

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

SUDAN

MARCH 13, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

SUDAN'S FRAGILE RECOVERY: STATE CONSOLIDATION AMIDST CRISIS & REGIONAL TENSION

Report Summary: March 13, 2026 – Navigating Conflict, Reconstruction, and Geopolitics



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SUDANESE STATE CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS AMID PERSISTENT HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND REGIONAL TENSIONS

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

On March 13, 2026, the Sudanese government intensified efforts to signal a return to state functionality and territorial control, particularly in "liberated" regions like Gezira and parts of Khartoum. High-level visits by military leadership, the resumption of essential services such as national ID issuance, and the laying of foundations for veteran housing projects serve as a strategic narrative to consolidate legitimacy during the ongoing "Battle of Dignity." However, this projection of stability is starkly contrasted by reports of systemic infrastructure destruction attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), continued reliance on grassroots "Takiyas" (community kitchens) for food security, and a fragile health system requiring volunteer surgical missions for complex cases.

Geopolitically, the Sudanese state is pivoting toward an aggressive stance against regional neighbors, specifically Ethiopia. Official media is amplifying allegations that the Ethiopian

government is providing the RSF with drone technology and maintaining training camps within its borders. This escalation suggests a widening regionalization of the conflict, potentially involving the "UAE-Israel-Ethiopia" axis in Sudanese eyes. Domestically, the state is attempting to mitigate economic dissatisfaction through promised salary increases for higher education staff and the rehabilitation of key agricultural projects like the Gash River, though the reality on the ground remains one of significant supply chain disruptions and infrastructure deficits.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

State Reconstruction and Service Resumption

- The Sudanese Civil Registry announced the [resumption of ID card services](#) in Wad Madani, Gezira State, following a three-year hiatus due to conflict and infrastructure damage.
- Governor Ahmed Osman Hamza conducted a high-profile visit to the Jerei area of Khartoum North, inspecting [damaged health centers](#) and historical sites recently retaken from militia control.
- Authorities in White Nile State received [critical water infrastructure](#) components (pipes) for the Rabak water station to restore service to local neighborhoods.

Escalating Sudan-Ethiopia Tensions

- Official reports cite [Reuters findings](#) regarding alleged RSF training camps in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, coupled with claims that Ethiopia is facilitating drone strikes against Sudanese infrastructure.

- The Sudanese Foreign Ministry accused Ethiopia of [exporting internal crises](#) to its neighbors to distract from domestic ethnic federalism issues and its pursuit of Red Sea access.
- Recent strikes on the [Umm Rimta school](#) and hospital in White Nile State are being framed as part of this externally supported militia aggression.

Military Social Welfare and Veteran Support

- Army Chief of Staff General Mohamed Osman al-Hussein visited Atbara to lay the [foundation for "Martyrs' City,"](#) a housing project dedicated to the families of soldiers killed in the conflict.
- The 41st batch of [community police recruits](#) graduated in River Nile State, signaled as a move to bolster local security and protect citizen property.
- Massive aid distributions, including [9,000 food baskets](#) gifted by General Burhan, were delivered to displaced families and "martyrs' relatives" in Kassala State.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Critical Infrastructure and Energy Security

- The Ministry of Energy and the Sudan Electricity Holding Company are meeting to [finalize grid restoration](#) plans, specifically targeting the integration of power generation and transmission after significant looting.
- Maintenance teams in White Nile State are working to [repair power transformers](#), with a long-term goal of establishing local manufacturing capabilities to reduce dependency on imports.

Food Security and Grassroots Resilience

- Community-led "Takiyas" in Jebel Awlia and Khartoum continue to be the [primary food source](#) for hundreds of families, as traditional market systems and government supplies remain inconsistent.
- Despite regional abundance in areas like Bandagyo (Gedaref), [poor road connectivity](#) and unpaved routes prevent agricultural surpluses from reaching wider markets, leading to significant post-harvest losses.

Health Crisis and Specialized Care

- Queens Care Hospital in Port Sudan, supported by the state, launched a [free surgical week](#) for spinal deformities, highlighting a massive gap in specialized healthcare that the standard public system cannot meet.
- Public health warnings regarding [Hepatitis A outbreaks](#) were issued, focusing on water contamination and hygiene in crowded displacement zones.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Governance activities focused on executive decrees and bureaucratic shifts rather than parliamentary legislation, emphasizing administrative control during wartime.

- **State Policy on Higher Education:** The Ministry of Higher Education announced [significant salary increases](#) for university staff and faculty to ensure the continuity of the academic environment despite economic pressures.
- **Digital Sovereignty and Archiving:** Cabinet meetings reviewed plans for a [unified national system](#) for electronic document management and archiving to protect state records during the conflict.

- **ID Card Policy:** The resumption of [ID card issuance](#) in Gezira marks a policy shift toward re-establishing civil authority in areas formerly contested by the RSF.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Intentional Infrastructure Attrition A recurring theme across multiple reports is the **deliberate destruction** of non-military infrastructure by the RSF. Analysts noted that the militia has transitioned from seeking territorial control to [systematic dismantling](#) of state symbols, including ministries, museums, and historical archives. This "scorched earth" approach suggests a strategic intent to prevent the state from functioning even after the militia retreats, forcing the government into a permanent state of emergency management.

The Feminization of the War Sacrifice The role of women has evolved from passive victims to **active economic anchors**. In areas like Kassala and Gedaref, women's cooperatives are leading [handicraft and agricultural](#) processing initiatives to sustain their families. However, this is shadowed by a grim reality: activists highlight that this war is being [fought on women's bodies](#), with systematic sexual violence used as a tool of social humiliation, necessitating new forms of art-based and community-led psychological support.

Sovereignty through Aid Branding Charity in Sudan has become deeply politicized. Aid is frequently branded as a ["gift from the General,"](#) specifically referencing Burhan. By personalizing the delivery of Ramadan baskets and food supplies, the military leadership is attempting to build a direct patronage network that bypasses traditional

local government, reinforcing the army's role as the sole protector and provider for the populace.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect heightened diplomatic friction with Ethiopia. Sudan may seek to raise the issue of Ethiopian "aggression" at the African Union or UN. Domestic focus will remain on Ramadan aid distribution, which acts as a temporary stabilizer for social unrest caused by food inflation.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The government will prioritize the rehabilitation of the Gezira and Gash agricultural schemes to ensure some level of food self-sufficiency before the next harvest cycle. If the [Cotton and Moringa](#) projects succeed, it could provide a rare source of foreign currency.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Sudan is attempting to build a **localized industrial base** for critical infrastructure, such as [power transformer manufacturing](#). If the conflict continues to isolate Sudan from traditional trade partners, this shift toward "war economy" self-sufficiency will become the permanent structural model for the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Monitor the potential for a **border conflict** between Sudan and Ethiopia; aid organizations should prepare for displacement patterns along the eastern border.

- Recognize the "Takiyas" and women's cooperatives as the most effective [delivery mechanisms](#) for humanitarian aid, bypassing potentially compromised state channels.
- Address the specific health and social needs of **survivors of sexual violence**, as the "Stigma" mentioned by activists continues to hinder recovery.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Infrastructure Deficit:** There is a significant long-term opportunity for investment in [road construction](#) and agricultural logistics once security stabilizes, as production potential is currently stranded.
- **Supply Chain Risk:** Global oil prices near \$100/barrel, combined with domestic [power grid fragility](#), makes any industrial operation in Sudan highly susceptible to energy cost spikes.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Seasonal road closures and [unpaved routes](#) in productive regions like Bandagyo remain a primary barrier to entry for large-scale agribusiness.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching

trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.