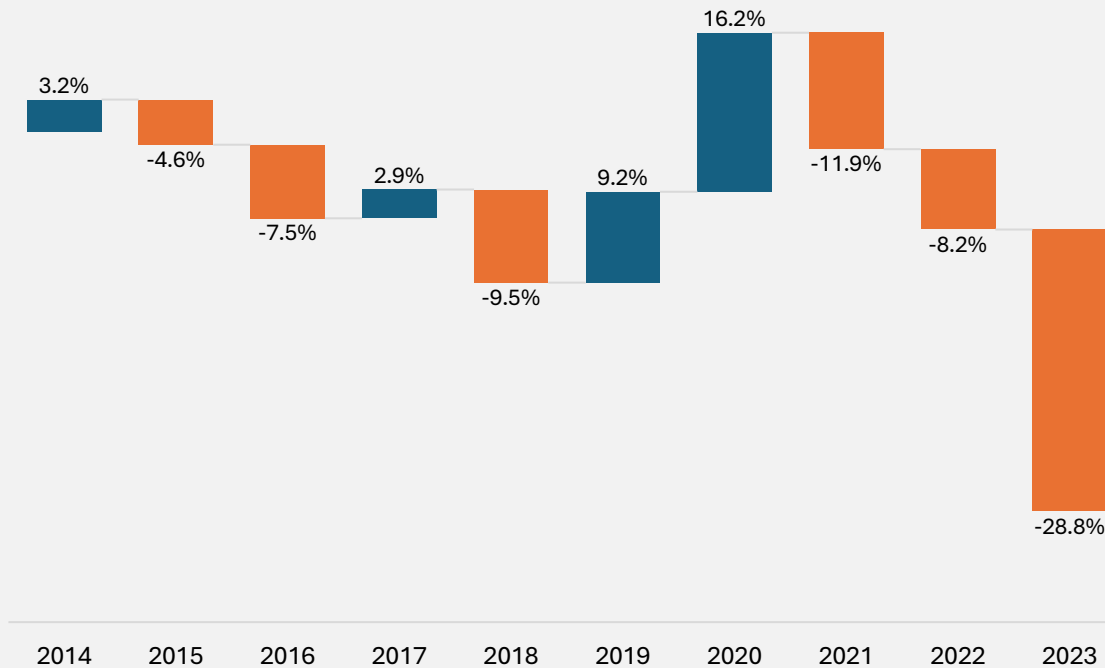
Mean change in precipitation by 2025 (2016-2035) compared to the reference period (1981-2000), RCP 8.5



Dual exposure to drought and flooding highlights Sudan's fragile capacity to cope with climate shocks

