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Future Indicators

Youth Demographics: Ten Trends Shaping Public Opinion in Sudan



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Introduction

According to the popular African proverb, “When the elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled,” the biggest loser in any war between prominent actors who possess weapons are the people who are put in harm’s way. This proverb applies perfectly to Sudan, as on April 15, 2023, the Sudanese crisis took a violent turn, with warring parties resorting to weapons to control the situation in the capital Khartoum. (Dr. Hamdi Abdelrahman, 2023).

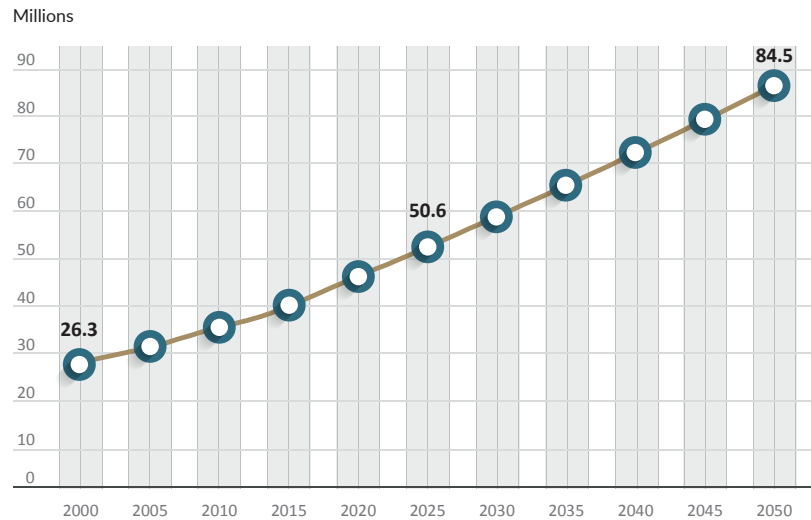
With a population of over 48 million people, half of whom are under the age of 18, Sudan is at a critical juncture in its history. Millions of Sudanese children and youth had aspirations for a brighter future and the pursuit of sustainable development.

This report aims to identify the Sudanese public opinion’s stances towards various political, security, economic, and social issues in order to understand the views and opinions of Sudanese people facing all these challenges. The report relies primarily on statistical analysis of recent field surveys conducted in Sudan, such as the Arab Barometer - 7th cycle (2022) and the Afrobarometer - 8th cycle (2022).

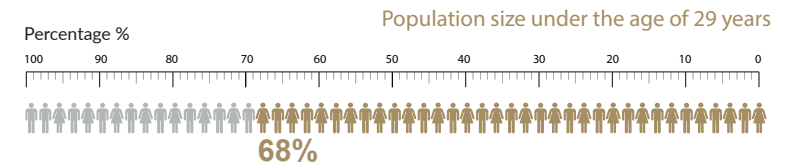
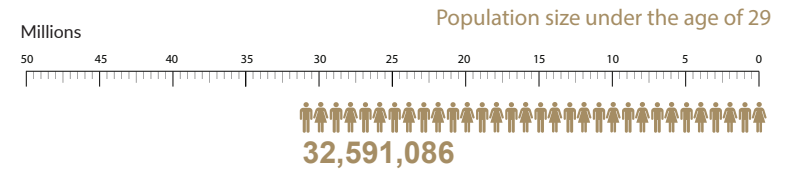
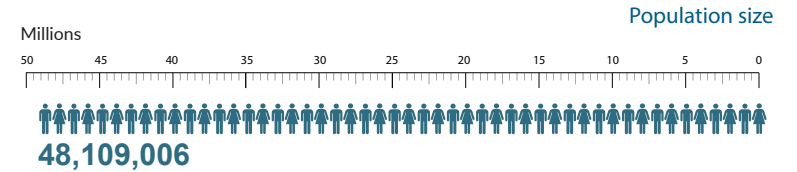


Sudanese Demographics

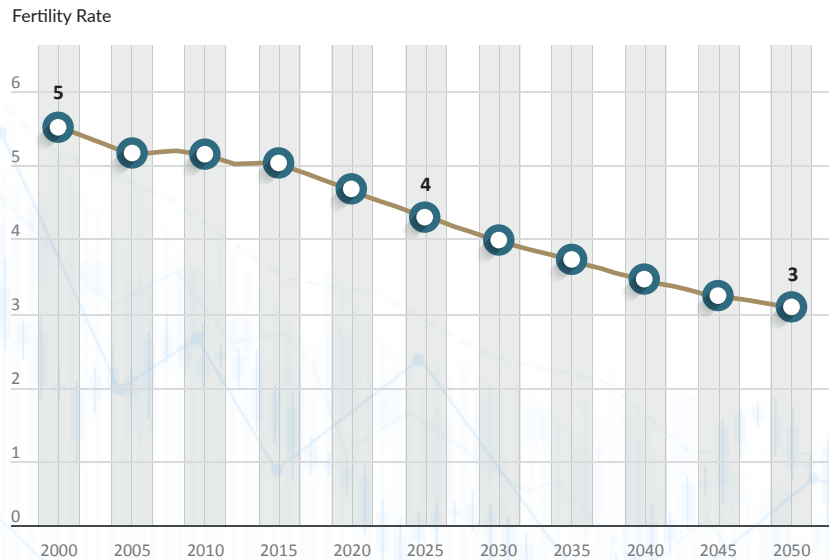
Population estimates between 2000 and 2050 (Millions)



