

**Midterm Review of the Istanbul Program of  
Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**



**Sudan National Report**

**Antalya, Turkey**

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## **I. Introduction**

The Istanbul Programme of Action adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in May 2011 coincided, in less than two months later, with Southern States of Sudan seceded to form the Republic of South Sudan in July 2011. The secession of South Sudan induced multiple economic shocks according to a World Bank recent Overview Report. The most important and immediate shocks were the loss of 25% of Sudan's geographical area, the loss of the oil revenues which accounted to over half of the Government revenues and 95% of exports. This has created huge macro-economic and fiscal challenges, much reduced economic growth, and double-digit consumer price inflation. Other constraints included inadequate infrastructure services such as transport and electricity, and access to finance and taxation policies.

## **II. The national development planning process, including key economic, social, political and environmental trends:**

Following the 2011 secession of South-Sudan, Sudan has lost almost 75% of its oil production, representing approximately 55% of its fiscal revenues, and two-thirds of its foreign exchange earnings. This slowed growth and brought rising inflation as well as deterioration of the fiscal and current account balances.

The signing of the Implementation Matrix to facilitate the Cooperation Agreement between Sudan and South-Sudan in March 2013 and the subsequent resumption of oil production in South-Sudan and resumption of South Sudan's oil flow through Sudanese pipelines brought some relief with Sudan receiving significant oil transit fees and payments, helping to contain the

fiscal deficit.

Government's primary policy response to the catastrophic economic events following secession was a package of macroeconomic reforms introduced in June 2012, including tax reform, a gradual reduction in fuel subsidies, cuts in non-priority public expenditures, and a strengthening of social safety nets to cushion the impact of these reforms on the poor

Government also formulated the 3-year Economic salvation Programme (2012-2014) that had the goal of self-sufficiency by 2014 for a number of food products and aimed to increase exports of various agriculture and extractive products. Reducing subsidies and revisiting wages is central to government strategy to contain public expenditure. To increase revenue, the government austerity programs have also sought new sources, especially in export earnings and introduce electronic control over the revenue sources.

Against this juncture, the IPRSP forms part of the National Planning Framework that includes the 3-Year Salvation Economic Program and the 3-Year Development Plan (2012-2014). The full PRSP which is underway will similarly be situated within the implementation framework of the 5-Year Programme for Economic Reforms, 2015 – 2019 with the objective of increasing productivity for export promotion

### **III. Assessment of progress and challenge in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Decade 2011-2020**

#### **a. Productivity Capacity:**

Transport sector in Sudan is dominated by road transportation which provides over 90 of inland transport services. The total

road network of road transportation is estimated to be 32,425 km, including both paved and unpaved roads (national highways, state local roads and town roads). The road density is as low as 1.3. km per hundred square kilometers. Poor quality of existing roads negatively affects efficiency of road transportation services. Estimates indicate that nearly half of paved roads require rehabilitation. Inadequate funding of road maintenance and lack of cost recovery are causing rapid deterioration of the quality of existing roads. In relation to energy's gas for cooking and lighting uses is enjoyed by limited number of the population. Only 29% of Sudan's households use gas for cooking (50% in urban areas and 20% in the rural areas) while around 70% of the households use firewood and charcoal. 80% of the rural households still rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking.

**b. Agriculture, food security and rural development**

The Agriculture Sector has been and continues to be the leading sector in Sudan's economy and contributes around 31% of the Growth Domestic Product (GDP), and 26 % of total exports. It provides employment opportunity to about 57% of the workforce. According to 2014 estimate, 70 % of the Sudanese populations depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Sudan is characterized by abundance of arable land, multiplicity of natural grazing for various breeds of livestock, sheep, goats and camels.

## Contribution of the Agricultural to the GDP 2011-2014

Year	Rate of Growth
2011	34.1
2012	33.14
2013	33.8
2014	31.4

The first and second five year plans, the Executive Programme for Agricultural Renaissance, the Comprehensive Strategy for Poverty Reduction, the Tripartite Economic Reform 2015-2018 have all placed a central objective for enhancing the capacity of the agricultural sector to play a leading role in the provision of food for the majority of the Sudanese population.

The factors which had negative impact on development of this sector include shortages of funds caused by the country's loss of nearly 75% of oil revenue as a result of the secession of the South in July 2011. Other factors include local conflicts, climate change and the impact of the Unilateral Coercive measures imposed on Sudan by the U.S. Administration since 1997. The effects of these sanctions on the Agricultural Sector are illustrated in the rise of prices, imports, reduction of exports and lack of manufacturing

machinery and spare parts to take advantage of the added value.

