



Department
for International
Development

Operational Plan 2011-2016

DFID Sudan

Updated December 2014

Contents

Introduction	2
Context	3
Vision	4
Results 2011/12-2015/16	5
Delivery and Resources	7
Delivering Value for Money	11
Monitoring and Evaluation	12
Transparency	13
Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan	14
Annex B: Human Rights Assessment	15

Introduction

In 2013 the UK became the first G7 country to meet the United Nations target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development. The Department for International Development (DFID) uses that investment to help countries to lift themselves out of poverty and leave poverty behind. Operational plans set out to the public how we plan to deliver results across policy areas and for every country we work in. These plans clearly explain why, and how, DFID is targeting its resources and what we expect to achieve; covering the period up until March 2016.

DFID is focused on spending in the right ways, on the right things, in the right places. The portfolio of our projects is already shifting to deliver a more coherent, focused and ambitious approach to economic development. We are helping to build strong and investable business environments in developing countries and improving access to finance for entrepreneurs.

Improving the prospects for girls and women in developing countries is a priority. Investing in girls and women is the smart thing to do, as well as the right thing to do. By unleashing their potential, we see returns for girls and women themselves, their families and communities, and for their economies and countries. No country can successfully develop if it leaves half its population behind.

Life-saving humanitarian assistance remains one of DFID's most fundamental responsibilities. When disaster strikes or conflict erupts we are first on the ground to support the most vulnerable people. We are also increasing our efforts to help those countries that are at higher risk of natural disasters to become more resilient in the first place.

DFID continues to drive value for money in everything we do on behalf of the British taxpayer. We have improved our procurement and programme management, increased our internal audit oversight and we are ensuring that staff have the skills to deliver the Department's priorities.

On the international stage we are working hard to agree a new set of global development goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire next year. We are determined to secure a clear and inspiring set of goals for the post 2015 development framework that leave no one behind.

Increasingly we will take new and innovative approaches and we will work with new partners. This will include businesses who are increasingly major development players. During Secretary of State's time as co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, DFID played a key role in encouraging different development actors to work together and use internationally agreed principles for aid and development effectiveness.

As our operational plans set out, our approach to international development is ambitious and innovative. We are determined to ensure that every pound DFID spends has the biggest possible impact on the ground. Ultimately by investing in developing countries, we can end aid dependency for good and build a better, more prosperous world for us all.

Context

Overview: Sudan is a failing state. It suffers from chronic underdevelopment and ranks 166 out of 187 on the Human Development Index. Conflict remains entrenched in Darfur and the border areas. The Darfur Doha peace process has stalled. The drivers of poverty and conflict in Sudan are rooted in longstanding neglect of the peripheries and the dominance of a narrow political, military and religious elite. Since coming into power in 1989, the current regime has restricted and eroded political space. Government spending is focused on Khartoum with an estimated 70% spent on security. The outlook for Sudan is uncertain. Ultimately, progress will require a change in Sudan's governance arrangements, and the manner in which it manages relationships with its peripheral regions. The regime is currently pushing a national dialogue process but there is as yet little evidence of genuine commitment to address the inequitable power and patronage relationships that underpin the status quo.

Conflict is endemic: Sudan has been dominated by continuous cycles of conflict over the last five decades – these are both an outcome and driver of severe humanitarian crises and chronic underdevelopment. In 2014, the conflicts within Sudan's borders intensified. Almost 400,000 people were displaced in Darfur, the most since the early days of the conflict. Fighting in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile intensified leading to the displacement of over 100,000 people. The recent crisis in South Sudan has also led to an influx of refugees into the southern border states. Over 6.9m people in Sudan are now in need of humanitarian support. Insecurity and administrative impediments imposed by government are shrinking the space for humanitarian and development action.

Governance: The federal government undermines democratic and accountable governance through marginalisation of the peripheries, inequitable allocation of resources to states, weak institutional capacity and legislation, high levels of military expenditure and corruption. Political freedoms, media, civil society and the judiciary are severely compromised

Economy: periods of strong growth in the past (7% in 2011) have collapsed due to the loss of oil revenues. Post-secession economic adjustment has stalled. The growth environment is undermined by macro instability, corruption, high levels of patronage and vested interests and high inflation (year on year inflation in June was 45.3%). Economic instability and sanctions undermine growth and investment. There have been some positive recent steps including the removal of subsidies, but progress is vulnerable to political infighting and civil war in South Sudan.