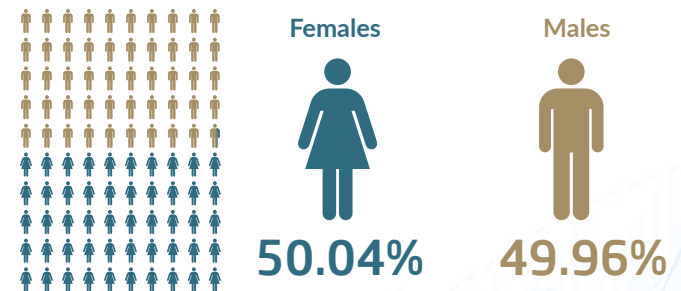
Population in 2023



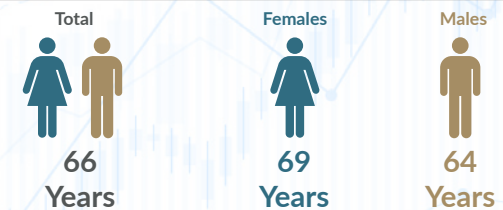
Overall Fertility Rate



Population Distribution by Gender



Life Expectancy (Years)



1 Desire for Reforming the Current System

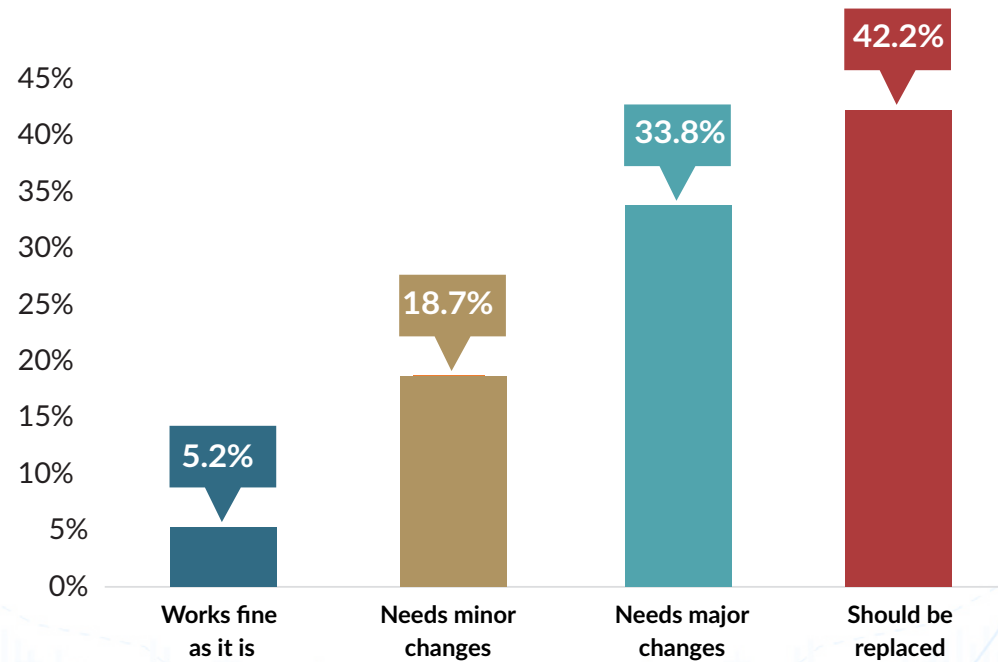


The majority of Sudanese (76%) believe that their system should be replaced with a new one or undergo major changes, while a very low percentage of the population (5.2%) believe that the Sudanese system

is functioning properly. This indicates a pressing need for structural reforms and radical transformations in the Sudanese system to meet the needs and aspirations of citizens and achieve sustainable development.

Desire to Reform the Current System

Compared to other systems across the world, would you say that your system works fine as it is, needs minor changes, needs major changes, or should be replaced?



