



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 10/20/2026 | Report No: ESRSA05318

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P514485	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Sudan SANAD II	2027
Operation Name	Sudan SANAD II - Productive Safety Net Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Sudan	Sudan	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Social Policy
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
UNICEF	UNICEF	22-Oct-2026	24-Nov-2026
Total Project Cost			
100,000,000.00			

Proposed Development Objective

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.

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

Yes

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The project aims to support vulnerable households by strengthening two pillars that can serve as the foundation for the future national social protection system. First, it focuses on early childhood development (ECD) and human capital accumulation. Second, it promotes youth economic inclusion through self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship. Together, these interventions address urgent needs while contributing to longer-term outcomes in human capital and sustainable livelihoods. The third component will aim to establish and operationalize a social registry and the cash transfers program MIS, which will together lay the foundation for a future digitally-enabled national delivery system.



The project's components are designed to build and reinforce transferable delivery platforms, with a strong emphasis on local capacity and ownership, digitally enabled and national data systems for rapid and scalable future responses.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

Sudan, situated in north-east Africa with a coastline bordering the Red Sea, is the third largest country in Africa with an area of 1.88 million km². Sudan is an FCV country, and as of April 2024, there has been an ongoing conflict in the country between the government forces and armed groups. The proposed SANAD II project's geographic coverage will be limited to states and localities which are relatively stable and have functioning primary health and nutrition system. The Project will target youths both urban and semi-urban areas including females for economic inclusion support.

Sudan has five major ecological zones from North to South, namely desert, semi-desert, low-rainfall savanna, high-rainfall savanna, and mountain vegetation. It has also rich renewable natural capital comprising forests, rangelands, arable lands, water resources, wildlife, and biodiversity. Forests and rangelands cover 35.6% of Sudan's total area. It has also substantial freshwater resources and almost half of the Nile River Basin lies within its borders.

Agriculture provides a livelihood to 54 percent of the population and is the primary source of income, especially in rural areas and for poorer households. As of April 2024, due to armed conflict around 15,000 fatalities since the war started. Furthermore, an estimated 6,786,816 individuals were displaced internally in Sudan. Most IDPs have moved to urban areas (62 percent), and the vast majority (more than 90 percent) find refuge with host communities (outside of camps) both in rural and urban areas.

Sudan is home to people meeting the requirements of ESS7 on Indigenous Peoples. The people who meet the requirements are pastoralist and agro-pastoralists who constitute about 13 percent of the Sudanese population. According to IFAD, there are over 500 ethnic groups in Sudan speaking over 400 languages, though it is difficult to highlight marked differences. Ethnic groups who meet the requirement of ESS7 including the Nubians, Fallata, Beja, Fur, Nuba, Masalit, Ingessana People, and Zaghawa (or Beri).

The ongoing armed conflict in Sudan has led to a surge in varying forms of GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence, intimate partner violence, physical assault, and trafficking, among other violations, with IDPs and conflict-affected communities particularly at risk.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The institutional capacity of Sudan is weak, driven by prolonged instability, a legacy of non-transparent institutions, and widespread capture by vested interests. In October 2021, the military took over Sudan's Government, which triggered the World Bank's Operational Policy (OP) 7.30 - Dealings with De Facto Governments, halting disbursements in all World Bank operations and preventing the processing of new operations, effective October 25, 2021. The Sudan SANAD II Productive Safety Net Project's implementation arrangement builds on the successful experience of SANAD I Project, which demonstrated the effectiveness of TPI in fragile and conflict-affected environments. UNICEF is the TPI that will implement the Project. As one of the TPI, UNICEF has been implementing Sudan SANAD I Project and has been able to deliver results at scale and maintain operational flexibility despite challenging conditions.



UNICEF, as the Implementing Agency for SANAD, has established institutional capacity and demonstrated experience in managing environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts under World Bank-financed operations in Sudan. Its capacity is strengthened by the implementation of a portfolio of World Bank-financed projects, through which UNICEF has developed practical experience in applying the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), including requirements related to environmental and social assessment and management, labor and working conditions, community health and safety, stakeholder engagement, grievance management, SEA/SH and GBV risk management, and incident reporting and response.

