

2026 SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

Three Years of Conflict: What the Evidence Tells Us and What Recovery Requires

Conference Proceedings

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Group photo of conference participants.¹

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ABSTRACT

The 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference, organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Cairo and held on 14 and 15 April, brought together researchers, policymakers, and development partners to discuss the impacts of Sudan's protracted conflict on the nation's economy and agrifood systems and to identify evidence-based pathways for recovery. This proceedings report documents the key evidence, discussions, and policy insights generated during the conference, capturing technical research, operational perspectives, and contextual nuances. Three years into the crisis, Sudan faces a systemic breakdown affecting agricultural production, markets, institutions, and human capital, leaving more than half of the population in need of humanitarian assistance.

Evidence presented during the conference highlighted severe disruptions to agrifood systems and increasingly fragmented markets, with food insecurity driven primarily by affordability and accessibility constraints. While firms and households have shown adaptive capacity, these responses to the conflict remain constrained and often rely on unsustainable coping strategies, including asset depletion and reduced investment. Displacement continues to deepen vulnerability but also offers the potential for increased economic integration supported by inclusive approaches, while the erosion of health and education systems poses serious long-term risks to human capital and growth.

Across the conference sessions, a clear consensus emerged on the need for integrated, system-wide responses that link humanitarian assistance with recovery and development interventions. Agriculture and market systems were identified as critical entry points, while cash assistance is most effective when combined with livelihood and market support. Moving forward, the recovery of the nation's economy and agrifood systems coming out of the conflict will require coordinated strategies to restore markets, rebuild livelihoods, invest in human capital, and strengthen data-driven decision-making, supported by sustained international engagement and locally grounded approaches.

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1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

April 2026 marked three years since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan—a period characterized by profound disruption to economic activity, food systems, and the delivery of essential social services. Over this time, a growing body of empirical research, including recent outputs from the Sudan program of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), has generated rigorous and data-driven insights into the scale, depth, and multidimensional nature of these impacts.

Analysis of [rural livelihoods](#) and coping strategies reveals widespread income losses, increasing reliance on humanitarian assistance, and significant deterioration in dietary diversity. [Social protection assessments](#) point to substantial gaps in coverage and limited readiness, highlighting the urgent need for scalable and shock-responsive mechanisms. High-frequency price monitoring through the [Sudan Price and Availability Reports](#) documents extreme volatility in essential commodities, widening state-level disparities in food access, and persistent supply constraints across key markets. Complementary research examining the economic and poverty implications of the conflict extending beyond 2025 illustrates how these shocks will continue to translate into heightened vulnerability and worsening food insecurity.

Sectoral [analyses](#) and [economy-wide assessments](#) underscore the severe disruptions caused by the conflict in Sudan to agricultural production, market functioning, trade flows, and supply chains, affecting both rural and urban livelihoods. These impacts are particularly pronounced in already fragile markets, including those in Khartoum state, where conflict has further weakened market integration and institutional capacity.

Taken together, these findings reinforce assessments presented in [OCHA Situation Reports](#) and the annual [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), which estimate that more than half of Sudan's population now requires assistance. The pressure on already severely weakened communities, markets, and institutions has reached unprecedented levels, underscoring the need for coordinated, evidence-based responses.

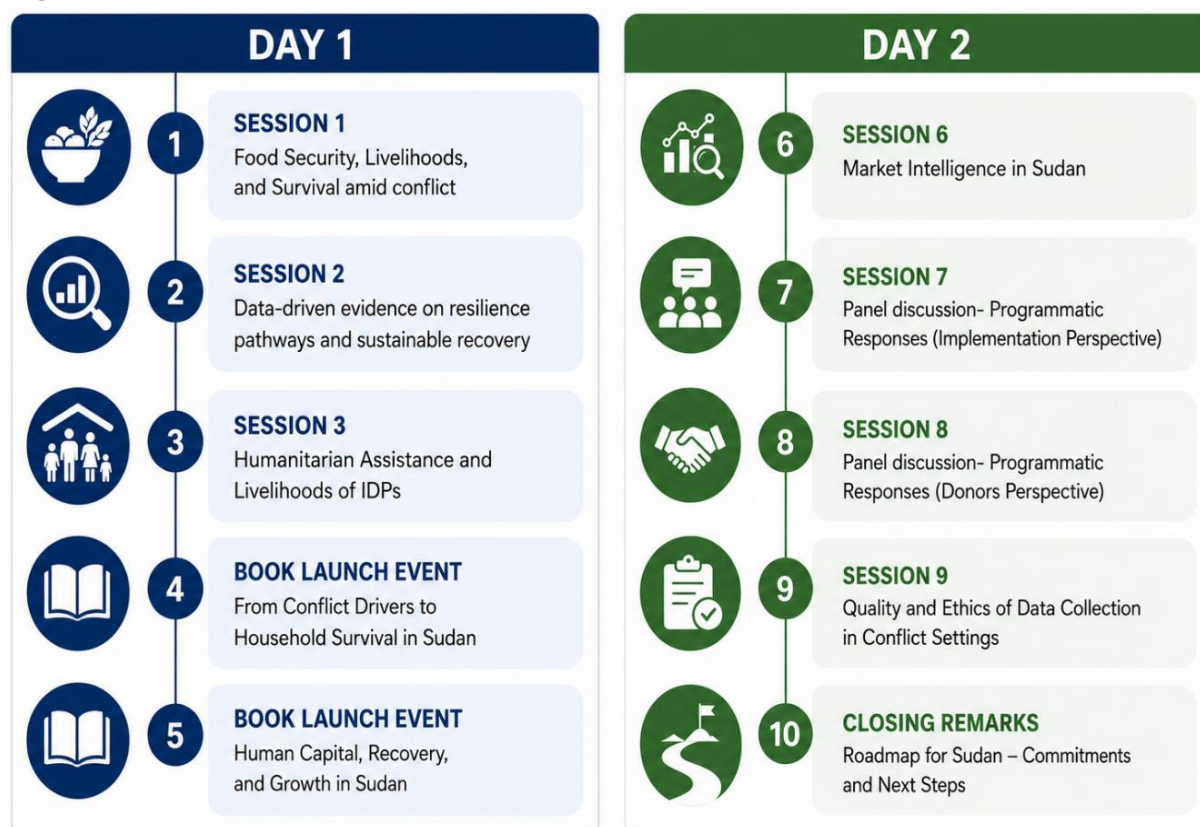
Within this context, the Sudan Conflict Conference was held to provide a platform for rigorous analysis, policy-relevant dialogue, and constructive engagement on what is required for Sudan's recovery among research, humanitarian, and development actors. Outputs from the [2024](#) and [2025](#) conferences demonstrate that the conference series is making important contributions to policy discussions, programmatic alignment, and strategic planning for rebuilding Sudan's economy and agrifood systems.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE 2026 CONFERENCE

As the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) enters its fourth year, international engagement in Sudan is increasingly shifting from a predominantly humanitarian focus toward questions of stabilization, recovery, and future governance. However, these debates have been primarily driven by assumptions rather than systematic evidence. The 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference was convened in Cairo to respond to this gap by translating three years of empirical research conducted under IFPRI's Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP) into actionable insights to inform recovery, resilience, and peace-supporting strategies under conditions of continued conflict.

Organized over two days, the conference combined technical research presentations with evidence-based panel discussions (Figure 1). These were conducted concurrently in English and Arabic to ensure inclusive participation. This structure enabled the integration of rigorous empirical analysis with operational and policy-oriented dialogue, fostering engagement among researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers. Participants represented a diverse range of stakeholders, including the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and research institutions. (See Annex.) Their participation created a multidisciplinary platform for comprehensive discussion of Sudan's complex challenges.

Figure 1: Structure of the Third Sudan Conflict Conference, Cairo, 14 and 15 April 2026



Source: Authors.

The conference was organized around nine thematic sessions over two days that examined issues covering food security, livelihoods, economic resilience, humanitarian assistance, market intelligence, programmatic responses to deliver integrated humanitarian, recovery, and resilience interventions in the ongoing conflict, and data quality in conflict settings.

- Day 1 featured three thematic sessions. These were followed by the launch of a book entitled *War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan's Conflict and Pathways to Recovery*, which has recently been published by IFPRI's SSSP. The book launch involved two dedicated sessions—one on the impacts of the conflict on the survival of Sudanese households, and the other on human capital, recovery, and growth.
- Day 2 focused on market intelligence, implementation, and donor perspectives on programmatic responses to deliver humanitarian, recovery, and resilience support during the conflict, and the many ethical and methodological challenges of data collection in conflict settings. The conference ended with a discussion on commitments and next steps for Sudan's recovery.

Through interactive exchanges and shared analyses, the conference enabled in-depth reflection on the multifaceted impacts of the conflict, pathways to recovery, resilience-building strategies, and longer-term development prospects. These discussions contributed to identifying practical approaches for mitigating conflict impacts and supporting sustainable recovery and development in Sudan.

The conference kicked off with opening remarks from [Johan Swinnen](#), Director General of [IFPRI](#), followed by [Steven Were Omamo](#), Director of Development Strategies and Governance and Director for Africa at [IFPRI](#) ([video](#)). Both speakers emphasized the need to move beyond short-term responses toward resilience-oriented and collaborative approaches, reaffirmed IFPRI's long-standing commitment to Sudan, and called for sustained partnerships.

Figure 2: Opening session participants—from left, Steven Were Omamo, Johan Swinnen, and Khalid Siddig



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency

[Khalid Siddig](#), Senior Research Fellow and Leader of [IFPRI's SSSP](#), then provided an overview of the current situation in Sudan, characterizing it as a structural crisis marked by widespread disruption and limited adaptive capacity ([presentation](#)). He highlighted persistent gaps between evidence generation and policy action, outlined SSSP's role in data production and analysis since the onset of the conflict, and presented the overall structure and objectives of the conference.

3. DAY 1: RESEARCH SESSIONS AND BOOK LAUNCH

Day 1 of the conference focused on disseminating and discussing robust evidence to inform responses to Sudan's ongoing conflict. The program included technical research presentations by experts at IFPRI and its partners as well as a dedicated book launch session, bringing together empirical findings, operational insights, and forward-looking analysis. The presentations on Day 1 comprised a broad range of topics from food security, livelihoods, and recovery to humanitarian assistance impacts and policy recommendations. Later in the afternoon, the special book-launch sessions for *War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan's Conflict and Pathways to Recovery* kicked off. These sessions featured eight presentations drawn from the contents of the book that link empirical evidence to broader recovery strategies.

Figure 3: A view of conference attendees during Session 3 of Day 1



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

3.1. Session 1: Food security, livelihoods, and survival amid conflict

The conference session on food security, livelihoods, and survival amid conflict examined the impacts of Sudan's protracted conflict on agricultural livelihoods, food security, and resilience ([video](#)). Moderated by [Nina Jovanovic](#), Associate Research Fellow at [IFPRI](#), the session brought together household-level evidence, system-wide analysis, and operational perspectives to assess how individuals and markets across Sudan are adapting under conflict and sustained instability, and to identify pathways for survival and recovery.

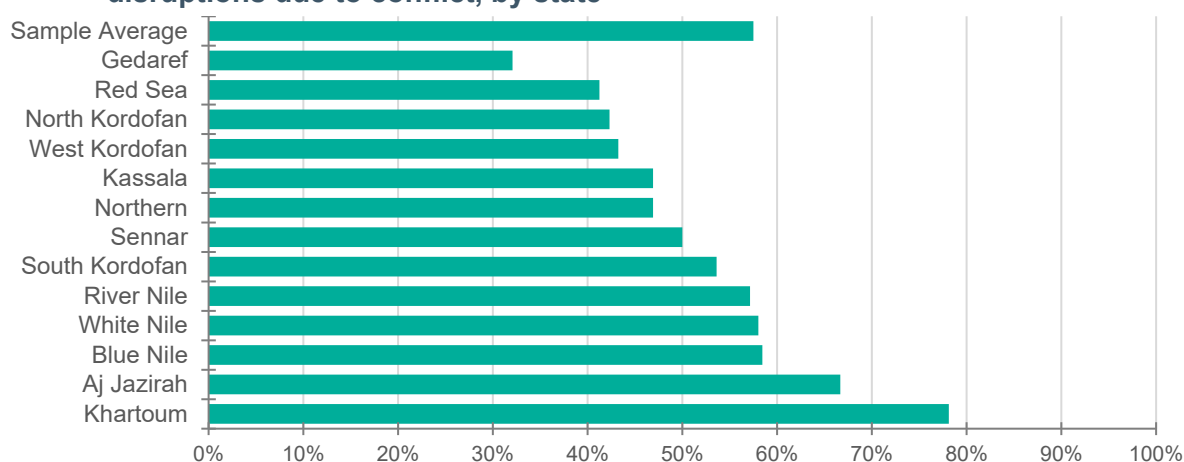
Figure 4. Session 1—from left, Nina Jovanovic (moderator), Shima Mohamed, Ali Musa Abakar, and Hambulo Ngoma



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

[Shima Mohamed](#), a Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), presented findings from analysis of data from the second wave (2024) of the [Smallholder Farmers Survey](#), on how the conflict has reshaped agricultural livelihoods and food security ([presentation](#)). The survey was implemented in 13 of Sudan's 18 states. While agriculture remains central to rural economies, its ability to sustain households has weakened significantly, with nearly 60 percent of farmers reporting disruptions that are associated with the conflict, mainly crop destruction and high input costs (Figure 3). Sharp declines in agricultural engagement and reduced farming activities, alongside an increase in non-agricultural activities by households, signal limited resilience amid a lack of income streams for farming households. Limited access to finance compounds these challenges, highlighting the need to restore input and financial systems, protect productive assets, and rehabilitate markets through conflict-sensitive approaches.