Poverty: Sudan suffers from protracted humanitarian emergencies, high levels of poverty and poor performance on most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). New nutritional data indicates a deepening national malnutrition crisis. The national poverty rate of 46.5% masks large regional and socio-economic differences, with poverty entrenched in the peripheries and among internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and nomadic groups. Girls and women are especially vulnerable (Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence is more than 80% and they face high levels of violence in areas of conflict).

UK engagement: We work closely with other donors, particularly the traditionally like-minded, albeit in the face of falling aid flows to Sudan. We follow best practice aid effectiveness principles for working in fragile states, and international humanitarian donor principles. Much of our programming has been funded so far through multi-donor trust funds and UN partners. We work in close partnership with the EU and International Financial Institutions. We collaborate closely with the other Troika members (USA and Norway) on a range of policy issues.

Vision

A Sudan which is at peace with itself and with its neighbours and where government has the capacity and political will to meet the needs and aspirations of all its people

Overview

This Operational Plan started during a period of political uncertainty. After the secession of South Sudan, hopes were high that Sudan would begin the process of reforming its institutions, rebuilding its economy and addressing the structural inequities in the centre-periphery relationship. It was hoped that the Darfur peace process would bring an end to conflict.

However instead we have seen an intensification of conflict in Darfur and new conflicts in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. There has been minimal if any progress towards more democratic/accountable systems of governance and economic progress has stalled. There has been little progress in reallocating resources away from privileged groups at the centre towards the marginalised peripheral states, reducing military expenditure, and increasing funding to social and productive sectors. Humanitarian and development needs are growing.

Despite this the focus programme choices remain valid. We will continue to focus on interventions that will address the underlying causes and the impact of conflict and bring stability to the country. We will target our influence and funding towards helping those most in need: the displaced, girls and women, the urban poor, and the disadvantaged young. However, we need to be more modest in our ambitions in what we can achieve in Sudan DFID will focus on helping Sudan develop in four principal ways:

1. Alleviate humanitarian suffering: provide protection and life-saving support to conflict-affected populations. Where possible build the resilience of communities to cope with shocks.
2. Improve sustainable access to basic services for the most vulnerable populations: meeting basic needs, safeguarding human capital and reversing the declining investment in social sectors.
3. Support macro-economic stability and steps towards pro-poor policy/budget reform: ameliorate the impact of the adjustment process on the poor and support pro-poor policy development.
4. Lay the foundations for a more democratic, peaceful and prosperous future: we will invest in non-state actors (the private sector and civil society) who are critical for driving change.

There will be a cross-cutting and specific programme focus on girls and women – to address their vulnerabilities (e.g. violence in conflict settings and FGM) and support their potential as drivers for change.

Sudan remains an expensive and high-risk environment for programming. We will not channel any money through the government of Sudan, but will continue to put funds through Non-Governmental Organisations, private sector firms, and multilateral agencies which have robust financial management systems. DFID will also work with state-level institutions, aligning UK funding with their priorities, and building their capacity and systems to manage and administer the delivery of services to their own citizens. We will encourage and enable civil society to work alongside service providers to ensure their participation in decision-making. We will continue to work closely with other donors, including through joint programming and shared advisory/technical resources. We will help build a stronger evidence base of levels of need in order to target our funding to those that need it most and find innovative ways to monitor and evaluate projects in areas which we cannot easily access.

Alignment to DFID and wider UK government priorities

This operational plan is fully aligned with UK government Sudan strategy. It aims to building a Sudan which is more peaceful, with a more open society and economy, a state better to meet the needs of its people and which contributes to regional security. The operational plan also aligns closely with the UK government building stability overseas strategy, the UK government Country Business Plan for Sudan, and DFID's Structural Reform Plan, Business Plan, Country Poverty Reduction Diagnostic and the Conflict Security and Stability Fund Strategy. It also draws closely on the outcomes of the Multilateral Aid Review and the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review to shape its programming and delivery.

