



## FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION INITIATIVE 2025

### **SOS SAHEL has successfully completed its exploratory mission in Sudan**

From 29th to 31st of October 2018, Rémi HEMERYCK and Bisrat ALEMU respectively Executive Director and Business Development Manager SOS SAHEL led an exploratory mission in Sudan. **The mission was organized based on the discussion and common understanding created with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and French Embassy in Sudan.**

#### **A land full of opportunities despite the challenges**

With an area of approximately 1.8 million km<sup>2</sup> (almost half the size of the EU), Sudan is the second largest country in Africa with an estimated population of 40 million inhabitants. The population is increasingly young and will double every 27 years at the current rate. It is estimated that 20% of the active population is unemployed, with women's unemployment nearly doubling that of men. Besides, 40% of the population is estimated to be below 14 years old and Sudan is a country in transition from conflict to post-conflict and at the center of an unstable region.

The institutions are not capable to effectively deliver basic social services. About 46.5% of the population lives below the poverty line (worse in rural areas: 57.6% in contrast to 26.5% in urban areas) while 8% lives in extreme poverty. Communities are highly vulnerable to the effects of conflict and climate shocks, lacking the means to cope with events such as a bad harvest.

Nevertheless, Sudan has long been regarded as having the potential to be one of the major surplus food producers in the world. About 63% of its land area is classified as agricultural land. Away from oil, agriculture and livestock are essential to Sudan's economic diversification and could contribute to medium-term macroeconomic stability. The world's largest exporter of gum Arabic, Sudan produces 70-90% of the world's total output.

**The objective of SOS SAHEL mission** was to examine the opportunity to carry out sustainable development projects in Sudan.

SOS SAHEL had a successful and fruitful discussion with several organizations. The composition of the organizations includes multilateral development finance institutions such as the African Development Bank. Also the UNDP and European Union, governmental organizations such as Ministry of Environment and agri-food companies actively took part in discussions alongside private and humanitarian organizations such as SOS SAHEL Sudan.

This mission was organized in a context of relative political stability and some progress in stabilizing the economy. This notable evolution provide vital opportunities for SOS SAHEL to operate in Sudan.

SOS SAHEL would like to thank the Embassy of France in Sudan for the important role it has played to make this mission a success.



*From left to right: Pascal HANSE, Counselor for cooperation and cultural action, Director of the French Regional Institute of Sudan, Fatimata ANNE, Humanitarian and civil society programme officer, Rémi HEMERYCK, Executive director of SOS SAHEL, Bisrat ALEMU, Business Development manager of SOS SAHEL*