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Dear Colleagues,

This month's **CSF Research Update** brings you a curated roundup of key open-source research and analysis to support aid actors working in Sudan. These updates provide timely insights into evolving dynamics, helping strengthen conflict-sensitive and effective aid responses.

We also feature select articles from the **CSF Knowledge Hub**, offering historical context, lessons learned, and background analysis. You can find all the publications below in the CSF Knowledge Hub.

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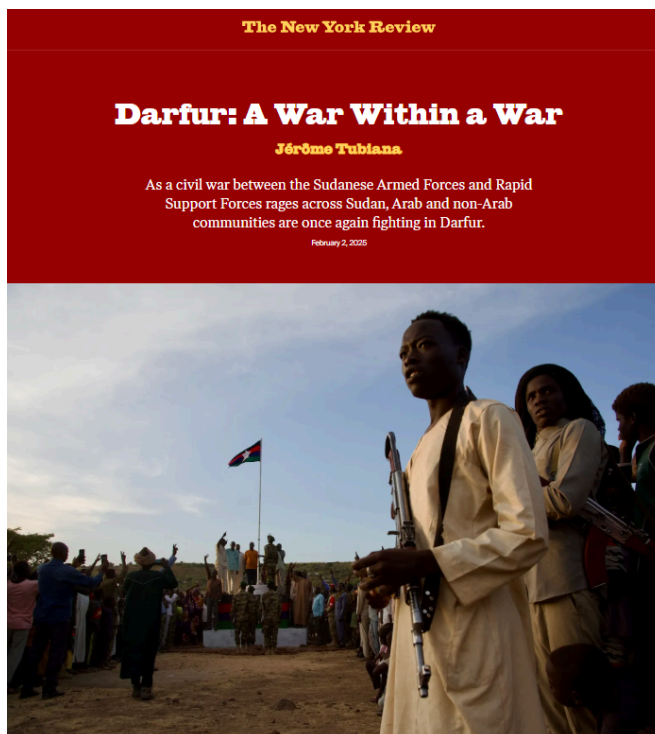
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Conflict and Violence

Gold and the war in Sudan: How Regional Solutions Can Support an End to Conflict

**Ahmed Soliman and Suliman Baldo -
Chatham House
2025**

This paper explores how Sudan's gold sector is entangled in the ongoing conflict, sustaining violence through illicit trade and resource capture. It examines the role of gold in funding armed actors, fuelling competition, and enabling external interference. The analysis calls for coordinated regional and international approaches to disrupt war economies and support pathways to peace and recovery.



Darfur: A War Within a War

**Jérôme Tubiana - The New York Review
2025**

Darfur is a key battleground in the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This analysis explores ethnic violence, RSF dominance, and the toll on civilians, including mass killings, famine, and displacement. Far from a secondary conflict, Darfur remains central to Sudan's war, with escalating violence worsening humanitarian crises and deepening divisions.

**War and education: the attacks on
medical schools amidst ongoing**

Conflict and Health 2024

The war in Sudan has severely impacted medical education, with over half of medical faculties in conflict zones attacked—many looted or turned into military bases. Private institutions, especially in Khartoum, were hit hardest. Despite these challenges, some faculties have resumed education through online learning and institutional collaborations. The study highlights the urgent need to protect medical education and ensure training continuity for future healthcare professionals.

RESEARCH

Open Access



War and education: the attacks on medical schools amidst ongoing armed conflict, Sudan 2023

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Abstract

Background War results in widespread destruction of a country's infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions. This study aims to assess the attacks on medical schools amidst the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

Methods A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted across 58 medical schools located in the states of Khartoum, Darfur, and Kordofan. Data on attacks between April 15, 2023, and July 15th 2023, were collected using online data collection form.

Results All medical schools in conflict areas were included in the study. More than half (58.6%) of these medical schools were attacked. Private schools, constituting the majority of the study sample, were the most frequently attacked (70.6%). Of these, 52.9% were located in Khartoum city. More than one form of attack was reported in 64.7% of the affected schools. Looting occurred in 73.5% of the attacked faculties, while 67.6% of them were converted into military bases. Despite these challenges, 60.3% of the schools in the conflict zone managed to restore the educational process through online learning and collaboration with other institutions.