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

2 Rejection of Non-Democratic Governance Systems

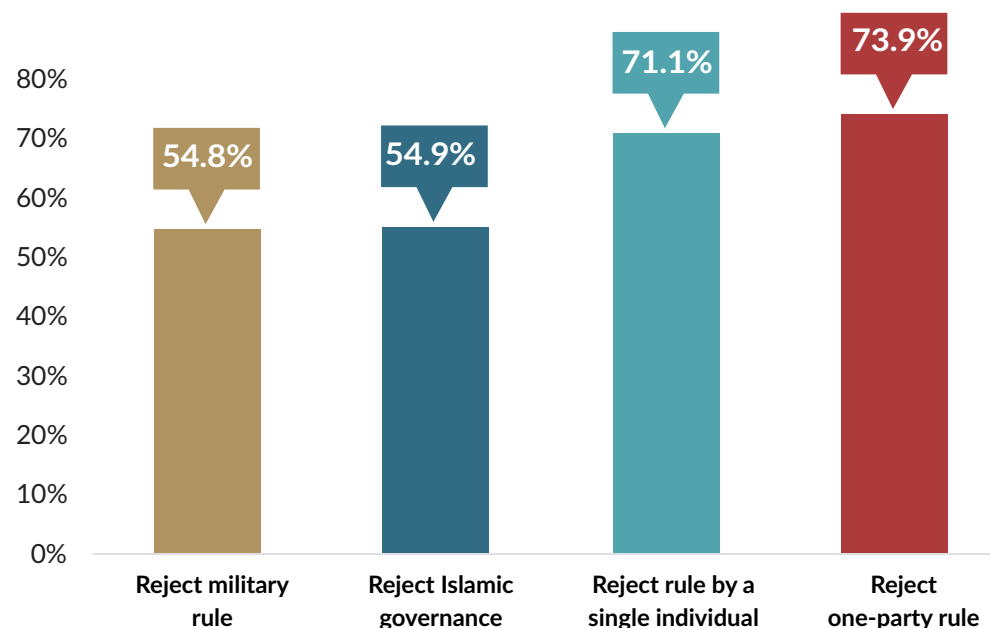


The results indicate that the majority of Sudanese reject non-democratic governance systems. Around 73.9% of the respondents reject the idea of one-party rule, while nearly 71.1% reject the notion of rule by a single individual. Furthermore, over half of the Sudanese population (54.9%)

express their disapproval of Islamic governance, and a similar percentage reject military rule. It is noteworthy that the Sudanese inclination toward democratic governance, even with some reservations.

Rejection of Non-Democratic Governance Systems

Percentage of Sudanese opposing the following governance systems:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the African Barometer, 8th round, 2022

3 Declining Trust in Most Institutions

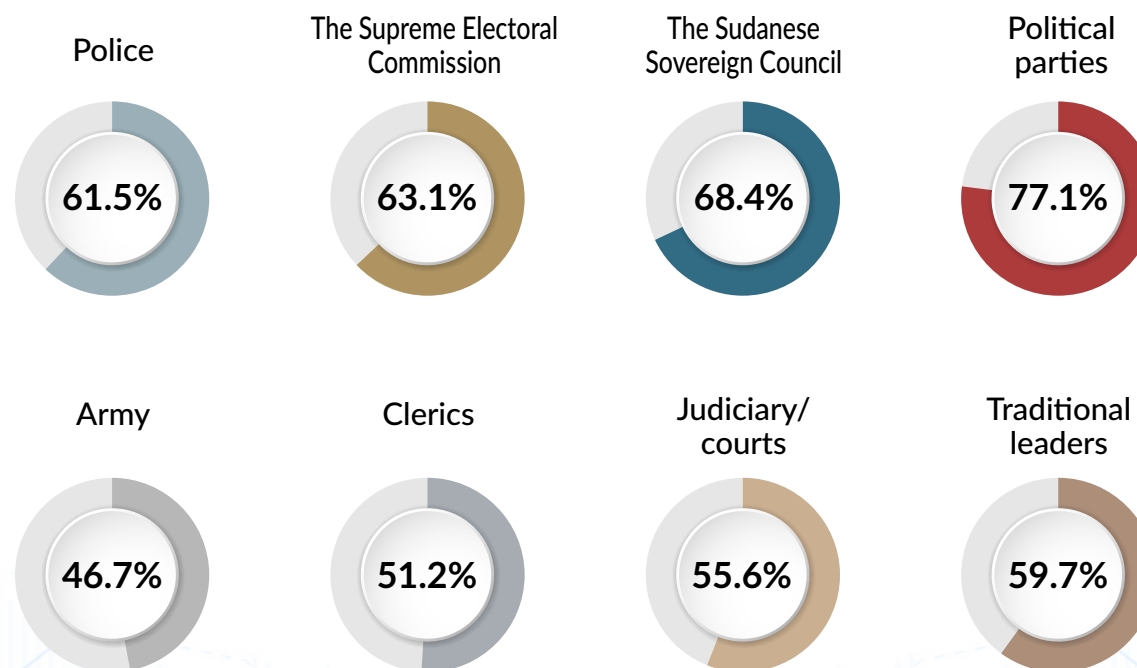


A significant majority of Sudanese citizens, approximately 77.1%, lack trust in various institutions, particularly political parties. Additionally, 68.4% of the surveyed participants expressed their lack of trust or little trust in the Sovereign Council. These findings suggest that Sudanese individuals do not heavily rely on the council to foster stability and prosperity within the country. Additionally, trust in both the Supreme Electoral Commission

(63.1%) and the police (61.5%) has witnessed a decline. In contrast, the trust in religious leaders among Sudanese people is divided, with roughly half of the population either lacking trust or having little confidence in them. A similar division exists concerning the military, with approximately 46.7% of the survey participants expressing their lack of trust or limited trust in the army.

