

country profile	
government structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive: The Sovereign Council Chair and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces General is currently the chief of state, and the prime minister is the head of government. The president is directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in two rounds if needed. The prime minister is appointed by the president. However, the position is still vacant after the resignation of the prime minister in 2022. Cabinet is appointed by the prime minister. • Legislative: According to the August 2019 Constitutional Declaration, which established Sudan's transitional government, the Transitional Legislative Council ("TLC") was to have served as the national legislature during the transitional period until elections could be held. The TLC has not been established and its powers are temporarily delegated to the Sovereign Council and the Cabinet until it is formed. • Judicial: The highest court is the National Supreme Court and subordinate courts include the Court of Appeal, general courts, district courts, which have three levels, and any other courts established by the Chief Justice according to an establishment order or regulation. • The Constitutional Court acts as the guardian court of the Sudanese Constitution. • Next presidential elections: A date has not been fixed.
economic data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominal GDP (USD billions): 33.86 • GDP per capita (USD): 688.98 • Inflation rate (% change): 19.35 • Government revenue (% of GDP): 14.62 • Government gross debt (% of GDP): 204.86 <p><i>*Source: IMF (May 2024 estimates)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudan's top economic drivers are the agriculture and extractive industries. Gold is a key export commodity. • Sudan's main industries include oil, cotton ginning, textiles, cement, edible oils, sugar, soap distilling, shoes, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, armaments, automobile/light truck assembly, and milling. • Sudan's main export partners are the United Arab Emirates, China, Saudi Arabia, India, and Egypt. The main export commodities include gold, crude petroleum, sesame seeds, sheep, goats, cotton, and ground nuts. • Sudan's main import partners are China, India, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. The main import commodities include raw sugar, wheat, packaged medicines, jewellery, tires, cars, and vehicle parts.
risk ratings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S&P Global Overall Country Risk (Q2 2024): 206/211 • Corruption Perceptions Index (2023): 162/180

international treaties and memberships	
international and regional organisations and customs unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (Signatory) • Africa Development Bank Group • Africa Union • Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa • Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa ("COMESA") • Community of Sahel-Saharan States • Group of 77 • Gulf Cooperation Council • Intergovernmental Authority on Development • International Monetary Fund • Islamic Development Bank • League of Arab States • Nile Basin Initiative • Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States ("OACPS") • Organisation of Islamic Cooperation • United Nations • World Bank Group • World Customs Organization • Sudan receives preferential treatment under the agreements listed here: http://ptadb.wto.org/Country.aspx?code=736
bilateral investment treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudan has bilateral investment treaties in force with China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, and Syria. • Treaties have been signed with Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union, Bulgaria, Kuwait, Italy, Malaysia, Qatar, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates, but these have not yet entered into force.
investment-related agreements / institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa Agreement (it succeeds the Cotonou Agreement and its provisional application commenced on 1 January 2024. The Agreement will enter into force upon consent by the European Parliament and ratification by all European Union member states and at least two thirds of the OACPS members) • Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency • World Trade Organization (Observer)
dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) • Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID Convention) • Permanent Court of Arbitration • Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation (Riyadh Convention)



