

KOFF
Newsletter
No. 131, October 2014



South Sudan,
between Conflict
and Statebuilding

Editorial

Since 15 December 2013, a little more than two years after its independence, South Sudan has been once more gripped by violence. Fighting between supporters of President Salva Kirr and the former Vice-president Riek Machar broke out in Juba, the country's capital, and then spread rapidly to the States of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. The current humanitarian situation is disastrous. Thousands of South Sudanese women and men have been killed and thousands more have had to seek shelter in camps. Despite the attempts at peace negotiations begun in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, the fighting goes on and the political, military and humanitarian crisis continues to intensify.

Why was the international community, present in South Sudan since 2005, not able to prevent this conflict? What responsibility does it have? And what is the role of civil society and state actors today in managing the current crisis? This issue tries to answer those questions and provides an overview of the activities of KOFF member organisations in the region.

Marie Seidel
Editor

Table of Contents

FOCUS		NEWS	
> South Sudan: From Post-War Statebuilding to Armed Conflict	3	> VOIX DES FEMMES – A Review	9
REPORT		> Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course (CAS)	9
> New Deal Implementation in South Sudan – What Can We Expect?	4	> Gender Equality & Peacebuilding Course	10
> SDC's Engagement in South Sudan – Staying Engaged and Responding to a Changing Context	5	> International Partner Organisations	10
> The Long Road to Reconciliation	6	PUBLICATIONS	
> The Role of Mission 21 in South Sudan	6	> South Sudan Caught Between Conflict and Statebuilding	11
> Women in South Sudan	7	> A Guidebook for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies	11
> "Women on the Move" – Combating Trauma through Sport and Play	7	WEB TIP	
> HEKS in South Sudan: Autonomy through Education	8	> The KOFF Website Gets a Facelift	12
		CALENDAR	
		> Upcoming Events	12

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KOFF

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Centre for Peacebuilding

South Sudan: From Post-War Statebuilding to Armed Conflict

Since mid-December 2013, South Sudan has been embroiled in a political, military and humanitarian crisis. Serious armed clashes broke out in the capital city Juba on 15 December and the fighting soon spread to other parts of the country, bringing with it death, displacement and destruction. The South Sudanese government and the armed opposition have signed several ceasefire agreements, but these have failed to put a stop to the belligerent confrontations.

swisspeace

[Martina Santschi](#)

[Links](#)

[swisspeace: Sudan/South Sudan](#)

[KOFF roundtables on South Sudan](#)

[M. Santschi, L. Moro, P. Dau, R. Gordon and D. Maxwell 2014. Livelihoods, access to services and perceptions of governance: An analysis of Pibor county, South Sudan from the perspective of displaced people. Feinstein International Center.](#)

[D. Maxwell, M. Santschi 2014. From post-conflict recovery and state building to a renewed humanitarian emergency: A brief reflection on South Sudan. Secure Livelihoods Consortium.](#)

[J. Bennett, S. Pantuliano, W. Fenton, A. Vaux, C. Barnett, and E. Brusset 2010. Aiding the Peace – A Multi-donor Evaluation of Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities in Southern Sudan 2005–2010. Hove, UK: ITAD Ltd.](#)

[S. Pantuliano. 2014. Donor-Driven Technical Fixes Failed South Sudan: It's Time to Get Political. Think Africa Press.](#)

[UN-OCHA. South Sudan crisis situation report No. 53 \(as of 11 September 2014\).](#)

South Sudan marked the third anniversary of its split from Sudan on 9 July 2014, but this year's anniversary celebrations have been overshadowed by the armed conflict which is ravaging parts of this young country. Back in January 2011, when the overwhelming majority of the South Sudanese population voted for their country's independence in a referendum, many people had great expectations. They were hoping to see a fairer distribution of oil revenues and enjoy prosperity, better access to services and greater development. The international community had set their sights high too. After a peace agreement was signed in 2005, bringing an end to a long civil war, aid money was poured into South Sudan. The international community hoped that this would help to lay the foundations for a stable state. In 2012, the government of South Sudan – one of seven pilot countries of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States – conducted a fragility assessment, which concluded that the country was now past the crisis stage. Yet since mid-December 2013 it has plunged back into a civil war-like situation.

