



CONFERENCE

NAVIGATING SUDAN'S CONFLICT

RESEARCH INSIGHTS & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

MARCH 5, 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA

8:00AM - 6:00PM EAT
12:00AM - 10:00AM EST

In Collaboration with:



Sponsored by:



BACKGROUND

The conflict in Sudan has persisted since April 2023, with the violence intensifying in December 2023. As of February 2024, the crisis has displaced more than [8.1 million people internally](#), with an additional 1.7 million seeking refuge across borders. As of mid-April, ACLED has reported about [13,900 fatalities](#) across Sudan, and the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health reports that around [27,700 people were injured](#) between 15 April 2023 and 26 January 2024. The violence has spread into parts of central and eastern Sudan that were initially considered safe havens, resulting in more displacement, and further increasing pressure on states in eastern Sudan.

Historically, conflict has been one of the major drivers of food insecurity in Sudan. The current situation is no different: by the first quarter of 2023, [34 percent of Sudan's population](#)—more than 16.2 million people—were food insecure. As a result of the ongoing clashes and economic deterioration in several parts of the country, an estimated [17.7 million people](#), or 37 percent of the population, experienced acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October 2023 and February 2024. There is an urgent need to strengthen Sudan's resilience systems to protect the vulnerable and ultimately lay the groundwork to develop a more inclusive society and economy in a safer, more stable context.

The Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has been at the forefront of this crisis, providing policy and program recommendations to development and humanitarian agencies. IFPRI's current activities in Sudan include a wide range of [conflict-related studies](#) that use various methodologies to assess the status of food security, poverty, agro-processing, forced migration patterns, and livelihoods of Sudanese citizens. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is also working in Sudan to address multisectoral early recovery needs, with a specific focus on restoring cohesion across communities and social contracts with local leadership.

IFPRI and UNDP have partnered on wide-ranging and in-depth analysis to better understand the socio-economic impact of the war in Sudan, and to inform policy and programmatic recommendations. The ongoing work includes quantitative analysis using primary data collected through surveys in rural and urban areas for both households and micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME), following the start of the conflict. The joint research effort also uses economywide analyses to estimate the economic and regional implications of Sudan's conflict. The ongoing research aims to yield insights on a wide range of topics, including poverty, food security, coping and livelihood strategies, income sources, employment dynamics, household demographics, and migration patterns, as well as the role of social protection in mitigating the shocks.

OBJECTIVE

IFPRI and UNDP, in collaboration with partners, remain committed to offering timely and relevant research on the conflict. This endeavor aims to guide program design, identify gaps, and support efforts to effectively mitigate the effects of the food crisis amid the ongoing conflict.

The Sudan Conference seeks to present and discuss the emerging findings from the ongoing joint analysis, as well as other relevant research undertaken to assess the impacts of the conflict in Sudan. It brings together partners that include international organizations, civil society organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders to discuss ways to address the multifaceted consequences of the conflict. Main outputs of the conference include:

- ▶ **Output 1:** Present key findings and gather feedback on ongoing research and analysis.
- ▶ **Output 2:** Based on ongoing and new research, identify entry points for immediate, short-, and medium-term interventions in Sudan.
- ▶ **Output 3:** Identify gaps and needs for further analysis to facilitate evidence-based discussion that advances policy dialogue and guides future programmatic interventions.
- ▶ **Output 4:** Identify opportunities for collaboration among different stakeholders to foster partnerships and promote collective action.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

One-day in-person and virtual conference, with a mix of plenary/panel discussions and research presentations. The event is presented in English with simultaneous Arabic interpretation.

PARTICIPANTS

The event brings together a diverse set of stakeholders working in Sudan, including in-person and virtual participants from international research and development domains, nongovernmental organizations (domestic and international), the donor community, private sector, think tanks, and academia.

AGENDA

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
08:00	09:00	Registration and Coffee	
09:00	09:20	Opening remarks (IFPRI, UNDP, USAID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Moderator: Oliver Kirui, Research Fellow, IFPRI. ▶ Panelists: Paul Dorosh, Director of Development Strategy & Governance Unit, IFPRI; Thair Shraideh, Sudan Country Resident Representative, UNDP; Loren Stoddard, acting Mission Director, USAID Sudan.
09:20	09:35	An Overview of Current Situation in Sudan amidst the ongoing conflict; The Role of Research in Informing Interventions	▶ Khalid Siddig, SRF and Sudan Country Program Leader, IFPRI.
09:35	10:30	Panel Discussion 1: Evidence-based Research for Policy and Programming in Times of Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Moderator: Clemens Breisinger, SRF and Kenya Program Leader, IFPRI. ▶ Panelists: Khalid Siddig, SRF and Sudan Program Leader, IFPRI; Vito Intini, IGEF Team Leader and Regional Lead Economist, UNDP; Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum (ERF); Awatif Tagir, Gender and Economy Specialist, UN Women Sudan Country Office; Menale Kassie, Principal Scientist and Head of Social Sciences & Impact Assessment Unit, ICIPE.

