



## Helpdesk Research Report

# Conflict and development in Sudan: Key research institutions

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### Question

*Provide an overview of key research institutions in the UK that incorporate a focus on conflict and development issues in Sudan, e.g. the Rift Valley Institute. Proposed output in form of table listing the institutions, website, and core focus.*

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## 1. Overview

There are a limited number of UK-based research institutes that have an interest in development and conflict issues in Sudan. Experts indicate that the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is the main organisation involved in Sudanese research<sup>1</sup>. Other research institutes that incorporate Sudan or South Sudan in their programming include: the Royal African Society; the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House); ODI; Justice Africa; and the Institute of Development Studies. Some of the more prominent and widely cited research on Sudanese issues comes from organisations outside of the UK. With this in mind, this report also identifies relevant non-UK research bodies such as the Sudd Institute in Juba and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) based in Bergen, Norway.

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<sup>1</sup> Expert comments

## 2. Table of research institutes

Institute	Website	Description and core focus
<b>Academic institutes</b>		
Sudanese Programme, University of Oxford	<a href="http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/sudanese.shtml">http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/sudanese.shtml</a>	Based in the University of Oxford, the Sudanese programme aims to be a neutral forum for dialogue and understanding between Sudanese people through conferences and lectures. In addition to a specific programme looking at the <b>peace process</b> , the programme also covers <b>cultural, social and other political issues</b> facing the populations of Sudan and South Sudan.
Institute of Development Studies (IDS)	<a href="http://www.ids.ac.uk/">http://www.ids.ac.uk/</a>	The Institute of Development Studies is a global charity which focuses on international development research, teaching and communications. IDS host six research teams: climate change; globalisation; governance; knowledge, technology, and society; participation, powers and social change; and vulnerability and poverty. The Institute has conducted a number of research projects relating to Sudan including a 2013 study of household assets ( <a href="http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/confronting-civil-war-a-comparative-study-of-household-assets-management-in-southern-sudan">http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/confronting-civil-war-a-comparative-study-of-household-assets-management-in-southern-sudan</a> ).
<b>Institutes that focus on Africa</b>		
Rift Valley Institute (RVI)	<a href="http://www.riftvalley.net">http://www.riftvalley.net</a>	The Rift Valley Institute is a non-profit research and training institute. It works with communities and organisations in Eastern Africa, including Sudan and South Sudan. Its core focus is to <b>support local research capacity, record indigenous culture and promote human rights</b> . Activities include field-based research projects, training courses, consultations, and print publications.
Royal African Society	<a href="http://www.royalafricansociety.org/">http://www.royalafricansociety.org/</a>	The Royal African Society is an open membership organisation aiming to promote Africa in business, politics, culture and academia. RAS has a long history of research across the continent and publishes <i>African Affairs</i> , a leading academic journal on Africa. The Society also runs <i>African Arguments Online</i> – a comment and analysis website which has a <b>Sudan-specific blog</b> ( <a href="http://africanarguments.org/category/making-sense-of-sudan/">http://africanarguments.org/category/making-sense-of-sudan/</a> ) - and

		publishes the <i>African Arguments</i> book series with Zed Books.
British Institute in Eastern Africa (Nairobi-based with a London office)	<a href="http://biea.sitewriters.net/">http://biea.sitewriters.net/</a>	Established in 1960, the British Institute in Eastern Africa promotes research in all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences within the wider region of eastern Africa, including Sudan and South Sudan. The Institute has a strong presence in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, history and linguistics, and has recently expanded its research programme to include political, environmental, and development studies.
Justice Africa	<a href="http://www.justiceafrica.org/">http://www.justiceafrica.org/</a>	Justice Africa is an advocacy and research institute that campaigns for human rights and social justice across the African continent. Its core focus is on the <b>inclusive participation of local actors and civil society in research and decision-making processes</b> . To this end it designs its activities in consultation with local communities and civil societies. The organisation's current programme in South Sudan provides <b>capacity building support to South Sudanese civil society organisations</b> .
<b>Institutes with a broader geographical scope</b>		
Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House)	<a href="http://www.chathamhouse.org/about-africa-programme">http://www.chathamhouse.org/about-africa-programme</a> African Peace and Security project: <a href="http://www.chathamhouse.org/research/africa/current-projects/armed-non-state-actors">http://www.chathamhouse.org/research/africa/current-projects/armed-non-state-actors</a>	The Royal Institute of International Affairs, housed in Chatham House, offers independent analysis, debate and research on a range of international issues. The Africa Programme develops independent policy-focused research on issues affecting African states, the continent, and wider international relations. Particular thematic areas of interest include: governance and corruption; piracy and non-state actors; human security; and resources and society. The <b>Africa Peace and Security project</b> has a particular focus on Sudan and South Sudan, exploring (amongst other regional security aspects) the <b>friction between and within the two countries</b> .
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	<a href="http://www.odi.org.uk/">http://www.odi.org.uk/</a>	ODI is an independent think-tank with an interest in international development and humanitarian issues. It has 13 programme areas, encompassing a wide spectrum of development-related subjects, from agricultural development and policy, to private sector and markets. The Institute has carried out a number of research projects on Sudan and South Sudan, including a <b>2013 evaluation of multi-donor support to southern South</b> ( <a href="http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/5488-aid-effectiveness-south-">http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/5488-aid-effectiveness-south-</a>