On 15 December 2013, members of the South Sudanese army turned against each other in Juba. The armed clashes and attacks on civilians spread quickly, especially in the states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. It is estimated that several thousand South Sudanese people were killed. On top of this, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) claims that some 1.3 million people had fled from their homes in South Sudan by mid-September 2014, with around 450,000 escaping to neighbouring countries. OCHA (2014) estimates that roughly 46% of the population – approximately 3.8 million people – is now reliant on aid.

What went wrong? The international community has been very active in South Sudan since 2005, but this activity has focused primarily on providing technical support, based on the assumption that more services, an improved economic basis for people's livelihoods and better infrastructure would lead to greater stability, security and peace (Pantuliano 2014). Peacebuilding in a stricter sense was not a priority. Before the outbreak of the current conflict, only a fraction of the international aid funds was spent on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Between 2005 and 2009, only around 5% of these international funds were used to support projects aimed at promoting peace (Bennett et al. 2010). Critics have also been keen to stress that the post-processing and long-term perspective required for peacebuilding were lacking. The outlying regions were barely involved in the political peace process and, for a long time, very little was done to address the issues of reconciliation and dealing with the past. Despite efforts to establish peace, serious armed conflicts had already started to break out in some South Sudanese states – including Jonglei, Lakes and Warrap – before December 2013.

Post-conflict transformation processes are in themselves highly political and riddled with conflict. Disputes risk turning violent and becoming problematic. Pantuliano (2014) holds the international community partly responsible for the current crisis and criticises its focus on technical support and statebuilding. The international community has failed to sufficiently take into account the complexity of the country and the long-standing, highly contentious power-political and social tensions that date back to the last civil war. The armed confrontations were preceded by serious power struggles within the dominant political party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). In spring 2013, several high-ranking members announced their intention to take over the leadership of the party and stand as SPLM candidates in the presidential elections due to be

held in 2015. This prompted power struggles within the SPLM and the dismissal of several senior politicians. In response to this, some political opponents accused the President of showing dictatorial tendencies. It was amid this politically heated situation that the violence erupted in mid-December 2013. Many international observers, though well aware of the precarious state of affairs, did not anticipate that the situation would spiral out of control so quickly and develop into such a brutal conflict (Maxwell and Santschi 2014).

So what now? Since the violent conflict broke out, international involvement has focused on the humanitarian crisis and the corresponding aid needed in the crisis areas. The relationship between the international community and the South Sudanese government has changed dramatically as a result of the conflict. Before the crisis, many international actors were working closely with the government and supporting the statebuilding process. Since December 2013, in light of the alleged attacks on civilians by security forces, some donors and aid agencies have refused to cooperate directly with state institutions, and particularly with the central government.

There are various challenges facing the international community with regards South Sudan. Even though several ceasefire agreements have been signed – as part of the peace negotiations led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development – the war between the conflicting parties continues to rage. Donors, governments and aid agencies are in the process of redefining their relationship with the South Sudanese government. However, opinions on what would be an appropriate form of cooperation vary widely. Many people in South Sudan are still dependent on humanitarian aid, but the rainy season, poor road conditions and armed violence are making it difficult to get help to many displaced people. Humanitarian aid is crucial, but it is important to make sure that it is provided in a conflict-sensitive way. This will ensure that, instead of intensifying the dynamics of the conflict, humanitarian assistance makes a constructive contribution towards the transition from a fragile to a stable situation and supports the long-term processes of statebuilding and establishing peace.

REPORT

New Deal Implementation in South Sudan – What Can We Expect?