The major objectives of the Agricultural Renaissance Programme sponsored by the Government are the development of the Traditional Agricultural Sector, introduction of water harvesting techniques, rehabilitation of the early warning system. Since 2013, a plan has been executed in a joint programme that involves the Government and the UN Agencies for the objective of reducing drought and desertification effects on the present human degradation of the areas most vulnerable to drought in Darfur, South Kordofan, Kassala and the Red Sea States.

Improving Sudan's food security has been an important priority and concern for the Government. Sudan productive capacity recovery programme was launched in partnership between the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the European Union (EU) and the Government. A six-year programme aimed to build a strong and sustainable agricultural sector as the foundation for a food-secure Sudan. The recovery programme aimed to strengthen capacity of rural communities and government line ministries in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, River Nile, Red Sea and the Abyei Administration Area. Contribution from the European Community was 80 million Euros, and reflected the EU's commitment to peace-building through recovery

programmes in support of food security and rural development in Sudan. The core of this initiative was to ensure that growth is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The main activities of the programme included organizing training for trainers, developing a training manual for establishing small rural agri-based business, strengthening 200 farmers field schools, establishing 3 agro-business enterprises support rural marketing units.

### **Trade**

Measures pursued in the last five years to diversify and expand the export based of Sudan included construction of a refinery to purify the impurity of gold to be valid for export, setting up of a mechanism and a plan to prevent smuggling of commodities particularly gold. In the livestock sector, a plan has been executed which focuses on meat exports and expansion in skin products with value added to the product. A council has been set up for the purpose of improving competitiveness capacity in exports. A multi-stakeholders committee was established for setting measures to simplify procedures of trade movement (Committee for Trade Facilities) which included the Custom Corporation. The Government is undertaking efforts to become party to bilateral, regional and international agreements for the objective of expanding trade exchange. A national legislation was issued for encouraging competition and reducing anti-monopoly in the trade sector.

With respect to accession of Sudan to the World Trade Organization (WTO), a National Note on Trade System was recently issued together with a Legal Plan Note in relation to accession of Sudan to the (WTO) which were prepared in cooperation with experts from the International Trade Center in Geneva. The Government informed (WTO)

Secretariat of its interest to resume negotiations for the accession. All regional groups have been approached to ensure support and facilitate the process of accession of Sudan to the (WTO).

### **c. Human and Social Development**

#### ***Education***

Progress in education on the basis of the IPOA has been made based on the aforementioned plans and policies in addition to Government sponsored “Special Strategies for Qualitative Education” which included education for children nomads, Development Strategy for Darfur 2012-2015, the Education Reform Policies and Plans 2012-2015-2021, Acceleration of Girls in the war affected and remote areas.

Progress achieved included setting up of Education For All Forum, a Memorandum of Understanding signed with UNICEF Office in Sudan and the Government on an annual basis which addresses various aspects of education, nomad children and girl child as well as education among children in displaced

camps. A project for enhancing basic education in isolated states was funded by the Donor Support Fund. The Government allocates 100 education grants annually for Northern, the Red Sea, Gedaref, and North Kordofan States. The European Community provided 12 million Euros in support for children stability at basic education in five States. 103 classes were established by the Government for electronic education in six States. Other Government support included training, rehabilitation of computer laboratories, and provision of PC and Internet network for about one thousand high schools.

With respect to progress achieved towards elimination of gender disparities in education and training, a national strategy for acceleration of girls education has been on execution since 2009 which focused on rural and remote areas and featured encouragement, awareness and provision of incentives such as uniform and breakfast meals. Other features included programmes aimed at increasing basic skills of nomad children. Assessment indicated positive change in attitude towards nomad children education. However, problems and challenges in this regard include lack of proper training of teachers (36%) and lack of mobile education means.

In general, funding for education from national and external sources continues to be inadequate and such it had its impact on the provision of education services and improvement of the quality of training of teachers.

## ***Population & primary health***

During this report period, the national population policy has been revised and updated and was endorsed by the Government in 2012. It featured efforts to provide better environment for the integration with existing plans in the area of population dynamics, poverty reduction, employment and achievement of the MDGs.