intellectual property (“IP”) treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive list of IP-related treaties signed by Sudan is available at: https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/members/profile/SD?collection=treaties See the trade marks section below for further detail.
legal regime	
applicable legal regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan’s legal system is based on Islamic law and English common law.
dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arbitration Act, 2016 applies to both international and domestic arbitration. Customary law is usually applied in disputes at the local level, particularly in southern states. The Investment Encouragement Act, 2021 provides for the resolution of investment disputes by means of adjudication before special investment courts, unless the parties agree to mediation or conciliation in terms of the dispute resolution treaties to which Sudan is a party.
land acquisition, planning and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition in Sudan is regulated under various laws, including the Land Acquisition Act, 1930, the Land Law, 1925, and the Urban Planning Act, 1994. The Civil Transactions Act, 1984 (and its 1990 amendment) establishes the framework for transactions in land, including leases and easements, and the transfer and inheritance of rights. The Act affirms the principle of state ownership of land and the government’s authority to administer rights over land. Sudanese authorities usually provide affordable long-term leases (up to 99 years). In terms of the Investment Encouragement Act, investors can acquire land for renewable terms of three years upon meeting certain conditions prescribed by the Chamber of Investment in Lands.
competition	
<i>merger control</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulation of Competition and Prevention of Monopoly Act, 2009 (the “Competition Act”) makes provision for the regulation of competition law in Sudan. The Competition Act is enforced by the Competition and Prevention of Monopolistic Practices Council (the “Council”). Currently, the Council is not operational due to the ongoing war. A merger occurs where two or more persons combine under the name of an existing or new entity; or one or more entities acquire direct or indirect control over another entity or part thereof through the purchase of shares or assets of the other entity or the establishment of the ability to exercise influence over the other entity’s decision-making. This includes horizontal, vertical, and other amalgamations. There are currently no specific turnover or market share threshold(s) stipulated in the Competition Act or any law, and any “merger” transaction must therefore be notified to the Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger notifications must be submitted before and approval to merge must be provided by the Council prior to the implementation of the merger. No filing fees are yet payable on notification. A failure to comply with the Competition Act, including a failure to notify a merger transaction, constitutes a criminal offence in respect of which one may be liable for a fine and/or imprisonment in the case of “institutions/persons”. Sudan is a member of a regional competition body, COMESA which has an operational merger control regime in place. Merger activities in Sudan should be conducted with this regional competition body in mind.
<i>prohibited practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Competition Act applies to all commercial agreements and transactions relating to the supply of goods or services and prohibits the following practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the prevention of monopolies, by outlawing certain agreements, contracts, transactions, conduct and/or arrangements that, <i>inter alia</i>, serve to control prices, restrict output / distribution / marketing activities, divide markets, result in collusive tendering, or restrict the freedom to participate in production / development / distribution of goods or services; the misuse of a controlling or “dominating” position in markets, such as, for example, tying and bundling, discriminatory pricing, certain exclusivity provisions, predatory pricing / selling below pricing set by a competition authority; various consumer protection infringements; and injurious mergers, which includes anti-competitive mergers. The Competition Act provides that cartel conduct and/or anti-competitive conduct is an offence punishable with imprisonment or a fine, or both. The calculation and quantum of any applicable sanctions is currently unclear. Importantly, the Council, being the party responsible for enforcing the prohibited practices provisions contained in the Competition Act, is currently not operational. The COMESA Competition Commission regulates prohibited practices in the COMESA Common Market. Activities in Sudan should be conducted with this regional competition body in mind.
employment	
<i>immigration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expatriates working in Sudan must hold a valid work permit. Investors may employ foreign workers and experts with skills and experience not available in Sudan, in accordance with the applicable laws in force.
<i>local employment vs secondment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Labour Act, 1997 does not specifically address secondment arrangements. In terms of Sudan’s immigration legislation, employment by a local entity is a prerequisite for applying a work permit.

<i>fixed term contracts and temporary employment services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed-term contracts are allowed in terms of the Labour Act. The duration of a fixed-term contract shall not exceed two years, and it may be renewed only once. While there are no specific legislative prohibitions on labour broking, this practice is not generally accepted, and the validity of this practice is not well established in terms of law.
<i>payment in local currency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not a legal requirement for remuneration to be paid in local currency. However, payments in foreign currency may be controlled by the Central Bank of Sudan (“CBOS”) where payments in certain industries, such as mining and oil, are subject to the circulars issued by the CBOS and/or its prior approval before effecting payments.
<i>restraint of trade agreements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restraint of trade agreements are generally considered valid and enforceable, provided their enforcement does not conflict with public interest and/or they are not deemed unreasonable. A court will enforce a restraint of trade agreement or clause only if it is proved that the employer possesses a proprietary interest entitled to legal protection, such as trade secrets or customer relationships.
foreign investment regime	
investment regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Investment Encouragement Act governs foreign investment in Sudan and provide for the creation of a one-stop shop for investors, which aims to simplify and facilitate the completion of investment transactions.
registration / licensing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with the Ministry of Investment is not compulsory but is recommended in order to allow investors access to various incentives and benefits. An investor is required to submit an application and feasibility study to the Ministry of Investment in order to obtain an investment licence.
non-industry specific registrations / licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following general non-industry specific registration/licences may also be required:
<i>Sudan Taxation Chamber (“STC”)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All taxpayers must register with the STC and obtain a tax identification number (TIN). If an enterprise’s turnover exceeds the value added tax (“VAT”) registration threshold (see ‘tax’ section below for further detail), it should also specifically apply for VAT registration.
<i>Labour Authority</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company must deposit its basic work regulations with the competent labour office.
<i>National Pension and Social Insurance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every employer must register with the NPSIF. In addition, each individual employee must be registered with the Fund.