KOFF
[Sidonia Gabriel](#)

[Links](#)

[swisspeace:](#)
[Statehood & Conflict](#)

[Government of the Republic
of South Sudan. South Sudan
Fragility Assessment.
December 2012.](#)

South Sudan was one of the first pilot countries for implementation of the New Deal. In 2012, the initial fragility assessment showed progress towards peace- and statebuilding. Hence, the crisis of 2013 took South Sudan and its external partners by surprise. Consequently, external agencies increasingly work around the state, directly with international NGOs, or to a lesser extent with local NGOs and local governments. So are our expectations of this policy framework too high?

A common vision by the South Sudanese of how to build their state is fundamental for peace and development. Without it, the New Deal remains an externally-driven policy framework.

Power struggles between elites are part of state formation. How can the New Deal as a policy framework support non-violent transformation in practice? A reconciliation process, which includes truth telling and hearing, and establishes real dialogue between the people and their leaders, cannot be omitted. The New Deal can complement but not replace such processes.

[Briony Jones and Ferdinand von Habsburg Lothringen. KOFF Critical Reflection on Reconciliation in South Sudan in the context of the current crisis. 2014.](#)

The gap between the national government and citizens needs to be addressed. Support to create a constructive citizen-state relationship requires in-depth understanding of local expectations and political realities. For the South Sudanese, informal traditional structures can be much more legitimate and trustworthy than state institutions that function on western democratic principles. In addition, the private sector has to become more engaged in the resolution of natural resource conflicts, in partnership with the government and international community.

If external partners are to make a meaningful contribution towards the transition out of fragility and conflict – beyond providing technical support – they need not only to state explicitly what change they want to achieve but also ground it in political and historical realities.

The New Deal is a relevant overarching policy framework that brings different donors, governments and civil society together to prioritise peace- and state-building needs at policy level. It can only contribute to stability, peace and development in South Sudan once it is anchored in a local and inclusive vision for political transformation and reconciliation.

SDC's Engagement in South Sudan – Staying Engaged and Responding to a Changing Context

SDC
[Sebastian Eugster](#)

**Human Security Division
of the FDFA**
[Samira Usman](#)

[Link](#)

[SDC in South Sudan](#)

The engagement of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in South Sudan is guided by the Swiss 2013-2016 Whole of Government Cooperation Strategy for this country. SDC's programme is largely humanitarian and centres on food security and livelihoods, basic services, and protection.

World Food Programme is SDC's main partner for food security and livelihoods. SDC also collaborates with the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Action Contre la Faim on nutrition and resilience-building of vulnerable populations. The purpose is to contribute to the stabilisation of areas bordering the conflict zones. Since 2011, SDC implements a WASH programme in Northern Bahr el Ghazal that focuses largely on capacity building of the State Water Department and private providers, and also aims to mitigate tension and conflict around access to water and sanitation; thereby contributing to state building at the local government level in the spirit of the New Deal. Support for protection is channelled mainly through the deployment of financial contributions and expert secondments to multilateral partners (ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, Protection Cluster Coordination), including funding for the NGO Forum where the focus is on enhancing the safety of NGO workers. Together with Irish Aid, SDC is piloting the Sustainable Humanitarian Presence Initiative in South Sudan, which aims at increasing protection in active conflict situations through the sustained presence of humanitarian actors.

In the face of huge and urgent needs, SDC in 2014 has almost doubled its humanitarian funding to South Sudan – up to around CHF 20 million. This includes approx. CHF 2.5 million for South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya.

SDC engages even more than before in discussions with the donor community, South Sudanese Government and civil society on issues of reconciliation and conflict sensitivity. It also explores new opportunities to link the humanitarian response with the long-term political and development efforts to address the root causes of fragility and violence. In this light, the current conflict can also be seen as an opportunity for international actors to redefine their engagement.