Deteriorating Institutions

Changes Institutional Resilience from 2013 to 2023



Source: Authors

World Bank, World Governance Indicators, accessed on January 2025



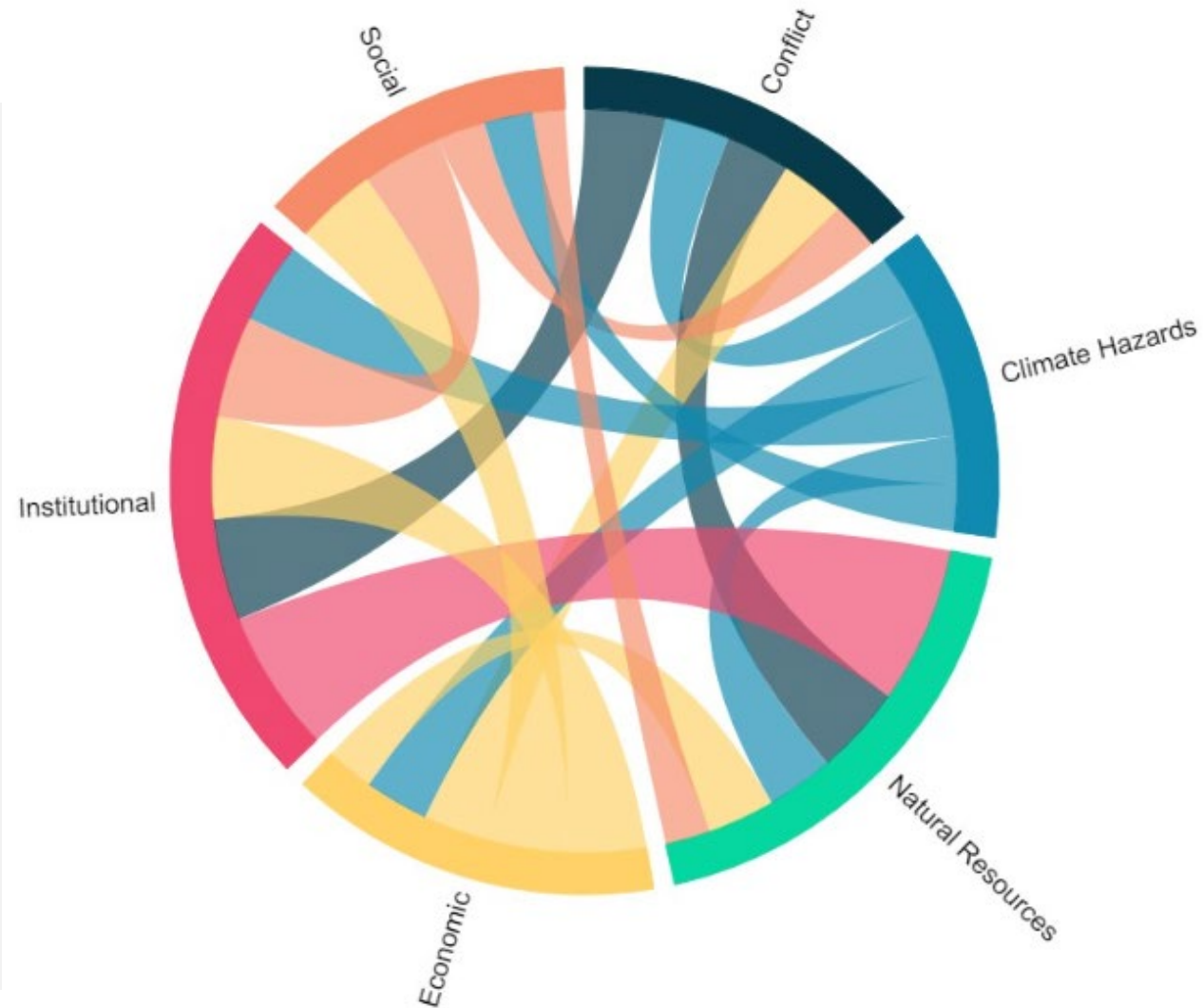
Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



Risk Assessment in Sudan

(Drivers of High Vulnerability and Low Resilience)

There are Multiple Drivers of Vulnerability that are Interrelated



Arab Risk Monitor: Framework



Risks Are Interconnected

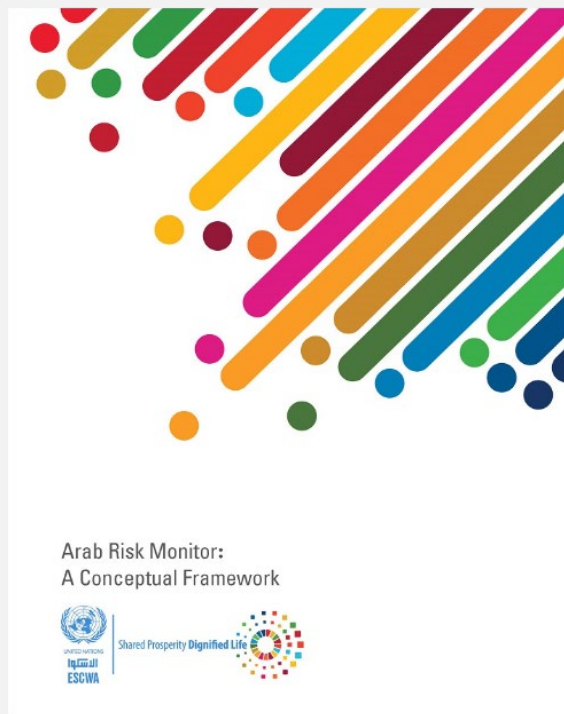


Arab Risk Monitor: Framework

		Level of Resilience				
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
		0–0.20	0.21–0.40	0.41–0.60	0.61–0.80	0.81–1
Level of Vulnerability	Very High	Severe	Severe	Significant	Moderate	Moderate
	0.81–1					
	High	Severe	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate
	0.61–0.80					
	Medium	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Minor	Minor
	0.41–0.60					
	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible
	0.21–0.40					
	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
0–0.20						

Source: ESCWA elaboration.