Conclusion During a three-month period of warfare, most medical schools within conflict zones were attacked. This emphasizes the vulnerability of medical education institutions during war and highlights the urgent need of the Ministry of Higher Education interventions to provide leadership, support, and oversight for the educational process in medical schools across the country.

Keywords Sudan, War, Attacks, Medical Education, Medical School, Distance Education

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Displacement and Humanitarian Impact

SUDAN

Implications of the US AID funding cuts



CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

The war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that began in April 2023 has left 38.4 million people in need, including 15.6 million children, and more than 12.8 million people displaced both internally and to neighbouring countries (UNHCR 2024a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u,v,w,x,y,z,aa,ab,ac,ad,ae,af,ag,ah,ai,aj,ak,al,am,an,ao,ap,aq,ar,as,at,au,av,aw,ax,ay,az,ba,bb,bc,bd,be,bf,bg,bh,bi,bj,bk,bl,bm,bn,bob,bo,br,bs,bt,bu,bv,bw,bx,by,bz,ca,cb,cc,cd,ce,cf,cg,ch,ci,cj,ck,cl,cm,cn,co,cp,cq,cr,cs,ct,cu,cv,cw,cx,cy,cz,da,db,dc,dd,de,df,dg,dh,di,dj,dk,dl,dm,dn,do,dp,dq,dr,ds,dt,du,dv,dw,dx,dy,dz,ea,eb,ec,ed,ee,ef,eg,eh,ei,ej,ek,el,em,en,eo,ep,eq,er,es,et,eu,ev,ew,ex,ey,ez,fa,fb,fc,fd,fe,ff,fg,fh,fi,fj,fk,fl,fm,fn,fo,fp,fq,fr,fs,ft,fu,fv,fw,fx,fy,fz,ga,gb,gc,gd,ge,gf,gg,gh,gi,gj,gk,gl,gm,gn,go,gp,