

West Darfur (72 percent), Central Darfur (63 percent) and North Darfur (61 percent). Female-headed households also have worse food intake compared to males. 33 percent of female-headed households have inadequate food consumption, while 20 percent of male-headed households have inadequate food consumption. The prevalence of poor food consumption is double the rate for female-headed households (10 percent) compared to male-headed households. Overall, the main income sources for the female-headed and male-headed households vary depending on gender. Male-headed households tend to engage in longer term and higher return livelihood activities such as salaried work, mining and non-agricultural wage labor compared to females. Households that rely on these activities as their primary income source are also more food secure. In the meanwhile, female-headed households rely, to a greater extent, on informal transfers, such as remittances. 11 percent of female-headed households relied on informal transfers such as remittances, which is three times the prevalence observed in male-headed households (4 percent). Limited and less sustainable livelihood opportunities, rooted in socioeconomic and political inequality and low levels of literacy, is thus a key obstacle that women face which impedes them from meeting their food security needs.⁵

Without specific action (considering different needs by sex, age and disability conditions) on food security and livelihood resilience the population will not be able to cover their basic needs, including decent nutrition for children and other vulnerable segments of population

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis: The agriculture sector in Sudan faces structural problems that are at the origin of declining food security. The sector was long neglected in the early 2000s in an economy dominated by oil and under prolonged sanctions. Its share in GDP declined from 42% on average in 1992-1995 to 31% in 2009 and 28% in 2014. Nowadays, and after the secession with South Sudan entailing a loss of 75 % of oil revenues, the economy of Sudan is highly dependent on agriculture and livestock contributing to a third of the country's GDP. 80% of the Sudanese population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and jobs. Women integration in the productive sector is among the lowest in Eastern Africa (female labour force participation stands at 31.3%; in the formal non-agricultural sector, the percentage drops to 17%, demonstrating a female over-representation in agriculture and informal economy). Notably, women labour force participation rate in agricultural rural areas accounts for 80%, most women work as labourers in the farms of other farmers, rent agricultural lands to perform their own agricultural activities or work as unpaid family workers in their families' farms. Contemporarily, women owning farming lands, predominantly own medium and small lands with less productivity.⁶

Despite its potential (largest irrigated area in Africa after Egypt, large livestock and marine/inland fish populations), agricultural productivity in Sudan remains low. Average yields of sorghum and millet (the main staple food crops) have dropped from 350 kg/feddan (833 kg/ha) in the late 1950s to under 200 kg/feddan (476 kg/ha) in 2016 to 176 kg/feddan (419 kg/ha) for the period 1998-2013. Note that this last figure is half of what it was in the '50s! This is partly due to limited access to new technologies in the form of improved seeds and fertilizers, mechanised agricultural equipment, as well as the lack of research and extension services throughout the value chains. Access to finance is difficult for smallholder farmers, specially for women farmers, as a result of the poor health and weak resources of the Sudanese Agriculture Bank and limited outreach of the microfinance sector.

Crop production in the rainfed sectors, which account on average about 95 percent of the planted area, exhibits very wide annual fluctuations as a result of erratic rainfall amounts and distribution. According to the annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), total cereal production for the 2021/22 summer and winter seasons is estimated at around 5.1 million metric tons, against a 7.6-million-ton cereal requirement and 36 percent below the five-year average. Following the below-average harvest in the 2021-22 agriculture season would likely leave Sudan with around a 2.5-million-tonne cereal supply gap for the consumption year, January to December 2022. Of particular concern is the deficit in wheat, with the import requirement estimated at 1.7 million tonnes.

At the same time, smallholder farmers experience constraints in terms of access to land and land tenure security. Sudan's land tenure system is a major challenge for agriculture production and investment. Customary land tenure is the dominant tenure system for agricultural lands in Sudan, most particularly in the Darfur region. The

⁵ Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) - Sudan Summary Report, Q1 2022. World Food Programme

⁶ Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP SUDAN. 2022