Declining Trust in Most Institutions

Percentage of Sudanese who have little or no trust in the following institutions:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the AfroBarometer, 8th round, 2022.

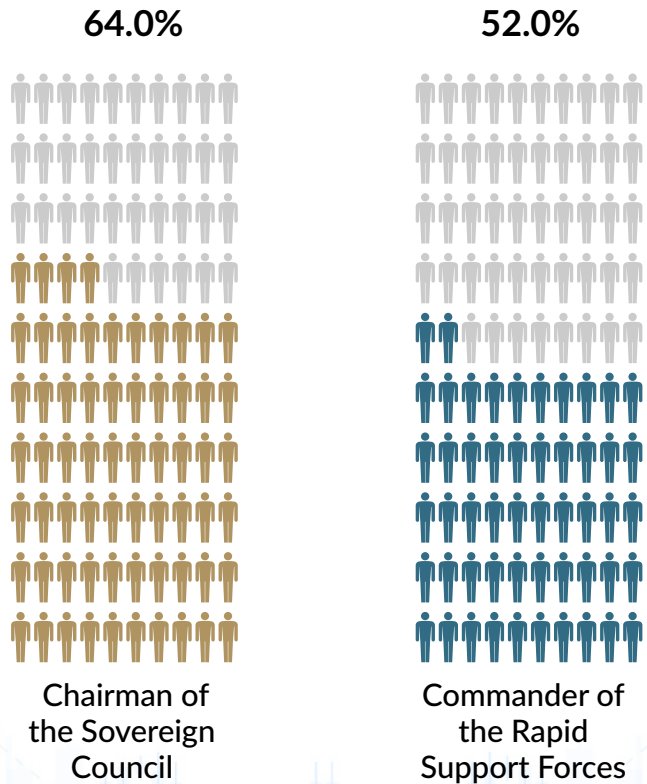
4 Dissatisfaction with the Performance of both the Chairman of the Sovereign Council and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces

There has been significant opposition among Sudanese citizens to the performance of both the Chairman of the Sudanese Sovereign Council and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces in the recent period. About 64% of Sudanese expressed opposition to the Chairman's

handling of his duties in the six months leading up to the survey, while 52% of Sudanese opposed the way the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces fulfilled his responsibilities in the six months prior to the survey.

Dissatisfaction with the Performance of both the Chairman of the Sovereign Council and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces

Percentage of people opposing the performance of the two figures:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the AfroBarometer, 8th round, 2022.

5 Dissatisfaction with the Government's Performance

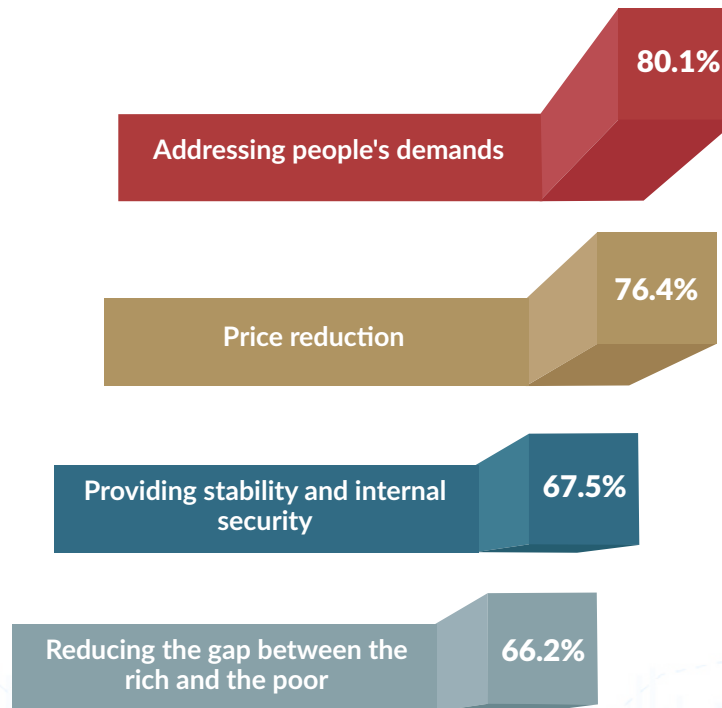


The general consensus among the Sudanese people is that the performance of the Sudanese government has been inadequate across various areas. An overwhelming majority of approximately 80.1% of Sudanese believe that the government does not adequately address people's demands, and 76.4% of Sudanese see the government's

performance as poor in terms of reducing prices. Additionally, 66.2% of Sudanese indicate that the government's performance has been poor in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. Furthermore, the government has also been seen as failing to provide stability and internal security, according to 67.5% of those polled.

