

IFPRI-Sudan

Generating Evidence-Based Solutions for Strengthening Humanitarian Response and Economic Resilience

1 INTRODUCTION

Sudan is experiencing one of the most severe humanitarian and economic crises in its modern history due to the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Sudan is now suffering the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The war has devastated livelihoods, displaced millions, and significantly weakened the country's agrifood systems and broader economic structures. In response, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), along with its partners, has intensified its research and policy engagement in Sudan through the Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP), which was launched in 2022.

IFPRI's work on Sudan is centered on addressing fragility, post-conflict recovery, resilience-building, and economic development. Its research and policy engagements focus on food security, economy-wide modeling, social protection, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME), and agricultural resilience as it works to provide critical evidence-based insights to support recovery efforts that will enable Sudan to regain peace and economic growth and stability. Through high-frequency data collection, impact evaluations, and policy dialogues, the SSSP team has continued to deliver data-driven solutions to inform humanitarian responses, economic revitalization, and development planning in Sudan. By collaborating with organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and other CGIAR centers and initiatives, IFPRI, through SSSP, has generated information to design effective interventions for conflict-affected populations and institutions working to rebuild Sudan's economy.

The following sections provide an overview of IFPRI's research programs in Sudan, highlighting collaborative efforts that were done to guide efforts to enhance resilience, support livelihoods, and drive sustainable recovery. Additionally, the Annex to this paper lists the research outputs published since the launch of the SSSP program in 2022, along with their open-access links.

2 RESEARCH SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

2.1 Digital cash transfers in conflict settings

Humanitarian organizations have been deploying digital cash transfers to assist households and communities living under active conflict. However, their potential remains understudied. IFPRI is conducting a rigorous assessment of digital cash transfers and their impact on food security, mental health, and economic resilience in conflict-affected communities in Sudan. Through funding from CGIAR, this research examines whether and, if so, how digital financial interventions can support those who are living in the midst of active conflict. Utilizing a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design, the study evaluates the effectiveness of different sizes of digital cash transfers delivered to conflict-affected households through various digital platforms, including mobile banking applications and airtime-based transfers. These transfers were provided to urban households across multiple states in which conflict was ongoing, allowing researchers to compare how different transfer amounts and delivery mechanisms affect the welfare of these households.

The study employs extensive household surveys to track changes in food consumption, income diversification, mental health, and financial inclusion and stability. Additionally, it explores the comparative advantages of digital transfers over traditional cash-based assistance, focusing on security, accessibility, and ease of use in conflict settings.

This research will generate critical evidence on whether digital financial interventions provide any advantages over traditional cash-based solutions in crisis environments, particularly in reaching populations with limited access to conventional banking services. The findings will offer valuable insights for humanitarian organizations, financial service providers, and policymakers on digital cash transfer programs, and, if proven to be of value, how the programs might be better designed to be scalable, secure, and efficient. Furthermore, the study will shed light on how digital payments contribute to reducing financial stress and improving well-being amid ongoing conflict and displacement.

By delivering data-driven recommendations, IFPRI's work aims to enhance the effectiveness of future humanitarian assistance programs, ensuring that any digital solutions of value are employed to strengthen food security, foster economic resilience, and promote financial inclusion in conflict-affected communities.

2.2 Delivering social assistance in fragile contexts

In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), IFPRI's SSSP research team has been evaluating the effectiveness of several social assistance delivery mechanisms—cash transfers, in-kind food assistance, and voucher programs—in Sudan's conflict-affected communities. This study seeks to identify the most impactful interventions for improving food security, household well-being, and resilience in an environment marked by ongoing instability.

Using a rigorous randomized controlled trial (RCT) study design within severely food-insecure communities, the performance of each of the three assistance delivery modalities is compared. The evaluation measures both the cost-effectiveness of each approach and its influence on

household consumption, nutrition, and social cohesion. Recognizing the complexities of delivering aid in fragile settings, particular emphasis in the study is placed on identifying the operational and logistical challenges for each modality posed by volatile market conditions, shifting conflict dynamics, and infrastructure constraints.

Data collected for this study includes household surveys, market assessments, and qualitative interviews with both social assistance beneficiaries and implementing partners. The study also assesses the broader social impacts of different transfer mechanisms, including their effects on gender dynamics, mental health, and community relationships. By taking a comprehensive approach, IFPRI aims to generate a deeper understanding of how social protection measures function in conflict zones.