The Long Road to Reconciliation

Ulrike Richter

In 2012, former Vice-president of South Sudan Riek Machar began laying the foundations for the official process of reconciliation in the young country. Training courses and symbolic events were organised with the help of the Swiss NGO Initiatives of Change (IoC). However, Machar's patronage had its drawbacks: local actors were barely involved in the process and critics suggested that, as a perpetrator (he was partly responsible for a massacre in 1991) and a member of one of the largest ethnic groups, Riek Machar was a polarising presence. Suspicions were raised that he could take advantage of the process to further his campaign for the 2015 general election. This polarised attempt at reconciliation was, therefore, a contributing factor in the development of the current conflict.

In light of these prevailing circumstances, President Salva Kiir brought the process to a halt and appointed representatives of the church to coordinate the reconciliation. The church had gained a high level of trust amongst the people of South Sudan thanks to the humanitarian role it had played during the conflict. However, this move also provoked criticism, with some arguing that problems cannot simply be "prayed away". The plans were still reliant on state funding and the cooperation with IoC was maintained. Until the end of 2013, IoC's South Sudanese sister organisation was led by Riek Machar's wife, Angelina Teny.

A more complex approach has been called for since the conflict broke out in December 2013. Existing committees and the Peace and Reconciliation Commission are now working together in a common platform, while the government has launched a new reconciliation initiative. Even if, at the moment, church representatives are the most suitable people to organise the process of reconciliation, their interests need to be scrutinised. A multilateral fund could pave the way for more independent work and the media and the education sector should be involved in stimulating an inter-ethnic dialogue and helping people to overcome trauma. The international community's focus on the legal side of reconciliation must not be at the expense of other aspects, such as compensation or the social, economic and political integration of internally displaced persons.

The Role of Mission 21 in South Sudan

Mission 21

Chantal Wullimann

Coordinator for South Sudan

[Links](#)

[Mission 21 projects
in South Sudan](#)

[RECONCILE, Resource Centre
for Civil Leadership](#)

Mission 21 supports various peace initiatives in both urban and rural areas of South Sudan. Conflicts continue to erupt over water and land rights, especially in rural regions. For this reason, the peace and reconciliation department of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) has been committed, for many years already, to finding non-violent ways to resolve disputes between nomadic societies, and between agrarian and nomadic communities. Based on a conflict-sensitive approach, opposing sides or vulnerable parties are brought together in supervised working groups to discuss issues concerning pasture land, water sources and boundaries. In the event of heated encounters, PCOSS can call on the assistance of the Executive Director of the RECONCILE Peace Institute. Members of other denominations, or traditional religions, also benefit considerably from this programme run by PCOSS. In addition, the PCOSS department for women's affairs organises and supports workshops to help people process and come to terms with violent trauma.

Church leaders play an important role too. When more than 6,000 people took refuge in the two PCOSS sites in Malakal, for example, they successfully held off armed troops, who accused them of harbouring rebels. Now PCOSS has established

a widespread presence in the city of Juba, where the ethnic Nuer people are generally held in suspicion by pro-government loyalists, and is setting an active example of multi-ethnicity both in church and in society. Mission 21 also supports the regional peace initiatives run by the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). One such scheme is an ethnically mixed, interfaith forum organised in 2013 to deal with the conflict in Jonglei. As part of this forum, religious leaders came up with ways to settle violent disputes peacefully and then presented their proposals to the state's regional administration. The SSCC's regional office for women also holds events designed to raise awareness of women's rights in conflict areas in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Women in South Sudan

[Dr. Gal Harmat](#)

[Marie Mohlerova](#)

[Link](#)

[Human Rights Watch. World Report 2014. South Sudan.](#)

South Sudan is a conflict-affected country with no social services or infrastructure. Women are often the sole caretakers of children, the elderly and persons in need. The conflict has affected many traditional livelihoods. Countless women have been left with no access to the small plots of land on which they used to grow food to provide for their dependents. Moreover, women risk being attacked by armed groups whenever they perform daily tasks like carrying water, gathering firewood, cooking and cleaning. Some women and their families have taken refuge in camps for the internally displaced. These camps are becoming increasingly overcrowded, however, the women fear being sexually assaulted or killed if they leave. Rape, malnutrition and disease are not uncommon features of daily life.