<i>Fund (the “NPSIF”)</i>	
<i>Ministry of Foreign Trade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A company is required to register with and obtain a licence from the Ministry of Foreign Trade to conduct any import or export activities (including for its own needs).
industry-specific licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry-specific licences may also be required.
incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an initial depreciation allowance of 20% for the purchase of new machinery or equipment to be used in production; and incentives available to strategic investments under the Investment Encouragement Act, including a five-year corporate income tax holiday, VAT exemptions for business assets, customs duties exemptions for business assets, transport vehicles used for business purposes and preferential customs duties rates for goods used as input for production purposes.
exchange control regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan does not impose any exchange control restrictions; however, investors must present an application for the repatriation of profits and any funds due to the relevant commercial bank, which must be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation. The foreign capital of an investment project must be registered with the CBOS, and a certificate to this effect will be delivered by the bank to the investor. Foreign capital imported in kind may be repatriated in the same form by the investor, upon the approval of the Minister of Investment.
types of entities available for foreign investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public or joint-stock company; limited liability company; company limited by guarantee; and registered branch of a foreign company.
private limited liability company	
minimum number of shareholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of two shareholders is required and the maximum allowed is 50. There is generally no requirement for local shareholding. An investor may engage in industrial and/or service activities that do not involve internal trade or export and import activities.
minimum share capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are generally no minimum share capital requirements in Sudan. However, minimum share capital requirements may exist in certain regulated industries.

directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A private company must have a minimum of one director. There is no requirement for directors of a private company to be Sudanese citizens or residents.
company secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every company must appoint a company secretary.
auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A private company must appoint an auditor who holds a practising Accountants Certificate.
registered address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every company must have a registered office and a registered postal address in Sudan to which all communications and notices may be addressed, and which must constitute the address for service of legal proceedings on the company.
registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies are registered with the Commercial Registrar General at the Ministry of Justice, and it takes approximately two to six weeks to complete registration once all the required documents have been submitted.
tax	
tax system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan has a residence-based tax system in terms of which residents are subject to tax on their world-wide income, whereas non-residents are subject to tax only on their Sudan-sourced income.
corporate residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A company is resident in Sudan if it is incorporated in Sudan or if its management and control is exercised in Sudan.
corporate tax rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident companies and permanent establishments of foreign companies are subject to corporate income tax at the following rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> industrial companies: 10%; trading companies, real estate companies, insurance companies, fund management companies and service companies (excluding petroleum service companies): 15%; banks: 30%; cigarette and tobacco companies: 40%; companies engaged in the exploration, extraction and distribution of oil and gas and their subcontractors: 35%; telecommunication companies: 7% of gross revenue; and companies exempt from tax under the Investment Encouragement Act or any other Act: 5% social development tax.
capital gains tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital gains arising on the disposal of capital assets, including land, buildings, agricultural land, shares and securities and motor vehicles are subject to capital gains tax at a rate of 2%.