The findings will contribute to the design of more effective, adaptive, and shock-responsive social protection programs to enhance food security, economic stability, and resilience in conflict-affected communities in Sudan. The insights gained will be invaluable to humanitarian organizations, policymakers, and development partners seeking to implement evidence-based assistance models in both Sudan and other fragile contexts. Additionally, this research will guide the refinement of strategies for targeting beneficiaries, optimizing payment mechanisms, and enhancing delivery modalities to ensure aid efficiently and effectively reaches the most vulnerable.

Through these efforts, IFPRI's work will help shape scalable, high-impact interventions that improve the reach, efficiency, and effectiveness of social assistance programs, ultimately strengthening resilience and recovery in conflict-affected communities.

2.3 Monitoring the effects of Sudan's conflict on food systems, agricultural production, and economic stability

Since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, IFPRI-Sudan has been systematically monitoring its impact on food systems, agricultural production, and economic stability. Through multiple rounds of surveys targeting farmers, rural and urban households, and MSMEs, IFPRI provides real-time, data-driven insights to inform responses to food security challenges, livelihood disruptions, and market instability.

- **Farmer surveys (rounds 1 and 2)**—These surveys documented sharp declines in agricultural production due to displacement, input shortages, and insecurity. While some farmers have attempted to adapt by shifting to drought-resistant crops or engaging in off-farm labor, the majority reported worsening agricultural production and marketing conditions that threaten the long-term viability of their farming.
- **Rural household surveys (rounds 1 and 2)**—The findings from these survey rounds indicated rising food insecurity, loss of income, and restricted market access. Many rural households increasingly rely on remittances and humanitarian aid, as many have been displaced by the conflict. Even for those rural households that have not had to relocate, the rural economies upon which they have relied for their livelihoods have been undermined and reshaped by the fighting.
- **Urban household surveys (rounds 1 and 2)**—Economic distress continues to escalate in urban areas due to the continuing conflict, with rising unemployment, surging food

prices, and an increasing number of displaced families. Urban households are increasingly dependent on informal support networks and emergency assistance to meet their basic needs.

- **MSME survey (round 1)**—The enterprise survey revealed that the conflict has led to widespread business closures, disrupted supply chains, and financial constraints, compelling small enterprises to either shut down, relocate, or shift to informal operations.

Insights from these studies have provided evidence for decision-making in humanitarian response and economic recovery. The SSSP team of IFPRI remains committed to continuously updating these studies, ensuring timely, high-quality data analysis that supports evidence-based policymaking, humanitarian action, and post-conflict recovery strategy formulation for resilience building.

2.4 Monitoring the urban economy and agricultural production under conflict in Khartoum state

Since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023, IFPRI has been actively monitoring the devastation in Sudan's agricultural sector and overall economy. Two ongoing studies are assessing the war's impact on the agro-industrial sector and crop production in Khartoum state in order to generate evidence to guide post-conflict recovery efforts.

The first study examines the conflict's effects on selected agro-industries in Khartoum, particularly in Khartoum North and Khartoum South, where industrial activity in the country has historically been concentrated. Through key informant interviews, the study has systematically mapped and classified agro-industrial establishments, including wheat mills, cooking oil processors, and packaging factories. Satellite imagery and geospatial mapping have been employed to assess the extent of physical damage to these enterprises, providing an accurate quantification of destruction levels. Beyond physical damage, the research has also identified several additional challenges for agro-processors, such as disruptions to power and water supplies, labor shortages, and the risks posed by unexploded ordnance. The research findings will be an input for strategic recovery plans aimed at rehabilitating Sudan's agro-industries and restoring urban food supply chains.

The second study evaluates the conflict's impact on crop production in Khartoum state, utilizing satellite imagery and field validation to assess changes in agricultural activity. By comparing pre-conflict agricultural production data from the 2021/22 agricultural season with production levels in the 2024/25 season, the study has estimated both potential and actual cultivated areas, categorized agricultural enterprises by size and crop type, and analyzed irrigation practices. Field validation, including key informant interviews, has been used to complement the analyses based on remote sensing data, ensuring a comprehensive assessment. The study's insights into constraints on food production and emerging land-use trends will inform policies for post-conflict agricultural recovery and food security stabilization.