The subordination of women – the suppression of their rights and curtailment of their freedoms – is enshrined in the patriarchal system and local customs, which maintain that a woman should *belong* to a man so she can be *protected* from external aggressors. The truth is that young women and girls are not only at risk of sexual assault by militant groups, but also within their own households, by husbands who buy them at a young age in exchange for cattle. According to the Human Rights Watch World Report 2014, almost 50% of girls in South Sudan are married between the ages of 15 and 19; many are wed as early as 12.

While men are fighting with men, women are paying the equally high – if not higher – price of losing their childhood innocence, freedom, autonomy and right to education. As such, any peacebuilding interventions in South Sudan need to take into account these context-specific gender issues, exploring ways of transforming the status of women.

“Women on the Move” – Combating Trauma through Sport and Play

[Swiss Academy for Development \(SAD\)](#)
[Daniel Matter](#)

Women in particular are left with deep psychological scars as a result of war, fleeing their country and living in refugee camps. Despair, demoralisation caused by war and the fears many of their husbands harbour for their livelihoods manifest themselves in the form of alcoholism and domestic violence. In addition, further conflicts over land and resources break out between people returning from exile and those who stayed behind.

[Link](#)

[“Women on the move” project in Kajo Keji, Central Equatoria State, South Sudan](#)

The findings from a pilot project conducted by the Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) in South Sudan reveal that 83% of the women there have to deal with the consequences of traumatic experiences, some of them severe. The women try to suppress what they have experienced and dare not talk about it. As a result, their resilience is limited and they lose confidence in their own abilities, which not only hampers reconstruction efforts, but also threatens social cohesion and destroys any belief in a peaceful coexistence.

SAD provides targeted support for the affected women to help them come to terms with the past and cope with everyday life by stimulating the development of relevant skills through sporting and play-based activities. Team sports, for example, boost the women’s mutual trust and strengthen their social cohesion. At the same time, the protected environment of the project offers them the chance to come to terms with their traumatic experiences by talking to like-minded people and pick up ideas on how to deal with everyday life.

The results of the evaluation show that the women who took part in the project are expanding their social networks and receiving more emotional support. The women themselves have noticed a significant improvement in their ability to cope with everyday stress and difficult situations. The success of this initiative demonstrates how a play- and sport-based psychosocial approach meets the needs of traumatised women and helps to pave the way for a peaceful coexistence.

HEKS in South Sudan: Autonomy through Education

HEKS

[Petra Graf](#)

[Link](#)

[HEKS projects in South Sudan](#)

Reading, writing and arithmetic form the basis for the development of rural communities. However, around 90% of adults in South Sudan are illiterate due to decades of armed conflicts in the region. That is why the Agency for Social Transformation and Development, a partner organisation of HEKS (Swiss Church Aid), has been running literacy courses, successfully, for young people and adults in Lainya County since 2007. Once they have learned to read, write and calculate, the people are given training in how to set up a small business, become a gardener or tailor, or increase agricultural production.

In 2013, the courses were held three times a week across three levels. As well as being taught literacy and numeracy skills and receiving English lessons, the participants learned the essential elements of topics such as hygiene, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection, politics and gender. Visitors to the project are impressed to find how much this newly acquired knowledge means to the course participants. They talk about the new sense of dignity and recognition they have both in their village communities and within their families, and the fact that they are now consulted on important decisions and asked for advice. The women, in particular, are regarded with more respect and are now in a better position to exert influence within the family. They are committed to ensuring that their daughters are allowed to go to school too, or that their household income is used in a way that better serves the interests of the family.

Most of the learners are also involved in women’s groups or farmers’ cooperatives. The women’s groups give their members small CHF 50 loans to help them set up shops or restaurants, enabling them to make a profit. This income is used to pay school fees or fund new roofs for their houses. With the help of modern methods of cultivation, the farmers’ cooperatives are able to generate higher earnings, which are put towards improving people’s nutrition and living conditions on a sustainable basis.