Figure 5: Disruption of farming by conflict, share of farming households reporting disruptions due to conflict, by state



Source: [Farming in Crisis: Livelihood, Challenges and Resilience in Sudan \(2023 and 2024\)](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Shima Mohamed)

[Ali Musa Abakar](#), an agricultural economist at the [Arab Organization for Agricultural Development \(AOAD\)](#), argued in his presentation that Sudan's agricultural crisis reflects a systemic collapse rather than a temporary production shock, resulting in substantial farm-level income losses ([presentation](#)). The conflict has simultaneously disrupted production, markets, financial systems, institutions, and livelihoods, creating mutually reinforcing

constraints that continue to undermine recovery across agrifood systems. Dr. Abakar noted a partial bounce-back of agricultural resilience, but this has been conditional on favorable climatic conditions in the 2024 growing season rather than structural improvements, with geographically uneven outcomes between conflict-affected and non-conflict-affected areas in Sudan. Dr. Abakar emphasized that preventing long-term damage requires a system-wide recovery approach that integrates short-term livelihood protection, medium-term market and infrastructure rehabilitation, and long-term institutional rebuilding, moving beyond a predominantly humanitarian response.

[Hambulo Ngoma](#), a Scientist and Agricultural Economist at the [International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center \(CIMMYT\)](#), presented a demand-driven, market-led approach to restoring local food production in Sudan that drew upon findings and experiences from the Sustain Sudan Project ([presentation](#)). Despite the severe humanitarian crisis, agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Sudanese economy, employing approximately 65 percent of the population and contributing about 24 percent of GDP. However, disruptions to input supply chains have constrained production, contributing to an estimated cereal deficit of 2.7 million metric tons in 2025. The presentation emphasized that supporting domestic production through effective agricultural markets is considerably more cost-effective than reliance on food imports. The Sustain Sudan Project was a successful market-based resilience-building that leveraged private sector actors to restore input supply chains. Dr. Ngoma concluded that many farming households remain creditworthy even in conflict-affected contexts. Consequently, agricultural recovery requires coordinated private sector engagement with these farming households, the provision of agricultural advisory services, and expanded risk-sharing financial instruments.

3.2. Session 2: Data-driven evidence on resilience pathways and sustainable recovery

The speakers in the second research session explored how rigorous data-driven analysis can inform resilience pathways and sustainable recovery strategies in conflict-affected Sudan ([video](#)). Drawing on firm-level surveys, spatial analytics, and rural household panel data, the session examined patterns of economic adjustment, evolving vulnerabilities, and the prospects for recovery under prolonged instability and limited data availability. Together, the presentations highlighted the value of integrating diverse data sources to better target interventions and support evidence-based policy design. [Grazia Pacillo](#), Senior Scientist at the [Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT](#), served as the session's moderator.

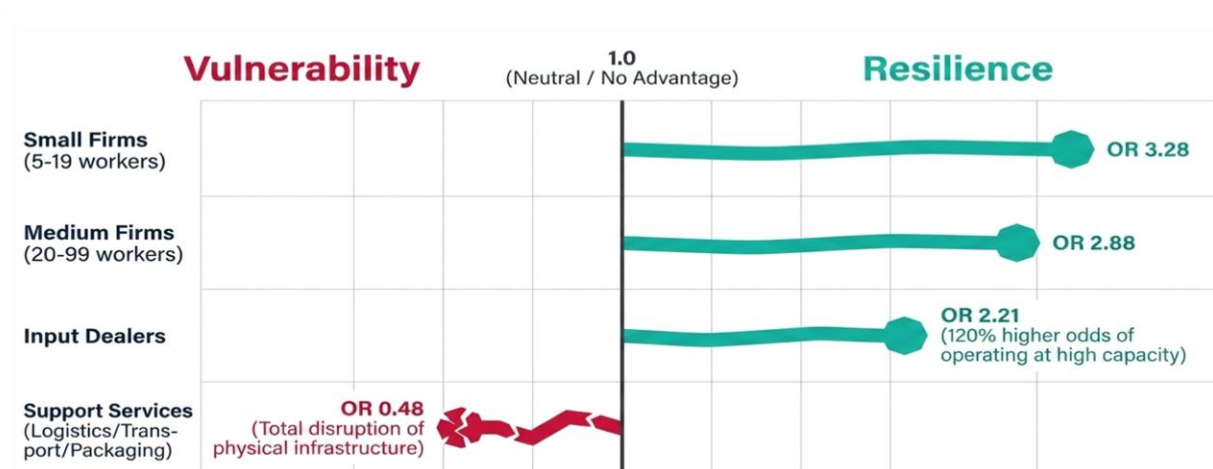
Figure 6. Session 2—from left, Oliver Kirui, Muhammad Khalifa, Tarig Alhaj Rakhy, and Grazia Pacillo (moderator)



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IFPRI Research Fellow [Oliver Kirui](#) presented an analysis of the characteristics and survival of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) during Sudan’s conflict based on a forthcoming joint IFPRI-FAO research report that covers 1,530 firms across 13 states ([presentation](#)). Dr. Kirui underscored the systemic importance of MSMEs as economic anchors, particularly within the “hidden middle” of agrifood value chains where post-farm-gate activities generate significant employment and underpin food affordability and local resilience. Kirui highlighted that while many MSMEs have remained operational, they are functioning far below capacity with widespread declines in production, sales, and employment. Resilience outcomes for these small firms were found to depend more on firm structure than on the sector in which a firm operates (Figure 7). Larger firms, those positioned upstream in value chains, firms with access to finance, higher levels of formality, and female ownership were all factors associated with a greater likelihood of survival for an MSME. The presentation concluded that sustainable recovery for MSMEs in Sudan requires restoring market functioning, expanding access to finance, particularly for smaller and female-owned enterprises, and prioritizing value chain-based interventions over sector-specific approaches.

Figure 7: Drivers of resilience of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) during Sudan’s conflict, scale and value chain position



Source: [Small and Medium Enterprise Characteristics and Survival in Sudan’s Recent Conflict: Exploring systemic challenges](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Oliver Kirui)

Note: OR = odds ratio.

Building on the theme of evidence-based planning, [Muhammad Khalifa](#), a Regional Researcher at the [International Water Management Institute \(IWMI\)](#), introduced a spatially informed, data-driven approach to resilience planning in conflict-affected Sudan ([presentation](#)). Dr. Khalifa highlighted the compounded effects of conflict, climate variability, and large-scale displacement, particularly in refugee- and IDP-hosting regions such as Gedaref, Kassala, and White Nile. Using remote sensing combined with limited ground-based data, the research found that rising flood intensity, expansion of high-risk zones, and declining vegetation productivity are all factors in undermining economic resiliency. In consequence, more anticipatory and targeted interventions to mitigate these factors, rather than reactive responses, are needed. Dr. Khalifa also demonstrated how spatial analysis can support the identification of priority areas and guide the scaling of context-appropriate solutions, emphasizing that translating spatial evidence into actionable planning tools is essential for shifting from humanitarian relief to resilience-oriented strategies. Doing so will enable more effective targeting of investments, improved resource allocation, and the better design of integrated recovery pathways under conditions of ongoing conflict and climate stress.

[Tarig Alhaj Rakhya](#), a Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), presented findings of research on rural livelihoods in Sudan under prolonged conflict that drew on panel data from two waves of a nationwide Rural Household Survey ([presentation](#)). The findings indicated modest improvements in food consumption in 2024 compared to 2023, suggesting some degree of adaptation among rural Sudanese households to conflict conditions and improvements in market functioning in relatively stable areas. However, these developments did not translate into better food security outcomes, as the prevalence of severe food insecurity among rural households increased slightly from 2024 to 2024, reflecting continued vulnerability at the household level. Despite adaptations in terms of income-generating strategies, livelihoods remained heavily reliant on erosive coping strategies. These include widespread sales of household and productive assets and sustained reductions in the use of agricultural inputs, both of which undermine the future economic recovery potential of the households. Non-agricultural wage labor remained the primary source of income, highlighting the continued constraints facing agricultural livelihoods.

3.3. Session 3: Humanitarian assistance and livelihoods of internally displaced persons

The session on humanitarian assistance and the livelihoods of internally displaced persons (IDPs) examined the role of such assistance in shaping the welfare and livelihoods of IDPs in Sudan ([video](#)). Drawing on experimental and survey-based evidence, the presentations explored how assistance modalities, delivery disruptions, and social dynamics influence food security, well-being, and resilience among displaced populations. The session was moderated by [Fatima Abdelaziz](#), a Senior Research Associate at [IFPRI](#).

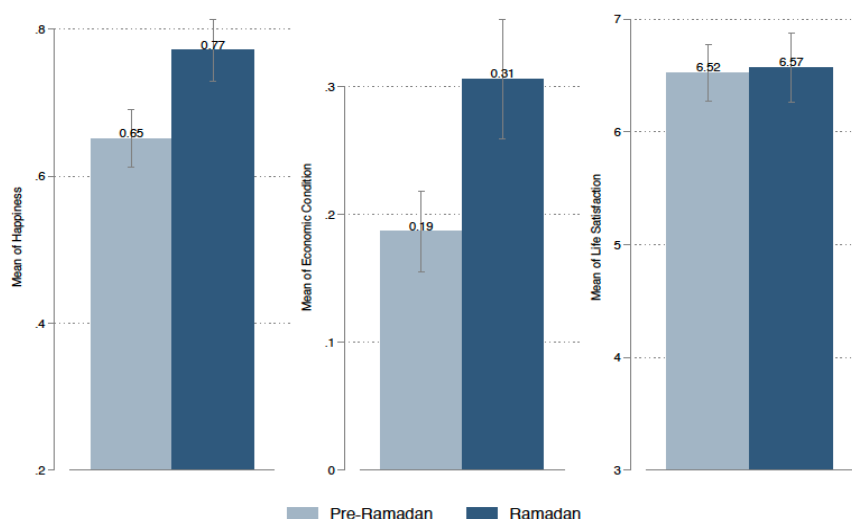
Figure 8: Session 3—from left, Halefom Nigus, Kibrom Abay, and Hala Abushama



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

Halefom Nigus, an IFPRI Research Collaborator, examined the impact of religious practices—specifically Ramadan—on household well-being in conflict-affected Sudan ([presentation](#)). The analysis drew on experimental survey data collected among urban households across all of Sudan’s 18 states and addressed important gaps in the literature by assessing multiple welfare dimensions, including food security, subjective well-being, mental health, and moral values in a conflict setting. The findings indicated that households interviewed during Ramadan experienced significantly better welfare outcomes compared to those surveyed before the fasting period, associating Ramadan with higher food consumption and dietary diversity, lower levels of food insecurity, and improved subjective well-being, including greater happiness and life satisfaction and more positive perceptions of economic conditions (Figure 9). Mental health indicators also improved, with lower reported stress and anxiety. The presentation concluded that even in conflict contexts, religious practices can reinforce social cohesion and strengthen informal support systems, contributing positively to household well-being and resilience.

Figure 9: Impact of religious practices on the subjective well-being of Sudanese urban households under conditions of conflict



Source: [The Impact of Religious Practices on Household Wellbeing: Evidence from Sudan during Ramadan](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Halefom Nigus).

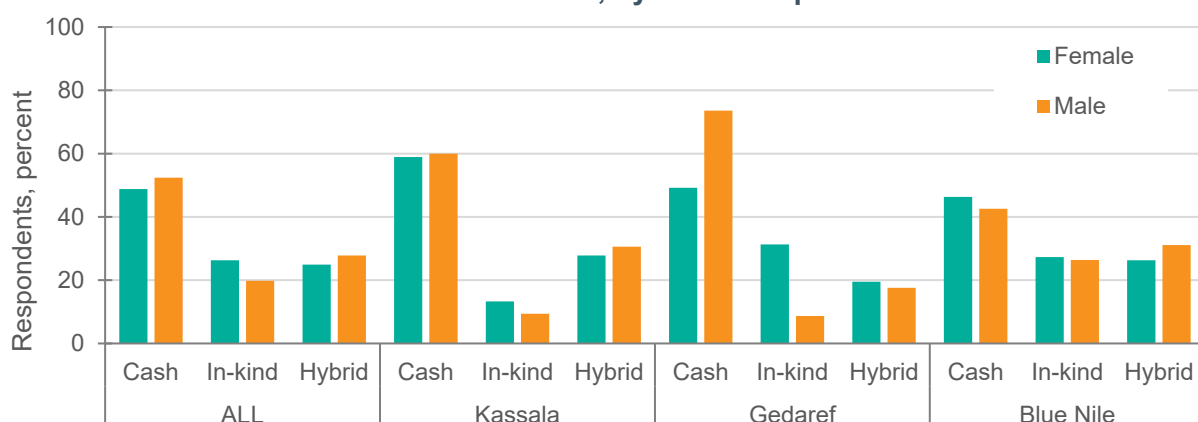
[Kibrom Abay](#), Senior Research Fellow at [IFPRI](#), presented evidence on the welfare impacts of delays and reductions in humanitarian assistance among IDPs in Sudan ([presentation](#)).