Together, these studies offer a detailed analysis of the economic and agricultural losses suffered in Khartoum state. By integrating geospatial data, field assessments, and economic analysis, IFPRI's research generates actionable recommendations to support the rebuilding of Sudan's agrifood systems, the revitalization of local industries, and the strengthening of household livelihoods in conflict-affected communities.

2.5 Impact evaluation of resilience programs—the SOMOUD project

IFPRI is conducting a comprehensive impact evaluation of the SOMOUD project, a resilience-focused initiative aimed at improving food security, agricultural productivity, and access to essential services in Sudan. Implemented by WFP, UNICEF, and Mercy Corps with funding from the World Bank, the project targets three key areas: (1) providing farmers with essential inputs and technical training, (2) strengthening private-sector small and medium-sized enterprises through matching grants, and (3) supporting consumer cooperatives with in-kind assistance, including eco-friendly cooking equipment.

The effectiveness of these interventions is being assessed in secure areas with significant internally displaced populations in three priority states—Kassala, Northern, and River Nile. IFPRI researchers are conducting a baseline household survey across project locations to establish initial conditions, measure pre-intervention food security levels, and identify income sources and coping strategies.

Following the baseline survey, study communities will randomly be assigned to different intervention groups to ensure statistical comparability between those receiving support and those awaiting inclusion. A midline survey, which is to be conducted approximately 12 months post-intervention, will track improvements in food security, income stability, and household resilience, which will be used to enable program adjustments. A final endline survey will be done at project completion.

This evaluation will be used as part of a comprehensive impact assessment to inform the design and scaling up of future programs in Sudan and elsewhere with objectives similar to those of SOMOUD. It is expected to generate critical evidence on how such agricultural and economic support programs in fragile settings might effectively strengthen food security and livelihoods among participating farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises, and consumer cooperatives, and enhance resilience to economic and environmental shocks through diversified income sources and improved market linkages.

Through this rigorous evaluation framework, IFPRI aims to provide actionable insights that contribute to the long-term sustainability and scalability of such resilience-building efforts. The findings will serve as a valuable resource for informing future donor investments, humanitarian strategies, and economic recovery initiatives in Sudan and other conflict-affected contexts.

3 MONITORING PRICES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

To strengthen economic resilience and food security monitoring in Sudan, IFPRI conducts a fortnightly survey on the price and availability of 33 essential commodities across all 18 states. This high-frequency data collection provides critical insights into market dynamics, thereby helping policymakers, humanitarian agencies, and researchers assess inflationary trends, supply chain operations, and broader economic stability.

The survey covers 36 markets nationwide—two markets per state. In each market, five merchants are interviewed in person every two weeks to collect real-time data on commodity availability, current prices, and the quality grades of any commodities being sold. The commodities being tracked include:

- Staple grains, including wheat, sorghum, and millet;
- Important vegetables, including tomatoes, potatoes, and onions;
- Protein sources, including lamb, chicken, beef, fish, milk, and eggs;
- Other essential food items, such as sugar, cooking oil, fava beans, wheat flour, sesame, groundnuts, and sunflower;
- Petrol and diesel fuel, both at official prices and on the black market; and
- Agricultural inputs, including urea and DAP fertilizers and seed for both improved and traditional varieties of wheat, sorghum, millet, and potatoes.

To identify any emerging shifts in market prices, continuous trend analysis is conducted with the addition of each new round of data to the price series. Data on the quality of the commodities sold are analyzed after each round to assess market conditions. All these data are synthesized into a monthly market bulletin for monitoring and economic policy guidance.

By systematically tracking these commodities over time, IFPRI provides timely, evidence-based insights into market fluctuations and supply chain dynamics in Sudan. This data-driven approach supports more effective food security assessments, enhances emergency response planning, and informs policy interventions aimed at stabilizing markets and ensuring consistent access to essential goods for Sudanese households and businesses.

4 SUPPORTING SUDANESE ENTREPRENEURS DURING CRISIS

IFPRI's research underscores the resilience of Sudan's micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in navigating the challenges that the conflict poses to their businesses. These enterprises, particularly those in the agrifood sector, are facing profound disruptions due to inflation, supply chain breakdowns, and restricted market access. Female entrepreneurs encounter additional barriers, including limited financial access and mobility constraints, making it that much more difficult for them to sustain their businesses.

