



SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

April 14–15, 2026 | Cairo, Egypt



CGIAR

POLICY
INNOVATIONS

FOOD FRONTIERS
AND SECURITY

Rural Livelihoods Under Prolonged Conflict

Evidence from a Panel Household Survey in Sudan

Tarig Alhaj Rakhy

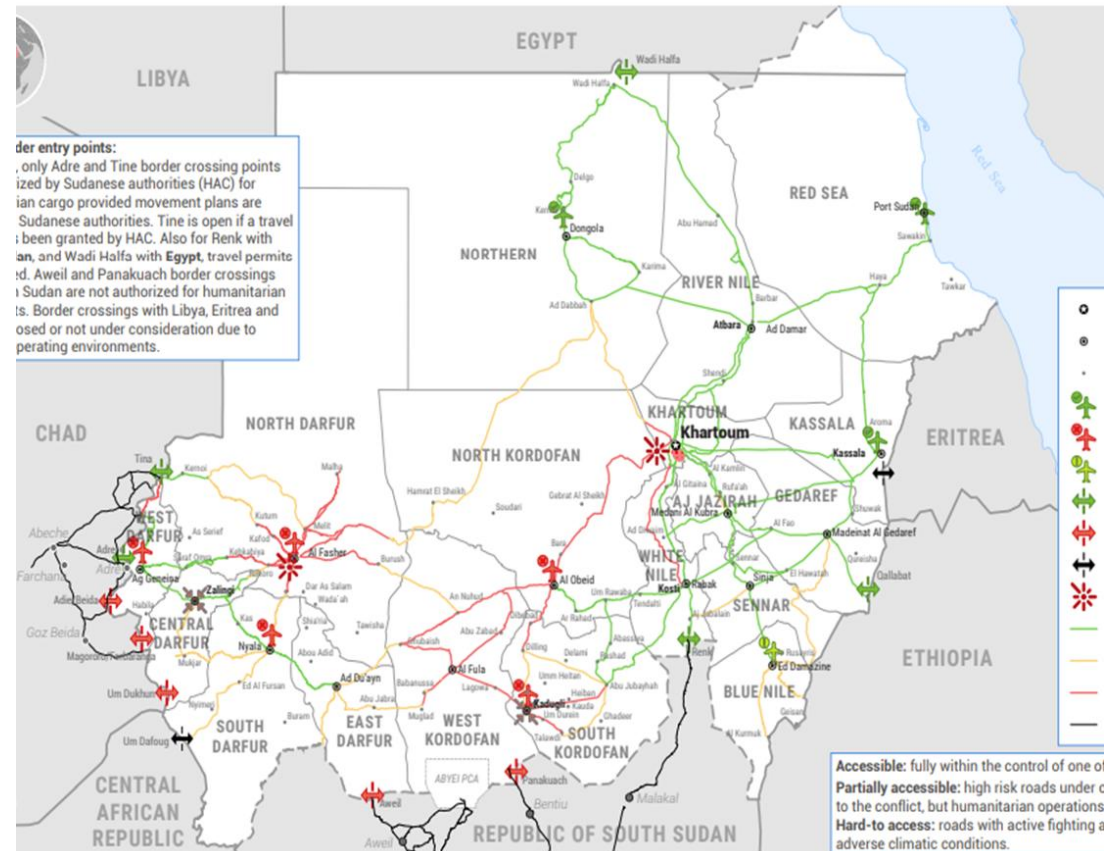
Research Analyst

IFPRI Sudan

Introduction

- Over 12.4 million people displaced internally and across borders—nearly 9 million are IDPs (IOM, Feb 2026)
- 30.4 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance
- Active conflicts continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian services.
- Disruption of trade routes and supply chain.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS CONSTRAINTS MAP (April 2025)



Objective



To understand food (in) security dynamics among rural households under prolonged conflict



To examine market access and functionality over time under prolonged conflict across all states in Sudan



To understand the income dynamics and coping strategies adopted

Study Design and Data



The Rural Household Survey is a panel survey that enables tracking the same households.