The analysis was motivated by the growing global humanitarian financing gap, which has resulted in ration cuts and reduced coverage worldwide, with Sudan receiving only a portion of the funding it required in 2025. Using household survey data collected between July and September 2025 in Blue Nile, Kassala, and Gedaref states among internally displaced households, the study exploited randomized variation in interview timing at World Food Programme (WFP) distribution sites to identify the causal effects of delays and reductions in cash-based transfers, while in-kind assistance remained ongoing. The research showed that aid delays and cuts had significant negative effects on food security, leading to lower food consumption and dietary diversity and increased levels of food insecurity. These disruptions also adversely affected subjective well-being, with declines in reported happiness, life satisfaction, and perceived economic conditions, alongside deteriorating mental health as reflected in increases in the levels of stress reported. The presentation concluded that timely, predictable, and sustained humanitarian assistance is critical for protecting vulnerable populations.

[Hala Abushama](#), a Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), presented the results of research examining intrahousehold preferences for humanitarian assistance modalities among internally displaced households, with a focus on how gender, decision-making power, and market access shape these preferences ([presentation](#)). The analysis was based on a large in-person survey of internally displaced households conducted in 2025 across Blue Nile, Gedaref, and Kassala states.

The research shows that, while cash transfers are generally the preferred modality, significant heterogeneity exists across and within internally displaced households. Women were more likely than men to prefer in-kind assistance and less likely to prefer cash transfers, with notable variation across locations (Figure 10). These preferences were shaped by concerns related to food price volatility, market access, security conditions, and control within the household over resource use. Intrahousehold decision-making dynamics emerged as a key factor, with women's preference for in-kind assistance increasing in contexts where men held primary decision-making authority. These findings underscore the need for flexible and adaptive humanitarian programming that accounts for intrahousehold dynamics rather than assuming uniform preferences for cash-based assistance.

Figure 10: Modality preferences of members of internally displaced households in Sudan for humanitarian assistance, by sex of respondent and state



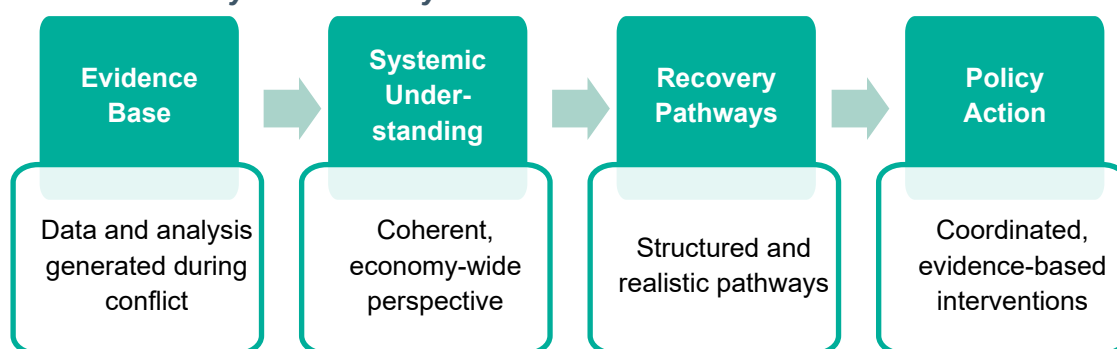
Source: [Intrahousehold Preferences for Humanitarian Assistance: Evidence from Internally Displaced Households in Sudan](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Hala Abushama).

3.4. Launch of IFPRI book—*War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery*

Two special sessions were dedicated to the launch of *War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery*, a flagship IFPRI edited book that synthesizes multidisciplinary research on Sudan’s evolving crisis ([book](#)). The book compiles the results of research conducted under IFPRI’s SSSP during the current conflict in Sudan. It makes a key contribution to bridging empirical evidence and policy engagement, offering an integrated framework for understanding the conflict’s systemic impacts and informing recovery strategies. Highlighted in the two conference sessions dedicated to the book was how it consolidates findings from three years of empirical research on how the conflict has reshaped Sudan’s economy, food systems, markets, institutions, and households’ welfare. Discussion during the book launch sessions emphasized the importance of moving beyond fragmented analysis toward a comprehensive understanding of conflict dynamics, recovery pathways, and actionable policy responses.

The book launch started with opening remarks from [Khalid Siddiq](#), the leader of IFPRI’s [SSSP](#) and one of the three editors of the book. Dr. Siddiq emphasized that the book presents the ongoing conflict in Sudan as a structural and systemic crisis, rather than a set of isolated shocks, by integrating diverse strands of evidence into a coherent narrative on disruption and recovery ([video](#); [presentation](#)). He outlined four core thematic areas covered in the volume: (i) the structural and political economy drivers of the conflict; (ii) disruptions to economic systems and markets; (iii) impacts on households, food security, and livelihoods; and (iv) policy responses and delivery systems. Dr. Siddiq further highlighted the distinguishing features of the book, including its comprehensive evidence base, its system-wide analytical perspective, and its structured approach to identifying recovery pathways (Figure 11). Particular emphasis was placed on the book’s contribution to linking rigorous analysis with practical and implementable policy options, providing a foundation for coordinated action among humanitarian, development, and policy actors.

Figure 11: *War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery*—What the book offers



Source: [Overview of the Book](#): *War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery*. (PowerPoint presentation by Khalid Siddiq).

Reflections followed from the other two book editors, IFPRI Research Fellow [Oliver Kirui](#) and IFPRI Senior Research Fellow Emeritus [Paul Dorosh](#). The editors discussed the origins of the volume, noting that initial work had begun prior to the outbreak of conflict and was subsequently adapted to address rapidly evolving realities on the ground in Sudan. They reflected on the challenges of conducting and synthesizing research under conditions of

ongoing instability and highlighted the collaborative efforts of the editorial team and contributing authors. The discussion among Drs. Siddig, Kirui, and Dorosh emphasized the book's relevance for informing policy prioritization, program design, and coordination across sectors in order to support more coherent and aligned responses across humanitarian, recovery, and development interventions.

Figure 12: Book editors—from left: Khalid Siddig, Paul Dorosh, and Oliver Kirui; book cover



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

3.4.1. Session 4: From conflict drivers to household survival in Sudan

Conference Session 4, “From Conflict Drivers to Household Survival in Sudan,” the first of the two book-launch sessions, examined the continuum from the structural drivers of Sudan’s conflict to its impacts on household welfare and survival strategies ([video](#)). Bringing together political economy perspectives, system-level analysis, and household-level evidence, the session highlighted how deeply embedded structural factors shape both the trajectory of the conflict and its multidimensional impacts. The session was moderated by [Samia Nihar](#), who is head of the Gender and Development Unit at the [University of Khartoum](#).

Figure 13. Session 4—from left, Musa Adam Abdul-Jalil, Samia Nihar (moderator), Amin Sheikheldin, Abraham Abatneh, Oliver Kirui, and Hala Abushama



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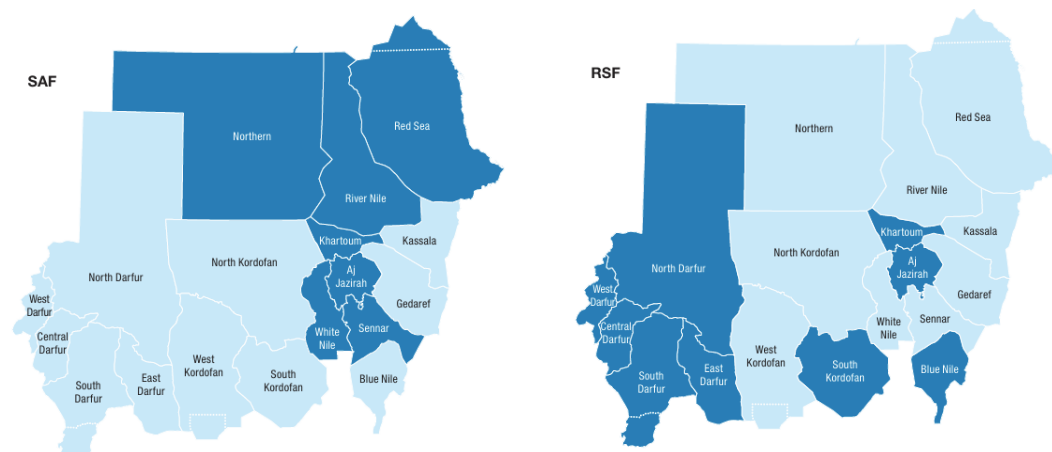
In his presentation, [Suliman Baldo](#), Director of the [Sudan Transparency and Policy Tracker](#), synthesized the findings presented in Chapter 2 of the book, “Origins and Causes of Sudan’s Conflict: Domestic and International Perspectives” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). He examined the ongoing conflict in Sudan through a political-economy lens, tracing its roots to long-standing structural inequities, political instability, and extractive governance. Dr. Baldo emphasized the marginalization of peripheral regions by central elites, repeated cycles of military rule and fragile civilian transitions, and the legacy of prolonged civil wars that weakened state institutions and social cohesion. The presentation highlighted the April 2023 war as the outcome of a failed post-2019 transition, with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) turning against each other after jointly derailing civilian rule in 2021. The conflict can be characterized as having established a war economy in Sudan, sustained by military-commercial networks, illicit resource trade, and deliberate destruction of livelihoods, resulting in mass displacement and de facto territorial and economic fragmentation.

[Munzoul Assal](#), a Senior Researcher with the Chr. Michelsen Institute ([CMI](#)) and a professor at the [University of Khartoum](#), provided critical reflections on Chapter 2. Dr. Assal highlighted the chapter’s strong analysis of Sudan’s conflict dynamics, particularly its focus on structural drivers such as uneven development and the mismanagement of diversity. He underscored the unprecedented scale of economic infrastructure destruction under the current conflict and its severe implications for recovery and reconstruction. Dr. Assal also supported the framing of the war as an extractive system that has benefited elites while deepening marginalization. He identified several remaining analytical gaps on the subject of the chapter, including limited attention to the repeated failure of political transitions—often driven by an overemphasis on procedural rather than substantive reforms—and the insufficient examination of the role of civilian actors in enabling military interventions.

[Hala Abushama](#), an [IFPRI](#) Research Analyst, presented on the content of Chapter 3 of the book, “State Failure and Elite Capture of Sudan’s Agrifood System” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). The research for this chapter drew on more than 50 key informant interviews conducted between 2021 and 2024. The study has traced how shifts in Sudan’s political settlement—before and after the 2019 transition—enabled armed actors, particularly the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), to entrench themselves across agricultural value chains. SAF and RSF are shown to operate competing

military-commercial empires using advantaged access to land, finance, subsidies, and state institutions (Figure 14). These actors employ three main strategies: outright capture of the livestock sector for rent extraction, distorted competition in wheat milling that crowds out private firms, and selective investment in high-profit horticulture where competition is weak. While these strategies generate significant revenues for elites, they undermine market efficiency, limit value addition, and weaken incentives for broad-based agricultural development.

Figure 14: Geographical distribution of respective agri-business dominance by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)



Source: [Chapter 3, State failure and elite capture of Sudan's agrifood system](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Hala Abushama).

A private-sector perspective on the elite capture in Sudan's agrifood systems discussed in Chapter 3 of the book was provided by [Amin Sheikheldin](#) of the [SAY Group](#), a prominent multisectoral business firm in Sudan. Mr. Sheikheldin emphasized the significant scale and influence of both government and military-affiliated enterprises, noting their competitive advantages, including tax exemptions and preferential access to resources. While acknowledging their contributions in sectors such as agriculture, he raised concerns about their role in causing market distortions and that they did not operate in fair competition with private firms. He also stressed the importance of distinguishing between pre-war, wartime, and post-war contexts, arguing that these government and military-affiliated entities could play a constructive role in recovery if aligned with—rather than substituting for—private sector development, particularly in efforts to strengthen food security.