Despite these difficulties, MSMEs in Sudan have demonstrated remarkable adaptability in overcoming the challenges the conflict has brought. Several strategic coping mechanisms have commonly been employed:

- **Digital transformation**—Business operators leverage e-commerce platforms and social media to maintain their operations and reach customers, despite physical market disruptions.
- **Local sourcing and product diversification**—Reducing their dependence on unstable supply chains and, instead, obtaining raw materials locally has enabled many MSME managers to keep their businesses open. Many also have expanded the range of products they sell.

- **Community support networks**—Smaller enterprises commonly now rely on informal savings groups, cooperatives, and family networks to maintain their financial stability and operational continuity.

IFPRI's research demonstrates the importance of several policy actions that will enhance the resilience and long-term viability of MSMEs in the current period of conflict:

- **Expanding financial inclusion**—Strengthening the access of small enterprises to microcredit, grants, and mobile banking services will enable them to weather economic shocks better and invest in the growth of their business.
- **Improving market access and infrastructure**—Developing reliable transport and logistics, communications, and storage systems will facilitate more efficient and, hence, more profitable trade and reduce supply chain vulnerabilities.
- **Targeted support for agrifood MSMEs**—Providing specialized training and subsidies on selected inputs and strengthening supply chain linkages will expand the operations of agricultural enterprises and their contributions to local food security.
- **Gender-sensitive interventions**—Designing financial products, mentorship programs, and business development services that address the unique challenges faced by female entrepreneurs is necessary to foster inclusive economic growth.

The results of the research by IFPRI's SSSP team show that empowering Sudan's MSMEs is essential for sustaining the livelihoods of many households, preserving jobs, and, when the conflict ends, reinforcing and accelerating Sudan's economic recovery. By offering them targeted support, MSMEs can play a pivotal role in stabilizing food systems, restoring local economies, and driving long-term resilience in Sudan and other fragile contexts.

5 ECONOMY-WIDE ANALYSES AND MODELING FOR GUIDING SUDAN'S RECOVERY

In assessing the economic ramifications of Sudan's conflict and identifying pathways for recovery, IFPRI employs computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling and social accounting matrix (SAM) multiplier analysis. These methods enable a comprehensive evaluation of the conflict's impact on Sudan's agrifood systems, employment, household incomes, and poverty while also facilitating the exploration of which among a range of possible policy interventions and investment strategies would be effective in restoring economic stability and promoting economic growth.

The ongoing conflict has triggered significant economic downturns, with estimated annual GDP contractions of up to 47 percent. Job losses are estimated at 5.2 million, with an additional 1.8 million people pushed into poverty as the crisis continues. The agrifood sector, a cornerstone of Sudan's economy, is projected to shrink by 22 percent, exacerbating food insecurity and undermining livelihoods. In the agriculture sector, sorghum and millet production has declined by over 40 percent, while livestock markets have collapsed. More than 60 percent of Sudan's micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) have either shut down or significantly downsized as they struggle with escalating supply chain costs. Additionally, industrial production

in Khartoum has declined by 90 percent, crippling essential industrial sub-sectors like wheat milling, cooking oil processing, and food packaging.

To support economic recovery, IFPRI models four potential pathways:

- **Agricultural productivity bounce-back**—Enhancing agricultural output through input support, extension services, and irrigation investments.
- **Infrastructure investment (USD 1.0 billion)**—Rehabilitating key infrastructure to facilitate trade, market access, and economic activity.
- **Cash transfers USD 1.0 billion**—Strengthening social protection mechanisms to stabilize household incomes and boost consumer demand.
- **A combined strategy**—Integrating agricultural revitalization, infrastructure investments, and cash transfers for a more balanced and resilient recovery.

The priority policies that emerge from the CGE and SAM analyses include stabilizing food security, revitalizing MSMEs, investing in agriculture and infrastructure, expanding digital financial solutions for cash transfers, and improving trade and market access. These strategies will address both immediate humanitarian needs and the structural economic challenges that must be overcome for sustainable recovery in Sudan.

6 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SUDAN'S CONFLICT

Under SSSP, IFPRI's research highlights the intricate relationship between political and economic interests in Sudan's conflict, particularly the control of key agrifood value chains by military and paramilitary actors. These groups have leveraged economic dominance to finance their military operations and consolidate political power with significant consequences for Sudan's food systems and broader economy.