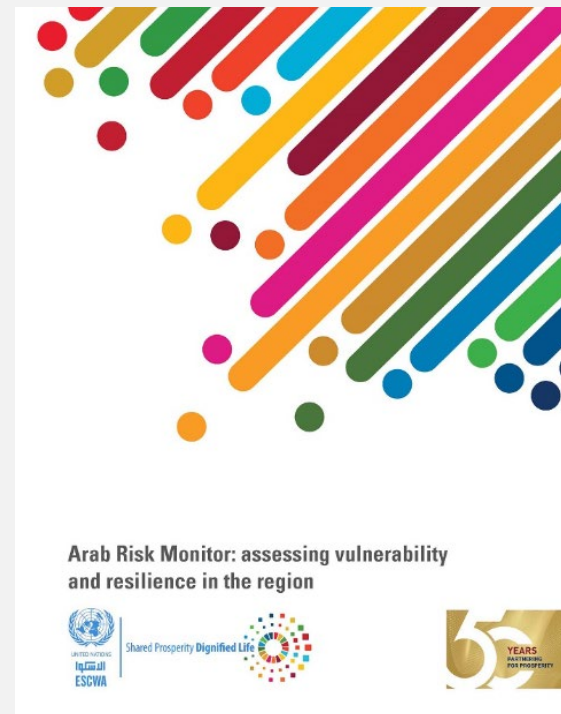
Arab Risk Monitor



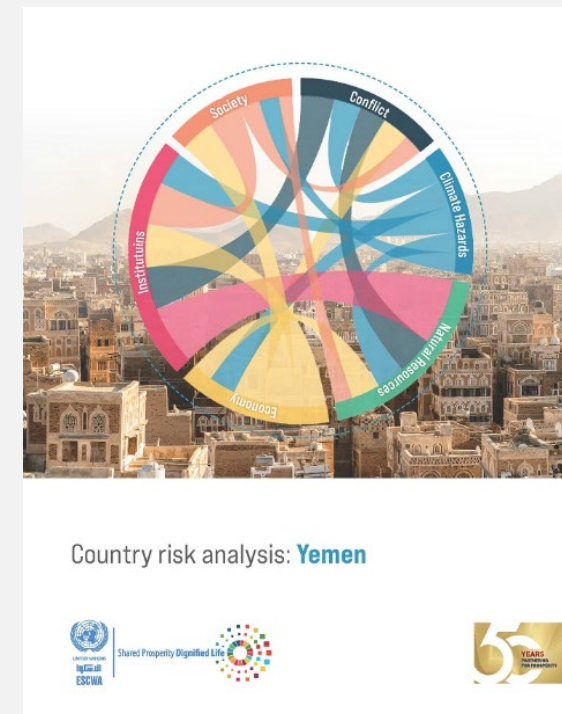
Arab Risk Monitor: a conceptual framework