VOIX DES FEMMES – A Review

Terre des Femmes
[Salome Lienert](#)

[Links](#)

[Terre des Femmes
 Switzerland](#)

[VOIX DES FEMMES](#)

[Further training in Basel](#)

[Further training in Lausanne](#)

[Further workshops in Zurich](#)

[rollen rollen – campaign for
 self-determined gender roles](#)

The fifth VOIX DES FEMMES series of events took place from 18 to 23 June 2014. This year, the organiser TERRE DES FEMMES Switzerland and special guest Kamla Bhasin, an Indian sociologist and long-standing activist for women's rights, focused on the topic of including men in the fight against gender-specific violence. Over six days, seven events were held in Bern, Fribourg and Geneva in which the topics of masculinity, gender roles and approaches for combatting gender-specific violence were discussed. On 19 June, a roundtable event was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Peacebuilding (KOFF) under the heading "Peacebuilding for Equality: A Political Challenge to Gender Power Relations". During this animated discussion, Bhasin explained why, in her view, it should really be called "Equality for Peacebuilding": peace cannot exist without equality, yet gender is only one aspect of inequality. Since men also suffer from the patriarchal system, everyone needs to work together to promote equality and peace.

Gender-specific violence is one of the most serious violations of human rights and must be tackled at its roots. The role of men was clearly demonstrated on a number of occasions throughout the series of events. Issues surrounding gender equality and the deconstruction of stereotypical role models were discussed with men and men's organisations. This year's VOIX DES FEMMES has shown that there are opportunities to take concerted action to change patterns of behaviour within gender relations. This is essential for overcoming gender-specific violence. A report on the findings from the events is due to be published in December.

Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course (CAS)

swisspeace
[Franziska Sigrist](#)

[Links](#)

[Fragility, Conflict &
 Statebuilding Course \(CAS\)](#)

[Course registration](#)

[MAS Peace & Conflict
 Transformation](#)

Fragile states have become an issue of major concern for the international community. They are least likely to make any substantial progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and are seen as being particularly prone to violent conflict. But what exactly is state fragility?

This 10-day swisspeace postgraduate course (CAS) on Fragility, Conflict and Statebuilding focuses on the conceptual, policy and implementation challenges of statebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. It reviews and critically discusses the foundations of states and the construction of social and political legitimacy; concepts and definitions of state fragility; links between violent conflict, fragility and statebuilding; international policy response to fragile and conflict-affected contexts; and adapted methodologies proposed by international actors for working successfully in fragile contexts.

Taking place at the swisspeace Academy in Basel, Switzerland on 2-11 March 2015, the course is designed for practitioners and academics interested in bridging their own experiences with current academic insights and practical knowledge on Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding. It is facilitated by leading scholars and experienced practitioners. This course can be taken as one module (10 ECTS) of the new Master of Advanced Studies in Peace & Conflict Transformation programme (60 ECTS) offered by swisspeace and the University of Basel. Registration closes on 31 December 2014.

Gender Equality & Peacebuilding Course

swisspeace
Franziska Sigrüst

Links

Gender Equality & Peacebuilding Course

Course registration

MAS Peace & Conflict Transformation

Violent conflict has a profound impact on gender relations and contests accepted gender roles, providing space for transformative action for gender equality in post-conflict reconstruction. Appraising 35 years since the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and 15 years of United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, it is evident that peacebuilding does not always foster gender equality when advocated through normative frameworks. Specific endeavors must, therefore, address gender power relations and roles systematically at all levels and in all phases of peacebuilding.

This 5-day swisspeace postgraduate course on Gender Equality and Peacebuilding reflects on: concepts and methodologies for understanding gender dimensions of conflict and their relevance in peacebuilding, and the impact of peacebuilding on gender relations; key issues for post-conflict transformation of gender relations in economic, social, legal and political spheres; the role of women's agency, women's rights, masculinities and the implication of gender stereotypes in conflict and peacebuilding.