Military and paramilitary entities have employed four distinct strategies to control agrifood value chains:

- **Market capture**—Monopolizing high-revenue sectors, such as livestock exports, to exert control over trade and financial flows.
- **Biased competition**—Utilizing subsidies, privileged foreign exchange access, and preferential licensing to outcompete private firms, particularly in wheat milling.
- **Acquiescence**—Withdrawing from technically complex industries, such as spray-dried gum arabic, where private-sector expertise dominates.
- **Innovation**—Selectively investing in new agricultural ventures, such as horticulture, where private-sector competition remains limited.

These economic maneuvers in agrifood value chains by military and paramilitary actors significantly contributed to the escalation of conflict in 2023, as shifting commercial influence among them disrupted historical power balances. The increasing economic strength of paramilitary groups, bolstered by resource exports, challenged traditional centers of economic dominance, fueling tensions that led to armed confrontation.

The militarization of Sudan’s agrifood system has triggered market distortions, trade disruptions, and a deepening food security crisis. Key consequences include:

- **Supply chain disruptions**—Breakdowns of essential food and cash crop markets hinder production and distribution.
- **Inflation and price volatility**—Market manipulation and import restrictions drive up food prices, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.
- **Farmer displacement and resource conflicts**—Competition over land and resources exacerbates instability and undermines agricultural livelihoods.

To restore economic stability and foster an inclusive agrifood system in Sudan, IFPRI’s research underscores the need for:

- Regulatory reforms to establish a fair and competitive environment for private-sector agribusiness.
- Divestment from military-controlled enterprises to reduce military involvement in agriculture and trade and facilitate open markets.
- Institutional strengthening to enhance transparency in licensing, trade policies, and subsidy distribution.
- Greater support for smallholder farmers and local agribusinesses to expand economic participation and resilience-building initiatives.

These findings provide a robust foundation for shaping conflict-sensitive economic recovery strategies. By highlighting the structural distortions in Sudan’s agrifood system that need to be addressed, IFPRI contributes to efforts aimed at stabilizing markets, revitalizing agricultural production, and ensuring that economic benefits are equitably distributed across society.

7 WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS AND LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS

IFPRI-Sudan has been actively engaged in research on interdependencies between water, energy, and food systems, particularly in transboundary river basins, such as the Blue Nile. Recognizing the critical tradeoffs between these resources, IFPRI’s research has developed analytical frameworks to optimize the management of water resources, ensure sustainable energy generation, and enhance agricultural productivity.

Recent studies have focused on decision-making frameworks for multi-objective optimization of dam operations, irrigation expansion, and hydropower generation. By integrating artificial-intelligence-driven simulation models, IFPRI’s research identifies efficient portfolios of agricultural and dam operations that minimize tradeoffs and maximize economic and food security benefits. These research efforts provide actionable insights for policy interventions that balance water, energy, and food priorities in fragile and conflict-affected regions.

7.1 Impact of large dams on economic and agricultural systems

Large-scale infrastructure projects, such as dams, have significant socio-economic and environmental implications. IFPRI's research evaluates both the positive and negative impacts of large dams on economic sectors, ecosystem services, and local livelihoods.

A recent study on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile examined its effects on downstream hydropower generation, irrigation potential, and flood regulation. While the dam offers benefits, such as improved electricity reliability and reduced flooding risks, it also alters sediment transport, affecting soil fertility and traditional agricultural practices along the Nile. IFPRI's research provides evidence-based recommendations to mitigate such negative impacts and enhance cooperation among riparian states for sustainable water management.

Additionally, IFPRI has assessed the economic implications of reduced sediment flow on traditional brickmaking industries along the Blue and White Nile. As dams trap sediment, this disrupts local brick production, affecting employment and construction sectors. Using economy-wide modeling approaches, IFPRI has quantified the long-term GDP impacts of such disruptions to sedimentation and explores policy measures to support the industries affected.

7.2 Integrated approaches to infrastructure and resource planning

To support resilient development, IFPRI advocates for integrated resource planning that accounts for economic, social, and environmental dimensions. By combining hydrological modeling, economic impact assessments, and policy simulations, IFPRI's research on the water-energy-food nexus helps in the design of strategies that enhance infrastructure benefits while minimizing unintended consequences.

This research aligns with broader global efforts to promote sustainable water management, energy security, and food system resilience, making it highly relevant for development initiatives aimed at fostering stability and economic growth in Sudan and elsewhere.

