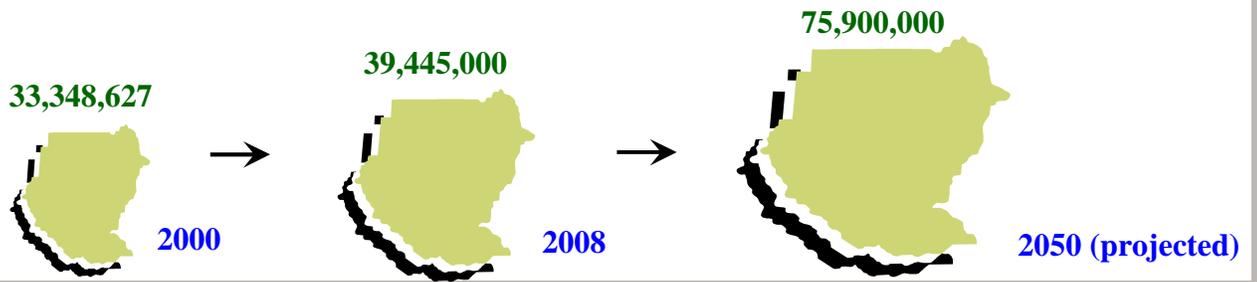




Population and Failing States

Sudan



Population and Failing States

Failing nations, almost without exception, have high population growth rates. *Foreign Policy* and the Fund for Peace publish an annual ranking of failed states. All of the top ten countries in the 2009 Failed States Index have total fertility rates (the average number of children born by a woman over her lifetime) substantially higher than the global average (2.6). Six of them had TFRs of 5.0 or higher. High fertility rates are often associated with high maternal and infant mortality rates. Early teenage pregnancy and unhealthy birth spacing, in particular, are associated with poor health outcomes for mothers and infants. High population growth rates may make it more difficult for failing states to provide adequate schooling, nutrition, immunization, and other essential services. Population pressures can also lead to environmental degradation, food insecurity, and even conflict.

Sudan's Population Profile

- Population as of mid-2009: 42,300,000 (PRB)
- Projected Population mid-2050: 75,900,000, a projected increase of 80% from 2009 levels (PRB)
- Population growth rate: 2.2% (PRB)
- Percent of population living in urban areas: 38% (PRB)
- Population under the age of 15: 16,054,000 41% (PRB)
- Life expectancy at birth (both sexes): 58 years (PRB)

Maternal and Child Health Trends

- A Sudanese women's lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes is 1 in 53 (PRB)
- 49% of births are attended by skilled health personnel (PRB)
- Infant Mortality Rate: 81 per 1,000 live births (PRB)
- Child mortality rate under age 5: 10.9% (109 per

- 1,000 children) (World Bank)
- 38% percent of children under the age of 5 are underweight (PRB)
- 43% of children under 5 have had their growth stunted (UNICEF)

Fertility in Sudan

- Current total fertility rate: 4.5 (PRB)
- Unmet need for family planning: N/A
- 8% of married women ages 15-49 use contraceptives (PRB)
- 6% of married women ages 15-49 use modern contraceptives (PRB)

Sources:

[Population Reference Bureau](#)
 UNICEF, [Info By Country: Sudan Statistics](#)
 World Bank, [World Development Indicators](#)

Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Fertility Trend

UNICEF estimated the total fertility rate at 6.0 in 1990, and 4.3 in 2007. The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) estimates the current TFR at 4.5 (2008).

Family Planning

Family planning and reproductive health services in Sudan are sparse and vary greatly across different regions and states. Comprehensive figures reflecting unmet need across the country are not readily available. Remarkably low rates of contraceptive usage to-

gether with high maternal and infant mortality rates indicate family planning services are direly needed (T. Umbeli, 2005).

Women's Rights and Reproductive Health

There is great need for the provision of basic social services, especially in Southern Sudan, where maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Family planning could be a significant part of an effort to lower this rate and greatly improve the health of women and their children, empowering them to make decisions about pregnancy and birth spacing ("The UN Millennium Development Goals in Sudan").