Arab Risk Monitor: quantifying the drivers of risk of conflict, version 1.0

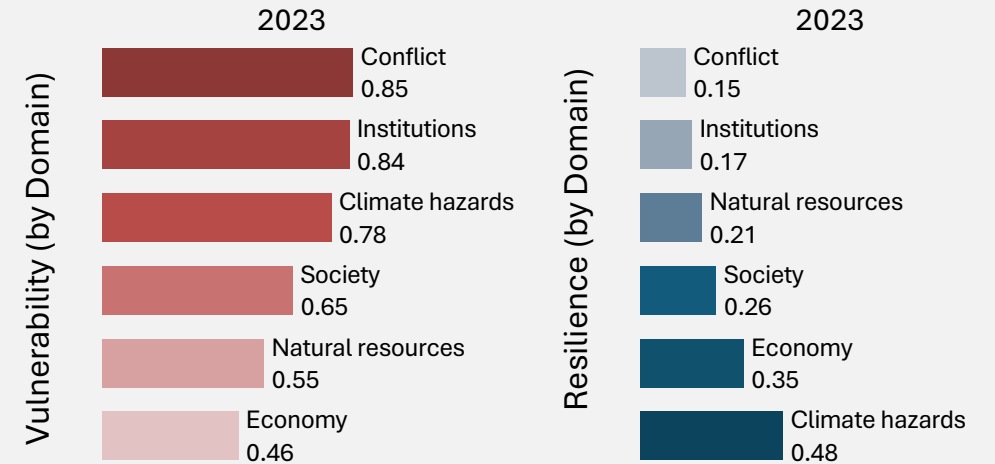
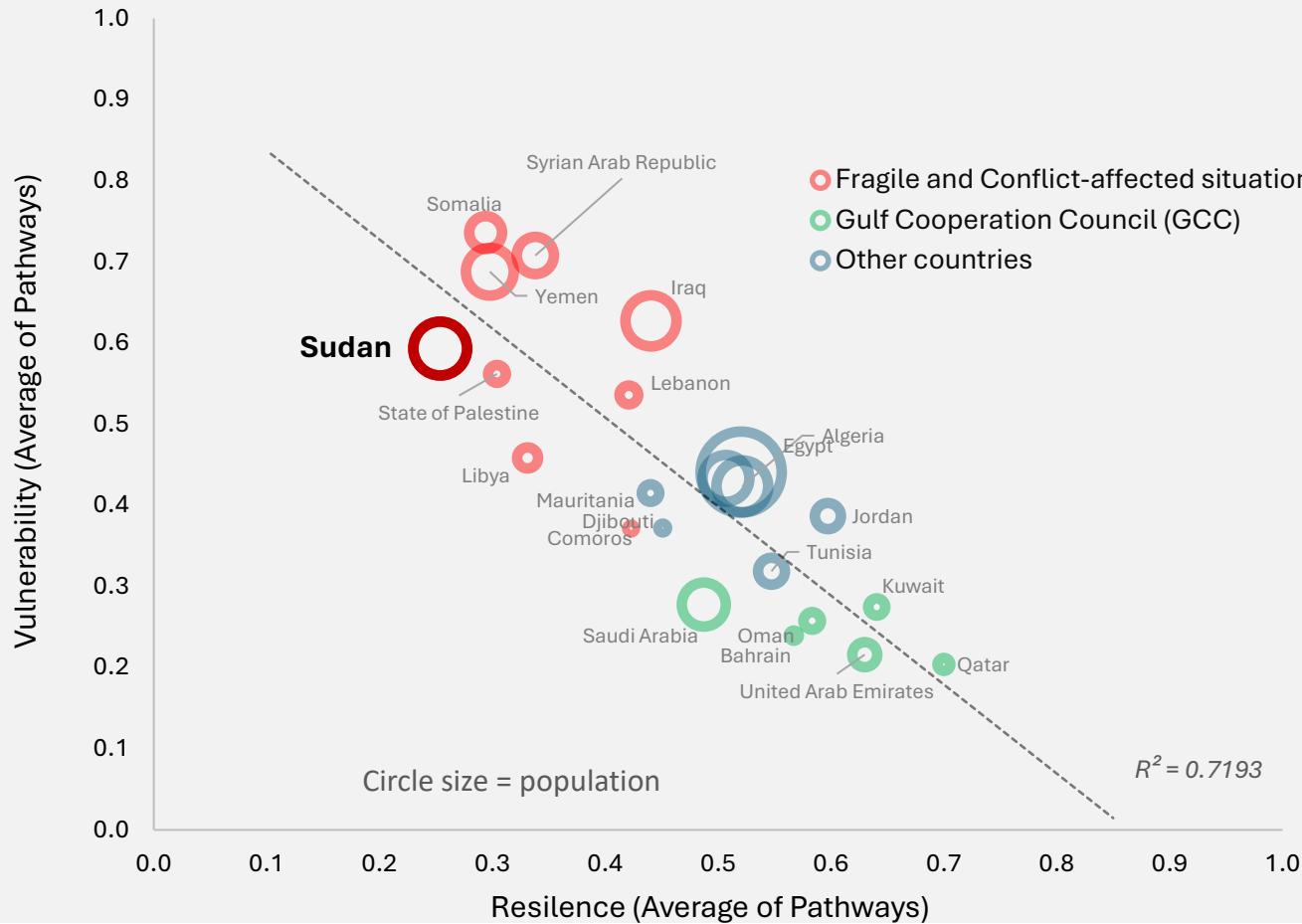