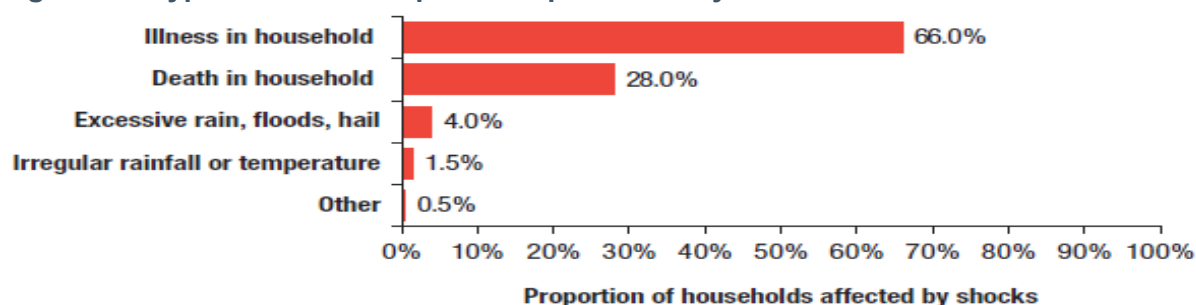
[Fredrik Svensson](#), a Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping Officer at the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), presented an overview of the contents of Chapter 8 on “Food Consumption Patterns and Dietary Diversity amid Conflict” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). The research in this chapter used household-level data from the 2023 and 2024 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) datasets for Sudan. The analysis emphasized the importance of household-level indicators for understanding conflict impacts on food access, diet quality, and nutritional vulnerability, particularly among women and children. Mr. Svensson highlighted that the share of households with inadequate food consumption increased from 22 percent to 33 percent between 2023 and 2024, while the proportion of women not meeting minimum dietary requirements rose from 79 percent to 84 percent. Consumption of nutrient-rich foods declined significantly, with female-headed households experiencing disproportionately worse outcomes. The most severe impacts were observed in

the Darfur and Kordofan regions, where food insecurity reached critical levels and child malnutrition rose to emergency thresholds.

A practitioner-oriented reflection on these food security challenges was offered by [Abraham Abatneh](#), the Regional Program Coordinator for MENA and Eastern Europe at [WFP](#). Mr. Abatneh commended the chapter’s focus on diet quality as an often-overlooked dimension of food security that has long-term implications for human development. He highlighted how displacement, market disruptions, and reduced agricultural production exacerbate nutritional deficits, with pronounced geographic and gender disparities. Importantly, Mr. Abatneh saw the findings as having clear operational implications, particularly around the need for humanitarian agencies to adapt procurement strategies and food assistance programs to address dietary quality and not only caloric adequacy.

IFPRI Research Fellow [Oliver Kirui](#) then made a presentation on Chapter 11 of the book, “Shocks, Coping, and Household Livelihood Strategies in Wartime” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). The research in this chapter drew on data from IFPRI rural and urban household surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024, complemented by insights from the 2025 Sudan Resilience Conference. The research shows that Sudanese households have been relying heavily on erosive coping mechanisms during the current conflict. In urban areas, most households shifted to lower-cost food consumption and reduced meal frequency, while asset sales—both household goods and productive assets—were also widespread. In addition to conflict-related shocks, households across the country continue to have to deal with illness and deaths among family members and adverse weather events (Figure 15). Female-headed households faced greater constraints, often lacking the assets and social networks needed to diversify their coping strategies. Informal support systems, including remittances, family transfers, and migration to safer areas, played a more significant role in assisting affected households to cope with shocks than did formal humanitarian assistance, which reached only a limited share of households.

Figure 15: Types of shocks reported experienced by rural households in Sudan



Sources: [Chapter 11, Shocks, Coping, and Household Livelihood Strategies in Wartime](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Oliver Kirui)

Professor [Musa Adam Abdul-Jalil](#), Director of the Peace Research Institute at the [University of Khartoum](#), provided critical reflections on the contents of Chapter 11. In research on these topics, he cautioned against reliance on conventional, technology-dependent data collection methods, which risk excluding marginalized populations, and called for more inclusive and innovative research approaches. Conceptually, he argued for moving beyond the rural–urban dichotomy to better capture the realities of displaced and semi-urban populations. He also broadened the discussion of coping strategies to include migration, informal mining, and, in some cases, participation in armed groups. His recommendations for enabling Sudanese

households to better cope with the shocks they experience emphasized improving digital and financial inclusion and strengthening humanitarian diplomacy to secure alternative trade routes and ensure food access.

3.4.2. Session 5: Human capital, recovery, and growth in Sudan

Conference Session 5, the second of the book-launch sessions, was titled “Human Capital, Recovery, and Growth in Sudan.” This session focused on the economy-wide impacts of the conflict in Sudan, the erosion of human capital during the conflict, and long-term strategies for recovery, growth, and peacebuilding. Bringing together macroeconomic modeling, sectoral analysis, and forward-looking policy frameworks, the session examined how conflict-induced disruptions translate into long-term development challenges. The session was moderated by Amel Wagdi, the Executive General Manager of [Mahgoub Sons Group](#), a large and diversified enterprise in Sudan’s agrifood sector.

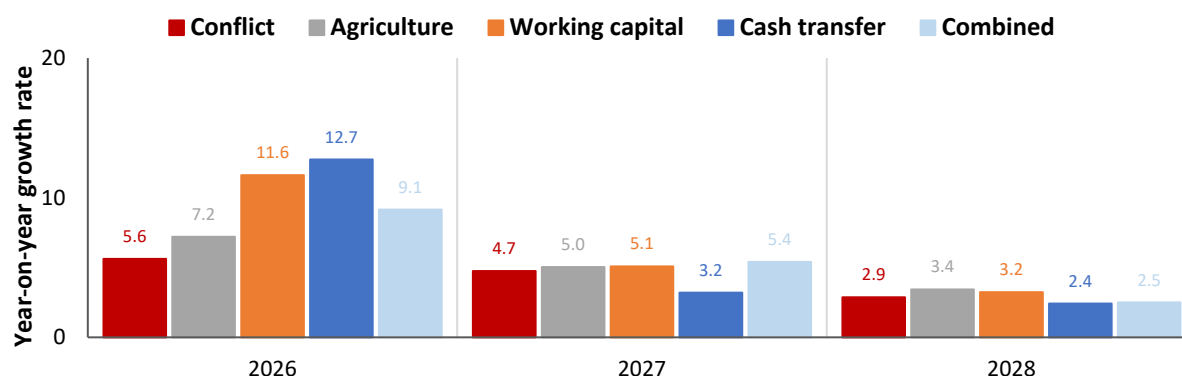
Figure 16: Session 5—from left: Abdelateif Hassan Ibrahim, Sadig Elamin, Khalid Mohamed Ali, and Amel Wagdi (moderator)



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

[Zuhal Elnour](#), a Research Fellow at [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](#), made a presentation on Chapter 7 of the book, “Economywide Impact of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). Using an integrated economywide modeling framework, the research presented in the chapter showed that the conflict has triggered severe and persistent economic contraction, with sharp declines in GDP growth, incomes, and investment. Between 2023 and 2030, the number of Sudanese living in poverty is projected to increase by between 4 and 11 million people, and the number of people that are undernourished will rise by between 1 and 3 million. Welfare losses will significantly affect both urban and rural populations. Recovery simulations demonstrated that policy interventions can substantially improve outcomes, though with different time horizons. Cash transfers generated the strongest short-term welfare gains by supporting consumption and food access, while working-capital investments and agricultural interventions produced more sustained recovery effects, particularly in rural areas (Figure 17). A combined policy package integrating social protection, productive investment, and market support yielded the largest and most durable reductions in poverty and undernourishment.

Figure 17: Accelerated recovery scenarios for Sudan—total GDP annual growth rates under each scenario examined for 2026, 2027, and 2028

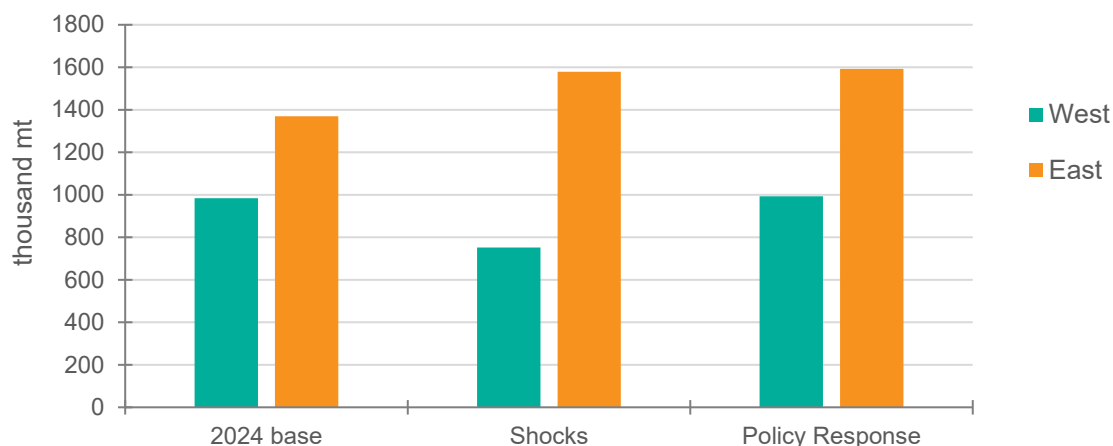


Source: [Chapter 7, Economywide Impact of Sudan's Conflict and Pathways to Recovery](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Zuhail Elnour)

[Abdelateif Hassan Ibrahim](#), a professor of Agricultural Economics at [the University of Khartoum](#), offered a multidimensional assessment of Chapter 7, highlighting its strong integration of macroeconomic and microeconomic perspectives. He commended the use that was made in the chapter of computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling to quantify the economywide costs of the conflict in Sudan across GDP, employment, food security, and household welfare. A key strength of the chapter is that it links national-level economic trends with household-level impacts in both urban and rural contexts. At the same time, Dr. Ibrahim raised several critical concerns, most importantly, the need for greater disaggregation of impacts on women, children, and displaced populations. He also questioned the reliability of data used given the constraints of data collection in Sudan under conflict, which may affect the robustness of model-based projections. Finally, he raised concerns about the certainty of proposed recovery pathways in an unstable and evolving conflict environment, stressing that economic recovery cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of the conflict.

[Paul Dorosh](#), Senior Research Fellow Emeritus at [IFPRI](#), presented on Chapter 5, “Cereal Production, Markets, and Policy in Sudan” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). The war has led to sharp reductions in Sudan’s domestic cereal production and major disruptions to internal trade and market integration. In 2023/24, sorghum production was about 34 percent below its average for 2019 to 2023, while wheat production declined by roughly 45 percent, resulting in a combined production fall of around 35 percent. Although total wheat supply declined less due to Sudan’s heavy reliance on imports, conflict-related disruptions undermined production across rainfed, semi-mechanized, and irrigated systems. Price analysis shows that prior to the war, cereal markets were well integrated, with prices in major cities moving together. However, the conflict has fractured these linkages, particularly between western and eastern Sudan, leading to market segmentation and divergent price trends. Dr. Dorosh highlighted that higher marketing costs and lower incomes have substantially reduced wheat consumption in western Sudan (Figure 18). He recommended a coordinated policy response—combining productivity gains, increased imports, and improved market integration—to restore consumption levels and mitigate regional disparities.

Figure 18: Household wheat consumption in Sudan based on several scenarios, by region



Source: [Chapter 5, Cereal Production, Markets, and Policy in Sudan](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Paul Dorosh).

Note: The “shocks” simulation includes higher marketing costs and lower household incomes in the West. The “policy response” simulation includes both shocks from the “shocks” simulation, plus a 20 percent productivity increase, 200,000 mt increase in imports, and integration of domestic markets.

[Sadig Elamin](#), Head of the Food Security Analysis Unit at the [Sudan office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO), reflected on the research findings presented in Chapter 5. Mr. Elamin commended its rigorous, evidence-based analysis of how conflict has reshaped Sudan’s cereal production systems, particularly for sorghum, millet, and wheat. He highlighted the chapter’s strength in combining descriptive statistics with simulation and causal analysis to document severe production decline in 2023/24, especially the near-collapse observed in conflict-affected regions of Darfur and Kordofan, which underscores the close link between insecurity and agricultural decline. Mr. Elamin noted, however, that the chapter does not account for the partial recovery observed in the 2024/25 agricultural season, particularly for sorghum. He called for further independent research to explain the drivers of this recovery. He emphasized that Sudan’s food crisis is increasingly one of access and affordability rather than availability alone, driven by market fragmentation and disruption. Mr. Elamin stressed the need for policies that go beyond emergency aid to protect agricultural production, restore markets, and strengthen the humanitarian–development nexus. However, these policies must grapple effectively with strategic questions about the viability of localized food systems and the role of domestic wheat production versus imports under fragmented market conditions.