Development Goals

High fertility rates pose a significant challenge to economic advancement and the attainment of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Sudan.

Health

Malnutrition due to food and water scarcity has been a major problem in Sudan, with malnutrition and stunting severe in children. Concern grew sharply after the recent expulsion of thirteen international aid organizations in March of 2009, which has caused a reduction in the amount of aid reaching conflict affected areas ("USAID: The Humanitarian Situation in Sudan").

Food Security

In the International Food Policy Research Institute's Global Hunger Index for 2008, Sudan received a score of 20.5, which is considered "alarming" ("The Challenge of Hunger 2008"). Many Sudanese are now reliant on aid distributions for basic food provisions, and if not for the support of the UN World Food Programme and other aid organizations, the situation would be far worse.

USAID reports that several states other than Darfur have acute malnutrition rates above the 15% emergency threshold. Furthermore, conflict has significantly increased in other regions of the country, as acknowledged on June 1, 2009, when the U.N. Special Representative to Sudan stated that in recent months there have been more conflict deaths in Southern Sudan than in the Darfur region. Much of the violence has been a result of disputes over land usage. These conflicts have further hampered aid efforts to undertake water projects to help alleviate the scarcity ("USAID: The Humanitarian Situation in Sudan").

Poverty

Poverty is a problem affecting multitudes across all of Sudan, though the severity is not equally distributed. In the North, poverty

incidence is estimated at 50%, while in Southern Sudan it is estimated to be 90% ("The UN Millennium Development Goals in Sudan").

Education and Literacy

Educational indicators reflect a large distinction between conditions in the North and those in the South. The gross primary enrollment ratio in the North is estimated to be 62%, while in the South only 20% ("The UN Millennium Development Goals in Sudan").

Gender Disparity

The women's literacy rate in the North is 62%, but only 12% in the South. Similarly, in the North women play an active role in public affairs accounting for 19% of those in National Council/Assembly of States, yet comprise just 4% in the South ("The UN Millennium Development Goals in Sudan").

Environment

The UNEP Post-Conflict assessment in Sudan revealed many environmental calamities that must be addressed for future sustainable development, notably among them are oil pollution and water shortages. Proper environmental stewardship in Sudan was reported as being critical to establishing peace and stability, as the report states: "Environmental degradation and resource scarcity are among the root causes of the current conflict in Darfur...practical measures to alleviate such problems should be considered vital tools for conflict prevention and peace building." ("UNEP, Sudan: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, 16").

Conflict

Since 2003, Sudan has experienced the traumatic effects of conflict in the Darfur region, which has led to approximately 2.7 million internally displaced persons and an additional 2 million people affected by the conflict ("USAID: The Humanitarian Situation in Sudan").

Special Reports

[Failed States Index 2009, Fund for Peace, \(June 2009\).](#)

In partnership with *Foreign Policy*, the Fund for Peace produces an annual ranking of failed and failing states. Using a scale of 1-10, the study looks at 12 indicators of instability, including demographic pressures. The 2009 FSI, ranks Sudan as the 3rd most unstable state. The 2009 report finds that:

The indicator for demographic pressures remained at 9.0 for the FSI 209. Sudan has a youth bulge, with 40% of the population under the age of 15, and a high population growth rate of 2.1%. The life expectancy is only 51 years due to the effects of conflict,

disease and poverty. The score for refugees and displaced persons worsened from 9.6 in the FSI 2008 to 9.8 in the FSI 2009. There are reportedly as many as 206,000 refugees in Sudan, mainly from Eritrea, Chad, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Central African Republic. There are also several million internally displaced persons (IDPs) resulting from the conflict in Darfur and the north-south conflict. Group grievance improved slightly from 10.0 in the FSI 2008 to 9.9 in the FSI 2009, but the situation remained extremely serious. Violence continued to ravage much of the country, especially in the area of Darfur and the contested oil-rich town of Abyei.