Wave 1 was conducted in late 2023 and collected data from ~ 4,500 households
Wave 2 followed in early 2024 and collected data from ~ 4,411 households



Covered rural households across all 18 states of Sudan.



The sample was drawn from a database of telephone numbers linked to previous Food Security Assessment Surveys of the WFP.



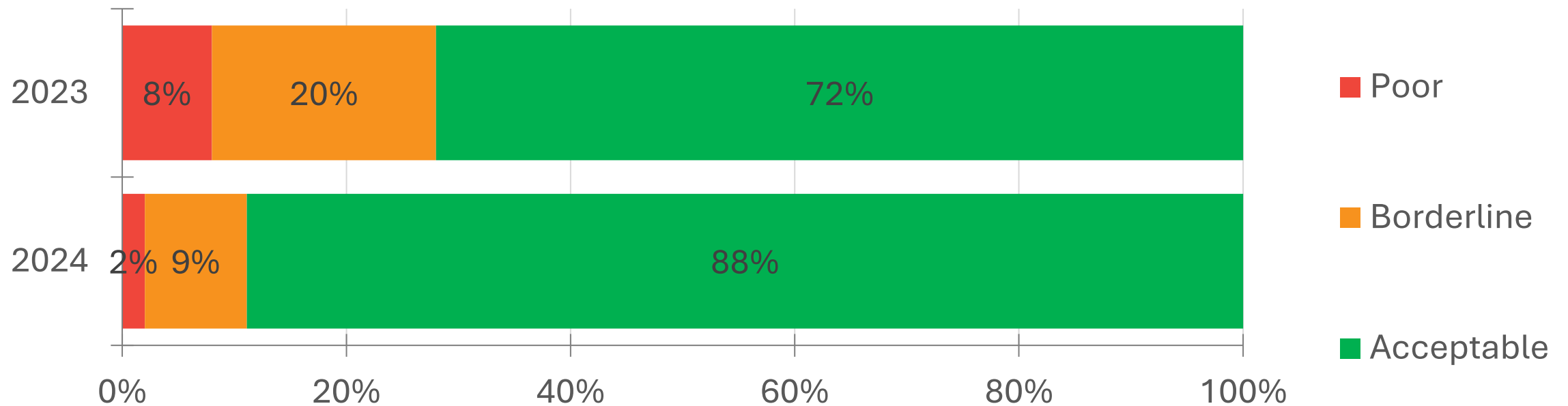
To enhance coverage, additional contacts were sourced from the databases of the survey firm contracted to administer the survey (IFPRI and UNDP, 2024).



Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)

Food Security under Conflict –FCS

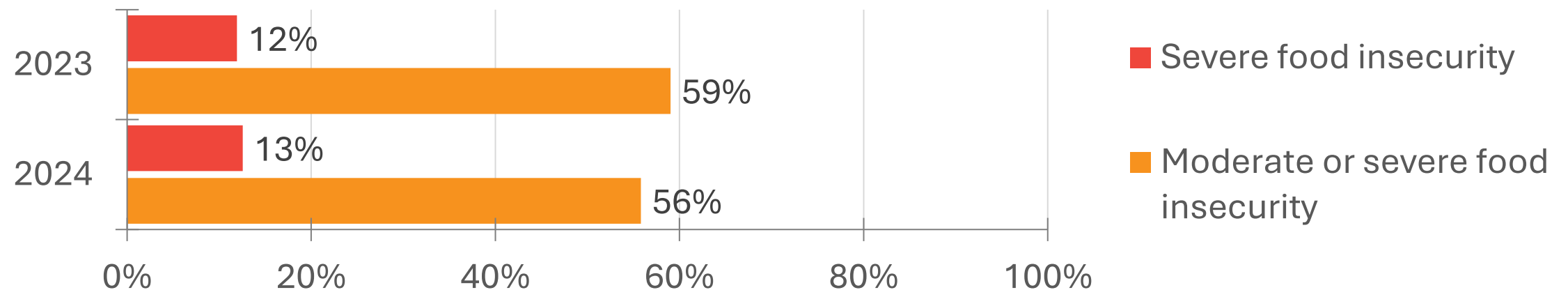
- Modest improvements in food consumption and security outcomes in 2024 relative to 2023