The course will take place on 13-17 April 2015 at the swisspeace Academy in Basel, Switzerland and is designed for practitioners and academics interested in bridging their own experiences with current academic insights and practical knowledge on gender equality and peacebuilding. Leading scholars and experienced practitioners facilitate this course. This course can be taken as one module (5 ECTS) of the new Master of Advanced Studies in Peace & Conflict Transformation programme (60 ECTS) offered by swisspeace and the University of Basel. Registration closes on 31 January 2015.

International Partner Organisations

News from the international peacebuilding scene and KOFF partner organisations

Berghof Foundation

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

Conciliation Resources

EIP

EPLO

forumZFD

FriEnt

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

GIZ

GPPAC Foundation

International Alert

Over the last few years, the global dynamics of conflicts and violence have been undergoing fundamental changes. How can peacebuilding actors respond to these changes and adapt their approaches accordingly? In a new report entitled Crime and conflict: the new challenge for peacebuilding, International Alert tries to answer this question by taking a look at the complex relationship between organised crime, armed violence and fragility. The report also reopens the debate on the role of peacebuilding actors and their field of expertise.

In another report, also issued in August 2014, entitled Real jobs in fragile contexts: Reframing youth employment programming in Liberia and Sierra Leone, International Alert challenges conventional ideas on young people and their employment prospects in fragile settings. The organisation puts forward a more nuanced discourse on youth unemployment in Africa, and suggests addressing this question, not from the usual political perspective, but rather from a peacebuilding angle.

In favour of a stricter legislation on responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict zones

In July 2014, more than 15 civil society organisations (CSOs), including Bread for the World, the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity and even Amnesty International, reacted to the legislative proposal by the European Commission on responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict zones (issued in

[International Alert](#)
[Plattform Zivile](#)
[Konfliktbearbeitung](#)

March 2014). Questioning, in particular, the effectiveness of proposed voluntary opt-in measures, these CSOs are calling for stricter legislation that would apply to a larger number of actors and cover all natural resources. You can find their proposals in a [recommendation letter](#) addressed to the new European Parliament.

PUBLICATIONS

South Sudan Caught Between Conflict and Statebuilding

[Link](#)

[Daniel Maxwell and Martina Santschi. From post-conflict recovery and state building to a renewed humanitarian emergency: A brief reflection on South Sudan. 2014.](#)

Since December 2013 – only two and a half years after it became an independent country – South Sudan has been mired in a deep political, military and humanitarian crisis. Daniel Maxwell and Martina Santschi reflect on the current situation in this young country. Based on meetings with members of the South Sudanese government, donors, aid agencies and representatives of local civil society, this publication explores observations on topics such as the breakdown of post-conflict mechanisms that were put in place before the outbreak of violence in December, the peace process as it currently stands, and humanitarian efforts and opportunities.

A Guidebook for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

[Link](#)

[Manfred Nowak and Ursula Werther-Pietsch \(Ed.\). All Human Rights for All. Vienna Guidebook on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies. 2014.](#)

Peace, justice and prosperity cannot be achieved overnight, especially if certain estimates are to be believed: in 2018, for example, half of all the people in the world who are affected by poverty will live in countries marked by conflict. With this in mind, the recent publication “All Human Rights for All. Vienna Guidebook on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies” examines issues relating to international peacebuilding and statebuilding from a human rights perspective. Well-known experts and lawyers specialising in human rights have joined forces with interdisciplinary researchers to produce a guidebook on how human rights can help to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

The KOFF Website Gets a Facelift

KOFF

Marie Seidel

[Link](#)

[KOFF website](#)

