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# Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 22-Oct-2026 | Report No: PIDIA01728



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**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

|                                    |                             |                         |                                                |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Project Beneficiary(ies)           | Region                      | Operation ID            | Operation Name                                 |
| Sudan                              | EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA | P514485                 | Sudan SANAD II - Productive Safety Net Project |
| Financing Instrument               | Estimated Appraisal Date    | Estimated Approval Date | Practice Area (Lead)                           |
| Investment Project Financing (IPF) | 22-Oct-2026                 | 24-Nov-2026             | Social Policy                                  |
| Borrower(s)                        | Implementing Agency         |                         |                                                |
| UNICEF                             | UNICEF                      |                         |                                                |

Proposed Development Objective(s)

Provide safety nets support to increase access to early childhood development services and livelihood opportunities among vulnerable populations in selected areas of the Republic of Sudan.

- Components**
- Supporting Early Childhood Development through Cash Transfers
  - Enabling Youth Economic Inclusion
  - Establishing Foundational Building Blocks of National Delivery Systems
  - Project Management

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**

**Maximizing Finance for Development**

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)?       | No |
| Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)? | No |

**SUMMARY**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Total Operation Cost | 100.00 |
| Total Financing      | 100.00 |
| of which IBRD/IDA    | 100.00 |



|                                                             |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Financing Gap                                               | 0.00   |
| DETAILS                                                     |        |
| World Bank Group Financing                                  |        |
| International Development Association (IDA)                 | 100.00 |
| IDA Grant                                                   | 100.00 |
| Environmental And Social Risk Classification                |        |
| Substantial                                                 |        |
| Decision                                                    |        |
| The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate |        |

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **Sudan remains in a protracted crisis compounded by multiple shocks.** Following the military takeover in October 2021 and the onset of armed conflict in April 2023, over 15 million Sudanese, or one-third of the pre-conflict population, were forcibly displaced.<sup>1</sup> The conflict has worsened food insecurity, disproportionately impacting women and children, especially in displaced households. While the number of returnees from both internal displacement and abroad reached 4.4 million across nine states in June 2026,<sup>2</sup> infrastructure and basic services, markets, and livelihoods are severely constrained or damaged in major states of return such as Khartoum and Aj Jazirah. Macroeconomic deterioration and market disruptions further constrain jobs and livelihood opportunities, compounding household vulnerability and weakening prospects for recovery.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. 2026. A Household-Level Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of Sudan’s Conflict: Findings from the Sudan Welfare Monitoring Survey.  
<sup>2</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM). June 2026. DTM Sudan Displacement and Return Snapshot (Update 6).



2. **Prior to the current conflict, Sudan had made significant investments in its social protection system.** The Sudan Family Support Program (SFSP, 2020-24) provided a quasi-universal cash transfer program that helped mitigate the impacts of economic reforms while laying the foundations of a modern social protection system. The program established core delivery infrastructure, including a management information system (MIS), citizen service points, a grievance redress mechanism (GRM), and linkages with national systems such as the civil registry. These investments improved targeting, enrollment, and payment delivery and created a platform for the future expansion and institutionalization of safety net programs. However, the military takeover in October 2021 and the subsequent conflict severely disrupted these gains, weakening institutional capacity, damaging digital infrastructure, and stalling key reforms, including the expansion of coverage and the development of legal and governance frameworks.

3. **Despite these setbacks, safety net operations have continued to provide critical support during the conflict.** Under OP 7.30, the World Bank maintained its engagement in social protection through projects such as the Sudan Emergency Safety Nets Project (SESNP) and the ongoing SANAD I project, which delivers cash transfers to vulnerable households while preserving community-based delivery mechanisms and supporting access to essential services. Lessons from these operations highlight the need for medium-term interventions that strengthen local service delivery, support human capital development and livelihood opportunities, and build the foundations of a digitally enabled and institutionally resilient social protection system.

4. **In the absence of an active Country Partnership Framework (CPF), the project is aligned with the World Bank Group's (WBG) Country Engagement Note (CEN) for FY2021–FY2022.** The CEN focused on macroeconomic stabilization and reform, mitigating the social impacts of adjustment measures, and supporting progress toward the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt relief milestones, while laying the foundations for rebuilding the social contract and strengthening core systems. This engagement was abruptly interrupted by the military takeover in October 2021 and subsequently by large-scale armed conflict in April 2023. In the absence of a CPF, the WBG's engagement in Sudan is currently framed by OP 7.30. This entails a shift from government-led implementation to third-party delivery arrangements and a reorientation of the portfolio toward preserving service delivery for human capital development and supporting the foundation for private sector development for recovery. The proposed financing will be processed under paragraph 12 of Section III of the Investment Project Financing Policy: Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

5. Provide safety nets support to increase access to early childhood development services and livelihood opportunities among vulnerable populations in selected areas of the Republic of Sudan.