gq,gr,gs,gt,gu,gv,gw,gx,gy,gz,ha,hb,hc,hd,he,hf,hg,hi,hj,hk,hl,hm,hn,ho,hp,hq,hr,hs,ht,hu,hv,hw,hx,hy,hz,ia,ib,ic,id,ie,if,ig,ih,ii,ij,ik,il,im,in,io,ip,iq,ir,is,it,iu,iv,iw,ix,iy,iz,ja,jb,jc,jd,je,jf,jg,jh,ji, jj,jk,jl,jm,jn,jo,jp,jq,jr,js,jt,ju,jv,jw,jx,jy,jz,ka,kb,kc,kd,ke,kf,kg,kh,ki,kj,kl,km,kn,ko,kp,kq,kr,ks,kt,ku,kv,kw,kx,ky,kz,la,lb,lc,ld,le,lf,lg,lh,li,lj,lk,lm,ln,lo,lp,lq,lr,ls,lt,lu,lv,lw,lx,ly,lz,ma,mb,mc,md,me,mf,mg,mh,mi,mj,mk,ml,mm,mn,mo,mp,mq,mr,ms,mt,mu,mv,mw,mx,my,mz,na,nb,nc,nd,ne,nf,ng,nh,ni,nj,nk,nl,nm,nn,no,np,nq,nr,ns,nt,nu,nv,nw,nx,ny,nz,oa,ob,oc,od,oe,of,og,oh,oi,oj,ok,ol,om,on,oo,op,oq,or,os,ot,ou,ov,ow,ox,oy,oz,pa,pb,pc,pd,pe,pf,pg,ph,pi,pj,pk,pl,pm,pn,po,pp,pq,pr,ps,pt,pu,pv,pw,px,py,pz,qa,qb,qc,qd,qe,qf,qg,qh,qi,qj,qk,ql,qm,qn,qo,qp,qq,qr,qs,qt,qu,qv,qw,qx,qy,qz,ra,rb,rc,rd,re,rf,rg,rh,ri,rj,rk,rl,rm,rn,ro,rp,rq,rr,rs,rt,ru,rv,rw,rx,ry,rz,sa,sb,sc,sd,se,sf,sg,sh,si,sj,sk,sl,sm,sn,so,sp,sq,sr,ss,st, su,sv,sw,sx,sy,sz,ta,tb,tc,td,te,tf,tg,th,ti,tj,tk,tl,tm,tn,to,tp,tq,tr,ts,tt,tu,tv,tw,tx,ty,tz,ua,ub,uc,ud,ue,uf,ug,uh,ui,uj,uk,ul,um,un,uo,up,uq,ur,us,ut,uu,uv,uw,ux,uy,uz,va,vb,vc, vd,ve,vf,vg,vh,vi,vj,vk,vl,vm,vn,vo,vp,vq,vr,vs,vt,vu,vw,vx,vy,vz,wa,wb,wc,wd,we,wf, wg,wh,wi,wj,wk,wl,wm,wn,wo,wp,wq,wr,ws,wt,wu,wv,ww,wx,wy,wz,xa,xb,xc,xd,x e,xf,xg,xh,xi,xj,xk,xl,xm,xn,xo,xp,xq,xr,xs,xt,xu,xv,xw,xx,xy,xz,ya,yb,yc,yd,ye,yf,yg,yh,yi,yj,yk,yl,ym,yn,yo,yp,yq,yr,ys,yt,yu,yv,yw,yy,yz,za,zb,zc,zd,ze,zf,zg,zh, zi,zj,zk,zl,zm,zn,zo,zp,zq,zr,zs,zt, zu,zv,zw,zz).