Arab Risk Monitor: assessing vulnerability and resilience in the region



Country risk analysis: Yemen

Overview of Vulnerability and Resilience



Source: Authors

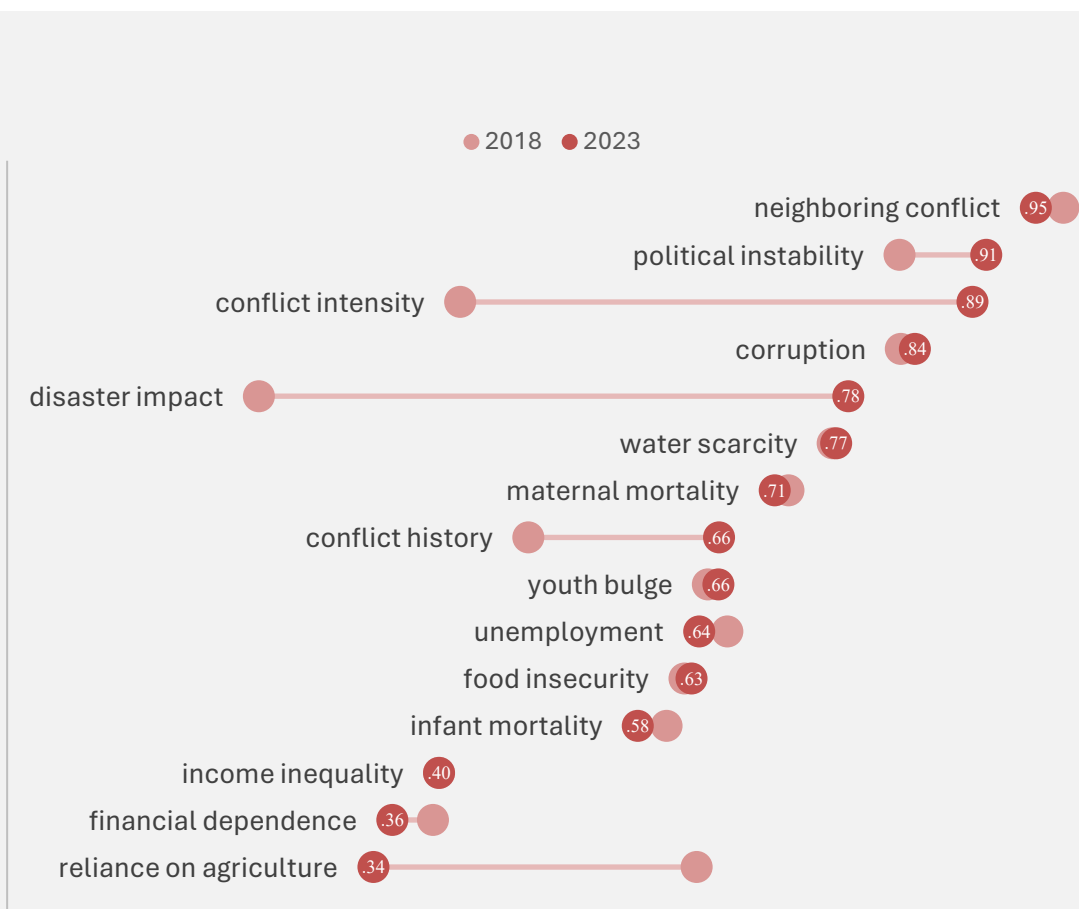
Overview on Risk – Sudan 2023

Pathway	Domain	Vulnerability	Resilience	Overall Score
Conflict	Conflict	Very High	Very Low	Severe
Climate	Natural	Medium	Low	Significant
	Climate Hazards	High	Medium	Significant
Development	Economy	Medium	Low	Significant
	Society	High	Low	Significant
	Institutions	Very High	Very Low	Severe