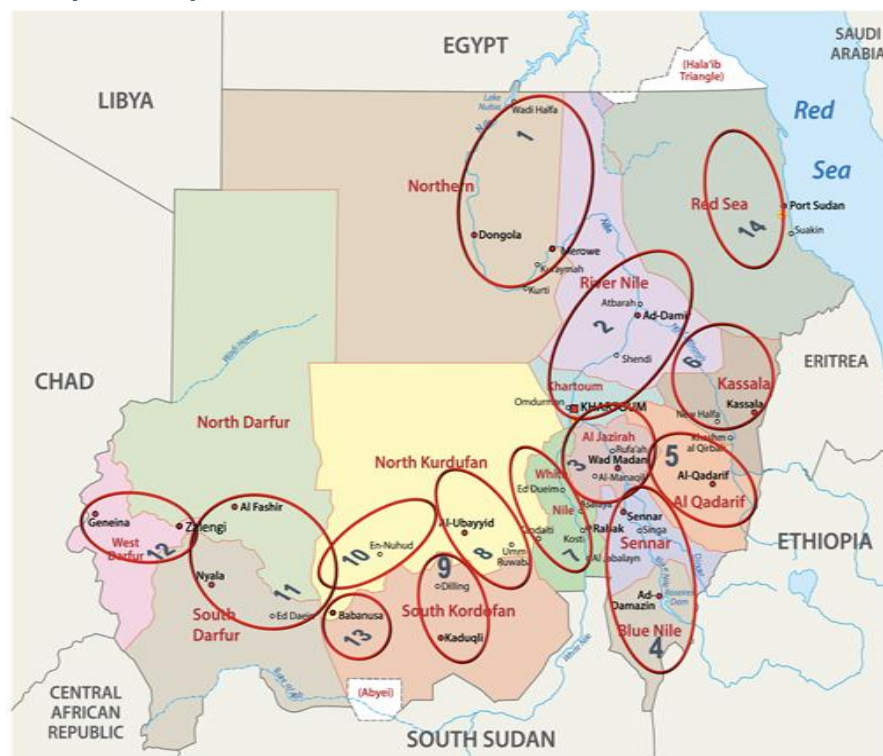
[Ebaidalla M. Ebaidalla](#), a professor at [Qatar University](#), presented Chapter 10 on “Human Capital at Risk—Health and Education in Sudan” ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). This research examines how Sudan’s ongoing conflict has undermined human capital formation through the collapse of healthcare and education systems. Building on pre-existing fragilities from earlier political instability, economic hardship, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the presentation highlighted how both the health and education sectors were among the first to deteriorate following the outbreak of conflict in April 2023. Their collapse poses serious risks to Sudan’s long-term growth and development. In the health sector, widespread infrastructure damage, supply-chain disruptions, and attacks on health personnel have severely constrained access to care, contributing to disease outbreaks, rising maternal mortality, and acute child malnutrition. The education sector has experienced mass school and university closures, prolonged learning disruption, and large-scale displacement of students and teachers, with

girls disproportionately affected through higher dropout rates, early marriage, and gender-based violence. The presentation warned of the long-term consequences of deficient health and education sectors in Sudan, including brain drain, widening skills gaps, and the risk of a lost generation.

[Caroline Krafft](#), professor at [the University of Minnesota](#), USA, provided reflections on Chapter 10, focusing on the severe and long-lasting impacts of the conflict in Sudan on human capital, particularly in the sectors of health and education. She highlighted that the destruction of health facilities and the closure of schools and universities represent not only immediate service disruptions but also long-term developmental losses. Dr. Krafft highlighted the magnitude of the crisis with widespread displacement and dramatic declines in access to education and healthcare services. She commended the use by the chapter's authors of mixed data sources, including pre-conflict statistics and limited conflict-period data. However, she stressed the urgent need for more comprehensive and representative data to better understand the impact of the conflict on human capital formation. In particular, reliance on phone surveys comes with significant limitations, as they exclude significant portions of the population lacking access to mobile technology. In response to erosion in Sudan's health and education sectors, she advocated for low-cost, context-appropriate, and evidence-based interventions that can be implemented even in fragile settings, including community-based education approaches such as "teaching at the right level," and the use of community health workers to deliver essential services.

[Ibrahim Elbadawi](#) of the Development Studies & Research Forum presented on Chapter 14 of the book, "A Sudanese Strategy for Peacebuilding, National Renewal, and Agriculture-led Transformative Economic Growth" ([book chapter](#); [presentation](#)). His presentation advanced the central argument of the book that durable peace in Sudan is unlikely without sustained and inclusive economic growth, and that failure to address the economic roots of conflict significantly increases the risk of renewed violence. Peacebuilding and growth were framed as inseparable processes requiring a coherent national strategy. Dr. Elbadawi proposed three mutually reinforcing strategies: (i) emphasis on peacebuilding and stabilization to restore basic security and recovery conditions, (ii) agriculture-led transformation through 15 proposed growth corridors across various economic aspects (Figure 19), and (iii) government and institutional reforms which entail rebuilding state capacity and restoring public-sector credibility. Taken together, these strategies envision agriculture-driven national renewal as the foundation for inclusive growth and long-term peace, underscoring the need for coordinated and sustained commitment to move Sudan from conflict toward recovery and resilience.

Figure 19: Proposed agricultural development corridors in Sudan for building a growth-peace equilibrium



Source: Chapter 14, [A Sudanese Strategy for Peacebuilding, National Renewal, and Agriculture-led Transformative Economic Growth](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Ibrahim Elbadawi)

[Khalid Mohamed Ali](#), chairperson of [Impact Hub Khartoum](#) and [The Proximate Fund](#), reflected on Chapter 14, commending its strong academic grounding and its core argument that sustainable peace depends on agriculture-led growth, institutional reform, and alignment of elite incentives. He agreed with the chapter's recognition of the interdependence between peace, economic growth, and functioning institutions, as well as Sudan's comparative advantage in agriculture. Mr. Ali's main critique of the strategies proposed focused on the chapter's top-down approach. He argued that this approach underestimates the role of grassroots actors and community-led initiatives. He highlighted the continued operation of local coordination mechanisms, such as emergency response rooms, civil society organizations, and private-sector actors, which have sustained essential services under extreme conditions. He cautioned against relying on externally driven interventions and large-scale foreign investment in agriculture, emphasizing questions of legitimacy, local ownership, and feasibility.

4. DAY 2: POLICY-ORIENTED DISCUSSIONS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Day 2 of the conference, 15 April 2026, involved a shift in focus from evidence generation to policy dialogue, operational experience, and pathways for translating research into action. Building on the empirical foundations established on Day 1, the conference sessions emphasized implementation challenges, coordination mechanisms, and strategies for aligning humanitarian, development, and recovery interventions under conditions of ongoing conflict.

Opening remarks on the second day were delivered by Professor [Ibrahim El-Dukheri](#), Director General of the [Arab Organization for Agricultural Development \(AOAD\)](#) ([video](#)). Dr. El-Dukheri underscored that Sudan is experiencing a systemic collapse of its agrifood system rather than a temporary production shock. He highlighted the combined effects of weakened production, fragmented markets, institutional breakdown, and declining household welfare. While noting recent improvements in agricultural output, he cautioned that these gains remain fragile and largely driven by favorable rainfall rather than structural recovery. He emphasized that sustainable recovery would depend on restoring market access, financial systems, and institutional capacity, while protecting productive assets and human capital. He called for an integrated humanitarian–development approach, strengthened coordination among partners, and early recovery planning despite continued uncertainty.

Figure 20: Day 2 opening remarks by Prof. Ibrahim El-Dukheri, Director General, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

These opening remarks were followed by a synthesis of key insights from Day 1 of the conference, presented by [Oliver Kirui](#) of [IFPRI](#) ([presentation](#)). Dr. Kirui highlighted how the conflict has reshaped agrifood systems, markets, firms, and household survival strategies across Sudan, drawing on findings from household, firm-level, and spatial analyses, alongside evidence on food security, displacement, and humanitarian response. Reflections from the book-launch sessions further emphasized the role of political economy factors, elite capture, market fragmentation, and household coping strategies in shaping economic, agrifood system, and welfare outcomes under conflict. This synthesis provided a strong analytical foundation for Day 2's focus on policy responses and recovery pathways.

4.1. Session 6: Market intelligence in Sudan

The session on market intelligence in Sudan examined the role of market intelligence in informing policy and operational responses in conflict-affected Sudan ([video](#)). Drawing on IFPRI's market monitoring initiatives, the presentations highlighted how real-time data on prices, commodity availability, and trader behavior can support decision-making in highly volatile and fragmented market environments. This session was moderated by [Suzan Elnour](#), a Sudanese entrepreneurship and business development expert.

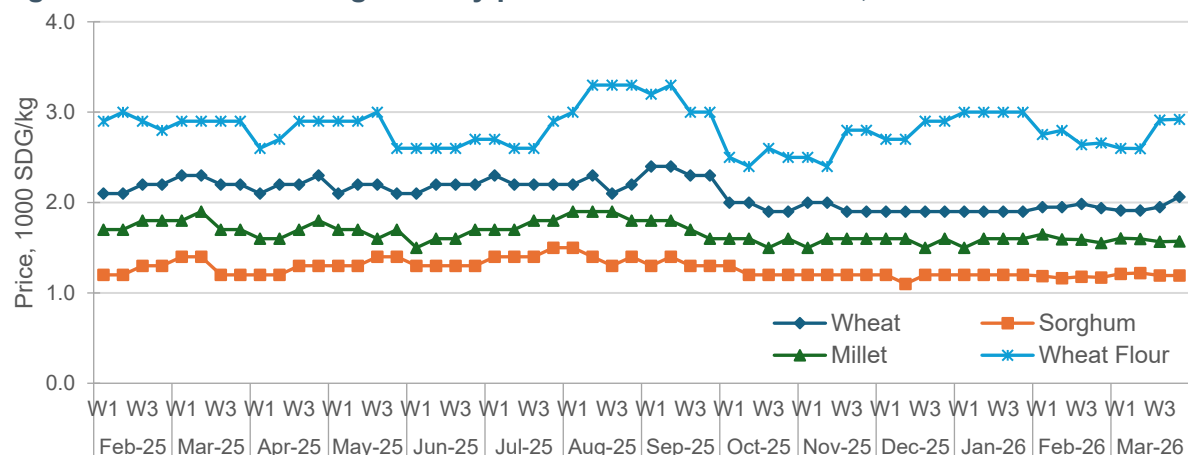
Figure 21: Session 6—from left, Mohamed Saud Elberier, Sara Khalil, Mamoun Dawelbeit, Nafeesa Abusamra, Ahmed Shibrain, Shima Mohamed, Tarig Alhaj Rakhy, Suzan Elnour (moderator), and Hala Abushama



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

[Tarig Alhaj Rakhy](#), Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), presented evidence on essential commodity price dynamics in Sudan between February 2025 and March 2026, drawing on high-frequency market data collected through the Sudan Price and Market Monitoring System (SPAMS) ([presentation](#)). The severe stress under which Sudanese markets are operating was highlighted, with fragmented supply chains, infrastructure damage, displacement, and weak market integration. These structural constraints have limited the availability of timely and reliable market information, underscoring the importance of SPAMS in providing near-real-time intelligence for policymakers, humanitarian actors, and market participants. The analysis showed that staple food prices, particularly cereals, experienced moderate but persistent fluctuations at the national level (Figure 22). However, there was pronounced state-level variation in prices, with conflict-affected states exhibiting higher and more volatile prices, especially for wheat flour. Vegetable prices were highly volatile due to perishability and seasonal production, with sharp price spikes in areas experiencing transport disruptions or irregular supply, while prices of locally produced items remained relatively stable. Fuel prices increased notably in early 2025 due to international price hikes further feeding into food price inflation, while prices of some essential commodities, such as cooking oil and oilseed, remained relatively lower in parts of Kordofan and Darfur due to local production. By contrast, sugar and pulses were consistently more expensive in conflict-affected areas.