Results 2011/12-2015/16

Headline results (those with a * directly attributable to DFID. In all other cases, DFID is contributing to the results)

Pillar/Strategic	Indicator	Baseline	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected (end year included)
Governance and security/ Golden thread of open economies and open societies	Number of people who have choice and control over their own development supported by DFID	0 (2011)	351,208 (2013/14)	350,000 (2015)
Governance and security/ Golden thread of open economies and open societies/ girls and women	Number of women with improved access to justice services through DFID support	0 (2011)	924,008 (2013/14)	920,000 (2015)
Humanitarian assistance/Poverty, vulnerability, nutrition, and hunger**	Number of people provided with food security and livelihoods assistance through DFID support in Sudan	0 (2011)	905,466 (2012/13)	900,000 (yearly)
Humanitarian assistance/ Poverty, vulnerability, nutrition, and hunger**	Number of people reached by health and nutrition-related programmes through DFID support in Sudan	0 (2011)	10,578,578 (2011/12)	3,000,000 (yearly)
Economic development/ Golden thread of open economies and open societies	Number of people and/or firms with access to financial services as a result of DFID support	0 (2011)	46,530 (2013/14)	45,000 (2015)
Water, sanitation, and hygiene	Number of people with access to clean drinking water sources with DFID support	0 (2011)	912,192 (2013/14)	1,000,000 (2015)

** The results from these programmes, which are annual, will fluctuate year on year in response to humanitarian need.

Headline Results

DFID Sudan is currently designing new programmes that will deliver additional results in the following areas:
Humanitarian: we will scale up our support to humanitarian operations to meet the needs of the large number of IDPs as well as refugees fleeing conflict and instability from neighbouring countries.

Resilience: We will also help make communities more resilient to shocks.

Golden thread of open economies and open societies: DFID Sudan's new Local Partnership for Dialogue Programme will build the capacity of civil society actors and foster dialogue

Human development: we will scale up our WASH efforts in Darfur and East Sudan with new programmes for sustainable access to clean water and promotion of sanitation & hygiene behaviour change, targeting both rural communities and urban centres including integration of IDP camps.

Climate change: through a new Environmental Governance and Conflict Mitigation Programme DFID will address natural resource conflicts and help poor people cope with the effects of climate change.

Evidence supporting results

DFID Sudan is committed to ensuring all of its work is underpinned by a solid evidence base which can be used to inform programmatic and strategic decisions. In accordance with its initial operational plan DFID Sudan recruited a statistics adviser (2013) with an explicit mandate for building up the evidence base for the office.

We will continue to invest in monitoring, reviews and rigorous evaluations. We are designing a third party monitoring system and carry out regular opinion poll surveys to ensure beneficiaries' views are better understood. We are also visiting the field more and meeting with beneficiaries.

Cross Cutting Evidence Base: through a new Evidence Base Programme DFID Sudan will: (i) provide technical assistance for the development of key official statistics; (ii) ensure data producers in government and civil society have the skill sets to generate and analyse high quality datasets; (iii) enable DFID Sudan to systematically monitor its programmes.

Programme Level Evidence Base:

The creation of the Corporate Effectiveness Team (CET) has improved our ability to systematically quality assure all elements of new programmes All new programmes are screened to ensure a sound evidence base before approval and during implementation.

Our work on governance and local engagement is based on strong evidence that a more inclusive and equitable political settlement reduces conflict.

New water and sanitation programmes are in the early stages of design. These have been designed based on lessons learnt from the previous programme.

DFID Sudan's humanitarian programmes are informed by strong data on need. The UN produces regular needs analysis, including quarterly food security assessments, as well as a range of analyses of the humanitarian situation including nutrition surveys.

Delivery and Resources

Instruments of delivery

There are limited modalities and delivery options in Sudan. The government of Sudan does not meet the UK's four partnership principles: commitment to reducing poverty, respecting human rights, strengthening financial management, and strengthening domestic accountability. Therefore, no funding is directly routed through the government of Sudan systems.

DFID Sudan's current programme delivery is primarily through multilateral agencies, International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and the private sector. Whilst no funds will be routed through the government in Sudan, we will continue to align our assistance closely behind government priorities and consider greater use of counterpart funding where appropriate. Evidence from the DFID state-building/peace-building framework and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) principles on international engagement in fragile states suggests that such approaches are essential in enhancing state capacity and avoiding long term aid-dependency.

We will develop flexible scalable programmes that allow us to adapt and manage risks. We are diversifying our implementing partners to include more INGO consortia and private sector implementers. Over the long term we hope this increased competition will improve value for money.

Other delivery mechanisms and partners

Traditional donors have significantly scaled back development assistance since the secession of south Sudan. Non-traditional donors (Qatar and Turkey) are present; China is an important economic and political player.

