AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH SUDAN’S CONFLICT ECONOMY

April 2020
1. Influences of conflict on food systems occur mainly through secondary channels including trade disruptions and decreased farming security.

2. Market failures attributed to excessive inflation have the greatest direct impact on food insecurity since late 2015.

3. Conflict-induced trade disruptions have negatively impacted food supply.

4. Displacement has disrupted reliable and adequate access to land.

5. Food insecurity remains at critical levels despite favorable environmental conditions and increasing agricultural potential in recent years.
Modeling results show that markets and environmental variables play critical roles in predicting food insecurity in South Sudan since 2015.
South Sudan
May - September  2006
Precipitation / Potential Evapotranspiration
Environmental trend analysis shows wetter conditions and longer growing seasons across South Sudan.

Upward sloping trendlines indicate **days with >5mm precipitation** and **length of growing season** have increased in all 8 key sites analyzed across South Sudan.
“Conflict has affected my work because currently I don’t have many customers like before, also before conflict I was having many branches such as in Fashoda, KaKa, Malakal and Nazir but now they have closed up due to conflict.”

“Now there are no successful (large-scale) farmers in Malakal. They used to be here, but they are all gone to Khartoum, Juba and Uganda, due to the incident in 2013.”

“During the crisis of 2013, the market was totally burnt down and many people have lost their property.”

“Many people have moved away. Others are still coming back. What you see at this moment, there is no rampant gunshot, what is making people run away is famine. Famine has affected people, when we were hammered with war then we were hammered with famine. So people would go to the camps just to get something to support your children.”

“The conflicts of 2013 affected people in many ways, like it displaced many people… which led to no chance of cultivation. The insecurity also prevented people to do other agricultural activities or to cultivate outside the town…. So the farmers do activities only for their survival.”

“Since the war or conflict occurred in 2013, people ran away from their cradle land to seek refuge in other areas causing high population in the places they settled in resulting in a shortage of land for crop production.”

“The conflict has affected many farmers in a way that the conflict scattered them and they were not able to feel secure to cultivate a lot of feddan.”

“…there was a free movement of people and fuel was cheap and people who owned large farms were easily buying fuel to cultivate their farms, but now it’s expensive and if you can’t afford the cost of fuel, then you may decide to grow crops on a small scale and that bring about less production.”

“Many people have moved away. Others are still coming back. What you see at this moment, there is no rampant gunshot, what is making people run away is famine. Famine has affected people, when we were hammered with war then we were hammered with famine. So people would go to the camps just to get something to support your children.”

Interviews show displacement and trade disruptions as major conflict-induced drivers of food insecurity.
Market data analysis shows inflation preceding worsening food insecurity conditions.
Conclusion

Future interventions need to account for:

- **Market factors**, holding crucial influence over food security and requiring stabilization through security and infrastructure improvements.

- **Climatic variation**, as continued shifts can drastically impact food security unless response is taken through research, strategic planning, and water management.