

# **HIV and AIDS in Sudan**

**Can the spread of HIV and AIDS in Sudan be encountered  
by the existing HIV and AIDS policies, strategies and  
implementation services in Sudan – especially in  
consideration of the return of refugees?**

Dissertation submitted by Ina Blümel

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**Supervisor**

**Bernadette Peterhans**

**Swiss Tropical Institute**

**University of Basel, Switzerland**

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## Executive Summary

In January 2005 Sudan moved into a new era. With the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the 21 year old civil war between the central Government and the South came to an end. Until today peace remains fragile and the challenges that the country is facing are still immense. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) are returning to Southern Sudan where the severely damaged infrastructure is overwhelmed by the constant influx of people. One of the challenges Sudan is facing is a possible exacerbation of its already generalized HIV and AIDS epidemic. WHO states that Southern Sudan is facing an environment favorable for an exacerbated spread of HIV and AIDS. It is generally assumed that the massive population movement to Southern Sudan – particularly of refugees coming from neighboring countries with significantly higher HIV and AIDS prevalence rates – will fuel the HIV and AIDS situation in the region. What leads to this assumption, are there opposing opinions, what actions are taken and what actions could be taken to encounter the prognosed spread of HIV and AIDS in Sudan are key issues addressed in this dissertation. The research question aims at identifying priority gaps in the existing HIV and AIDS policies in Sudan and has revealed that, although a National Policy on HIV and AIDS exists and HIV and AIDS are integrated in several other health related policies, there are no indications that the policies consider the mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS into core businesses at governmental levels and in general as a tool proven to be effective in the fight against the disease. HIV and AIDS are not yet seen as the cross cutting issue that they form and therefore any interventions are still limited to sectors rather than based on multi-sectoral collaboration. A Meta-Analysis of the existing literature on HIV and AIDS in Sudan gives an insight to the current situation in the country. It has revealed that the lack of reliable data is a priority gap in the planning and programming of HIV and AIDS interventions. HIV-related Stigma and lack of HIV-related knowledge has also been identified as a major obstacle in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Based on these findings, recommendations for an increased effort to encounter the spread of HIV and AIDS in Sudan include inter alia comprehensive research, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, mainstreaming, preventive education, and transparency and coordination among stakeholders.