The main implementing partners are UN agencies and INGOs. However, government bureaucracy and impediments affect those partners (with some INGOs being closed down in the last year). We are exploring new partnerships with private sector companies.

Multilateral organisations

DFID Sudan channels significant amounts of funds through multilateral organisations. The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) has found a wide variation in the relevance and effectiveness of multilaterals operating internationally and in Sudan. We consider directly the MAR findings in appraising new business cases and mitigate risk by linking funding more closely to performance. We have are in the process of carrying out due diligence assessment of all UN partners.

Other country activity

We will maximise synergies and align efforts between Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)/Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP)/DFID/central funding (International Climate Facility /Global Partnership for Education (GPE)) and continue to explore ways of working with and through other donors, including Qatar.

Non-delivery partners will be crucial in achieving the operational plan. Since many of the challenges will be political and conflict-related, we will work closely with our colleagues in the Sudan Unit, the FCO, the Ministry of Defence, Stabilisation Unit, and British Council, as well as our Missions and Delegations to the UN, the European Union, the World Bank, IMF, and African Development Bank.

Maximising the impact of our people

Throughout the operational plan period, we will aim to retain staff and look for opportunities to promote and upgrade our Staff Appointed in Country (SAIC) staff and positions where appropriate.

In the last two years we have increased our local technical expertise by employing two SAIC Policy Advisers. Furthermore, we have invested significantly in talent management and learning and development. We will continue to build on past experience and apply the same principles to create an environment where all staff are enabled and empowered to do the best job, and where they feel respected and valued.

We will strengthen programme and advisory staff capacity to manage complex programmes and we will ensure that as many staff as possible get accredited to the Programme Management Cadre (at least 3 staff by March 2015). We will ensure that all programmes have Senior Responsible Officers by the end of November 2014, and in doing so we will support staff to acquire relevant skills.

Planned Programme Spend

Pillar/Strategic	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16 (provisional*)
	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Total Resource and Capital £000
Climate Change	3,962		2,001		995		500		
Conflict Pool									
Education	120						1,000		
Global partnerships	807		155		310				
Governance and security	10,183		10,586		6,530		17,900		
Humanitarian	6,840		38,726		38,209		19,500		
Poverty, hunger and vulnerability			-40		480				
Water and Sanitation	4,803		2,252		1,168	203		3,620	
Wealth Creation					-40		2,000		
Health	3,726		416		150		1,000		
Grand Total	30,441		54,056		47,802	203	41,900	3,620	47,085,000

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements.

Planned Operating Costs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (provisional*)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Frontline Delivery Costs – Pay	1,733	1,488	1,529	1,443	
Frontline Delivery Costs – Non Pay	1,111	898	933	1,053	
Administrative costs – Pay	338	266	222	222	
Administrative costs – Non Pay	455	336	253	188	
Grand Total	3,637	2,988	2,937	2,906	2,797,641

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements.

- DFID Sudan has already streamlined its programme portfolio – decreasing the overall number of projects. We have done this through taking hard decisions not to allow extensions on programmes that were small or not performing strongly, and/or reallocating resources from some poorly performing projects.
- We will develop flexible scalable programmes that allow us to adapt and manage risks. We are diversifying our implementing partners. These actions may not deliver any operating costs savings but will increase efficiency in programme management and capacity to manage complex projects and improve the quality of programme monitoring.

Delivering Value for Money

Maximising the impact of every pound that we spend in Sudan on poor people's lives.

Sudan remains an expensive environment as a result of poor infrastructure and high security costs. For instance in the highly insecure operating environment of Darfur, security costs account for around 20% of programme costs. There are a limited number of partners to choose from.

This has placed the onus on improving the value for money offered by existing partners especially the multilaterals. We have also explored ways in which they can improve procurement and programme management to ensure better efficiencies.

Specific actions taken to address economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Over the past few years DFID Sudan has:

- Harnessed corporate and divisional financial improvement strategies and tools to ensure we have the correct systems, procedures and practice in place to drive continued improvement in financial management.
- Taken forward innovative market testing approaches with a view to broadening the supplier base.
- Improved our portfolio performance by taking emergency measures or closing down poor performing projects and by establishing an enhanced portfolio review process.
- Produced a comprehensive anti-corruption and fraud strategy.
- Pressed UN and other partners on management fees, particularly in cases where agencies act as managers of funds and then sub-contract to other partners.