UNICEF established an Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) system, comprising an ESS Specialist and ESS Officers, with responsibility for providing technical oversight and support for E&S screening and risk assessment, preparation and implementation of E&S instruments and management measures, monitoring and supervision, implementing partner and contractor oversight, incident management and corrective actions, capacity building, and E&S reporting. The ESS function is complemented by relevant technical and operational capacities within UNICEF, including PSEA/SEA-SH, GBV, Stakeholder Engagement, Grievance Redress, Security, Health and Safety, Programme, Operations, Supply and Procurement, and field-office teams. This multidisciplinary institutional arrangement enables E&S risks to be managed in an integrated manner, with specialized risks addressed by staff with relevant technical expertise.

For SANAD I, UNICEF has established procedures and tools to integrate E&S requirements throughout the project cycle. These include E&S screening and risk assessment, implementation and monitoring of applicable E&S instruments and management measures, stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms, supervision of implementing partners, incident notification and investigation, corrective action planning, and periodic E&S reporting to the World Bank. UNICEF has also undertaken E&S capacity building for implementing partners and relevant project personnel to strengthen their understanding and application of the ESF requirements.

The SANAD II will build on and further strengthen these existing institutional and E&S arrangements. The experience and lessons learned from implementation of the ongoing SANAD I operation and UNICEF's wider World Bank portfolio will inform implementation of SANAD II. Where changes in implementation arrangements, geographic coverage, activities, or the E&S risk profile occur, UNICEF will review and, where necessary, strengthen the relevant staffing, E&S technical competencies, procedures, and resources to ensure that E&S risks and impacts are appropriately identified, assessed, managed, monitored, and reported throughout implementation.

For SANAD I, UNICEF has established PIU at national and state levels to carry out day-to-day management and implementation of the activities that will be maintained and used for SANAD II. The PIU is adequately staffed including one environmental specialist, one social development specialist, one SEA/SH specialist, and one security specialist, to ensure effective management and implementation of the Project with E&S requirements. Provision of ESRM capacity building and training to these staff will continue throughout the project implementation. The World Bank will contract an International Bank Support and Monitoring Agent (BSMA) to conduct sample-based verification of progress, and support implementation of environmental and social risk management.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial



A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risk rating of the Project is considered 'Moderate'. The project finances cash transfers and human capital development through skill training as well as support to system development toward a social registry. The cash transfer is minimal with hardly any savings for investment by the beneficiary households to get involved in the implementation of activities potentially affecting the environment. As such, the Project activities are not anticipated to cause the conversion of natural habitats, or generation of large-scale pollutants given the small-scale nature of activities supported. Minor risks are expected related to youth economic inclusion component including occupational and community health and safety risks and solid waste generation when youths engage in livelihood opportunities in sectors such as agribusiness, food processing, repair services, construction, and other locally relevant value chains. These activities, though small, could cause noise, air, soil and water pollution, and increase project workers and communities' exposure to health and safety impacts.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Based on the analysis of the Project, the social risk is rated 'Substantial', mainly due to inherent project-related social risks including (i) exclusion of most vulnerable groups in remote areas including ethnic minorities and IDPs from project benefit; (ii) security concerns for project staff, workers of payment service providers, and beneficiaries including kidnapping and fatalities due to the ongoing conflict; (iii) weak and insufficient community engagement during implementation which could result in elite capture and nepotism related to cash transfers and economic opportunities for youths; (iv) potential conflict and social tensions between host communities and IDPs; (v) illegal activities, such as violence, theft, armed assault, looting, and vandalism of project materials and properties; (vi) risks related to unexploded ordinances (UXO) due to past and an ongoing active conflict in some of the project area, and (vii) risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH). UNICEF has established solid Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) for SANAD and will be used for SANAD II.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