7.3 Research on river basins, dams, and public health challenges

Looking ahead, IFPRI-Sudan is expanding its portfolio of research to examine the linkages between river basins, dams, water systems, heat stress, and health challenges. A growing body of evidence suggests that reservoirs of large dams can alter local climates, contributing to increased humidity and heat stress, which may have direct implications for public health and labor productivity. IFPRI aims to investigate these connections in Sudan, particularly in relation to agricultural labor conditions and food production stability.

Another new area of focus is the potential for dam reservoirs to increase the prevalence of waterborne diseases, such as malaria, schistosomiasis, and cholera. Stagnant and slow-moving reservoir waters can create breeding grounds for disease-carrying vectors, posing heightened health risks for communities living near dam sites. Through interdisciplinary research combining hydrological modeling, epidemiological studies, and economic impact assessments, IFPRI plans to generate evidence-based recommendations to mitigate these risks while maximizing the developmental benefits of water infrastructure projects.

8 CAPACITY SHARING AND COLLABORATION

IFPRI has strengthened research capacity in Sudan by training researchers, practitioners, and institutions on data management, survey methodologies, and equilibrium modeling. These efforts enhance data-driven decision making in the country, particularly in the current context of conflict, ensuring that evidence-based policies support economic recovery and food security initiatives. Additionally, IFPRI has facilitated high-level policy dialogues through events such as the “Navigating Sudan’s Conflict” and “Sudan at a Crossroads” seminars in 2024, which brought together key stakeholders to discuss pathways for Sudan’s recovery.

8.1 Key capacity strengthening activities

- **Enumerator training for surveys**—Training programs designed to improve data accuracy and implementation of urban and rural household surveys, farmers’ surveys, and MSME data collection.
- **Technical training on data analysis**—Equipping researchers with essential data-handling skills through training in basic data management tools and the use of Stata statistical software for data analysis. Capacity-building efforts have also focused on spatial analysis and mapping using geographic information systems (GIS), interpretation of remotely-sensed data from satellites, and economy-wide modeling to support real-time conflict-related economic impact assessments.
- **Technical training on equilibrium models for policy analysis**—This instruction covered a range of modeling tools, from simple Excel-based partial equilibrium models to advanced economy-wide modeling approaches, for assessing the economic and human development impacts of the conflict in Sudan and simulating a range of recovery scenarios in order to gain insights on which might prove most effective.
- **Impact evaluation and research methods**—Training in rigorous impact evaluation techniques, including randomized controlled trials (RCT), with a particular focus on food security and social protection programs.
- **Knowledge exchange and policy engagement**—Hosting policy seminars and workshops, such as “Navigating Sudan’s Conflict” (Nairobi) and “Sudan at a Crossroads” (Washington, DC), to facilitate dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and humanitarian actors. Additionally, IFPRI works with other stakeholder organizations, such as UNDP, WFP, and the World Bank, to disseminate research on Sudan’s economic recovery and food security challenges and how best they might be addressed.

8.2 Collaborations and institutional partnerships

IFPRI collaborates with national and international partners to conduct research and communicate the evidence obtained to inform actionable policies that drive sustainable development. Key partnerships include:

- **World Food Programme (WFP)–Sudan**—IFPRI and WFP have engaged in joint research on food security, cash transfers, and social protection, including impact evaluations of social assistance programs.

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)–Sudan**—Research efforts with UNDP have focused on assessing the impact of conflict on households in both rural and urban areas and studies on MSME resilience. SSSP and UNDP staff also have jointly provided training on economic monitoring techniques to Sudanese partner institutions.
- **CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration (FCM) & NEXUS Gains**—These CGIAR initiatives support food system resilience in Sudan by supporting IFPRI’s researchers with SSSP to evaluate social assistance programs, various development intervention modalities, and the effects of climate change on livelihoods, while also advancing adaptation strategies and water-energy research.
- **Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**—AOAD serves as IFPRI’s hosting partner in Sudan, facilitating capacity-building collaborations, co-organizing training sessions, and supporting research dissemination.
- **International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)**—IFPRI and CIMMYT maintain a longstanding partnership through the Sustainable Agrifood System for Sudan (SASAS) Project, which USAID funds. Research activities under this initiative include household studies, MSME evaluations, and agro-industry assessments in Khartoum state.
- **World Bank–Sudan**—IFPRI, through SSSP, engages with the World Bank in conducting economic impact assessments in Sudan and developing policy recommendations on economic revitalization and development planning.
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**—USAID has been the principal supporter of SSSP since its inception, funding research activities and leveraging program outputs to inform development interventions in Sudan.