Food Security under Conflict –FIES

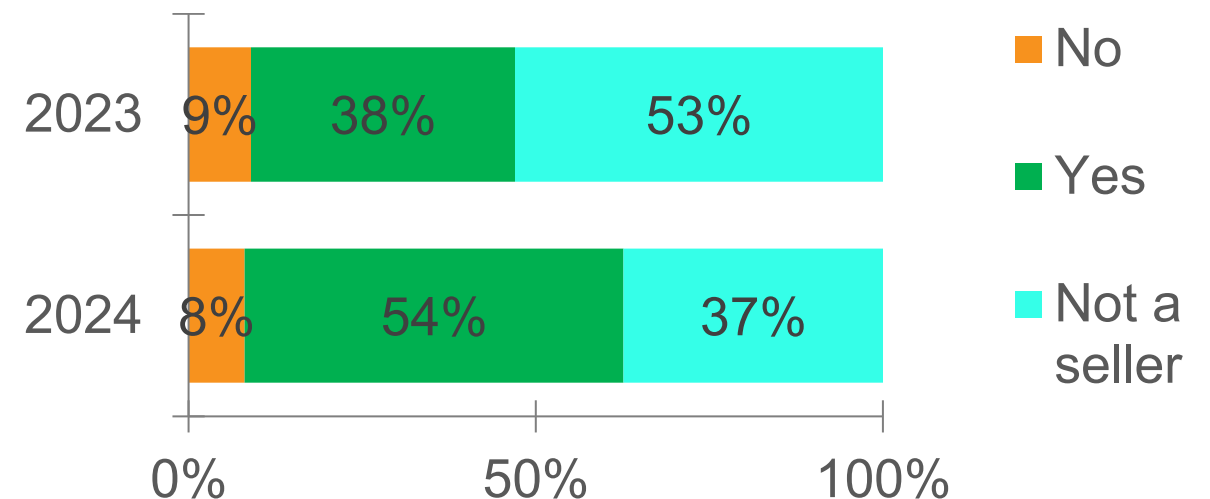
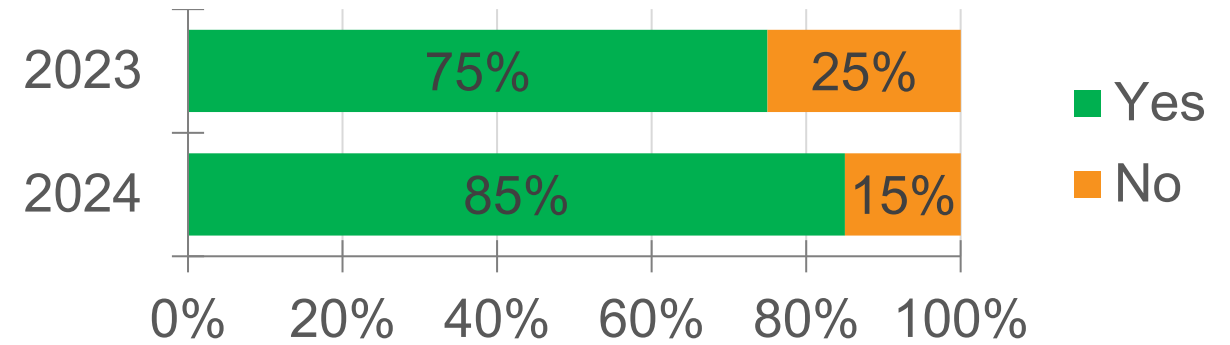
- Severe food insecurity increased slightly
- Moderate food insecurity declined
- Aggregate improvements mask household-level vulnerability

Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) - Figure



Markets under Conflict -1-

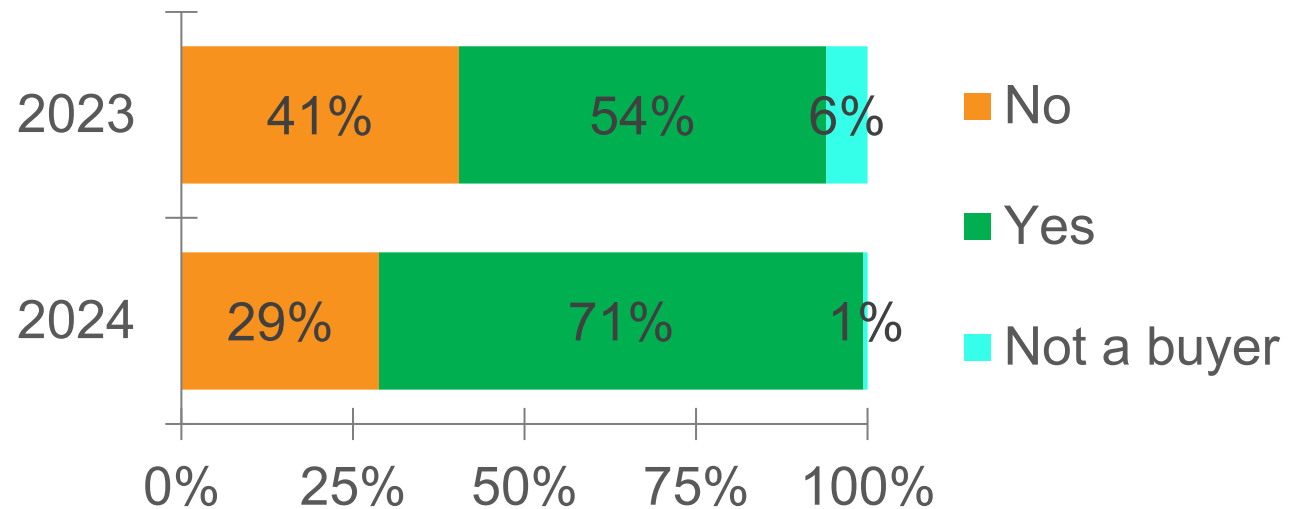
- Market access has improved between 2023 and 2024
- Over 75% of households accessed markets in both years
- Over half of rural households indicated that they were not sellers in 2023.
- This share fell to about one-third in 2024
- 54% were able to sell their products in 2024