ESS1 is relevant. The project will finance unconditional cash transfers, human capital development activities, and youth economic inclusion through self-employment and micro entrepreneurship, with no community infrastructure construction activities. The project's E&S risk is rated 'Substantial', reflecting the complex operating environment and associated inherent project social risks. Environmental risk is rated Moderate, primarily associated with OHS issues for youth workers and some solid waste generation when youths engage in group-based livelihood opportunities. There is no risks involving conversion of natural habitats or large-scale pollution. Social risk of the project is 'Substantial' due to risks of exclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups (VMGs) who meet ESS7 and other vulnerable groups like women, IDPs, etc. under ESS7, security threats to workers arising from ongoing conflict, weak community engagement that may lead to elite capture and inequitable access to benefits, social tensions between host communities and IDPs, some criminal activities (violence, theft, looting, and vandalism) targeting project materials, exposure of workers to unexploded ordnance (UXO) in affected areas, and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/SH) risks. The project has prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) prior to



appraisal. The project will also adopt a simplified E&S Screening Procedures from SANAD ESMF within one month of project effective date which will include E&S screening checklist and template/standard Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for Project activities that require the adoption of such ESMP through the screening process. In addition, a target and simplified social assessment (SA) including social development plan (SDP) will be adapted to manage risks to vulnerable groups under ESS1; and the SDP will include a separate section for this. This is particularly applicable for semi-urban agribusiness and services pathway for youth in agribusiness, food processing, repair services, construction, and renewable energy. With the support of the project, the youth will set up and operate small businesses or group-based livelihoods in these sectors, supported by skills training, coaching, and mentorship to prepare them operationally. The Bank will directly engage a Beneficiary Survey and Monitoring Agent (BSMA), a firm, and a separate Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) agent to monitor project activities and validate outcomes. Both will use GEMS (Geo-Enabling Initiative for Monitoring and Supervision) technology where feasible.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The primary beneficiaries of the the Sudan SANAD II are pregnant and lactating women (PLW), youths, host communities, and IDP households. Other stakeholders include ethnic and sexual minorities, elderly, traditional local leaders, community-based organizations, Mother Support Groups (MSGs) and leaders, mother leaders, Community health volunteers, UN partners, INGO and NGOs, financial service providers, state and locality authorities, and CSOs. It will be important to address their diversity, focus on the most vulnerable groups. UNICEF will ensure clear communication and sensitization activities in communities, covering the project's objectives, provision of farming inputs and services, eligibility criteria to benefit from the Project, and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. Moreover, UNICEF will conduct consultations to make the local communities and beneficiaries aware of the Project's E&S risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures and good practices. UNICEF has updated SANAD I SEP and disclosed prior to Project appraisal on October 14, 2025.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

ESS2 is relevant due to potential risks for applicable workers that are anticipated to include the three categories: direct workers, contracted workers, and community workers. The number of project workers to be involved cannot be determined at this stage and will be estimated in the LMP. Potential labor risks include risks related to inappropriate working conditions, occupational health and safety (OHS) risks, and discrimination as well as risks related to UXO. UNICEF will adopt SANAD I LMP within one month of Project Effective date to identify the main labor requirements, workers grievance mechanism, and labor risks associated with the project based on the requirements of ESS2. The LMP will be reviewed and cleared by the World Bank and disclosed as outlined in the ESCP.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

ESS3 is relevant as the project will support livelihood activities, in addition to cash transfers and system development. These activities, particularly under Component 2, may involve the use of resources (such as energy, water, and raw materials) and generate limited amounts of waste and emissions during agribusiness, food processing, repair services, etc. Key ESS3 considerations for this project will include resource efficiency (energy, water, and materials), management of wastes, and prevention of water and soil contamination. The project will ensure that all resource efficiency and pollution prevention measures are assessed and managed through the template ESMPs to be prepared



based on the simplified E&S Screening Procedures and in accordance with the World Bank Group Environmental, Health, and Safety (WBG EHS) Guidelines and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP).