Through these capacity-building initiatives and collaborative efforts, IFPRI is strengthening Sudan’s research and policymaking landscape, ensuring that evidence-based strategies inform economic recovery and food security policies. By fostering knowledge-sharing and institutional partnerships, IFPRI aims to equip local stakeholders with the tools needed to effectively address Sudan’s development challenges.

9 IFPRI BOOK AND SUDAN CONFLICT CONFERENCE

9.1 Upcoming Sudan conflict book

IFPRI is now organizing the publication of a book, War and Resilience: The Multifaceted Impacts of Sudan’s Conflict and Pathways to Recovery. This book is a comprehensive edited volume that examines the origins, economic and social impacts, and potential recovery strategies related to Sudan’s ongoing conflict. Expected to be published in 2026, the book has assembled articles by leading researchers on Sudan to provide Sudanese policymakers with evidence-based insights and actionable recommendations for Sudan’s recovery.

The book is structured into four thematic sections:

- **Origins and dynamics of the conflict**—Examining historical and political roots, resource competition, and the roles of key actors.

- **Economic, social, and humanitarian impacts**—Analyzing disruptions to markets, food systems, and livelihoods, as well as the resulting humanitarian challenges.
- **Resilience and recovery strategies**—Exploring coping mechanisms employed by communities, assessing the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, and providing recommendations for recovery strategies.
- **Political processes and recommendations**—Addressing peace negotiations, international sanctions, and strategic pathways for long-term recovery.

With contributions from IFPRI experts and external scholars, the book will serve as a key resource for policymakers and development practitioners working on Sudan’s post-conflict recovery.

9.2 Sudan Conflict Conference: Navigating Recovery and Resilience

To facilitate knowledge exchange and policy discussions, IFPRI will host the “Sudan Conflict Conference: Navigating Recovery and Resilience” on April 14–15, 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. Marking three years since the conflict’s onset, the event will convene researchers, policymakers, and humanitarian actors to discuss emerging findings and recovery strategies.

Key objectives for the conference include:

- **Dissemination of research findings**—Presenting insights from IFPRI’s research and the upcoming Sudan conflict book.
- **Lessons from resolved conflicts**—Drawing relevant experiences from comparable conflicts elsewhere in the world that have now ended in order to identify applicable recovery models for Sudan.
- **Policy dialogue**—Engaging key stakeholders from international organizations, government agencies, and development partners to discuss pathways to peace, economic stability, and growth in Sudan.
- **Actionable recommendations**—Identifying practical solutions to enhance resilience and facilitate sustainable recovery efforts.

The two-day event will feature thematic research discussions on Sudan’s economy, food security, and humanitarian response on the first day, followed by engagement with high-level policy-oriented panels on the second day. To examine many of the policy recommendations being advanced for guiding Sudan’s recovery from conflict, these discussions will involve key development partners, including UNDP, WFP, and the World Bank, and the authors of selected chapters from the forthcoming IFPRI book on the conflict.

The book and conference together broadly aim to inform evidence-based strategies for Sudan’s recovery, strengthen partnerships, and promote actionable solutions for post-conflict reconstruction.

10 CONCLUSION

IFPRI's ongoing research and policy analyses under SSSP offer vital insights into Sudan's humanitarian and economic challenges. By leveraging data-driven approaches, IFPRI is contributing to the design and implementation of effective interventions that foster resilience, support recovery, and promote strong human and economic development in both the current fragile context of the country and, if peace can soon be achieved, later as the economy and agrifood systems of the country are rebuilt and Sudanese households reestablish sustainable livelihoods.

Through its rigorous research, IFPRI provides Sudanese policymakers and stakeholders in the country's development with evidence-based recommendations to inform their decisions on how best to act to enhance the economic stability of Sudan and strengthen food security for all Sudanese. By collaborating with key stakeholders, IFPRI ensures that its research translates into actionable solutions that support communities affected by conflict and economic disruption in the country.

Strengthening engagement with both national and international partners committed to development in Sudan, as well as in other fragile contexts, can amplify the impact of IFPRI's work, facilitating informed decision-making and driving long-term recovery efforts for the benefit of all conflict-afflicted people.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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IFPRI Sudan is hosted by Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), 7th Amarat Street | P.O. Box 474 – 11111 | Khartoum, Sudan, currently operating from Port Sudan. In Kenya, SSSP is hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Old Naivasha Road, Nairobi.

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