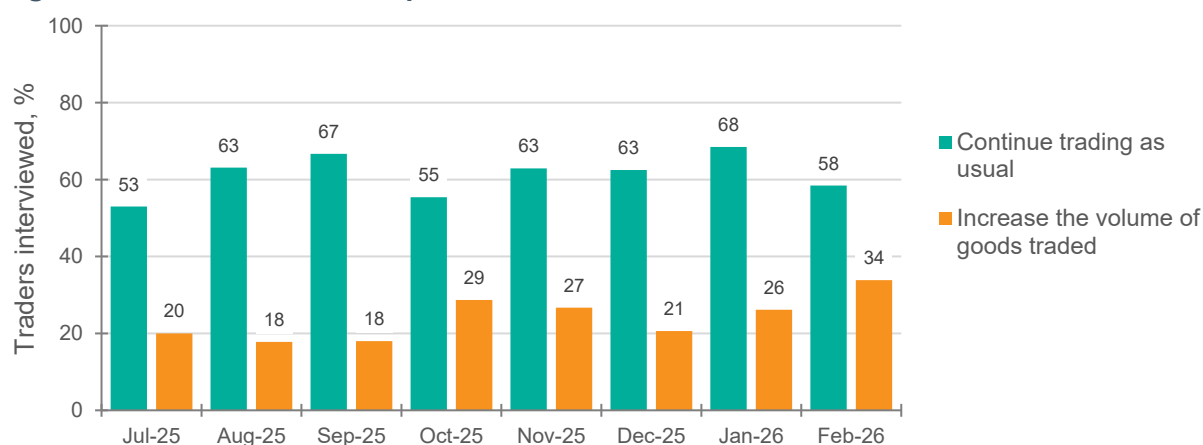
Figure 22: National average weekly prices of cereals in Sudan, Feb. 2025 to Mar. 2026



Source: [Essential commodities price dynamics \(Feb 2025 – Mar 2026\)](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Tarig Alhaj Rakhy)

[Hala Abushama](#), Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), presented findings on the challenges, profits, and strategies of traders of essential commodities in Sudan between February 2025 and February 2026, based on data from phased surveys combining thematic and descriptive analysis ([presentation](#)). The presentation captured traders' perceptions of market dynamics, focusing on supply-chain disruptions, security and transport constraints, liquidity challenges, and their implications for prices, product availability, and future business decisions under conflict conditions. The analysis showed that challenges varied substantially across states and over time, driven by insecurity, transport disruptions, robberies, seasonal factors, and access constraints. However, the prevalence of most challenges declined over the period of conflict, suggesting some adaptation by traders. Traders' profit outlook improved in recent months, with a rising share reporting increased profits and fewer reporting declines, indicating that trade in essential commodities has become relatively more viable despite persistent risks. Most merchants reported that they planned to continue trading as usual, while a growing share aimed to increase trading volumes, signaling cautious optimism and adaptive strategies rather than exit (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Trends in traders' plans for the future of their businesses



Source: [Challenges, profit, and strategies of essential commodities traders \(Feb 2025 – Mar 2026\)](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Hala Abushama)

[Shima Mohamed](#), a Research Analyst at [IFPRI](#), demonstrated in her presentation the Sudan Prices and Availability Monitoring Survey (SPAMS) Dashboard ([presentation](#); [website](#)). She

highlighted the role this online price tracking tool can play in supporting near real-time decision-making for essential commodity prices and availability under conflict conditions. The dashboard adds value through a user-friendly and interactive platform that showcases weekly commodity price updates, enabling timely detection of price shocks and supply disruptions and allowing users to compare trends across locations and time periods. The presentation outlined SPAMS' rigorous data management process, including standardization of units, correction of out-of-range values, consistency checks, validation with technical teams, and version-control documentation. This process ensures data quality and credibility before the public dashboard is updated with any new prices. Ms. Mohamed concluded her presentation by asking for feedback, inviting users to comment on the relevance of indicators in the dashboard, whether key commodities were missing, visualization clarity, data gaps, and whether any important features were absent. Users were asked to assist in refining the design of the dashboard by both improving its coverage in terms of commodities and markets sampled and ensuring that it is aligned with their needs.

The presentations of session 6 were followed by a panel discussion. This panel brought together representatives from the private sector, research institutions, and regional organizations to reflect on how the ongoing conflict has reshaped market dynamics, business decision-making, and the role of market intelligence in Sudan. The discussion emphasized the evolving constraints faced by market actors, the increased fragmentation of markets, and the critical role of accessible and reliable data in supporting adaptation and resilience.

Mohamed Saud Elberier, Business Development Manager at Mamoun Elberier Group, a large diversified enterprise in Sudan with significant activities in the agrifood sector, highlighted the profound transformation of the operations of the private sector in Sudan under conflict conditions. He emphasized a shift from efficiency-driven business models toward resilience-oriented strategies. Companies have moved from static planning to dynamic, real-time decision-making, supported by continuous monitoring of exchange rates and market conditions. In parallel, supply chains have diversified from single to multiple sourcing channels to mitigate risk. Mr. Elberier stressed the importance of closer collaboration between data producers and private sector actors. He recommended that data systems should be co-designed with businesses to ensure relevance and usability, particularly for pricing, supply chain management, and risk mitigation.

Nafeesa Abusamra, a Senior Research and Impact Officer at 249 Startups, an entrepreneur-support enterprise focused on Sudan, reframed the concept of innovation in conflict settings. She highlighted the potential of low-cost, practical solutions, such as SMS- and WhatsApp-based systems, for disseminating market information to farmers, traders, and transporters. However, Ms. Abusamra highlighted the persistent gap between data production and data use, particularly among small and medium enterprises. The barriers that data users face include limited accessibility to the data, inappropriate data formats, and insufficient contextualization of the data presented. To address this, she stressed the importance of simplifying data, translating it into accessible formats and languages, and delivering it through channels aligned with users' capacities. Building trust in data-producing institutions was also identified as essential to improving the uptake of the information they supply.

Mamoun Dawelbeit of ABC Links Advisory Services, a research consultancy firm focused on Sudan, considered the structural transformation of the agrifood sector in Sudan under conflict

conditions. He described the exit of larger firms, the expansion of small and medium enterprises, and the increasing role of informal and cross-border trade—including smuggling—in shaping new market dynamics. Dr. Dawelbeit also underscored the growing importance of timely and reliable market intelligence tools, such as the SPAMS Dashboard, in supporting decision-making across the agricultural sector. Such tools are important for promoting transparency and providing shared reference points for different market actors.

[Sarah Khalil](#), CEO at [Teital Oil Mills](#), one of the largest edible oil processors in Sudan, provided a sector-specific perspective on the severe disruptions affecting agro-processing in Sudan, particularly in edible oil production. Ms. Khalil identified infrastructure collapse—especially the breakdown of electricity supply—as a major constraint, alongside labor shortages and persistent insecurity, to the continued profitable operations of Sudanese agro-processing firms. As a result, many processing facilities have ceased operations, contributing to a shift away from domestic processing toward increased reliance on imported or informally sourced products. She emphasized the importance of accurate and timely data for production planning, particularly regarding crop availability and regional specialization. Importantly, she highlighted a significant disconnect between official statistics and field realities. This weak data quality undermines effective decision-making. In the absence of reliable and timely information, processors are often forced to rely on informal estimates.

[Ahmed Shibrain](#), a livestock information management expert at the African Union—Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources ([AU-IBAR](#)), described the livestock sector as an “invisible economy” undergoing substantial disruption. He highlighted a shift toward increased exports of live animals, a trend that is being driven by distress sales and asset liquidation among pastoralists and reflects weakened domestic value-addition in livestock. Mr. Shibrain also noted the expansion of informal and previously underutilized cross-border trade routes, with livestock flows toward neighboring countries increasing. However, these movements remain poorly documented with significant gaps in the data about them. Importantly, he emphasized the complexity of livestock data, which requires detailed information on animal type, age, breed, and quality—dimensions that are not adequately captured in existing information systems to inform policymaking.

4.2. Session 7: Programmatic responses by implementing institutions

The seventh session of the conference focused on programmatic responses to address Sudan’s protracted crisis from an implementation perspective, with a focus on agriculture, water systems, and the integration of refugees and IDPs ([video](#)). Combining evidence from field-based research with operational insights from implementing partners, the session highlighted practical approaches to delivering integrated humanitarian, recovery, and resilience interventions under ongoing conflict conditions. [Nasreldin Hagelamin](#), a former FAO country representative in Egypt and an expert on the design of agrifood sector development strategies, moderated the session.

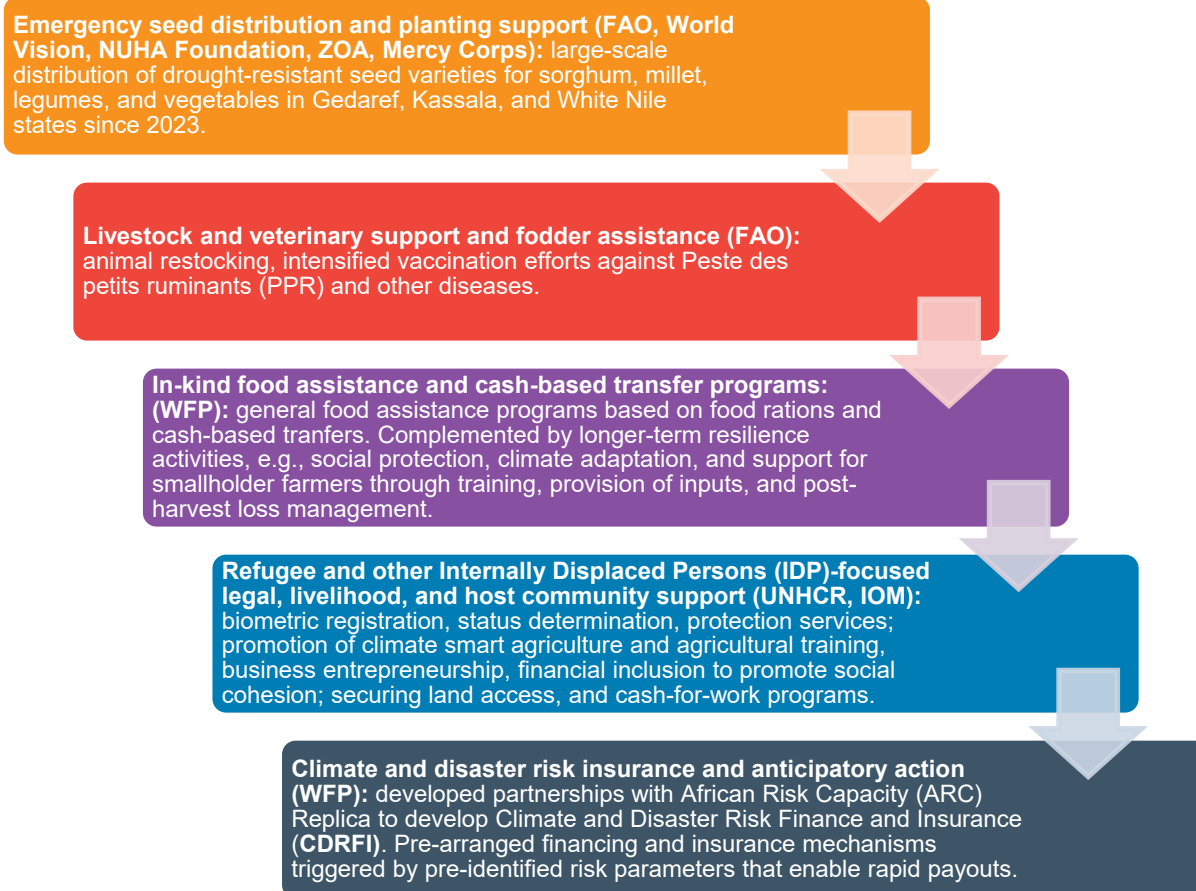
Figure 24: Session 7—from left, Hongjie Yang, Nurein Abdulfattah, Gabrielle Fox, Nasredin Hagelamin (moderator), and Frans Schapendonk



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

Frans Schapendonk, a climate, peace, and security specialist with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, presented the results of an analysis done in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of agricultural and water systems in Gedaref, Kassala, and White Nile states in Sudan ([presentation](#)). The study examined how improvements in water management, agriculture, and sustainable energy can enhance food security and strengthen resilient livelihoods, particularly for refugees and IDPs. Equal attention was paid in the research to the diversity of agrifood systems across the states studied, which have been shaped by varying agroecological conditions. Mr. Schapendonk highlighted that conflict and climate pressures have significantly disrupted agricultural production through displacement, reduced access to inputs and labor, and contributed to declining cultivated areas and yields. However, he noted that displacement has also enabled forms of integration, with refugees and IDPs contributing labor, skills, and demand to local farming communities. The presentation emphasized the role of humanitarian–development interventions—such as seed distribution, livestock services, cash assistance, and climate-smart agriculture—in supporting both host and displaced communities (Figure 25). He concluded that inclusive and locally-grounded agrifood and water interventions can successfully support resilience, social cohesion, and recovery in protracted conflict settings.

Figure 25: Roles of humanitarian-development actors in Sudan's agrifood systems



Source: [Agriculture and water systems in Sudan: Opportunities for refugee and IDP integration](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Frans Schapendonk)

Following the presentation on these research findings, a panel was brought together to discuss implementing partners' perceptions and perspectives on operational and strategic responses to Sudan's protracted crisis. [Hongjie Yang](#), the Representative of the [FAO](#) in Sudan, emphasized that in the Sudanese context there is no trade-off between emergency response and long-term agricultural recovery. Emergency agricultural interventions—such as the provision of seeds, inputs, and livestock services—are explicitly framed as investments in future production capacity. Such a framing of these activities reinforces the view that saving lives and sustaining livelihoods are mutually reinforcing objectives. This approach positions agriculture as a cornerstone of recovery rather than a post-crisis intervention. Operationally, Mr. Yang highlighted several valuable innovations for implementation. These include cross-border delivery mechanisms, such as livestock vaccination campaigns, and the use of cash and voucher systems that enable farmers to access locally appropriate inputs while remaining responsive to market conditions. These operational approaches aim to restore production systems under conflict constraints while strengthening local markets and supply chains.