Markets under Conflict -2-

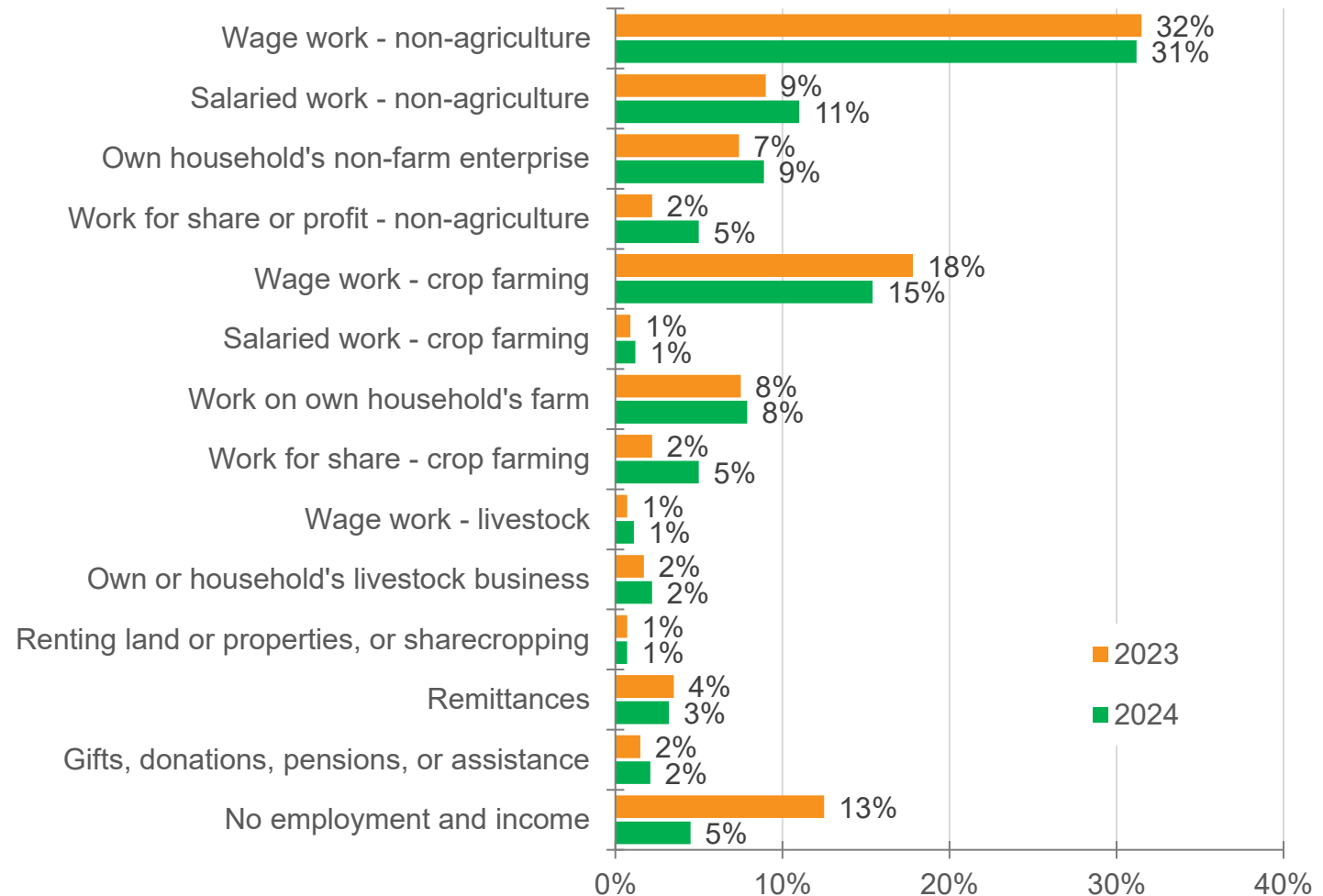
- A notable improvement in the ability of rural households to obtain what they sought in local markets to make their desired purchases in 2024.
- Few households reported not being buyers, with the share falling almost to nothing in 2024

- Households that reported being able to buy what they wanted to buy, 2023 and 2024 - Figure