Distribution of population in Sudan by sectors indicates that 44.6% of the population works in the agriculture sectors, 40.1% in the services sector, 15.3% in manufacturing. In general terms, 64.4% of the total population in Sudan has witnessed increase in migration from rural to urban areas as a consequence of drought and desertification and inadequate health and education services in rural areas.

In 2014, the rate of infant mortality was estimated to be 52 to every 1000 live births according to the Multiple Purpose Survey, and that more than half of these deaths were newly born babies. For many years, there has been high reduction in the rate in child mortality under 5. (from 12.3% in 1990 to 68.4% in 2014).

Strategic Objectives of the health sector as embodied in the National Health Sector Strategy 2012-2016 focused on improving access to and benefits of the health services as well as enhancing response and efficiency of the health system to meet the public needs.

Despite various health risk conditions in the country due to conflicts, natural disasters and environmental risks, Sudan has nonetheless achieved reasonable progress in health indicators such as combating malaria, infant mortality and maternity.

Sudan bears 8% of the impact of Tuberculosis in the East Mediterranean region. The Government is determined to pursue the MDG of this disease in cooperation with the Global Partnership to eradicate Tuberculosis, particularly among the poor. The current rate of infection of the disease is in line with the international scientific track i.e. the majority of the infected are within the productive age which reflects the negative impact as a result.

The rate of HIV/AIDs spread in Sudan is considered to be low compared to those in neighboring countries. According to estimates undertaken by the Government and the UN jointly in 2014, the rate in Sudan was 0.2% for the population aged between 15 and 49. The number of affected persons reached 53,000 out of whom 23,000 were women. Death toll in 2014 amounted around 2900.

### ***Youth Development***

The Government adopted a framework of policy measures and has sponsored and executed various programmes for the integration of youth in the economic, social and political life. These included the

adoption of the National Strategy for Youth Development (2007-2031), establishment of national mechanisms such as the Youth Home Association, building the National Youth Palace, establishing a Youth Employment Fund, Youth Microfinance Foundation, Youth Information Technology Foundation and Youth Marriage Support Fund.

On integration of youth in the political life, a Political Development Project was set up to ensure youth political participation, enhance youth political empowerment and building a model leadership.

Other projects included enhancing innovation skills, building a youth center at the Federal and State Levels, organizing Youth National Festivals, establishing Sudanese Youth Venture Capital which aims to maximize the value of belonging to the homeland. This project was successfully executed in El Obeid City-Capital of North Kordofan State in 2015 and Eldamer city of River Nile State in 2016.

UNDP is currently implementing a Project on “ Creation of Job Opportunities For Youth in Sudan Through Intensive World Project ” which targets the Youth Sector of Sudan. This project was funded by the IBSA Fund “India, Brazil and South Africa” in the context of South-South Cooperation.

### ***Water and sanitation***

Sudan is arid to semi-arid country with an average annual rainfall of 350 mm/y. The available water resources in the country are

River Nile, Seasonal streams and groundwater. The potentialities of those water resources are summarized follows:

Water Resources	Quantity of water available annually (in billion m3)
Nile (Sudan Share)	20.5
Seasonal Streams	6.7
Groundwater	4.3
Total	31.5

The per capita share from the available water resources is estimated at 790 m<sup>3</sup>/y. This value categorizes Sudan among the countries that fall below the water poverty line. The consumed water is used for irrigation (67%), industry (5%), human and livestock drinking and domestic use (28%) and evapotranspiration losses (17%). In Sudan, 29 % of the total population are still defecating openly or use unimproved water sources. It was also estimated that 67.88 % and 29.02% of the basic schools are without access to improved sanitation and water services respectively.

Situation Analysis of the Sector: Sudan made positive progress in ensuring access to improved drinking water. Since 2010, additional 2.7 million Sudanese citizens (additional 7.5 percent of the total population) have gained new access to improved domestic water supply. With the current 68 % of the population having access to improved source of drinking water, Sudan didn't

achieve the water related MDGs target which was 82 %. Currently an estimated 12 million (32%) of Sudan population, are still using unimproved drinking water sources.

Sudan has also made positive progress in ensuring access to improved sanitation. Since 2010, additional 2.1 million Sudanese citizens (additional 5.8 % of the total population) have gained new access to improved toilets. With the current 32.9 % of the population having access to improved sanitation facilities, Sudan didn't achieve the water related MDGs target which was 68%. Currently an estimated 24 million (67.1 %) of Sudan population, (half of them children) are still using unimproved sanitation facilities and out of them, 10.5 million are practicing open defecations.