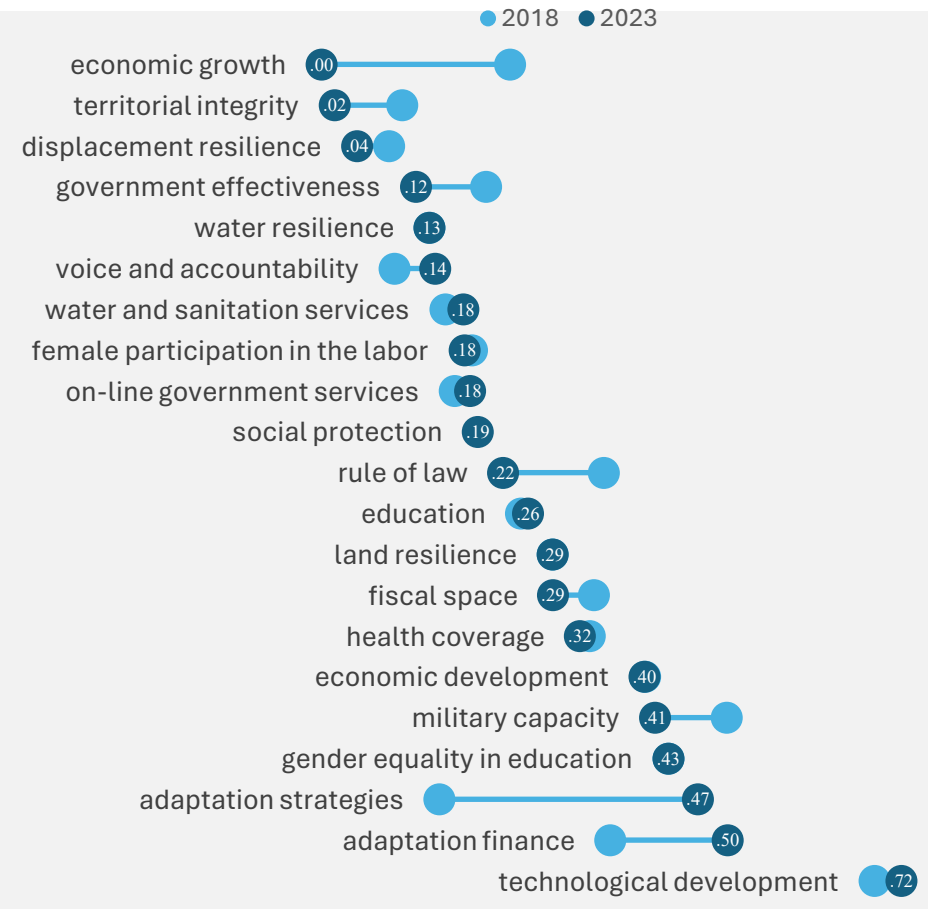
Source: Authors

Drivers of Vulnerability and Resilience

Vulnerability



Resilience



Source: Authors

Decade of Risks Exposure to Violence

Conflict

	Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability	conflict intensity	0.77	0.42	0.89	
	conflict history	0.73	0.48	0.66	
	political instability	0.87	0.83	0.91	
	neighboring conflict	0.95	0.98	0.95	
Resilience	territorial integrity	0.06	0.10	0.02	
	displacement resilience	0.09	0.08	0.04	
	voice and accountability	0.10	0.09	0.14	
	military capacity	0.73	0.50	0.41	

Source: Authors

Decade of Risks Exposure to Violence

Natural Resource

	Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability	reliance on agriculture	0.71	0.64	0.34	
	water scarcity	0.75	0.76	0.77	
Resilience	water resilience	0.13	0.13	0.13	
	land resilience	0.29	0.29	0.29	