On 20 January 2025, the Trump administration ordered a global 90-day pause on US foreign development assistance, including stop-work orders (SWOs) for humanitarian aid (The White House 2024a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u,v,w,x,y,z,aa,ab,ac,ad,ae,af,ag,ah,ai,aj,ak,al,am,an,ao,ap,aq,ar,as,at,au,av,aw,ax,ay,az,ba,bb,bc,bd,be,bf,bg,bh,bi,bj,bk,bl,bm,bn,bo,br,bs,bt,bu,bv,bw,bx,by,bz,ca,cb,cc,cd,ce,cf,cg,ch,ci,cj,ck,cl,cm,cn,co,cp,cq,cr,cs,ct,cu,cv,cw,cx,cy,cz,da,db,dc,dd,de,df,dg,dh,di,dj,dk,dl,dm,dn,do,dp,dq,dr,ds,dt,du,dv,dw,dx,dy,dz,ea,eb,ec,ed,ee,ef,eg,eh,ei,ej,ek,el,em,en,eo,ep,eq,er,es,et,eu,ev,ew,ex,ey,ez,fa,fb,fc,fd,fe,ff,fg,fh,fi,fj,fk,fl,fm,fn,fo,fp,fq,fr,fs,ft, fu,fv,fw,fx,fy,fz,ga,gb,gc,gd,ge,gf,gg,gh,gi,gj,gk,gl,gm,gn,go,gp,gq,gr,gs,gt,gu,gv,gw,gx,gy,gz,ha,hb,hc,hd,he,hf,hg,hi,hj,hk,hl,hm,hn,ho,hp,hq,hr,hs,ht,hu,hv,hw,hx,hy,hz,ia,ib,ic,id,ie,if,ig,ih,ii,ij,ik,il,im,in,io,ip,iq,ir,is,it,iu,iv,iw,ix,iy,iz,ja,jb,jc,jd,je,jf,jg,jh,ji, jj,jk,jl,jm,jn,jo,jp,jq,jr,js,jt,ju,jv,jw,jx,jy,jz,ka,kb,kc,kd,ke,kf,kg,kh,ki,kj,kl,km,kn,ko,kp,kq,kr,ks,kt,ku,kv,kw,kx,ky,kz,la,lb,lc,ld,le,lf,lg,lh,li,lj,lk,lm,ln,lo,lp,lq,lr,ls,lt,lu,lv,lw,lx,ly,lz,ma,mb,mc,md,me,mf,mg,mh,mi,mj,mk,ml,mm,mn,mo,mp,mq,mr,ms,mt,mu,mv,mw,mx,my,mz,na,nb,nc,nd,ne,nf,ng,nh,ni,nj,nk,nl,nm,nn,no,np,nq,nr,ns,nt,nu,nv,nw,nx,ny,nz,oa,ob,oc,od,oe,of,og,oh,oi,oj,ok,ol,om,on,oo,op,oq,or,os,ot,ou,ov,ow,ox,oy,oz,pa,pb,pc,pd,pe,pf,pg,ph,pi,pj,pk,pl,pm,pn,po,pp,pq,pr,ps,pt,pu,pv,pw,px,py,pz,qa,qb,qc,qd,qe,qf,qg,qh,qi,qj,qk,ql,qm,qn,qo,qp,qq,qr,qs,qt,qu,qv,qw,qx,qy,qz,ra,rb,rc,rd,re,rf,rg,rh,ri,rj,rk,rl,rm,rn,ro, rp,rq,rr,rs,rt,ru,rv,rw,rx,ry,rz,sa,sb,sc,sd,se,sf,sg,sh,si,sj,sk,sl,sm,sn,so,sp,sq,sr,ss,st, su,sv,sw,sx,sy,sz,ta,tb,tc,td,te,tf,tg,th,ti,tj,tk,tl,tm,tn,to,tp,tq,tr,ts,tt,tu,tv,tw,tx,ty,tz,ua,ub,uc,ud,ue,uf,ug,uh,ui,uj,uk,ul,um,un,uo,up,uq,ur,us,ut,uu,uv,uw,ux,uy,uz,va,vb,vc, vd,ve,vf,vg,vh,vi,vj,vk,vl,vm,vn,vo,vp,vq,vr,vs,vt,vu,vw,vx,vy,vz,wa,wb,wc,wd,we,wf, wg,wh,wi,wj,wk,wl,wm,wn,wo,wp,wq,wr,ws,wt,wu,wv,ww,wx,wy,wz,xa,xb,xc,xd,x e,xf,xg,xh,xi,xj,xk,xl,xm,xn,xo,xp,xq,xr,xs,xt,xu,xv,xw,xx,xy,xz,ya,yb,yc,yd,ye,yf,yg,yh,yi,yj,yk,yl,ym,yn,yo,yp,yq,yr,ys,yt,yu,yv,yw,yy,yz,za,zb,zc,zd,ze,zf,zg,zh, zi,zj,zk,zl,zm,zn,zo,zp,zq,zr,zs,zt, zu,zv,zw,zz).