Dissatisfaction with the Government's Performance

Percentage of Sudanese who consider the government's performance as poor or very poor in the following areas:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

6 Prevalence of Corruption in State Institutions

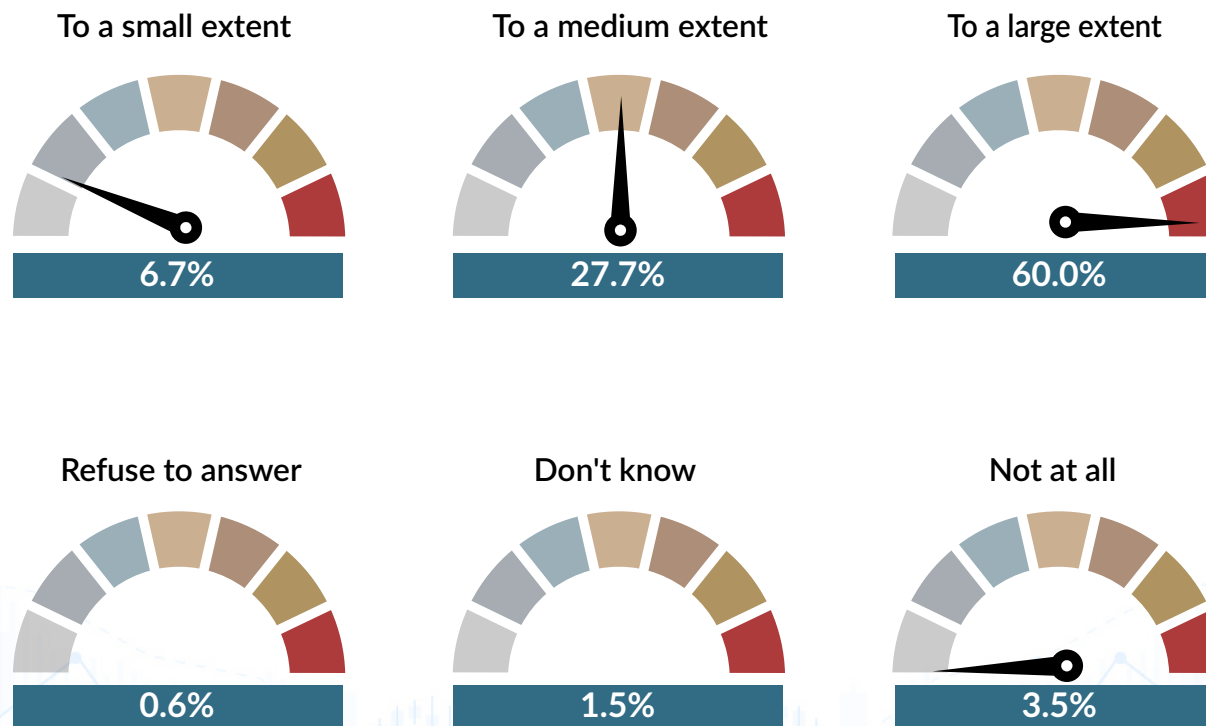


The results show widespread corruption in Sudan. The majority of Sudanese, or 88%, see corruption across state institutions and national agencies (with 60% of them saying it is prevalent to a great extent

and 28% saying to a moderate extent). Additionally, the Sudanese public feels that the government is not taking any action to combat corruption.