Climate Hazards

	Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability	disaster impact	0.27	0.23	0.78	
Resilience	adaptation strategies		0.15	0.47	
	adaptation finance	0.31	0.36	0.50	

Source: Authors

Decade of Risks Exposure to Violence

Economy

		Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability		financial dependence	0.42	0.39	0.36	
		food insecurity	0.70	0.63	0.63	
		income inequality	0.40	0.40	0.40	
Resilience		economic development	0.47	0.40	0.40	
		economic growth	0.34	0.23	0.00	
		fiscal space	0.50	0.34	0.29	
		technological development		0.68	0.72	

Institutions

		Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability		corruption	0.84	0.83	0.84	
Resilience		rule of law	0.32	0.35	0.22	
		government effectiveness	0.24	0.20	0.12	
		on-line government services	0.29	0.16	0.18	

Source: Authors

Decade of Risks Exposure to Violence

Society		Driver	2013	2018	2023	Trend
Vulnerability	unemployment	0.74	0.67	0.64		
	youth bulge	0.63	0.65	0.66		
	infant mortality	0.64	0.61	0.58		
	maternal mortality	0.74	0.72	0.71		
Resilience	education	0.22	0.25	0.26		
	social protection			0.19		
	water and sanitation services	0.11	0.15	0.18		
	health coverage		0.33	0.32		
	gender equality in education	0.17	0.43	0.43		
	female participation in the labor	0.18	0.19	0.18		

Source: Authors




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Conclusion: A Pathway fraught by Risk

Conclusion: A Pathway fraught by Risk

- Root causes of conflict remain unaddressed, amidst increased geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges
- Humanitarian Aid Dependency to increase
- Human Capital to Decrease
- Climate Risk increase
- Transformations of economic operations ?, leading to changes in the allocation of economic factors – labor, capital, and land – along with changes in the production system (formality of labor markets, business concentration, production system, markets) -> War economies and illicit trade expanding?
- Deterioration of main macro-economic indicators to continue (inflation, growth, exchange rates, employment)
- Disintegration of the state - inability to manage conflict impact, recovery or transitions to peace and development deficit



A Recovery Pathway
fraught by Risk?

What can be done?

- Strengthen drivers of resilience - Approach needs to be multidimensional that addresses conflict, climate and development challenges
- Political will should be in tandem with interventions dedicated to strengthening resilience)
- Operationalize the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding approach among all humanitarian-development and peace actors (Focusing on common shared priorities to strengthen peoples' resilience and strengthen peacebuilding assets). This should be mainstreamed among all actors (local, international and multilateral)

Thank you!



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Annex – List of Indicators for ARM

Conflict Pathway

Domain	Component	Drivers (Including Weights)	Indicators (Including Weights)	Data Sources		
Conflict	Vulnerability	Conflict Intensity	0.25	Battle-related deaths per 100,000 people (SDG 16.1.2)	1	UCDP, WDI*
		Conflict History	0.25	Fatalities lagged 1 year (t-1)	1	UCDP*
		Political Instability	0.25	Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism	1	WGI
		Neighboring conflict	0.25	Number of neighboring countries with at least 25 fatalities + domestic conflict status	1	UCDP, ESCWA*
	Resilience	Territorial Integrity	0.25	State authority over territory (%)	1	V-DEM
		Displacement Resilience	0.25	Refugees & IDPs per 100,000 people	1	UNHCR, IDMC, WDI*
		Voice and Accountability	0.25	Voice and accountability	1	WGI
		Military capacity	0.25	Military expenditure as share of GDP (%)	0.5	SIPRI
0.25	Armed forces personnel as a share of total labor force (%)		0.5	WDI		

Note: * indicates ESCWA-made calculations; Numbers in Parentheses see the weight given at indicator and indicator level.