Water is currently incorporated into the national development planning process, Sanitation is still not clearly defined at the national development planning process, and it is still imbedded as part of water, health and other federal and state level budgetary line items. Scaling up sanitation as a clear government commitment presented in 2009 Khartoum declaration currently takes more practical attention which is reflected in the following key achievements:

- Development of WASH National policy in which sanitation is a key component.

- One of the major sector achievements is the completion and the adoption of WASH 2012-2016 Strategic Plans. The plans were developed and approved and currently in use at federal and state levels. The strategic plans are detailed with clear situation analysis, objectives, expected results and detailed total and annual budgeted project interventions at federal, state and locality level to reach the planned objectives. The strategic plans cover rural/urban water, sanitation and hygiene. They include new/rehabilitated systems, O&M, structural reforms, capacity building and emergency preparedness and response.
- The percentage of population practicing open defecation is 29%. This policy also aims at achieving the Government Quarter Century Strategic Plan, that intends to increase the level of access to reach 50 liters per capita per day in rural areas and 150 liters per capita per day in urban areas, compared to 20 to 30 liters per capita per day respectively with current situation, in addition full coverage of all schools, public health facilities and religious premises by the end of this Quarter Century. Water supply and sanitation policy interlinked with various other water use policies including Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) policy and the Environmental Health policy; the water for life; water as a human right; social conditions necessary for the delivery of water; protection and conservation of water. Sanitation has not been given the priority in the past as a top priority, inconsistent funding for sanitation. Faced with competing social demands and

the ingrained belief that sanitation is a private concern of the family, sanitation has been pushed to the bottom of the agenda. The natural and manmade disaster, Social norm, believes and taboo, affordability by poor community members with Limited support partners.

- In recent years humanitarian assistance programs have addressed basic potable water and sanitation needs in Sudan. In particular, the five Darfur states Gov. and its implementing partners, including UN agencies especially UNICEF, UNEP, UNHCR, UNOPS, and INGOs, have made substantial contributions to improving provision of water and sanitation to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Southern Sudanese displaced persons and other conflict-affected populations in the region, both within and outside IDP camps. However, ensuring adequate, sustainable water supply for domestic usage and livelihoods, especially agriculture and animal husbandry, remains a challenge-so as to ensure that demand for water for human consumption, agriculture and other livelihoods activities is in line with what is available on a renewable basis and to avoid overtaxing water resources and causes adverse environmental impacts.
- The percentage of household population using improved sources of drinking water also increases with the economic level of the household. The percentage of household population using improved sources of drinking water showed an increasing trend

from 68.5% in the case of the poorest households to 99% in the case of the richest households. The use of improved sanitation facilities had a strong correlation with the economic status of the household. The proportion of household using improved sanitation facilities was much higher in the case of the richest households (69.8 per cent) compared to only 2.0 % in the case of the poorest households.

WASH Sector main bottlenecks:

Enabling environment

Draft WASH policy is not yet approved. Policy approval processes are not yet completed at Ministry of at Water Resources and Electricity.

Financial flows to the sector are inadequate to sustain and scale up WASH services. Budget allocation prioritization process is not in favor of WASH especially sanitation that combined with improper use of the sector available funding.

Overall WASH coordination mechanism that covers both development and humanitarian aspects is inactive and according to strategic plan the forum will be well settled by the end of 2016.

Obstacles:

Inadequate financial access by households to construct, use and maintain their own improved latrines along with very low budget allocation by the government to support promotion of improved

sanitation and hygiene activities at scale are the major constraints.

Another constraint is social and cultural practices and beliefs with open defecation (OD) being a widespread social dilemma. In Sudan, out of a population of 36 million, around 10 million (29%) are practicing OD.

#### Supply:

Irregular and high cost of the main supply and spare parts inputs especially in the rural areas due to incomplete and inactive supply chain; inadequate macro and micro supply planning and management and high cost and with complicated importing procedures of the imported supplies.

Inadequate availability of WASH staffed services especially in rural areas with clear discrepancies among the different states that combined with inadequate competent institutional and human resources capacities to manage, sustain and expand WASH services.

#### Challenges:

- Delay and shortage of fund
- The protracted economic sanctions have had both a direct and indirect impact on Water and Sanitation sector.
- Civil conflict
- Rapid population growth
- Inadequate implementation

- Prolonged Emergencies
- Climate changes
- Limited government contributions especially for sanitations and hygiene.