#### Key Results

Key PDO indicators for the proposed project include:

- Beneficiaries of cash-based interventions, female and youth disaggregated (number of people)
- Percentage of beneficiary pregnant and lactating women accessing essential maternal and child health and nutrition services (Percentage)
- Percentage of beneficiaries with businesses in operation or in employment six months after receiving economic inclusion package (Percentage)
- Number of more and better-paid job equivalents, women and youth disaggregated (number of job equivalents)



## D. Project Description

6. **The project will lay the foundation for a national adaptive social protection program through three components focused on early childhood development and nutrition, youth economic inclusion, and national delivery systems.** Together, these components address urgent needs while supporting longer-term human capital, livelihoods, resilience, and recovery outcomes in line with the World Bank's social protection and labor engagement in FCV settings. Building on SANAD I, SANAD II will strengthen local delivery systems and community capacity; offer eligible pregnant and lactating women economic inclusion pathways; expand financial inclusion through account opening, financial literacy, and coordination with financial service providers and the civil registry; and use the social registry to improve coordination and integrated service delivery.

### Component 1: Supporting Early Childhood Development through Cash Transfers (US\$38.9 million equivalent).

7. **This component will scale up the human capital-sensitive cash transfers implemented under SANAD I.** It will reach pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and mothers with children under two and investing in the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. Its primary objective is to improve early childhood development and maternal health by addressing demand-side barriers to essential services. In addition to cash transfers, it will provide social and behavioral change communication (SBCC), facilitate access to health and nutrition services, enhance financial inclusion, and establish and strengthen Mother Support Groups (MSGs). Building on the Mother and Child Cash Transfer Plus model established by UNICEF and the Government of Sudan before the war, and on SANAD I investments in capacity around primary health care (PHC) centers, the component will strengthen local delivery platforms that leverage frontline workers. In collaboration with the Sudan Health Assistance and Response to Emergencies Project (SHARE, P504629), SANAD I supported midwives, community health workers, and MSGs to deliver services and promote behavioral change; evidence indicates that linking PLW to PHC facilities increased awareness and utilization of maternal and child health services, including antenatal care. SANAD II will therefore continue using PHC facilities for enrollment, regular check-ins, referrals, and behavioral change activities, while delivering transfers through digital payment platforms. In coordination with the Sudan Enhancing Community Resilience Project (Thabat, P181490), it will also seek to link beneficiaries to consumer cooperatives that provide access to affordable food.

8. **The component will deliver and monitor cash transfers while expanding financial inclusion and facilitating health-service uptake.** In targeted localities with basic functioning primary health and nutrition services, 57,000 beneficiary PLW and mothers with children under two will receive US\$30 per month, paid quarterly for 18 months. Localities will prioritize areas served by SHARE and other donor-funded programs and will be selected based on: (i) severity, including Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 or higher, displacement, and malnutrition prevalence; (ii) population density and projected PLW caseload; and (iii) the presence of SHARE and other health and nutrition programs. Following the Central Bank of Sudan's December 2024 reforms promoting cashless transactions, and in response to liquidity constraints, transfers will shift from cash-in-hand to verified digital modalities, including mobile wallets and digital vouchers. Financial inclusion activities will support women's ownership of personal bank accounts through collaboration with financial service providers, simplified Know-Your-Customer procedures, and assistance obtaining ID cards. Financial literacy will be embedded in PHC health and nutrition sessions and MSG meetings, using SBCC materials and demonstrations on household budgeting, safe mobile banking, fraud prevention, and savings for needs such as health care and children's education, thereby building trust in digital payments and women's capacity to manage household resources. Drawing on SANAD I lessons, beneficiaries will check in at PHC facilities one month before each transfer cycle, where community health volunteers will verify their status and well-being and facilitate access to maternal, newborn, and child-health services; MSG leaders will also monitor each beneficiary's status, identify pregnancies, births, or lapses in service use, encourage uptake, and facilitate referrals. Digital tools will track service uptake and referrals. These local delivery



systems, processes, and capacities will complement Component 3 data investments and together underpin a transferable platform for a future government-led mechanism supporting ECD and nutrition services.