Improving value for Money (VfM) in the future

To continue to improve the VfM of our operations we will:

- Embed VfM in the programme cycle. We will aim to have fewer programmes of larger scale to achieve more results through potential economies of scale. However, this will need to be carefully planned due to the volatility of the operating environment. Risk management will need to be effective throughout the programme implementation.
- Enhance DFID Sudan capacity to understand VfM. We will ensure that all programme staff, including advisers, are well equipped to take programmatic decisions that ensure better VfM. We will focus especially on Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) to enable them to use judgment calls.
- Improve our portfolio performance by taking tough decisions, including closing down poor performing projects, and by establishing an enhanced portfolio review process.
- Support and build partners' capacity to deliver VfM. By encouraging partners to deliver more cost-efficiency through better understanding of unit costs and other cost drivers. Where possible we will use consortia and negotiate administrative costs. We will also provide technical support to ensure partners meet DFID's expectations on VfM.
- Use corporate effectiveness to ensure VfM of admin expenditure. This will involve exploring opportunities to find ways to improve efficiencies across the office.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring

How: DFID Sudan will work closely with implementing partners to ensure all new programmes contain a robust monitoring plan focussing on results and value for money. This will include metadata, and plans for data collection, reporting, programme evaluation and risk management. These will include partnerships with third parties, where necessary, to ensure independent data for optimum results management. Where applicable partners and DFID will use new data available from DFID funded independent data sources (e.g. the DFID Sudan household survey) to verify and triangulate the insights produced by partners.

Data for monitoring will come from a variety of sources, including national surveys, government information management systems, beneficiary perception surveys, third party monitoring facility, and programme specific information systems. We will work to strengthen the evidence base of our programmes with a particular emphasis on gathering and monitoring data disaggregated by sex, age, and geographic location. We will allocate up to 5% of programme funding for monitoring. Where appropriate we will design Performance Improvement Action Plans for poorly performing programmes to ensure closer monitoring. We will set out what minimum results a programme must achieve to continue receiving DFID support, and consider redesigning or terminating programmes that fall short.

Who: Implementing partners will be responsible for day-to-day programme monitoring. Alert to the risks of self-reporting, DFID lead advisers and programme managers will provide oversight and quality assurance, developing concepts, feeding into design work, and commenting on and contributing to annual reviews and project completion reviews. The SRO will be accountable for the effective delivery of the programme results. The statistics adviser will be responsible for advising on and providing quality control of results at all stages of design, implementation and review.

When: DFID-Sudan will maintain continuous dialogue with implementing partners about programme performance, and we will formally agree with partners a results reporting schedule and format, at least six monthly, to include results, narrative, and financial reporting. We will aim to carry out up to two field visits per programme per year, bearing in mind the need for proportionality. Programme performance and results will be reviewed annually and at completion. DFID Sudan will review its results framework every six months, and refresh this operational plan annually.

Evaluation

DFID Sudan is committed to improving evidence and accountability through evaluation. We have produced an evaluation strategy that clearly sets out the principles which will inform our programme level evaluations. For each new programme we will consider whether an independent evaluation is desirable depending on the size, strategic importance, degree of novelty, and the strength of current evidence. For existing programmes, we will consider whether an evaluation is appropriate. Where there is a low evidence base we will improve this through data collection. We will consider evaluation of cross-cutting themes, for example conflict sensitivity or gender across a number of our programmes. We will earmark 3-5% of programme funds for evaluation depending on whether primary data collection is needed. The outcome of evaluations will be shared with partners and stakeholders and published, unless deemed to pose a credible security risk or a reputational risk to HMG. We will ensure that lessons learned from evaluations are used as part of the DFID Sudan communications strategy.

Building capacity of partners

Our priority is to support national partners and help build their capacity. Where possible we will work with government, particularly at state level, to improve national systems and the quality, relevance and timeliness of the data. We have developed the Evidence Base Programme. This programme includes a component to raise the technical capacity of government and potential implementing partners in the fields of monitoring and evaluation.

Transparency

Transparency is one of the top priorities for the UK government. It helps people see where money is going and for what purpose. It helps improve value for money and makes governments everywhere more accountable to their citizens. DFID is a world leader in aid transparency and has an ambitious vision for both DFID and its partners. We will ensure that we play our part in continuing to work towards that vision – set out in a suite of commitments the Aid Transparency Guarantee (ATG), Aid Transparency Challenge (ATC) and DFID's Open Data Strategy.