Lessons Learnt:

- Using solar technology in water supply saving money and time
- Using mobile technology in water treatment facility coverage great numbers of beneficiaries

*Gender equality and empowerment of women*

Strategies and policies in the progress made towards gender equality and empowerment of women featured mobilization of resources to fund small and medium enterprise, such as productive family projects, Taskful i.e. Solidarity Fund, Social security fund and Child Protection Schemes. In 2015, the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women and the National Strategy for the Welfare of the Family were revised and updated. The Federal Ministry and Social Security is appointed as the focal point for the coordination of women activities in various aspects of development and advancement. Mechanisms for empowerment of women were established at Federal and State levels and relevant National Institutions.

A National Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children was established, and family and Child Protection Unit

was in place long time ago. Significant progress was made in education for girls (see below table for gender):

2006	2010	2014
73.3%	72.4%	73.3%
60.3%	65%	68.1%

Gender equality indicator in basic school education rose from 94% in 2010 to 98% in 2014, and for high school from 1.08% to 1.10% during the same period. In 2010, the rate of girls' enrollment in Universities rose from 52% to 54.5%.

In the area of economic empowerment, the National Project for Development of Rural Women was incorporated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-2016). Its main features included poverty reduction in partnership with Government Institutions, Financial sources, the private sector and the Chamber of Zakat, Civil Society Organizations and the UN Agencies. The Central Bank established a "Women Portfolio" financing projects for 9 States focusing in development of rural women and targeting about 75,000. The Savings and Development Bank is assuming a leading role by funding projects that are targeting rural women in various schemes.

In Agriculture, the rate of women farmers increased by 62.7% in average while women contribution in livestock sector is estimated to be 61% , and in food manufacturing 46%. Around 21% of funds provided by the Agricultural Bank were allocated to

women. In Public Service, women reached 59% of the total personnel.

### ***Social Protection***

The Government places social security and social protection as major pillars which are governing the relations between the State and its citizens. The National Fund for Social Security has been established to contribute to effective policies and measure set for achieving poverty reduction, increase of economic growth. In 2014, the number of citizens benefiting from the National Pension Fund was 503,217; the National Fund for Social Security was 321,318 and the National Fund for Health Insurance was 12,592,073. The Savings and Social Development Bank contributes to funding graduates projects, supply of electricity in rural areas and distribution of direct cash support to about 500,000 families.

The Bank provided funds to 58,383 beneficiaries of micro-financing operations. The Bank also provided non-profit loans to high education students amounting to 9,515 students by December 2015, and support of rural women in all States for agriculture and livestock production. 685 persons with disability in 8 states received funds for financing various activities undertaken by these persons.

In the face of economic turmoil, caused by South Sudan's secession in 2011, the Government launched a series of austerity measures, including fuel subsidy cuts. In February this year, the World Bank and the Government signed a grant agreement launching Sudan

Social Safety Net Project. By supporting reforms to improve the targeting and management of Sudan's existing social protection/cash transfer systems, this project aims to help cushion the negative effects of fiscal reforms on the poor and vulnerable households.

#### **h. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building**

##### *External debt*

In September 2015, Sudan's foreign debt reached (46 billionUSD) 88% of which is in the form debt service. The effects of external debt accumulation on Sudan's economic and social development are illustrated as follows:

- Distortion of Sudan's external relationships and reduction of the country's access to the international financial markets;
- Decline in the country's reserves of foreign currencies.
- Difficulties in obtaining loans and concessional facilities need to assist in improvement of economic growth (loss of \$10 billion US dollars of concessional loans. According, this lead to inability of the country to ensure funding for vital projects and programmes such as electricity, roads, rural development and the use of modern technology and expenditure to reduce the burden of living, particularly among the poor and the vulnerable, women and children.

- Denial of utilization of modern technology in Sudan's oil industry which lead to low rate of extraction which in turn negatively impacted production levels, lack of major services in the field of information and technology companies, increase in maintenance cost, spare parts oil pipelines, and lack of training and capacity building of staff working in the oil industry in developed countries that acquired vast and rich experience in oil industry.