Climate Pathway

Domain	Component	Drivers <i>(Including Weights)</i>	Indicators <i>(Including Weights)</i>	Data Sources		
Natural Resources	Vulnerability	Reliance on Agriculture	0.5	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)	1	WDI
		Water Scarcity	0.5	Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita (m3)	1	FAO AQUASTAT
	Resilience	Water Resilience	0.5	Freshwater Withdrawal as % of Available Freshwater Resources (SDG 6.4.2)	1	FAO AQUASTAT
		Land Resilience	0.5	Change in share of agricultural land within total land area (%)	1	FAOSTAT*
Climate Hazards	Vulnerability	Disaster impact	1	Share of population affected by natural disasters (%)	0.5	EM-DAT, UNDESA*
				Disaster-induced Internal Displacement (New Displacement)	0.5	IDMC
	Resilience	Adaptation Strategies	0.5	Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework (SDG 13.1.2)	1	UNSTAT
		Adaptation Finance	0.5	Climate adaptation-related development finance, as a share of GDP	1	OECD, WDI*

Note: * indicates ESCWA-made calculations; Numbers in Parentheses see the weight given at indicator and indicator level.

1 Development Pathway

Domain	Component	Drivers (Including Weights)	Indicators (Including Weights)	Data Sources			
Economy	Vulnerability	Financial Dependence	0.33	Personal remittances received (% of GDP)	0.5	WDI	
				Net ODA received (% of GNI)	0.5	WDI	
		Food Insecurity	0.33		Cereal import dependency ratio	0.25	FAOSTAT
					Value of food imports in total merchandise imports (%) (3-year average)	0.25	FAOSTAT
					Prevalence of undernourishment (%) (3-year average) (SDG 2.1.1)	0.25	FAOSTAT
					Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in total population (%) (3-year average) (SDG 2.1.2)	0.25	FAOSTAT
		Income Inequality	0.33		Gini Coefficient pre-tax national income	0.5	WID
					Ratio of Top 10/Bottom 50 – pre-tax national income	0.5	WID*
	Resilience	Economic Development	0.25	GDP per capita (current US\$)	1	WDI	
		Economic Growth	0.25	GDP growth (annual %)	1	WDI	
		Fiscal Space	0.25	General Government Gross Debt (% of GDP)	1	IMF	
		Technological development	0.25	Individuals using Internet, (% of population)	1	WDI/ITU	

Note: * indicates ESCWA-made calculations; Numbers in Parentheses see the weight given at indicator and indicator level.

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2 Development Pathway

Domain	Component	Drivers (Including Weights)	Indicators (Including Weights)	Data Sources	
Society	Vulnerability	Unemployment	0.25	Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate)	1 ILOSTAT
		Youth Bulge	0.25	Share of youth in total adult population (%)	1 UNDESA*
		Infant Mortality	0.25	Mortality rate, under 5 (per 1,000 live births)	1 WDI
		Maternal Mortality	0.25	Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	1 WDI/(WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WBG, UNDESA)
	Resilience	Education	0.166	Mean years of schooling	0.5 UNDP
				Expected years of schooling	0.5 UNDP
		Social Protection	0.166	Share of population covered by social protection schemes/systems (SDG 1.3.1)	1 ILOSTAT
		Water and Sanitation Services	0.166	People using at least basic drinking water services (% of population) (SDG 6.1.1)	0.5 WDI
				People using at least basic sanitation services (% of population) (SDG 6.2.1)	0.5 WDI
		Health Coverage	0.166	Universal Health Coverage (UHC) service coverage index (SDG 3.8.1)	1 WDI
		Gender Equality in Education	0.166	School enrollment, primary and secondary (gross), gender parity index (GPI)	1 UNESCO
		Female Participation in the labor force	0.166	Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)	1 WDI

Note: * indicates ESCWA-made calculations; Numbers in Parentheses see the weight given at indicator and indicator level.

3 Development Pathway

Domain	Component	Drivers (Including Weights)		Indicators (Including Weights)		Data Sources
Institutions	Vulnerability	Corruption	1	Control of corruption	1	WGI
	Resilience	Rule of Law	0.33	Rule of law	1	WGI
		Government Effectiveness	0.33	Government effectiveness	1	WGI
		On-line government services	0.33	Online service Index	1	ITU/ ONU

Note: * indicates ESCWA-made calculations; Numbers in Parentheses see the weight given at indicator and indicator level.