withholding tax ("WHT") rates	WHT rate		
	payment to	residents	non-residents*
	branch profits	N/A	N/A
	dividends	N/A	1% stamp duty
	interest	N/A	7%
	royalties	N/A	15%
	management, consulting, and technical service fees	10%	15%
*The withholding tax rate may be reduced in terms of a relevant double tax agreement.			
double tax agreements ("DTAs")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTAs are in force with the Arab Economic Union Council (members of which include Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), Bahrain, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Romania, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. 		
losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Losses may be carried forward for a period of five years. 		
transfer pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan does not have specific transfer pricing rules, but in terms of its general anti-avoidance provisions, the STC is empowered to adjust the profits of a resident person who carries on business in Sudan with a related non-resident person where the business is so arranged to produce to the resident person either no profit or less than normal profits that would have occurred in a genuine situation. 		
limitations on interest deductibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no thin capitalisation rules applicable in Sudan. However, interest payments are not deductible unless one of the following conditions is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the interest is subject to tax in the hands of the recipient; if the recipient is exempt from tax, the interest would be taxable if the recipient was not exempt from tax; the interest is paid to the bank; or the interest is paid to a person outside Sudan with respect to a loan which was used for generating taxable income. 		

employee taxes	The income tax rates applicable to resident individuals are: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>annual chargeable income (SDG)</th> <th>tax rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>first 14 400</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>next 120</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>next 240</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>balance</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	annual chargeable income (SDG)	tax rate	first 14 400	0%	next 120	5%	next 240	10%	balance	15%
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next 240	10%										
balance	15%										
social security contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both employees and employers must make monthly social security contributions to the NPSIF. The employer contribution rate is 17% of the employee's gross monthly emoluments (defined as the basic salary, housing allowance and nature-of-work allowance), consisting of a 2% contribution for work accidents and 15% for retirement, disability, and survival. The employee contribution rate is 8% per month. 										
payroll taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no payroll tax in Sudan. 										
stamp duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stamp duty is levied on a number of instruments, generally at the fixed rate specified per document. There is no transfer tax on immovable property, shares, bonds, and other securities, but stamp duty at the rate of 1% is levied on corporate dividends. 										
value added tax ("VAT")											
<i>taxable supplies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAT is levied on the supply of goods and services in Sudan and on the importation of goods and services. 										
<i>VAT rate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17% 30% (the sales of telecommunication companies and the sale of cigarettes) 										
<i>registration threshold</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person who carries on business in Sudan and has an annual taxable turnover exceeding SDG100 000 must register for VAT purposes. Businesses whose turnover is below the registration threshold may apply for voluntary registration, provided any other registration requirements are met. 										
<i>reverse VAT on imported services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-resident companies with no permanent establishment in Sudan are not required to register for VAT. 										

trade marks	
international conventions, treaties, and arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harare Protocol Lusaka Agreement Madrid Agreement and Protocol Paris Convention World Intellectual Property Organization Convention
first-to-file jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person or entity that applies for a trade mark and fulfils all registration requirements will obtain registration and may prevent others from using the trade mark. The registration may be challenged by a third party claiming prior use of the trademark within Sudan, and the court may cancel the registration if they prove such prior use.
classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification) applies. Alcoholic products are not registrable. A separate application is required for each class of goods and/or services.
categories of trade marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision is made for goods and service marks.
filing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power of Attorney (Notarised and legalised up to consular level); 16 copies of the trade mark representations; list of goods or services to be covered by the application; certificate of incorporation of the applicant or any other document which proves the nationality of the applicant to the satisfaction of the Registrar (legalised); and certified copy of the priority document (if applicable), in English or Arabic.
procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications are examined as to formal and substantive requirements, i.e., applications are examined as to inherent registrability and conflict with prior existing registrations / applications. Once accepted, applications are advertised. Before the registration certificate is issued, the applicant must furnish the Registrar with a sworn declaration that their nationality has not changed since the application for registration was lodged.
oppositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition may be lodged within six months (for Sudanese residents) or eight months (for non-residents) following the date of advertisement of the trade mark application. Extension of the opposition period is not possible.
duration and renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A trade mark registration is effective for an initial period of 10 years from filing date, thereafter, renewable for further periods of 10 years.

DOING BUSINESS IN SUDAN


POPULATION
49.1M



CURRENCY
**SUDANESE
POUND (SDG)**
GMT+2




OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
**ARABIC,
ENGLISH**

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