### **Component 2: Enabling Youth Economic Inclusion (US\$44.2 million equivalent).**

9. **This component will provide a standardized and sequenced economic inclusion package to 43,000 targeted urban and semi-urban youth aged 18–29**, including females, for a period of 18 months to build skills, improve entrepreneurship and employment readiness, increase earning opportunities, and support livelihoods and local economic recovery as returning IDPs and refugees expand market opportunities. The package will include a productive inclusion grant of up to US\$500, skills training, coaching, mentoring, financial literacy, temporary income support, financial inclusion, and savings-group support. The grant will be disbursed in two tranches: 70 percent for initial business set-up while the beneficiary participates in training, and 30 percent after mentoring follow-up. Training will cover financial literacy, business planning, and soft skills; each beneficiary will join a peer group matched with a mentor for continued follow-up and peer learning. Savings and loan groups will enable risk pooling and improve access to finance, while beneficiaries who have not received other income support will receive two quarterly transfers of US\$100 to stabilize income and support productive use of the grant. Tailored delivery will address geography and population-specific barriers within the standardized package: semi-urban youth will receive market-oriented skills for entrepreneurship and group livelihoods in agribusiness, food processing, repair services, construction, renewable energy, and other locally relevant value chains, while urban youth enrolled in vocational training centers will be supported to transition from training to self-employment and wage employment through coordination with development partners investing in vocational training. Gender-specific measures will address caregiving responsibilities and social norms affecting women, especially pregnant and lactating mothers, and will leverage community platforms such as Mother Support Groups.

10. **The component will prioritize localities with sufficient market functionality and other complementary programs to build an enabling ecosystem.** It will coordinate donor-funded support to align geographic targeting and facilitate the graduation of PLW, and link youth moving from training and apprenticeships to entrepreneurship and employment. Where the World Bank-financed Thabat project and Sudan Transition to Agriculture Recovery and Resilience Project (Khairat, P514272) support rural agricultural production, SANAD II will facilitate market linkages for youth entrepreneurs along agricultural value chains in semi-urban and urban areas and connect beneficiaries to employment opportunities in supported SMEs. By leveraging vocational training platforms and sector investments, the approach will establish differentiated pathways that can be replicated and scaled nationally, addressing the absence of a comprehensive youth economic inclusion pathway—particularly for women, IDPs, and returnees—and integrating previously fragmented productive inclusion efforts. In selected localities, it will establish processes and delivery models involving youth and women's groups, public and private training centers, business incubators, financial institutions, and development partners to support sustainable replication and scale-up. Rather than create parallel mechanisms, the program will strengthen national systems by investing in institutional capacity, coaching and mentoring, financial inclusion, private-sector partnerships, and stronger links among social protection, skills development, and labor-market opportunities. Selected Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Centers, and Community Development Centers will be strengthened as local delivery platforms, supporting sustainable transitions from social protection to productive employment and entrepreneurship and contributing to Sudan's human capital, social protection, and employment ecosystems, economic inclusion, resilience, and productive livelihoods.

### **Component 3: Establishing Foundational Building Blocks of National Delivery Systems (US\$4.5 million equivalent).**

11. **This component will establish and operationalize a social registry, an interoperable SANAD program management information system (MIS), and a functional data protection framework.** This will include operational



guidelines to lay the foundation for a future digitally enabled, shock-responsive national social protection delivery system that is transferable to national ownership when feasible. Drawing on lessons from SANAD and other social protection interventions in fragile, conflict, and violence settings, these gradual and iterative investments will reduce data fragmentation, improve partner coordination, support rapid scale-up, and enable integrated service delivery. The development of the social registry will include an operational design, functional business processes, data architecture, and a digital platform, as well as the design of a common registration form. Investments will also include the procurement of the social registry hardware. Additionally, the component will finance an interoperable MIS for the SANAD program to enable the digitalization of business processes. Operational procedures and manuals for registration, enrollment, targeting, payment delivery, monitoring, community outreach, grievance redress, and information campaigns will also be developed. Targeted capacity building will support frontline workers, local community-based organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders that use or could benefit from the registry. Activities will proceed in parallel with Components 1 and 2 so that, by project closing, the registry contains core data on SANAD beneficiary households, with the option to expand intake to households supported by other programs, while the data protection framework guides the secure use, sharing, and processing of beneficiary data and helps form the basis for a future national regime.