Prevalence of Corruption in State Institutions and National Agencies

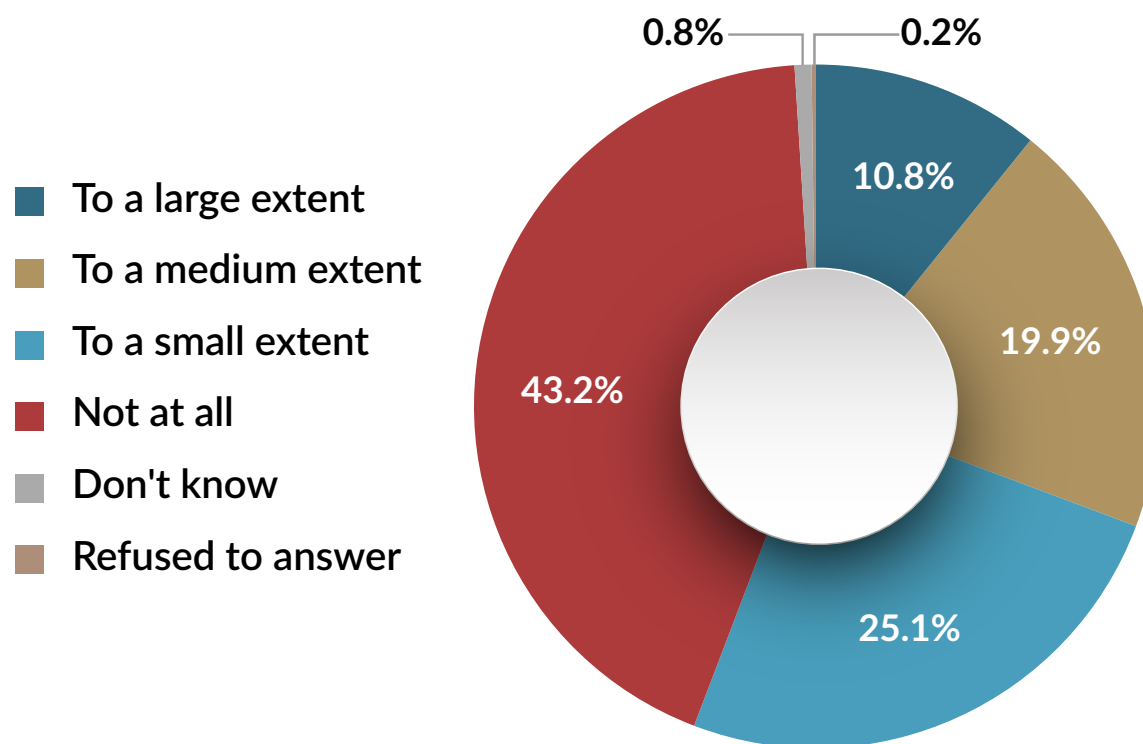
To what extent do you think that there is corruption within the national state agencies and institutions in your country?
Those polled answered this question as follows:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

A Majority of Sudanese Believe that the Government is Doing Nothing to Adress Corruption

In your opinion, to what extent is the national government working to crackdown on corruption?



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

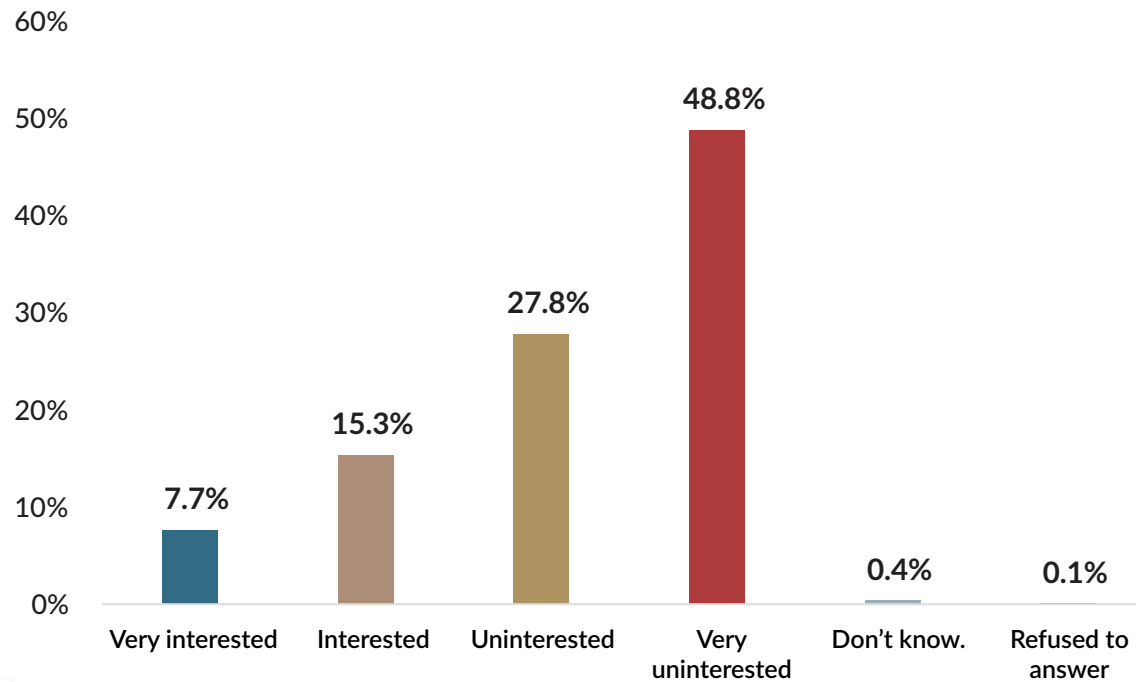
7 Lack of Interest in Politics



As is the case for many societies, politics is not a major concern for many Sudanese. Rather, their primary focus is on living conditions and the economy. Approximately one in every two individuals in Sudan is

not interested in politics, and around 27.8% of Sudanese have a limited interest in politics. Meanwhile, 15.3% expressed their interest in politics, and only 7.7% showed a strong interest.

In General, To What Extent are You Interested in Politics?