Since the SWOs came into effect, the humanitarian response in Sudan has been significantly affected. UN organisations, NGOs, national NGOs (NNGOs), and community responders, including initiatives such as Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs), have been forced to terminate staff, reduce hours, and cut essential and lifesaving programmes. In the wake of the funding pause and subsequent cuts, in 2024, the US was Sudan's largest humanitarian donor, providing nearly 44% of all humanitarian funding, including for food security, nutrition, multisector response, health, and WASH (OCHA 2024a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,t,u,v,w,x,y,z,aa,ab,ac,ad,ae,af,ag,ah,ai,aj,ak,al,am,an,ao,ap,aq,ar,as,at,au,av,aw,ax,ay,az,ba,bb,bc,bd,be,bf,bg,bh,bi,bj,bk,bl,bm,bn,bo,br,bs,bt,bu,bv,bw,bx,by,bz,ca,cb,cc,cd,ce,cf,cg,ch,ci,cj,ck,cl,cm,cn,co,cp,cq,cr,cs,ct,cu,cv,cw,cx,cy,cz,da,db,dc,dd,de,df,dg,dh,di,dj,dk,dl,dm,dn,do,dp,dq,dr,ds,dt,du,dv,dw,dx,dy,dz,ea,eb,ec,ed,ee,ef,eg,eh,ei,ej,ek,el,em,en,eo,ep,eq,er,es,et,eu,ev,ew,ex,ey,ez,fa,fb,fc,fd,fe,ff,fg,fh,fi,fj,fk,fl,fm,fn,fo,fp,fq,fr,fs,ft, fu,fv,fw,fx,fy,fz,ga,gb,gc,gd,ge,gf,gg,gh,gi,gj,gk,gl,gm,gn,go,gp,gq,gr,gs,gt,gu,gv,gw,gx,gy,gz,ha,hb,hc,hd,he,hf,hg,hi,hj,hk,hl,hm,hn,ho,hp,hq,hr,hs,ht,hu,hv,hw,hx,hy,hz,ia,ib,ic,id,ie,if,ig,ih,ii,ij,ik,il,im,in,io,ip,iq,ir,is,it,iu,iv,iw,ix,iy,iz,ja,jb,jc,jd,je,jf,jg,jh,ji, jj,jk,jl,jm,jn,jo,jp,jq,jr,js,jt,ju,jv,jw,jx,jy,jz,ka,kb,kc,kd,ke,kf,kg,kh,ki,kj,kl,km,kn,ko,kp,kq,kr,ks,kt,ku,kv,kw,kx,ky,kz,la,lb,lc,ld,le,lf,lg,lh,li,lj,lk,lm,ln,lo,lp,lq,lr,ls,lt,lu,lv,lw,lx,ly,lz,ma,mb,mc,md,me,mf,mg,mh,mi,mj,mk,ml,mm,mn,mo,mp,mq,mr,ms,mt,mu,mv,mw,mx,my,mz,na,nb,nc,nd,ne,nf,ng,nh,ni,nj,nk,nl,nm,nn,no,np,nq,nr,ns,nt,nu,nv,nw,nx,ny,nz,oa,ob,oc,od,oe,of,og,oh,oi,oj,ok,ol,om,on,oo,op,oq,or,os,ot,ou,ov,ow,ox,oy,oz,pa,pb,pc,pd,pe,pf,pg,ph,pi,pj,pk,pl,pm,pn,po,pp,pq,pr,ps,pt,pu,pv,pw,px,py,pz,qa,qb,qc,qd,qe,qf,qg,qh,qi,qj,qk,ql,qm,qn,qo,qp,qq,qr,qs,qt,qu,qv,qw,qx,qy,qz,ra,rb,rc,rd,re,rf,rg,rh,ri,rj,rk,rl,rm,rn,ro, rp,rq,rr,rs,rt,ru,rv,rw,rx,ry,rz,sa,sb,sc,sd,se,sf,sg,sh,si,sj,sk,sl,sm,sn,so,sp,sq,sr,ss,st, su,sv,sw,sx,sy,sz,ta,tb,tc,td,te,tf,tg,th,ti,tj,tk,tl,tm,tn,to,tp,tq,tr,ts,tt,tu,tv,tw,tx,ty,tz,ua,ub,uc,ud,ue,uf,ug,uh,ui,uj,uk,ul,um,un,uo,up,uq,ur,us,ut,uu,uv,uw,ux,uy,uz,va,vb,vc, vd,ve,vf,vg,vh,vi,vj,vk,vl,vm,vn,vo,vp,vq,vr,vs,vt,vu,vw,vx,vy,vz,wa,wb,wc,wd,we,wf, wg,wh,wi,wj,wk,wl,wm,wn,wo,wp,wq,wr,ws,wt,wu,wv,ww,wx,wy,wz,xa,xb,xc,xd,x e,xf,xg,xh,xi,xj,xk,xl,xm,xn,xo,xp,xq,xr,xs,xt,xu,xv,xw,xx,xy,xz,ya,yb,yc,yd,ye,yf,yg,yh,yi,yj,yk,yl,ym,yn,yo,yp,yq,yr,ys,yt,yu,yv,yw,yy,yz,za,zb,zc,zd,ze,zf,zg,zh, zi,zj,zk,zl,zm,zn,zo,zp,zq,zr,zs,zt, zu,zv,zw,zz).