[Hanan Malek Hamdan](#), the Representative of [UNHCR](#) in Egypt, focused on the regional dimensions of displacement due to conflict, underscoring the scale and complexity of refugee movements and their implications for host countries, particularly Egypt. She emphasized a whole-of-society response that combines humanitarian assistance with resilience-oriented programming under nationally coordinated frameworks. Ms. Hamdan highlighted that

persistent funding shortfalls and declining global attention, however, pose serious operational challenges, placing increasing pressure on host country systems and constraining the delivery of essential services. Sustained international support and equitable burden-sharing were identified as critical to maintaining protection and assistance for displaced populations.

[Nurein Abdulfattah](#), a Program Director at [Mercy Corps](#), noted that in protracted crises, program sequencing is inherently non-linear. Consequently, rather than following rigid humanitarian-to-development transitions, effective interventions require the simultaneous layering of humanitarian, recovery, and resilience activities across multiple projects and funding streams. Mr. Abdulfattah provided practical examples to illustrate how cash assistance can be combined with business development services, market linkages, and access to productive assets—such as irrigation technologies—to enable households to move from short-term consumption support toward sustainable income generation. Maximizing synergies across interventions was identified as essential for strengthening livelihoods and economic resilience.

[Arvind Kumar](#), the head of Recovery and Resilience activities at the [Sudan office of the United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), emphasized the importance of identifying pragmatic entry points for recovery that build on existing adaptive capacities. These include support to smallholder farmers, rainfed agriculture, informal economic actors, and local market systems. Mr. Kumar noted that recovery is already occurring in localized forms and such local initiatives should be nurtured through targeted interventions addressing financing gaps, infrastructure constraints, and market access. A recurring theme across the discussion was the need for system-level thinking and collective action, ensuring that interventions are designed as part of an interconnected ecosystem rather than in isolation.

Finally, [Gabrielle Fox](#), chief of party of the [Cash Consortium of Sudan](#), highlighted the evolving role of cash assistance—from a stand-alone humanitarian tool to a system enabler that supports recovery and resilience. She emphasized that, although cash transfers remain vital for meeting immediate needs, large income gaps persist, underscoring the need to integrate cash programming with livelihoods support, financial inclusion, and market development. Emerging approaches include providing large cash transfers to support asset accumulation, skills development, financial services, and community-level investments through group-based cash modalities. Ms. Fox concluded that the effectiveness of cash programming depends on its strategic integration within coordinated, multi-sectoral, and market-based interventions.

4.3. Session 8: Programmatic responses by donors

The session examining donor perspectives on programmatic responses to Sudan's crisis focused, in particular, on financing modalities, operational constraints, and strategic priorities under protracted conflict conditions ([video](#)). The discussion highlighted how donor approaches are adapting to evolving needs while balancing humanitarian assistance with longer-term recovery and resilience objectives. [Khalid Mohamed Ali](#) of [Impact Hub Khartoum](#) and [The Proximate Fund](#) moderated the session.

Figure 26: Session 8—from left, panelists Josephine Kalinauckas, David Mutuku, and Khalid Mohamed Ali (moderator)



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

[Ed Barney](#) of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the [Government of the United Kingdom](#) emphasized that Sudan internationally remains a top humanitarian priority. Despite growing global pressures on aid budgets, Sudan is supported by a confirmed multi-year allocation of approximately £146 million annually. While a significant share of funding continues to support life-saving humanitarian interventions—particularly cash assistance, nutrition, and food security—the shift toward multi-year financing aims to improve predictability and enable longer-term planning beyond short emergency cycles. Mr. Barney also highlighted a strategic move among Sudan's donors toward locally led approaches, reflecting the demonstrated capacity of Sudanese actors to respond effectively to the crisis. This includes greater reliance on local partners for implementation, increased flexibility, and stronger inclusion of local voices in policy dialogue. These changes signal an evolution toward more adaptive and context-responsive programming that bridges humanitarian and development objectives.

The Head of Cooperation at the [European Union](#) (EU), [Josephine Kalinauckas](#), described how EU programming in Sudan has been substantially reoriented since the outbreak of conflict in 2023. The EU has moved away from government-led development cooperation toward implementation through international non-governmental organizations, agencies of the United Nations, and member-state partners. She noted that institutional separation of humanitarian and development funding by the EU has enabled it to rapidly scale up humanitarian assistance while continuing multi-year resilience programming. Current interventions prioritize basic services—health, education, water, and sanitation—alongside livelihoods support, while systematically integrating conflict sensitivity, gender considerations, and community participation. Ms. Kalinauckas also underscored the importance of documenting human-rights violations as part of longer-term accountability efforts and highlighted the need for sustained donor coordination amid tightening budgets and evolving needs.

[David Mutuku](#), Country Manager for Sudan at the [African Development Bank](#) (AfDB), outlined an adaptive approach to AfDB's programming in Sudan. This has involved a restructuring of its portfolio toward emergency operations and basic service delivery while maintaining a strong long-term development orientation. With a lending portfolio that will approach USD 1.0 billion by 2027—approximately 72 percent of which will be allocated to agriculture—the AfDB continues to demonstrate substantial financial commitment to Sudan, one of its largest fragile-state engagements. Mr. Mutuku highlighted that, due to operational

constraints, the Bank delivers its interventions through UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations, leveraging their local expertise to ensure continuity. He emphasized that all current projects incorporate infrastructure restoration and maintenance components, reflecting a forward-looking recovery lens. Finally, he noted AfDB's growing emphasis on private-sector engagement, with nearly half of its lending portfolio in Sudan designed around small and medium-sized enterprises, financial institutions, and supply chains.

4.4. Session 9: Quality and ethics of data collection in conflict settings

The closing session of the conference showcased the challenges of ensuring data quality and ethical integrity in conflict-affected settings ([video](#)). Combining two technical presentations with a panel discussion of survey practitioners, the session highlighted methodological trade-offs, operational constraints, and the need for strengthened ethical and institutional frameworks for data collection under conditions of insecurity and limited access. The session was moderated by [IFPRI](#) Associate Research Fellow, [Nina Jovanovic](#).

Figure 27: Session 9—from left, speakers Sikandra Kurdi, Abdelatif Ejaimi, Abdelrahman Nagy, Samer Mohamed, and Nina Jovanovic (moderator)

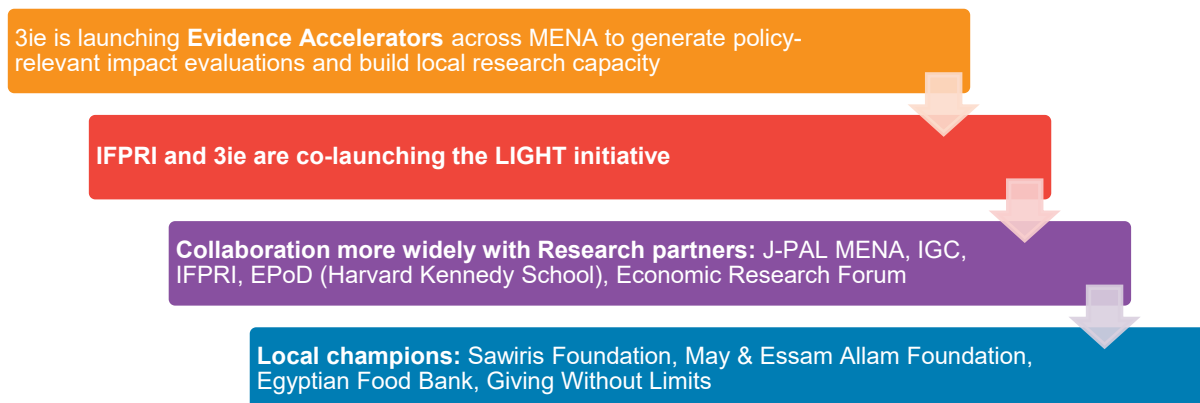


Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

[Abdelrahman Nagy](#), Director of the MENA Program at the [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation](#) (3ie), presented “Where’s the Evidence? A Call for Research in the MENA Region’s Time of Crisis” ([presentation](#)). Dr. Nagy highlighted the disconnect between the scale of overlapping crises in the MENA region and the limited availability of rigorous evidence to guide humanitarian and development responses. He pointed to protracted conflicts, large-scale displacement, and climate shocks across the region—highlighting Sudan, in particular, as the world’s largest displacement crisis since April 2023. Dr. Nagy documented a severe evidence gap—although more than 700 impact evaluations exist across the region, they are highly concentrated geographically and thematically, leaving critical areas largely unevaluated, including humanitarian effectiveness, climate adaptation, mental health, social protection, youth employment, and female labor force participation. Research is not a luxury during crisis—viewing it to be so is a false trade-off that leads to inefficiency and unintended harm. Dr. Nagy concluded his presentation with a call to embed evidence generation within crisis response through initiatives such as 3ie’s Evidence

Accelerators and the LIGHT initiative that 3ie is undertaking with IFPRI to strengthen evidence generation and use in humanitarian contexts (Figure 28). Such coordination of evidence generation with crisis response will enable a better understanding of what works.

Figure 28: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) suggested solutions for building the evidence the Middle East and North Africa region deserves



Source: [Where's the Evidence? A Call for Research in the MENA Region's Time of Crisis](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Abdelrahman Nagy)

[Sikandra Kurdi](#), Research Fellow at [IFPRI](#), examined the security and ethical challenges of data collection in conflict-affected settings ([presentation](#)). While researchers strive for political neutrality and risk mitigation, neutrality has clear practical limits. Standard safeguards, including ethical review, consultation with local partners, flexible research designs, and avoiding sensitive locations or topics, are essential but insufficient, since researchers lack the legal protections of humanitarian actors. Dr. Kurdi highlighted the irreducible risk of working in volatile conflict environments due to uncertainty, rapidly shifting political dynamics, and asymmetries in who bears and understands the risks involved. Dr. Kurdi called for stronger institutional and cross-institutional measures, including flexible publication practices, explicit neutrality policies, improved capacity for security advice, and greater collaboration on ethical standards and protection mechanisms (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Practical possibilities for mitigating risks associated with field research in contexts of conflict

Journal publications:	Research institution level:	Cross-institutional initiatives:
• Accept anonymous (or temporarily anonymous) authorship due to security concerns • Allow substantial sections on data collection details to be kept for peer reviewer only	• Committing to and publishing a policy of political neutrality • Actively tracking institutional perceptions • Require or provide insurance for consultants • Include independent security advisor in proposals	• Diplomatic advocacy to support local research partners • Neutral data collection standards • Greater collaboration on security around data sharing, communications, and evacuation systems • Local review boards that are sensitive to security concerns for respondents and enumerators • Provide all involved with contact information for UN and major NGO security point persons

Source: [The ethical requirements of data collection in conflict settings](#) (PowerPoint presentation by Sikandra Kurdi)

A panel discussion then followed. A multi-layered approach to risk assessment was emphasized by [Niklas Kabel Pedersen](#) of [Voluntas](#), who distinguished between security, data, and operational risks. He argued that risk assessment should precede questionnaire design and begin with evaluating the potential consequences of asking specific questions, including the risks participation may pose to respondents. Mr. Pedersen emphasized that, rather than serving as a procedural compliance exercise, risk assessments should function as a decision-making framework, guiding whether data collection should proceed, be adapted, paused, or abandoned. He stressed the importance of rigorously weighing the expected value of any data collected against potential harm and maintaining transparency about uncertainty and limitations when working under constrained conditions.

Abdelatif Ejaimi of [PACT Consultancy](#) focused on trust-building and adaptive field practice, highlighting how context-specific constraints—such as infrastructure damage, restricted mobility, and insecurity—shape sampling strategies and data completeness. Importantly, he emphasized that ethical data collection requires flexible yet controlled adaptation, including shorter and more modular questionnaires, hybrid sampling approaches, and strong reliance on local enumerators with contextual knowledge and community trust. In Mr. Ejaimi's view, such adaptations do not compromise data quality but are essential to preserving validity, reliability, and ethical integrity in conflict-affected environments.

Reflecting on Sudan, [Mohamed Hamza](#) of [Consulsat](#) outlined key methodological compromises arising from access constraints, including shifts from face-to-face to phone-based surveys, reduced geographic coverage, reliance on convenience sampling, and limited field supervision. He identified non-representative sampling—particularly in contexts of displacement and high population mobility—as the most serious threat to data quality. To safeguard credibility, Mr. Hamza stressed the need for strict separation between data collection and political actors, early anonymization, restricted data access, secure data storage, transparent reporting of limitations, and independent validation where feasible. For him, research credibility derives from protecting the integrity of the process rather than claiming methodological perfection.

The trade-offs between speed, cost, and quality in remote data collection were discussed by [Zipporah Moraa](#) of [GeoPoll](#). While rapid data collection is often essential in fast-moving crisis contexts, she noted that accelerated timelines can weaken translation, supervision, back-checking, and data cleaning. Ms. Moraa cautioned that remote data collection is not inherently less costly, as costs are often shifted to respondents through airtime requirements, connectivity constraints, and heightened privacy risks. Data quality challenges include non-response bias, exclusion of women, older populations, and displaced groups, reduced respondent rapport, and limited ability to probe sensitive topics. Transparent communication with decision-makers is important, including clearly explaining confidence levels, coverage gaps, data shelf life, and the implications of these limitations for policy use.