### ***Foreign direct investment***

Major external factors which have negatively affected the implementation of the IPOA has been the imposition of Coercive Unilateral Measures on Sudan by the U.S. Administration since 1997 which continued to negatively impact multiple aspects of development process of the country. Direct relationships with American Banks, including the Federal Reserve Bank, were terminated. These sanctions were expanded by the inclusion of the European Branches in European banks. Many foreign commercial banks withdrew from Sudan (American City Bank; Foreign Multinational Companies terminated their operations in Sudan. The Swiss BNP Paribas which used to handle Sudan's oil exports contracts since 1999 started gradually to reduce its activities in Sudan until completely withdrawing in 2007. These sanctions have also had negative impact on programmes funded by the International and Regional Development Institutions including in particular the IMF and as such, they denied Sudan

from enjoying international initiatives that benefited the LDCs such as the HIPIC initiative. This in turn negatively affected the balance of payment of Sudan.

### ***Science, Technology and Innovation***

Information and communication technologies (ICT) has a very significant role to play in supporting the national plan and its different sectors as it has a positive impact on economical, social and political development. ICT support can contribute effectively in the completion and control of activities and the elimination of traditional obstacles. In addition to strengthening of the competitiveness abilities and the optimum utilization of time and resources.

This report shows the increase in access in the telecommunication services as well as the development in governmental sector as indicator of the development of the ICT sector is witnessing in Sudan.

### **Strategic goal of the Ministry of Information & Communication Technologies**

The proper utilization of information and communication technologies to improve the performance and to set policies that govern the ICT sector in the country according to the recognizable standards and the support of the decision making by providing suitable information to achieve sustainable development, stability and prosperity.

## **Vision of the Ministry of Information & Communication Technologies**

- Enforcement of e-government and activation of its services
- Increase of the percentage of beneficiaries of the communications & information technologies and postal services.
- Connecting of all parts of the country with telecommunication and information technologies and postal services.
- Develop and regulate the telecommunication and information technologies sector.
- Support and development infrastructure.
- Localization of IT industry in Sudan.
- Achieve universal access up to required quality of services.
- Building partnerships and exchange of experiences with the relevant authorities, both locally and regionally and internationally.
- Raise of awareness and culture of information society.

### ***(1) Increasing access to telecommunication services***

- The augment of the percentage of beneficiaries of the telecommunications and information technology services and postal services
  - ✓ According to the decision of universal access coverage, 470 areas were surveyed in 2015. 16 of 31 economically unviable area was covered by percentage of 51%

- ✓ The number of mobile phone subscribers rose up to 28,303,860 with the penetration rate of 83%
- ✓ Design and implementation of Sudan government portal system through which a number of services was launched:
  - Detailed primary school certificate services for 15 on States
  - Electronic hajj application service through the Sudan government portal system
  - Automation of financial system in the Ministry of Finance including form 15 hosted at the National Information Center
  - Design and implementation of electronic payment window
  - Inventory of Sudanese certificate students services with its details
  - Sudanese certificates students service
  - Participation in the automation of work of taxation bureau
  - Participation in the development of national strategic systems for the Ministry of Health in the field of information technology
  - Number of information centers in the states has reached 18 center
  - The number of IT departments in Ministries state and Federal Center reached 159

- The number of Ministries databases is 146 and localities databases is 97
  - The number of IT specialists is around 6000 and more than 100, 000 of trained workers
  - The number of intranets that connect the state government secretariat is 15 and the number of local government secretariats linked is 84 networks
  - The number of Ministerial states linked in the national network is 95 states
  - The completion of licensing procedures of the fourth generation of by allotment of the frequency spectrum to service providers, the first stage
  - The number 5050 was assigned to the center of customer complaints and inquiries. The center is at the testing stage before its official launch
  - Continual improvement of states' information systems of the sector
- **Connection of all parts of the country via information and communication technologies**
    - Implementation of connectivity in the states of 400 locations by 53%. 36 governmental was hosted at the national data center
    - Rehabilitation of national center
    - Implementation of surveys of quality of service by 80% of the geographical coverage

- Modernization of infrastructure for the implementation of e-government applications:
  - Length of optical fiber reached 31,425 klm by an increase of 31% of the year 2014
  - The number of mobile phone towers is 5760 tower by an increase of 1% of the year 2014
  - Signing up of memorandum of understanding between National Information Center and Sudanese Survey Corporation concerning implementation of Sudan primary digital map project
- **Development and regulation telecommunication and information technology sector:**
  - The adoption of the list of violation of the quality of service penalties
  - The adoption of the list of radio stations
  - Importation of type of approval equipment
  - Project of registration of mobile subscribers database national registry database
  - Interconnection of registered subscribers database with national registry database
  - Issuance of 147 release letters of terminal and wireless devices and 101 release letters for the communication devices of the operators and license for mersal express company for postal services to work in postal services field