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

8 Declining Economy and a Widening Gap between the Rich and the Poor



The Sudanese people are currently confronting significant economic challenges and social inequality. An overwhelming majority of approximately 86.6% of Sudanese perceive the overall economic situation as bad or very bad, which reflects major economic challenges in the country. Similarly, the majority of Sudanese, i.e., around 71.5%, view the wealth gap between the rich and the poor as a significant or

moderate problem, indicating the social challenges the country is facing and concerns about social inequality. A large percentage of Sudanese, up to 70.3%, believe that the government does not prioritize protecting the interests of the poor. This perception may be linked to issues of poverty and social justice that the country is grappling with, which could be associated with government policies.

The Deteriorating Economic Situation and the Widening Wealth Gap between the Rich and the Poor

Those polled expressed sentiment as follows:

The overall economic situation is bad or very bad **86.6%**



The wealth gap between the rich and the poor represents a significant or moderate problem. **71.5%**



No government officials are actively fighting to protect the interests of the poor (to a significant or moderate extent) **70.3%**



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

Deteriorating Food Security

A significant portion of Sudanese population encounters difficulties in securing food and meeting the costs of living. This could be attributed to the challenging economic situation in the country, which affects individuals' ability to meet their basic needs. Approximately 6 out of

10 Sudanese individuals reported that they have run out of food they purchased and did not have enough money to buy more, either on a frequent or occasional basis.

Deteriorating Food Security

Percentage of Sudanese who said:

We worried our food would run out before we got money to buy more," either frequently or occasionally.

66.9%



The food that we bought did not last and we did not have money to get more," frequently or occasionally

62.7%



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

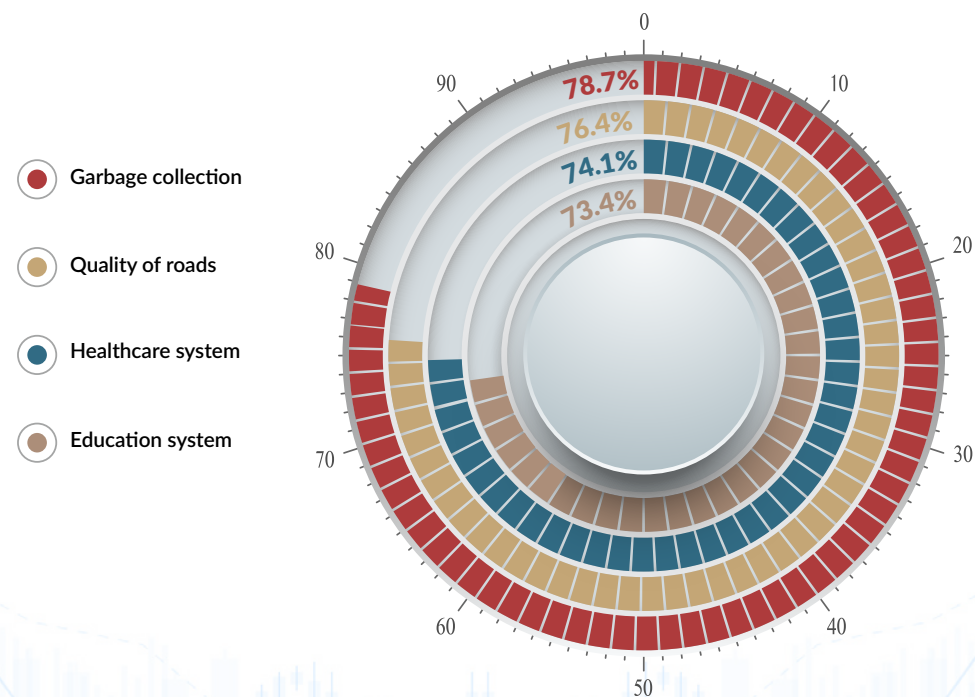
Dissatisfaction with Basic Services

The results indicate a significant level of dissatisfaction with the services provided in the education system, healthcare system, road quality, and garbage collection. The findings indicate that:

- 73.4% of the participants in the survey were not satisfied with the education system in Sudan.
- 74.1% of the participants were not satisfied with the healthcare system in Sudan.
- 76.4% of the participants were not satisfied with the quality of roads in Sudan.
- 78.7% of the participants were not satisfied with garbage collection in Sudan.