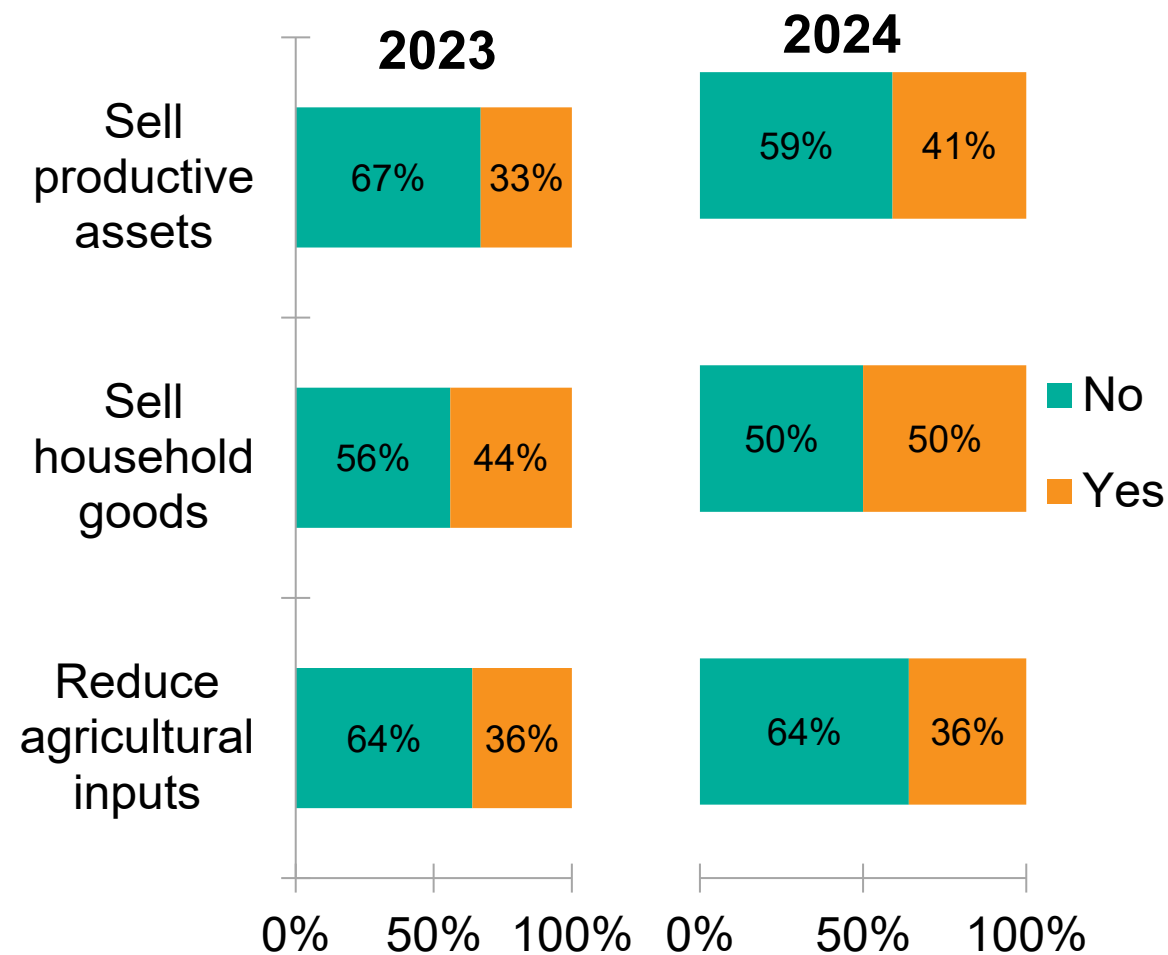
Household Income Dynamics

- Non-agricultural wage work remains the dominant income source
- Crop-related wage labor is the second most important source
- Salaried non-agricultural work increased modestly
- Share of households reporting no income or employment sharply declined



Coping Strategies

- Households rely on erosive coping strategies in both 2023 and 2024
- Asset sales remain widespread: 41 % of households selling productive assets in 2024, indicating ongoing pressure on livelihoods.
- Selling household goods increased, with half of households reporting this strategy in 2024
- Reduced use of agricultural inputs remains persistent (36% in both years), signaling sustained constraints on production and future recovery.



Concluding Remarks

- Rural households are actively adapting to the conflict-induced changes in economic conditions
 - But coping, rather than improved welfare, dominates livelihood strategies
- Improvements in food consumption mask persistent food insecurity
- Households adapt through costly coping mechanisms

Policy Implications

- Food assistance and social protection should be designed to address both food availability and food insecurity.
- Policy responses must shift from short-term coping support toward livelihood protection.



SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE



CGIAR

POLICY
INNOVATIONS

FOOD FRONTIERS
AND SECURITY

THANK YOU

Tarig Alhaj Rakhy: t.a.rakhy@cgiar.org

Website: <https://sudan.ifpri.info/publications/>