1. Any comments or questions? Please contact us at info@acaps.org

Implications of the USAID Funding Freeze in Sudan ACAPS March 2025

The report analyses the impact of USAID funding cuts on Sudan's humanitarian response, highlighting disruptions to lifesaving aid and the severe consequences for local and national responders. It also outlines future scenarios and risks for already vulnerable communities.

Digital Food Assistance in Sudan: Life-saver, Risk, Political Tool in Situations of War

SOAS and University of Khartoum

February 2025

Digital food assistance has proliferated in Sudan's humanitarian response. While digital financial transfers have been key to survival, they have created new risks and vulnerabilities. Specifically, it introduces risks of serving as a mechanism for control, exclusion, and inequality. This analysis explores how digital systems shape who gets aid, how it's delivered, and the broader political and economic implications for conflict-sensitive programming.

Civic Movements



**Betrays and Missteps:**

*The tale of
Sudan's Resistance Committees and
other revolutionary forces (1-2)*

📌 Razaz Basheir



Artwork by: Obada Gabir

of Sudan's Resistance Committees and Other Revolutionary Forces

Razaz Basheir - ATAR Network
January 2025

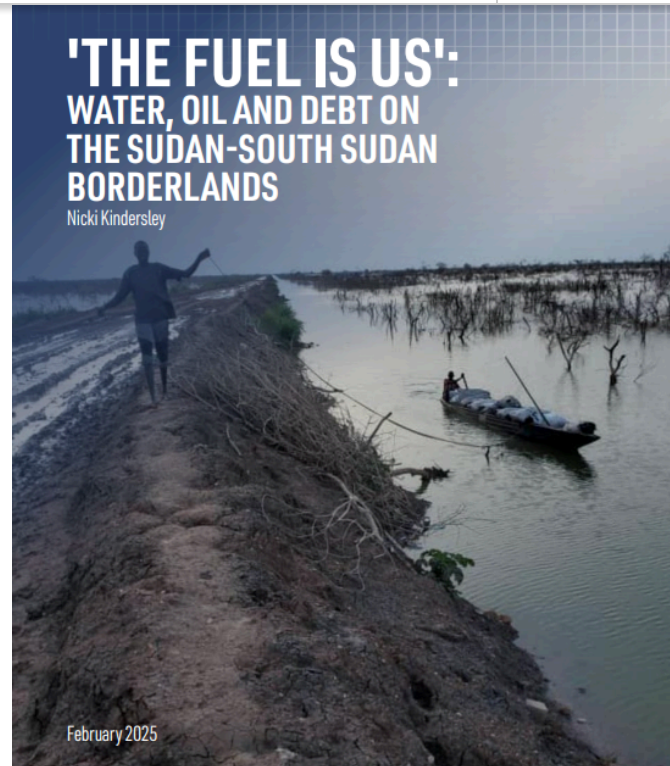
Sudan's Resistance Committees (RCs) have been central to the country's revolutionary struggle but faced political isolation, internal divisions, and structural weaknesses that limited their impact. This analysis examines these challenges and highlights key lessons to strengthen grassroots mobilisation and sustain their role in Sudan's political future.

Resource Conflict and Recovery

'THE FUEL IS US': Water, Oil, and Debt on the Sudan-South Sudan Borderlands

Nicki Kindersley - Rift Valley Institute
February 2025

An in-depth study of the political economy of Sudan-South Sudan borderlands, examining how armed authorities control resources, trade, and labor in these contested regions. The report highlights the devastating impact of war, displacement, and environmental crises on livelihoods, with many forced into exploitative labor and survival economies. It also explores how oil pollution, land commercialisation, and a growing tax-and-debt economy shape access to resources and deepen inequalities.





Discussing industry During war and Findings from the Experience

Muzan Alneel

February 2025

This piece explores how Sudan's war has disrupted centralised industrial systems, prompting grassroots innovation in small-scale manufacturing. It examines how communities and workers are adapting and makes a case for conflict-sensitive economic planning focused on decentralisation, resilience, and inclusive recovery.

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