Dissatisfaction with Basic Services

Percentage of Sudanese dissatisfied with basic services:



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

9 Approximately Half of the Sudanese People Express a Desire to Migrate

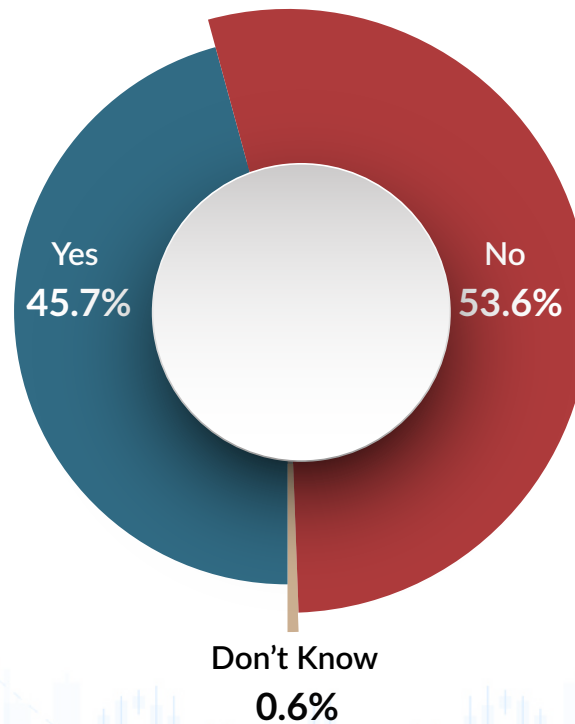


Thinking about migration is usually associated primarily with economic factors, as well as political and security conditions within the country. Sudan faces many challenges that have led to nearly half of Sudanese people considering migration at some point. It is worth mentioning

that these data were collected prior to the recent events, so they may have significantly changed, with an expected increase in the desire for migration or seeking refuge.

Approximately Half of the Sudanese People Express a Desire to Migrate

Some people consider migrating from their countries and living elsewhere.
Have you ever thought about emigrating from your country?



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

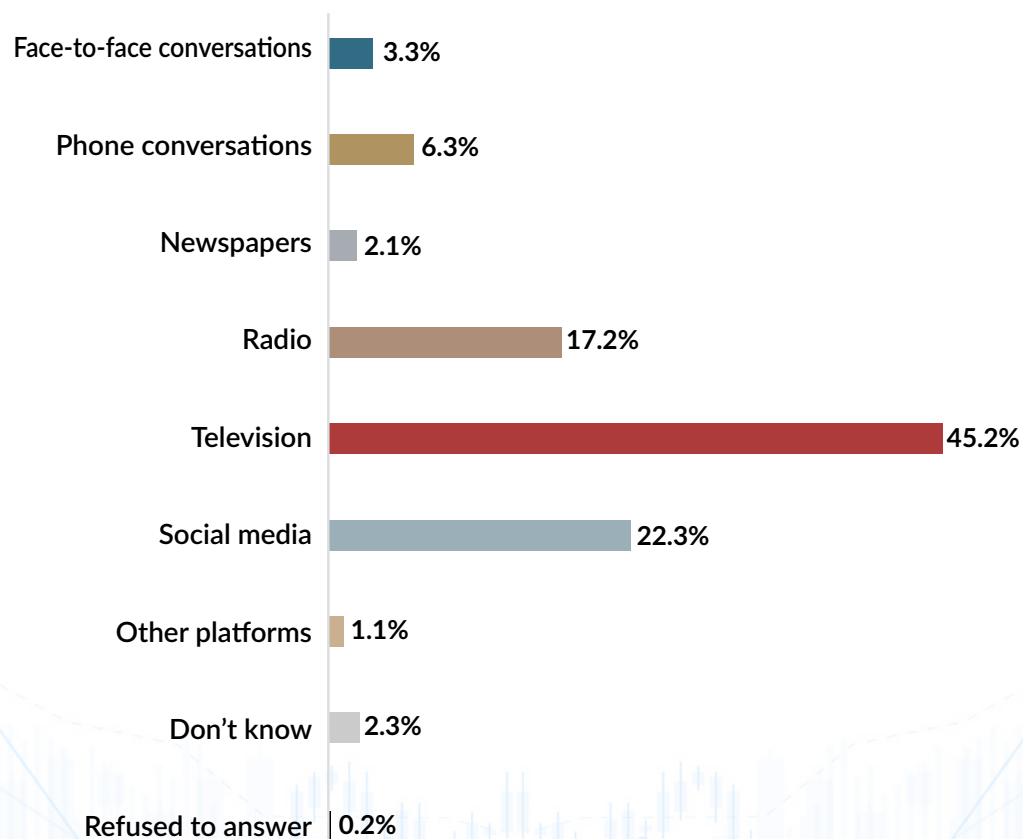
10 Television and Radio Remain the Primary Channels for Following News



The results indicate that television remains the primary means for following breaking news and updates as they happen in Sudan, according to 45.2% of the survey participants. Social media platforms too play a significant role in this regard, serving as the main source

of news for approximately one-fifth of Sudanese individuals (22.3%). Radio follows with a percentage of 17.2%, while newspapers are no longer a significant source of news, except for only 2.1% of the survey participants.

What is Your Primary Source of Information for Following Breaking News and Latest Updates As Soon As They Happen?



Source: Calculated by the researcher based on data from the Arab Barometer, 7th wave, 2022.