September saw the launch of a new website for the Centre for Peacebuilding (KOFF). Its new structure provides visitors with a better overview, designed to facilitate navigation and to guarantee improved visibility. KOFF member organisations will continue to find information there on upcoming events and the Centre's latest news. In addition, organisations and individuals interested in becoming a member can quickly and easily learn more about KOFF, its services and activities, its field of expertise as well as the organisations and people involved in the project. The innovations and improvements made to the site include the online presence of Research Mirror (KOFF's new e-publication), increased visibility of key events organised by the Centre on the homepage, as well as a chart illustrating KOFF's profile and its objective. The site will be regularly updated to keep you informed of the latest news from the Centre. Your comments, suggestions and opinions are welcome.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

[1-3 October 2014](#)

The European Evaluation Society's biennial conference is being held in Dublin from 1-3 October 2014. At the conference, CDA Collaborative Projects is organising a roundtable entitled "Alternative Approaches to Evaluating and Improving Peacebuilding Programs" as well as a parallel session entitled "Refining your evaluation language and your listening skills in international and cross-cultural contexts". [Further information.](#)

[6-10 October 2014](#)

swisspeace is offering a 5-day course on Business, Conflict & Peace, which explores and analyses opportunities and challenges faced by businesses in conflict-affected contexts and aims to ensure that businesses are not causing more harm than good. [Further information.](#) [Register](#) as soon as possible.

[14 October 2014](#)

On 14 October, the Osteuropa-Forum Basel is staging a debate on Russia, the West and the Media as part of the public programme coordinated by swisspeace in conjunction with the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting. Discussions will focus on the media coverage of the Ukraine crisis by both the Western and the Russian media and will attempt to demonstrate just how difficult it is to overcome traditional perceptions. [Further information.](#)

[30 October 2014](#)

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is holding a meeting on 30 October in Brussels that will focus on the role of national dialogues as an instrument of prevention and response to conflicts. The aim is to learn from and make concrete recommendations on the use, development, implementation and support of national dialogues. [Further information](#) and [contact details.](#)

[30-31 October 2014](#)

swisspeace is holding a series of half-hour, online information events (webinars) on each of its new postgraduate courses accredited by the University of Basel. The schedule will be [online](#) soon.

[31 October 2014](#)

swisspeace will be present at Forum cinfo 2014, the career fair showcasing the Swiss job market in international cooperation, which will be held 09h00-16h30 in the Stade de Suisse in Bern. [Further information.](#)

[10-14 November 2014](#)

[17-18 November 2014](#)

[26-28 November 2014](#)

[1-5 December 2014](#)

[February-August 2015](#)

[KOFF calendar](#)

swisspeace is offering a 5-day course on Conflict Prevention & Early Warning, which provides an insight into key academic findings on conflict prevention, a synopsis of current conflict prevention efforts, and an overview of possible avenues to enhance conflict prevention and conflict early warning. [Further information](#). [Register](#) by 15 October.

Organised by the University of Ulster, on 17 and 18 November, a conference entitled "Accounts of the Conflict: Digitally Archiving Stories for Peacebuilding" will examine the role of digital archives of personal narratives and oral testimonies of populations affected by conflict. [Further information](#) and [contact details](#).

What are root causes, drivers, actors and dynamics of a conflict? The KOFF training on Analysing Conflicts Revisited – From Theory to Practice offers guidance on conflict analysis tool selection and presents lessons drawn from field practice on carrying out, updating and utilising effective conflict analysis. [Further information](#). [Register](#) by 5 November.

At the start of December, Steps for Peace is organising a 5-day course on the design of training programmes, with the aim of establishing a pedagogical process that is adapted to the cultural context and which is sustainable in crisis regions. The training, which takes place in Berlin, will be carried out in English, or in German on request. [Further information and registration](#).

The Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (ICP) is holding a training course that runs from February to August 2015 entitled "Mediation and Dialogue for Peace, Development and Security". Dedicated to the importance of peace mediation in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts, this course is both theory and practice-oriented and provides students with the tools, methods and concepts to promote the implementation of a mediation process. [Further information](#).

On the [KOFF website](#) you can find more information about upcoming roundtables and events organised by KOFF.

KOFF

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