12. **UNICEF will host and administer the social registry and SANAD MIS, including their respective beneficiary data, while future transferability guides their design and operationalization.** Specialized technical firms procured by UNICEF will develop the systems using non-proprietary, open-source software, informed by consultations with UN partners, NGOs, civil society, and other stakeholders and by rapid stocktaking of existing government- and third-party-managed data platforms. UNICEF will engage Sudanese experts where possible to build local capacity and transfer knowledge, and strong partner coordination will support a SANAD-applicable data protection framework and data-sharing agreements so the registry can be used safely, securely, and appropriately for future programs beyond SANAD II and by other partners. The component will also draw on the ongoing PASA—Enhancing Crisis Response and Household Adaptive Capacity (P514489)—for diagnostics, the technical blueprint, minimum data requirements, and core business processes. The Project Implementation Manual will specify three scenarios: transition to government-led implementation when conditions permit; continued third-party implementation during a protracted crisis in coordination with partners; or taking the system offline and safeguarding it if resources are unavailable. Shock-responsive capabilities will be embedded to improve coordination, rapidly identify eligible households, align interventions, avoid duplication, and progressively expand registration and coverage, creating a coherent and interoperable architecture that addresses fragmentation and supports lasting impact in line with the World Bank’s refreshed FCV strategy.

#### **Component 4: Project Management (US\$12.4 million equivalent).**

13. **This component finances costs associated with the implementation, administration, management, and compliance of the first three components of the project.** Specific costs include: (a) UNICEF’s Direct Costs; (b) UNICEF’s Indirect Costs; (c) Grievance Redress Mechanism and capacity building to strengthen environmental and social risk management; and (d) as well as Monitoring & Evaluation .



#### Legal Operational Policies

#### Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

No

Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60

No

#### Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Project's environmental risk rating is assessed as Moderate, as it primarily finances early childhood development through cash transfers, human capital development and social registry activities that are not expected to generate significant environmental impacts. The activities are unlikely to result in natural habitat conversion, pollution, or large-scale environmental degradation due to their limited scale. The main anticipated environmental concerns are related to OHS issues for youth workers and some solid waste would be generated when youths engage in group-based livelihood opportunities in sectors such as agribusiness, food processing, repair services, construction, and other locally relevant value chains. The social risk is rated Substantial, driven by project-related challenges including the potential exclusion of vulnerable groups such as VMGPs, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and beneficiaries in remote areas; security threats affecting project staff, payment service providers, and beneficiaries; and weak community engagement that could lead to elite capture. Additional risks stem from conflict and social tensions between host communities and IDPs, illegal activities and insecurity in project areas, the presence of UXO due to past and ongoing conflicts, and risks of SEA/SH.

## E. Implementation

### Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

14. **Under a TPI arrangement, UNICEF will serve as the implementing agency and the recipient of the grant.** UNICEF is one of the TPIs for SANAD I and has been implementing an early childhood development-focused social protection program in the country with a strong cash component since the start of the conflict. UNICEF will implement its responsibilities and activities under the project in accordance with its internal regulations, rules, policies, circulars, directives, manuals, procedures, internal practices, and legal framework ("regulations and rules"), and the terms of the financing agreement concluded with the World Bank. The project will include provisions to mitigate security risks to project-financed activities. UNICEF will work with partners, including national and international NGOs in Sudan, to draw on their expertise and local presence to support youth economic inclusion. These partnerships will provide a platform for harmonizing approaches to delivery-system development across implementing partners. Given the fluid security situation, partners' complementary strengths will also provide greater flexibility in geographic coverage. UNICEF will maintain a coordination platform across implementing partners on the ground to ensure consistency across geographic areas and real time learning to address risks and bottlenecks.

15. **The overall responsibility for project financial management (FM) will rest with UNICEF.** The UNICEF Country Office will conduct the overall implementation of the project and maintain monitoring and oversight responsibilities, including fiduciary and E&S aspects. Throughout the project implementation period, UNICEF will maintain an adequately staffed Project Management Unit (PMU), whose composition, mandate and resources will be specified in the PIM. The PMU will ensure effective project management and coordination and compliance with fiduciary requirements.



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**APPROVAL**

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