		sudan), and a 2011 study on <b>urbanisation and vulnerability in Port Sudan</b> ( <a href="http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/5291-urbanisation-port-sudan-city-crime-conflict-land-poverty-displacement-referendum-growth">http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/5291-urbanisation-port-sudan-city-crime-conflict-land-poverty-displacement-referendum-growth</a> ). ODI has also held a number of events on Sudanese issues, for example a recent roundtable with journalists, researchers and academics which explored the political, humanitarian and development issues faced by South Sudan.
Human Rights Watch (HRW)	<a href="http://www.hrw.org/home">http://www.hrw.org/home</a>	Human Rights Watch is a global, independent research and advocacy organisation which seeks to focus international attention on human rights violations. The mission statement of HRW is to protect the human rights of people around the world, investigate and expose violations, and challenge governments and other powerful bodies to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law. The organisation has conducted numerous research projects on Sudanese issues, including a 2013 investigation into <b>child marriage</b> and a 2012 report on <b>conflict and humanitarian assistance</b> .
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	<a href="http://www.iied.org/">http://www.iied.org/</a>	IIED is an international development and environment policy research organisation which carries out research, advice, and advocacy work on a range of issues. Projects involve 'hands on' research with grassroots partners in the developing world and advocacy with national governments. Areas of interest relating to Sudan primarily centre on <b>climate change impacts and capacity building adaptation</b> .
Amnesty International (AI)	<a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en">http://www.amnesty.org/en</a>	Amnesty International is a global human rights organisation with an international secretariat based in London. The core focus of AI is to highlight human rights abuses around the world and advocate governments to enact change. Amnesty have conducted a number of reports on both Sudan and South Sudan looking at <b>conflict, the treatment of journalists and prisoners, and refugees and internally displaced peoples</b> .
Conciliation Resources	<a href="http://www.c-r.org/">http://www.c-r.org/</a>	Conciliation Resources is a peace-building NGO that focuses on seven conflict-affected regions around the world, including Sudan and South Sudan. Its key research themes are: cross-border peace-building; engaging armed groups; governance and peace-building; peace processes and dialogue; and public participation.

Relevant non-UK institutes		
Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) (based in Bergen, Norway)	<a href="http://www.cmi.no/">http://www.cmi.no/</a> Sudan research: <a href="http://www.cmi.no/countries/?sudan#projects">http://www.cmi.no/countries/?sudan#projects</a>	CMI is an independent development research institute. The Institute generates and communicates research-based knowledge relevant to advancing human rights, reducing conflict, and promoting sustainable social development. The institute's research focus is on local and global challenges and opportunities facing low- and middle-income countries and their citizens. CMI has a significant number of research projects which focus on Sudan, covering issues such as <b>gender-based violence, peace-building, and evaluations of Norwegian development assistance.</b>
Sudan Institute for Research and Policy (SIRP) (based in Lancaster, USA)	<a href="http://www.sudaninstitute.org/about.htm">http://www.sudaninstitute.org/about.htm</a>	SIRP is an independent research organisation. Its core focus is to provide a platform for scholars who engage in well researched, accurate materials that contribute to the development of Sudan and Sudanese peoples. SIRP's vision is to create a large reservoir of factual, multi-sided knowledge about Sudan that will enable constructive dialogue and act as a catalyst for change.
Small Arms Survey - Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan (HSBA) (based in Geneva, Switzerland)	<a href="http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/">http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/</a>	The Small Arms Survey is an independent research project administrated by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. The core focus of the survey is to serve as an <b>international source of impartial research on all aspects of small arms and armed violence.</b> The HSBA is a multi-year, Sudan-specific, component of the Small Arms Survey that has been developed in cooperation with the Canadian government, UNDP and NGO partners. The objectives of the project include: investigate international, regional and domestic transfer of arms; map and assess motivations and distributions of armed groups; measure the scale and distribution of mortality, morbidity and victimisation; and examine local security arrangements and demand for weapons. The project communicates research findings through issues briefs, working papers, 'facts and figures reports', and workshops.
The Sudd Institution (based in Juba, South Sudan)	<a href="http://www.suddinstitute.org/">http://www.suddinstitute.org/</a>	The Sudd Institute is an independent research organisation that conducts and facilitates training to inform public policy and practice, and improve analytical capacity in South Sudan. The Institute's aim is to improve the quality, impact and accountability of local, national, and international policy

		<p>in order to promote more peaceful and prosperous Sudanese societies. The research framework follows two tracks: <b>Addressing international and external insecurity; and building an inclusive, responsive, and transparent government.</b></p>
<p>Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations</p>	<p><a href="http://www.clingendael.nl/">http://www.clingendael.nl/</a></p>	<p>The Netherlands Institute of International Relations provides research, information, and training programmes on a range of issues relating to international development. Its research on Sudan has included an <b>analysis of UN Missions and civil protection strategies, and competing narratives on South Sudan’s self-determination referendum.</b></p>

### 3. Additional information

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