

Glossary

ardeb	weight unit: 1 ardeb = 2 sacks = 183 kg of sorghum or 147.5 kg of sesame
bildat	farming hinterland adjacent to village comprised of small-holdings
cashif	a pledge “list” distributed among villagers
combo	work camp built for storing supplies and housing laborers on <i>mushrooahs</i>
cowad	camping site for herders with a common firepit
dalal	a middleman who is paid for his brokerage role in livestock sales
damin	a middleman who guarantees the ownership of a sale animal for the buyer
damour	Sudanese cotton cloth
dar	portion of land under the traditional authority of an <i>omda</i> (or <i>nazir</i>)
dahawa	a common unit of time for wage labor (7:00–10:00 am)
dukhn	millet
dunbeleb	grass on the Butana plain preferred by cattle (<i>Sehima Ischamoides</i>)
dura	sorghum (<i>Sorghum Vulgare</i>)
fatuur	breakfast meal
feddan	1.04 acres or 0.42 hectares
feter'ita	red-grained sorghum (drought resistant)
gelli'ita	a mud-baked surface on which to beat dura
ghaada	afternoon meal
ghaffier	guard
gueroorah	credit line opened with merchants
gussab	<i>dura</i> stalks and grass

guwaal	labor contract made between <i>mushrooah</i> operators and wage laborers
hafir	water reservoir
harig	shifting cultivation
hawasha	land unit, tenancy; generally associated with 10 <i>feddan</i> unit
hilla	pile or stack of sesame in a field
jallabe	herder who is hired to drive cattle to the livestock market
jebel	rocky outcrop, or inselberg
kalla	vacant, unused area
kandunka	short-handled digging hoe used for cultivation
kantar	100 lb or 45 kg
kedayab	weeding
khafif	rainy season (June through August)
kharija khattit	unsurveyed schemes
khor	seasonal river or stream
kitr	<i>acacia melifera</i>
£S	Sudanese pound; 1 £S equals 100 piasters or U.S. \$4.45 (as of July 1988)
la'jeene	refugees
marrissa	sorghum beer
murah	the “perfect” one hundred head of cattle
mushrooah	large mechanized schemes 2 km x 2 km (914 <i>feddans</i>)
mezrha	small farms which vary in size from 1–100 tractor hours (5–500 <i>feddans</i>)
nafir	traditional reciprocal labor arrangement in group work parties
omda	traditional leader of pastoralist groups (<i>nazir</i>)
qayih	lower caste of the Mariya (primarily livestock herders)
reyhee	livestock herder (either owns or is hired to watch the animals)
ropta	a common unit of measurement used during sesame harvest; a handful cut
sabbabis	petty livestock traders
se'if	hot, dry season (March through June)
seluka	instrument used to poke a hole in the ground for each seed when sowing
sheil	cash crop mortgages

sheik	village head (or head of a particular ethnic group)
shiftas	thieves or bandits
shit'a	cool, dry season (December through February)
sikken	cutting knife or sickle used for harvesting grain
sim-sim	sesame (<i>Sesum Indicum</i>)
sona al jefaaf	“the year of the emergency” drought year of 1984/85
souq	market
striga	witchweed (<i>Striga Hermonthetica</i>)
subik-sagim	transhumance; to “come” with cattle in the dry season and “go” after rains
suwa'ag	driver (tractor or truck)
sweeba	storage container for grain built from natural materials
t'akul wa gwoom	to “eat and move”, as applied to renters who move from plot to plot each year
tajiir itmalii	wholesale merchant
tajiir gatai	retail merchant
teras	small ridges of soil preventing runoff in fields
torea	two-handed digging hoe
tukul	a grass-thatched hut (round and mud-walled)
umbaz	sesame seed cakes used for cattle fodder
ustamfiir	call on people for help (the noun form is <i>nafir</i>)
wadi	riverbed
wakeel	manager or foreman for <i>mushrooah</i> operator
wusta	a commercial middleman, although formerly applied to ceremonial functions
werko	payment to local militia for livestock protection in Ethiopia
woluuf	supply of tea, coffee, and sugar carried by cattle herders
yoomiiya	common unit of time for wage labor (7.5 hours) that includes a meal
zakat	tithe under Islamic law, now used for tax purposes
zaribah	livestock pen
zeer	water container