- Completion of technical preparation and most of the procurement and contracting procedures for the implementation of secure internet project and the laboratory of electronic evidence
- Mailing labels project
- The completion of the development of the evaluation criteria for the study of post market indicators
- Spread of awareness and culture of the information society:-
  - Five workshops on E-government were held in the states
  - The launch of a project to raise awareness on the website
  - Follow-up the installation of the system to implement the filtration of websites in all companies project
- Development of Information & Communication industry
  - The adoption of national allotment of stable and unstable satellite orbits allocation of existing allotment has been completed and it was matched with the Sudanese needs. Sudan needs for satellites and unstable orbits has been drafted
  - The completion of frequencies survey by 80% for Khartoum State and 100% for Aljazeera state
  - Preparation of Sudanese frequency spectrum database. A memo was submitted to the ITU concerning an objection about the Rwanda broadcasting station that affects negatively by

interfering with the Sudanese frequencies allotted bands

- Follow-up of the implementation of the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting in addition to revision and reorganizing of the uses of broadcasting frequencies
- The adoption of the establishment of Sudanese software center to resettle software industry in Sudan
- Creation of partnerships and exchange of experiences with relevant agencies regionally and internationally:-
  - Hosting of the meetings of the session No. 34 of the African Union with the participation of 36 countries and 137 participants
  - Preparation of the upcoming Radio conference by the preparation of Sudanese position and the Sudanese vision in Arabic and English
  - Arranging and organizing the international participation with the countries and the United Nations International Organization and the ITU and COMESA and IGAD and African Union and ESCWA and the League of Arab States.
  - Signature of memorandum of understanding in the information and communication sector with
    - Russia
    - Saudi Arabia
    - Djibouti

- Algeria
- Korea
- Participation in the Arab Labour Party meetings(Egypt-Algeria-Universal Postal Union-Oman)
- Capacity building in the field of information technology:-
  - 16trainingcourse for managers and members of the information centers in the states were held in networking and web page design and the security of networks techniques. The number of trainees reached 274.
  - 7 fellowships was brought in for NIC in specialized training courses of the ESCWA
  - Accreditation of 26 centers for the training of the Sudanese license for computer operation
  - Training and examination of 320 employees on the Sudanese license for computer operation in coordination with the National Training Council
  - The development of the private sector

The Ministry has worked to organize and arrange the sector to achieve the satisfaction of operators as well as users of the services through the preparation of governing policies and regulations and in particular the quality of service standards. Number of licenses has reached 121 licenses.

- Description and analysis of performance under the sectors and areas and objectives of the Five-Year Plan (2011-2016)

- Mobile phone base station represented in the towers of operators

Years	Zain	MTN	Sudani	Total
2011	1848	1635	1136	4619
2012	2092	1635	1136	4863
2013	2217	1890	1144	5251
2014	2217	2028	1144	5419
2015	2247	2028	1485	5760

The table shows the field survey of the universal access that targeted 459 areas in the year 2015

The implementation with the operators was as follows:

- Zain company 16 areas were covered
- Sudani company 9 proposed areas was not implemented
- MTN company 10 proposed areas was not implemented

The strategic goal of promoting the use of ICT and e-government building and the transition to a knowledge society:-

- The ICT sector plays a significant role in the context of strengthening the role of information and communication technology is illustrated by:

A- The continual in the increase of the number of mobile phone subscribers since 2011 to hit (28,303, 860) subscribers. This year which in turn is a significant indicator of the possibility of accessibility for e-services, smart government and the transition to a knowledge society as is show in the table below:

Indicator: The number of mobile phone subscribers

Years	2011	2012	2013	2104	2015
Number of subscribers	25,056,185	27,589,734	27,392,792	27,762,409	28,303,860

The table shows the growth of mobile phone subscribers for the period from 2011 to 2015

The trend of the investors to invest in mobile phone sector because of its revenues and the increase of its uses due to its ease of use and its different services which affect negatively on the fixed phone users.

The significant increase in the numbers of internet users reflects the obvious development toward the use of ICT and indicated the development of abilities in this field where the number of subscribers hit 11,413,014 which is an increase by 9% compared to last year which is indicated in the table below.