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS4 is relevant given that the Project activities include productive inclusion interventions, cash transfers, and the establishment of youth economic support groups and social registries that involve physical footprint, direct community interface, and the operating environment characterized by insecurity, displacement involving IDPs, and weakened infrastructure. Key potential risks include exposure to conflict-related violence, social tensions between IDPs and host communities for access to benefits, exclusion of vulnerable groups, and risks associated with SEA/SH. The project will adopt standard management approaches, including implementation of measures to manage the security risks of the Project; the development of security management measures or plan if the Project engages security personnel; and adopt the SEA/SH Action Plan prepared for SANAD I, and targeted mitigation measures, to ensure that community health, safety, and security risks are systematically assessed and managed throughout project preparation and implementation.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

ESS5 is not relevant. The project's activities—comprising cash and asset transfers, skills training, mentoring, financial inclusion, and limited public works for community infrastructure rehabilitation—are not anticipated to require land acquisition, impose restrictions on land use, or result in involuntary physical or economic displacement. The public works and community infrastructure enhancements are described as small-scale, focused on rehabilitation rather than new construction, and are expected to occur on existing community land or public facilities without necessitating resettlement or loss of access to assets or resources.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

ESS6 is preliminarily assessed as not relevant. The project is primarily focused on social protection, cash transfers, human capital development, and system strengthening, with activities centered on urban, peri-urban, and select rural areas. While Component 1 includes productive inclusion interventions and limited support to subsistence farmers, there is no indication of large-scale primary production, harvesting, or activities likely to impact natural, modified, or critical habitats, nor any engagement in areas of high biodiversity value or legally protected areas. The public works sub-component is described as small-scale, targeting community infrastructure rehabilitation and skill development, and is not anticipated to cause conversion of natural habitats or significant environmental impacts. The project does not involve activities that would trigger ESS6, such as significant land use change, resource extraction, or direct impacts on biodiversity or ecosystem services.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Relevant

ESS7 is considered relevant. The exact location of the Project implementation area is not yet determined. It is noted in the PAD that the SANAD II Project's geographic coverage will be limited to states and localities which are relatively stable and have functioning primary health and nutrition system. The Project will also target communities in both urban and semi-urban areas. Sudan is home for people meeting the requirements of ESS7 on SSAHUTLCs. The people



who meet the ESS7 requirements are pastoralist and agro-pastoralists, who constitute about 13 percent of the Sudanese population. According to IFAD, there are over 500 ethnic groups in Sudan speaking over 400 languages, though it is difficult to highlight marked differences. The World Bank has not conducted a screening of people meeting the requirements of ESS7 in Sudan. However, ethnic groups living in the West, Central, North, South, and East Darfur, North, South, and West Kordofan, Bule Nile, and Gadarif states meet the requirements of ESS7. Specifically, in these states, there is a broad recognition of the Beja, Fur, Nuba and Fallata, who could meet the requirements. The SANAD II Productive Safety Net Project will have a potential impact on the VMGs who meet ESS7 criteria. Consequently, SANAD I targeted Social Assessment (SA) including SDP will be updated and simplified by UNICEF within three months of Project effective date.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 is not considered relevant for the Project. Based on the available Project information, the project primarily supports social protection through cash transfers, livelihood support, training, and system development, with limited physical works. The only physical interventions anticipated are small-scale public works for community infrastructure rehabilitation, agriculture, and childcare, which are described as minor enhancements. There is no indication that these activities involve excavations, demolition, earth movement, or are located within or near legally protected cultural heritage areas or recognized heritage sites. The project does not propose activities specifically designed to support cultural heritage conservation, nor does it foresee material impacts on intangible cultural heritage or commercial use thereof.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

ESS9 is not relevant. There are no financial intermediaries involved.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

Borrower framework will not be used

Use of Common Approach

No

Common approach will not be used

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?



UNICEF has updated the following instruments prior to Project appraisal:

1. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

UNICEF will update and adopt the following SANAD I instruments:

1. A simplified E&S Screening Procedures with annexure including a simplified Labor Management Procedures (LMP), a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Action Plan, and template Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) within one month of Project Effective Date
2. Security management measures or plan prior to the Project engages security personnel
3. Targeted and simplified Social Assessment including Social Development Plan (SDP) within three months of Project effective date
4. Template or standard Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be used for Project activities that require the adoption of such ESMP through the screening process.

III. CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Task Team Leader: Mohamed Abdel Jelil Title: Senior Social Protection Economist
Email: mabdeljelil@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Mohamed Abdel Jelil
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Samson Kifle Ayele
ADM Social Specialist:	Moges Woyessa Bowuso