Put out to pasture

War, oil and the decline of Misseriyya pastoralism
The context

- Non equilibrium environment
- Opportunistic, ‘tracking’ strategies (north-south *murhals* from *masiaf* to *makharaf*)
- Adaptive changes as a result of external shocks
Livelihood adaptation

- Decreased mobility (esp. ♀ and children; urbanisation)
- Increased engagement in agriculture
- Partial sale of herds for investment in housing and other assets (shops)
- Gradual shift from cattle to sheep raising
- Increased use of crop residue and oilseed cakes as animal feed
Ongoing challenges

- Markets
- Production constraints
- Impact of oil exploration
- Lack of services (impact on women)
External assistance

- Pastoralist resettlement schemes in 1960s and 1970s
- Large scale development schemes in the 1980s
- Assistance during the civil war: relief, ARS and PACTA
- Post-CPA assistance
Current dynamics

- Political instability
- Disenfranchised youth (former PDF; educated)
- Unrepresentative leadership
- JEM presence (has divided the Misseriyya)
- Negative perceptions around CPA, Road Map (mara wahda) and arbitration
- Tension with neighbours (Fayarin/Rizeigat; Zuruq/Nuba)
Conclusions

• Large drive towards sedentarisation mainly elite led (seen as unrealistic by most Misseriyya)

• Experience from dryland Africa: gradual shift centred on education and development of alternative livelihoods

• Key interventions to address immediate concerns and sustain a medium to long term process of diversification - to be promoted urgently
Study team:

Sara Pantuliano (s.pantuliano@odi.org.uk)
Omer Egemi (omer.egemi@hotmail.com)
Babo Fadlalla (babof@ yahoo.com)
Mohammad Farah (mfgibreel@yahoo.com)
Mohammad Elamin (mohamedelamin111@yahoo.com)