Actions to ensure DFID meets its commitments in the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee

Publication of information

We will support DFID's transparency commitments:

- We will ensure that all project documentation is published on the Development Tracker (<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/SD/projects/>) unless there are robust reasons for exclusions.
- We will ensure that all information in the public domain is comprehensive, accessible, accurate, timely and written in plain English
- We will publish a summary of [this Operational Plan] and all project summaries in English and Arabic
- We will share information about our programmes through Facebook (www.facebook.com/ukinsudan), on Twitter (@PeterTibber), on <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/sudan> and through local press releases and engagement with the media.
- Will map our programmes so that we can visualise where our support is targeted

Supporting transparency in our work

- We will increase opportunities for those directly affected by our projects to provide feedback on project performance.
- We will seek similar levels of transparency from our partners (CSOs, contractors, other donors)

Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan

Page Number	Change made to operational Plan	Reason for change
3	Update the context	There is more recent information available
4	Update the priorities	To reflect the changes on the ground, including deterioration of the context
5	Update results	To update to reflect new agreed targets

Annex B: Human Rights Assessment

Human rights context

The key drivers shaping Sudan's human rights situation are a repressive domestic political environment and ongoing conflicts in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Restrictions and abuses of human rights in Sudan include:

- Restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;
- Lack of access to justice and the rule of law, including application of Sharia law in contradiction with Sudan's international and constitutional obligations;
- Concerns about the freedom to practise religion for non-Muslims;
- Citizenship denial for Southern Sudanese resident in Sudan;
- A history of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) linked to conflict and instability. SGBV is also a problem outside conflict areas. At 89% (of girls and women aged 15-49), Sudan has one of the highest rates of FGM in the world;
- Women's rights are severely curtailed through legislative acts, particularly on so-called "public order" issues;
- Political detentions, the use of torture and application of the death penalty;
- Government's use of proxies in conflict areas that intimidate, harass, attack and sexually assault the local population;
- Indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets in conflict areas;
- The prevention of humanitarian access to conflict areas.
- Homosexual acts are criminalised in Sudan and punishable through fines, flogging, stoning, prison sentences, and even the death penalty.

Sudan ranks 166 out of 187 on the 2014 **Human Development Index**, and 136 out of 187 on the 2014 **Gender Equality Index (0.628)**. **Freedom House** rates Sudan as 'Not Free' in 2014 (7/7 for both political rights and civil liberties with 7 being the lowest score) Sudan ranks 172 out of the 180 listed countries in the **Press Freedom Index 2014** by Reporters Without Borders. Sudan is 5th in the Fund for Peace's **Fragile States Index 2014** (as one of 5 countries of "very high alert"). Sudan's human rights record was reviewed under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in May 2011. In response, the government of Sudan developed and action plan and appointed an independent – but yet ineffective - National Human Rights Commission in 2012.

Direction of Travel

Sudan is a country of concern in FCO's Human Rights Report 2013, and previous reports show that the situation has deteriorated every year since 2011. This trend is confirmed by Freedom House, Human Rights Watch and the US State Department's reports. The direction of travel in 2014 remains downward, and, given recent arbitrary arrests, detention of political opposition leaders, censorship of the media, abuses by government affiliated militias, intimidation and harassment and more extreme sharia judgements being issued, is likely to continue downward for the foreseeable future.

UK approach and focus: The human rights situation in Sudan has major implications for DFID's approach. We work to protect rights through:

- Implementing a One-HMG approach that integrates human rights across all UK government political and programmatic engagement and our use of instruments such as the Africa Conflict Prevention Programme and the future Conflict, Security and Stability Fund in addition to DFID bilateral funding;
- Contributing to embassy lobbying on human rights and engage DFID ministers as appropriate;

- Implementing interventions that directly address the human rights situation, (e.g. FGM, conflict reduction, and water and sanitation);
- Supporting civil society organisations to give citizens more choice and control over their own development and hold decision-makers to account;
- Ensuring that protection is central to the humanitarian response including through advocacy for compliance with both international human rights and international humanitarian law and that programming where possible prevents and addresses consequences of abuse (for example, reinforcing community protection systems, supporting inclusion of different social groups in programmes and emergency responses to IDPs and refugee displacement).

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