10:30 11:00 Photo Session + Coffee Break + Networking

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
11:00	12:00	Research Session A Implications of the conflict: from micro to macro levels [3 Presentations: 10 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A]	▶ Chair: Leni Kinzli, Head of Communications, WFP.
11:00	11:20	▶ Drivers and impact of Sudan's conflict: evidence from micro and macro level assessments	▶ Hala Abushama, Research Assistant, IFPRI.
11:20	11:40	▶ Monitoring economic activities in times of conflict: the role of satellite imagery and remote sensing	▶ Vito Intini, IGEF Team Leader and Regional Lead Economist, UNDP.
11:40	12:00	▶ Food security situation before and during the conflict: findings from household surveys	▶ Fredrik Svensson, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Officer, WFP Sudan.

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
12:00	13:00	Panel Discussion 2: Development Interventions and Implementation in Times of Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Moderator: Karin Ruf, Senior Economic Advisor UNDP Sudan. ▶ Panelists: Adam Yao, Sudan Deputy Country Representative, FAO; Billy Mwiinga, Head of Sudan WFP Coordination Office in Nairobi, WFP; Slobodan Tadic, Senior Crisis Coordinator, UNDP; Mohammed Abdelmomen, Sudan Country Representative, UNIDO; Ruben Vellenga, Chief of External Relations (a.i), UNICEF.

13:00 14:00 Lunch Break + Networking

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
14:00	15:00	Research Session B Mechanisms for building resilience and support [3 Presentations: 10 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A]	▶ Chair: Paul Dorosh, Director of Development Strategy & Governance Unit, IFPRI
14:00	14:15	▶ Shocks, coping and livelihood strategies: recommendations from household surveys	▶ Oliver Kirui, Research Fellow, IFPRI
14:15	14:30	▶ Trends of vulnerability and resilience in Sudan: a pre-conflict overview	▶ Youssef Chaitani, Chief of Section, Risk Prevention, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).
14:30	14:45	▶ Interventions and assistance for resilience building in conflict settings: approaches and challenges	▶ Billy Mwiinga, Head of Sudan WFP Coordination Office in Nairobi, WFP
14:45	15:00	▶ Access to technologies and inputs and farmers' intentions during conflicts	▶ Moses Siambi, Regional Representative for Africa, CIMMYT; Monica Fischer, Senior Scientist, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion, CIMMYT.

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
15:00	16:00	Research Session C Agricultural productivity, market access, and international support [3 Presentations: 10 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A]	▶ Chair: Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, SRF and Ethiopia Program Leader, IFPRI
15:00	15:20	▶ Market access, prices, and employment: insights from household and farmers surveys	▶ Mosab Ahmed, Senior Research Assistant, IFPRI
15:20	15:40	▶ Economywide and regional implications of Sudan's conflict: a global analysis	▶ Vito Intini, IGEF Team Leader and Regional Lead Economist, UNDP
15:40	16:00	▶ Impact of the conflict and pathways to recovery in Sudan: agricultural bounce-back, infrastructural investment and social protection	▶ Khalid Siddig, SRF & Sudan Country Program Leader, IFPRI

16:00 16:30 Coffee Break + Networking

From	To	Sessions	Speakers
16:30	17:45	Panel Discussion 3: Bridging Perspectives: How to link development solutions and research to support interventions during the conflict	▶ Moderator: Jawhara Kanu, United States Institute of Peace (USIP). ▶ Panelists: Paul Dorosh, Director of Development Strategy & Governance Unit, IFPRI; Amel Wagdi, General Manger, Mahjoub Sons Group; Robert Vokes, Senior Program Development Advisor, Mercy Corps; Abubaker Omer, Chief Strategy Officer, Sharik Foundation; Murtada Kamal, CEO, Sudan Platform for Agriculture and Food Security.
17:45	18:00	Closing Remarks and Outlook	▶ Thair Shraideh, Sudan Country Resident Representative, UNDP. ▶ Khalid Siddig, SRF & Sudan Country Program Leader, IFPRI.