Indicator: The number of Internet users

Years	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of subscribers	2,360,401	4,402,443	9,231,909	10,478,064	11,413,014

The table shows the number of Internet users

## **Obstacles and challenges faced by the Ministry while implementing the ICT projects**

### **A. External obstacles and challenges**

The American embargo has a very negative impact on trade and software application and programs as one cannot download or update any of the google play or any other applications. In addition one cannot transfer money to or out of the Sudan. This has its negative effect on the citizens of Sudan as it creates economical constraints which were not the intention of the embargo in the first place.

### ***Remittances***

In general terms, Sudan has not sufficiently benefited from the thousands of its citizens working in many countries, particularly the Arab Gulf States. Remittances without official frameworks and spammers have had negative impact on the country's economy. The Government has recently adopted new measures which

include sound incentives for money transfer via the banking system.

#### **h. Good governance at all levels**

A major progress achieved in pursuit for good governance at all levels in Sudan is illustrated in the President's initiatives, October 2014, launching a National Dialogue that addresses important issues such as establishing a state founded on values of democracy, social justice, and human rights. Early this year, the National Dialogue concluded deliberations on all matters pertaining to the objectives set out in the President's Initiative. The outcome of these discussions focused on laying the foundation for a state based on jointly shared interests of the people of Sudan, where sovereignty is with the people, government relies on the will of the people and protects all citizens on equal footing. The recommendations reached address issues such as the Constitution of the State, the Civil Service, the Armed Forces, the Police, the Media, Education and Land.

In January this year, the Government launched a "Reform of the State Programme" which aims to achieve progress through multiple measures such as human resources development, addressing obstacles and constraints facing micro financing, enhancing the decision-making process, revitalization of the role of voluntary organizations, ways and means for improving existing social safety systems, enhancing fair competition and allocation of public employment opportunities, expanding

computing system and digitization services, enhancing work discipline and improving working environments.

#### **IV. Coherence and linkages with post-2015 development agenda and other global processes**

The Government of Sudan believes that achieving the objectives and goals of Sudan's sustainable development programme the existing many opportunities of effective and sound planning such as the National Dialogue Process, the State Reform Programme, the Five Year Programme for Economic Reform and the UNDAF for Sudan. The National Population Council, being the national focal point for Sudan's sustainable development programme, has recently submitted a proposal for establishing a national supervisory mechanism with respect to the SDGs in line with existing similar international and regional mechanisms (Arab High-Level Political Forum, and ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum). The proposed follow-up mechanism includes representation of relevant ministries and institution under the Chairmanship of the President and Co-Chairmanship of the Minister of Welfare and Social Security.

#### **V. Graduation from the LDC category**

Based on the aforementioned illustration of the performance of Sudan's economic and social development, there is evidence that the challenges facing progress for achieving the overreaching goal of the

Istanbul Programme of Action in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals to enable graduation from the LDC category. The country is still in post conflict situation and the impact of the imposition of Unilateral Coercive Economic Financial and Trade sanctions for nearly two decades.

### ***Conclusion and way forward***

Like many African LDCs, Sudan is firmly convinced that the Istanbul Programme of Action together with other recent international conferences outcomes presents a comprehensive and useful method for building partnership and addressing the overarching challenge of poverty eradication. However, there is still need for Sudan to undertake new actions to achieve progress in the realization of the objectives and goals set out in the outcomes of these global forums. The adoption of the IPRSP in June 2012, which constitutes a sound basis and road map for interventions in the eradication of poverty, demonstrates the Government's unwavering resolve and commitment to poverty eradication. In order to meet the targets set out in the IPOA the development assistance needs to be resumed and structured in such a way that it meets the desired needs of the country, and should not stringent conditions. Development partners are called to meet their commitments towards the implementation of the IPOA and other development agenda agreed by the international community. Furthermore, there is a pressing need to lift the Unilateral Coercive Economic, Financial and Trade sanctions imposed on the country for nearly two decades. As Sudan succeeded in realizing the technical

conditions and all other criteria, Sudan should be granted the opportunity to benefit from the HIPIC initiative.

In conclusion, Sudan reaffirms its commitment towards achieving progress in the implementation of the IPOA by integrating its provisions into national policies and development plans for the objective of achieving sustainable development that will enable the country to graduate from the LDCs category by the year 2020.