Finally, [Samer Mohamed](#) of [DataQ](#) highlighted access constraints and contextual blind spots as major sources of bias, noting that hard-to-reach populations—including pastoralists and communities in active conflict zones—are often systematically excluded from survey samples due to design decisions made under time pressure and with limited field input. He stressed the importance of early and sustained engagement with local field teams to inform methodology, risk planning, and adaptive responses. To balance real-time data needs with quality control, he emphasized contingency planning, co-creation of data collection

instruments and other methodological approaches with field teams, sustained investment in staff welfare and capacity, and greater use of routine data systems—such as price monitoring—to reduce reliance on ad hoc surveys to guide the design of crisis response.

5. SUMMARY AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

5.1. Summary

The 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference provided a platform for evidence-based, thought-provoking discussions by diverse sets of actors in and observers of Sudan's agrifood systems. Drawing on three years of empirical research, operational experience, and policy dialogue, the technical presentations and panel discussions highlighted the systemic nature of the crisis. The impact of the conflict extends well beyond immediate humanitarian concerns to deeply affect economic systems, markets, institutions, and human capital.

Figure 30: Group photo of conference participants



Photo credit: S. Korea, Galipette Advertising Agency.

The evidence presented underscores that Sudan's crisis is not a sequence of isolated shocks, but a structural transformation characterized by fragmented markets, weakened institutions, and deteriorating livelihoods. Agricultural systems, which remain central to the economy, have been severely disrupted yet continue to offer a critical entry point for recovery. Similarly, markets have adapted under pressure, with private sector actors demonstrating resilience through reconfiguration and innovation, albeit under significant constraints. At the household level, widespread income losses, food insecurity, and reliance on erosive coping strategies highlight deep vulnerability, particularly among displaced populations. At the same time, it has been found that adaptation is occurring—though often at high and unsustainable costs. This underscores the need to shift from short-term coping toward sustained livelihood protection and recovery.

The panel discussions during the conference reinforced the perspective that effective responses require moving beyond fragmented interventions toward integrated, system-wide approaches. Donors, implementing agencies, and private sector actors highlighted the need to align humanitarian assistance with recovery and resilience strategies, while ensuring flexibility, coordination, and local engagement. The role of strengthened agriculture and market systems and human capital investments emerged consistently as central to both stabilization and long-term development. Conference participants also emphasized the increasing importance of data systems and evidence generation in guiding decision-making under uncertainty. Real-time market intelligence, spatial analysis, and survey-based evidence are critical for targeting interventions, yet significant gaps remain in data quality, coverage, and ethical safeguards in conflict settings.

Overall, the conference highlighted that pathways toward recovery in Sudan will depend on coordinated, evidence-driven strategies that address both immediate humanitarian needs and the structural drivers of vulnerability. Sustained investment in institutions, markets, and human capital—combined with inclusive governance and locally grounded approaches—will be essential for building resilience and supporting long-term peace and development.

5.2. Key takeaways

- ▶ The crisis is systemic, not temporary: Sudan's conflict represents a structural crisis affecting economic systems, markets, institutions, and livelihoods. Responses must move beyond short-term stabilization toward addressing underlying structural constraints.
- ▶ Agriculture remains central to recovery pathways: Despite severe disruption, agriculture continues to be a cornerstone of livelihoods and economic activity. Restoring agricultural production, input systems, and market linkages is critical for both food security and broader economic recovery.
- ▶ Markets are adapting, but remain fragmented: Markets and private sector actors have shown resilience through adaptation and innovation. However, fragmentation, high transaction costs, and insecurity continue to constrain their performance and access.
- ▶ Households are adapting at high cost: While households demonstrate adaptive capacity, reliance on erosive coping strategies, such as asset sales and reduced investment, undermines their long-term recovery and increases their vulnerability.
- ▶ Displacement presents both challenges and opportunities: Large-scale displacement places pressure on resources and services but also creates opportunities for economic integration where appropriate policies and support mechanisms are in place.
- ▶ Integrated approaches are essential: Effective responses require layering humanitarian, recovery, and development interventions rather than treating them as sequential phases. Coordination across actors and sectors is critical.
- ▶ Cash assistance is evolving as a system enabler: Cash transfers remain vital for immediate needs but are increasingly effective when integrated with livelihood support, financial inclusion, and market development interventions.
- ▶ Data systems are critical but constrained: Reliable, timely, and accessible data is essential for decision-making. However, data gaps, methodological limitations, and ethical challenges remain significant in conflict settings.
- ▶ Local actors and institutions are central to effective response: Strengthening locally led approaches and leveraging the capacity of national and community actors enhances the relevance, ownership, and sustainability of interventions.
- ▶ Recovery requires coordinated, long-term commitment: Sustained donor engagement, improved coordination, and alignment between humanitarian and development actors are essential to support recovery, rebuild institutions, and promote inclusive growth.

ANNEX—CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Annex Table 1: Day 1 (14 April 2026) speakers at the 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference

Name	Title	Affiliation
Opening Remarks		
Hala Abushama	Research Analyst	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Johan Swinnen	Director-General	IFPRI
Steven Were Omamo	Director, Development Strategies and Governance Unit; Director for Africa	IFPRI
Khalid Siddig	Senior Research Fellow; Leader, Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP)	IFPRI
Session 1: Food Security, Livelihoods, and Survival amid Conflict		
Nina Jovanovic	Associate Research Fellow	IFPRI
Shima Mohamed	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Ali Musa Abakar	Economic Expert	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
Hambulo Ngoma	Scientist, Agricultural Economist	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
Session 2: Data-Driven Evidence on Resilience Pathways and Sustainable Recovery		
Grazia Pacillo	Senior Scientist – Climate Action	Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
Oliver Kirui	Research Fellow	IFPRI
Muhammad Khalifa	Regional Researcher	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
Tarig Alhaj Rakhy	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Session 3: Humanitarian Assistance and Livelihoods of Internally Displaced Persons		
Fatma Abdelaziz	Senior Research Associate	IFPRI
Halefom Nigus	Collaborator	IFPRI
Kibrom Abay	Senior Research Fellow	IFPRI
Hala Abushama	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Book Launch – Overview		
Khalid Siddig	Senior Research Fellow; Leader, Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP)	IFPRI
Oliver Kirui	Research Fellow	IFPRI
Paul Dorosh	Senior Research Fellow Emeritus	IFPRI
Session 4: From Conflict Drivers to Household Survival in Sudan (first of two book launch research sessions)		
Samia Nihar	Head, Gender and Development Unit	University of Khartoum
Suliman Baldo	Director	Sudan Transparency and Policy Tracker
Hala Abushama	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Fredrik Svensson	Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (VAM) Officer	World Food Programme (WFP)
Oliver Kirui	Research Fellow	IFPRI
Munzoul Assal	Senior Researcher / Professor	Chr. Michelsen Institute; University of Khartoum
Abraham Abatneh	Regional Programme Coordinator	World Food Programme (WFP)
Amin Sheikheldin	—	SAY Group
Musa Abdul-Jalil	Director, Peace Research Institute	University of Khartoum
Session 5: Human Capital, Recovery, and Growth in Sudan (second of two book launch research sessions)		
Amel Wagdi	Executive General Manager	Mahgoub Sons
Paul Dorosh	Senior Research Fellow Emeritus	IFPRI
Zuhal Elnour	Research Fellow	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Ebaidalla M. Ebaidalla	Associate Professor	Qatar University

Name	Title	Affiliation
Ibrahim Elbadawi	Founder and Managing Director	Development Studies & Research Forum
Sadig Elamin	Head, Food Security Analysis Unit	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Abdelateif Hassan Ibrahim	Associate Professor	University of Khartoum
Caroline Krafft	Associate Professor	University of Minnesota
Khalid Mohamed Ali	Chairperson	Impact Hub Khartoum; The Proximate Fund
Oliver Kirui	Research Fellow	IFPRI

Source: Authors

Annex Table 2: Day 2 (15 April 2026) speakers at the 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference

Name	Title	Affiliation
Opening Reflections for Day 2		
Hala Abushama	Research Analyst	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Ibrahim El-Dukheri	Director General	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
Khalid Siddig	Senior Research Fellow; Leader, Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP)	IFPRI
Oliver Kirui	Research Fellow	IFPRI
Session 6: Market Intelligence in Sudan		
Suzan Elnour	Entrepreneurship and Business Development Consultant	African Leadership Academy
Tarig Alhaj Rakhy	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Hala Abushama	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Shima Mohamed	Research Analyst	IFPRI
Mohamed Saud Elberier	Business Development Manager	Mamoun Elberier Group
Mamoun Dawelbeit	Chair and Advisory Board	ABC Links Services
Nafeesa Abusamra	Senior Research and Impact Officer	249Startups
Sara Khalil	CEO	Teital Oil Mills
Ahmed Shibrain	Livestock information management expert	African Union—Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
Session 7: Programmatic Responses (Implementation Perspective)		
Nasredin Hag Elamin	Former FAO country representative in MENA; expert on design of agrifood sector development strategies	
Frans Schapendonk	Climate Security Specialist	Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
Hongjie Yang	Country Representative—Sudan	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Hanan Malek Hamdan	Country Representative—Egypt	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Nurein Abdulfattah	Program Director	Mercy Corps
Arvind Kumar	Head of Recovery and Resilience	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Gabrielle Fox	Chief of Party	Cash Consortium of Sudan
Session 8: Programmatic Responses (Donors Perspective)		
Khalid Mohamed Ali	Chairperson	Impact Hub Khartoum; The Proximate Fund
David Mutuku	Country Manager	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Josephine Kalinauckas	Head of Cooperation	European Union (EU) Delegation to Sudan

Name	Title	Affiliation
Ed Barney	Team Lead, Human Capital and Resilience	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of the United Kingdom
Session 9: Quality and Ethics of Data Collection in Conflict Settings		
Nina Jovanovic	Associate Research Fellow	IFPRI
Abdelrahman Nagy	Program Director – MENA	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
Sikandra Kurdi	Research Fellow	IFPRI
Mohamed Hamza	General Manager	ConsulSat
Abdelatif Ejaimi	—	PACT
Zipporah Moraa	Program Manager	GeoPoll
Niklas Kabel Pedersen	CEO	Voluntas
Samer Mohamed	General Manager	DataQ
Closing Remarks: Roadmap for Sudan—Commitments and Next Steps		
Steven Were Omamo	Director, Development Strategies and Governance Unit; Director for Africa	IFPRI
Khalid Siddig	Senior Research Fellow; Leader, Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP)	IFPRI

Source: Authors

Annex Table 3: 2026 Sudan Conflict Conference participants, by institutional category

Category	Organizations	
CGIAR	▶ Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT ▶ International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) ▶ International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)	▶ International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
Donors	▶ African Development Bank (AfDB) ▶ European Union (EU) Delegation to Sudan ▶ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of the United Kingdom	▶ GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) ▶ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International non-governmental organizations	▶ Cash Consortium of Sudan ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ▶ Mercy Corps ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	▶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ▶ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) ▶ World Food Programme (WFP)
Implementing partners	▶ Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) MENA ▶ Development Initiative Group	▶ IDEA ▶ Sudan Social Protection Alliance ▶ SUSTAIN-Africa Initiative
Academia and research institutions	▶ Agricultural Research Corporation ▶ Ahfad University for Women ▶ Al Neelain University ▶ Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) ▶ Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) ▶ Development Studies and Research Institute (DSRI), University of Khartoum	▶ Economic and Social Research Bureau ▶ German University in Cairo ▶ International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) ▶ National Center for Research (Sudan) ▶ Open University of Sudan ▶ Peace Research Institute ▶ University of Khartoum ▶ University of Kordofan

Category	Organizations	
Private sector firms	▶ 249Startups ▶ ABC Center ▶ ABC Links Services ▶ Alforsan ▶ Benbrooks Ventures ▶ Climate Vision Consulting ▶ ConsulSat ▶ DataQ ▶ Empower Renewable Energy Sudan ▶ Geo-Poll ▶ Harvest Investment Company Ltd.	▶ Mahgoub Sons ▶ Mamoun Elberier Group ▶ PACT Consultancy Company ▶ Samir Gasim Group ▶ SAY Group ▶ Teital Oil Mills ▶ The Proximate Fund, Sudan ▶ Verdica Partners ▶ Voluntas ▶ Wan Trading
Other agencies and institutions	▶ African Union ▶ ASD Solutions ▶ Aswak Alhilla ▶ Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA) ▶ ELAFF newspaper	▶ Entrepreneurship & Business Development ▶ Matmoora Memorial Hub ▶ Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Government of Sudan ▶ Sudan Networking newspaper

Source: Authors

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This event and the research shared through it was supported by the donors who fund the CGIAR's Science Programs on [Policy Innovations](#) and [Food Frontiers and Security](#) through their contributions to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#).

The Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP) is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication has been prepared as an output of the SSSP and has not been independently peer reviewed. Any opinions expressed here belong to the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by IFPRI.

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