



University for Peace
UPEACE Centre The Hague



Intersections of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in South Sudan

The project

“Intersections of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in South Sudan” is a 2-year research project that started in November 2014. The project is being implemented by the University for Peace Centre The Hague (the Netherlands), the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS), and PAX. It is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a part of the ‘Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law’, and is administered by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

The project takes a holistic approach to understanding violence, and investigates people’s experiences in seeking justice in relation to both conflict-related and non-conflict-related violence. The three main research questions are:

- What are the strengths, weaknesses and interrelationships of different types of justice systems (both statutory and customary)?
- What opportunities for reform can be identified in order to bring justice services into greater conformity with user needs?
- What existing and potential opportunities for truth, justice and reconciliation can be identified in South Sudan with regard to the past and present conflicts?

Methodologies & Activities

The project will make use of a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including **focus groups** and **interviews**. Drawing on the findings from the focus groups and interviews, a **survey** will be developed to gain insight into people’s perceptions and experiences regarding truth, justice and reconciliation, and investigate the main questions listed above. The survey will make use of the *Kobo Toolbox* technology for mobile data collection in challenging environments. The same technology will be used for **dispute tracking** and **case monitoring**, whereby SSLS legal aid clinics can report on cases they receive, and monitor case proceedings in both statutory and customary courts. The project further includes **historical case mappings** of certain periods of violence, for example, enforced and involuntary disappearances that took place in the garrison towns of southern Sudan in the early 1990s. To support these activities and to inform the project with experiences in other countries, the project will employ a **desk research** component.

A **final report** will be developed in 2016 and **dissemination workshops** will be conducted in both South Sudan and the Netherlands. Throughout the project, the activities undertaken will result in **short reports** and **briefing notes**, allowing for continuous dissemination of findings and dialogue with other stakeholders. The research questions and methods will be used to compile an **analytical tool**, which can be used by other researchers in other contexts. At the end of the project, **knowledge-sharing workshops** will be organized to share and discuss preliminary findings, aiming to verify results and to engage key stakeholders in the development of recommendations.

Contact:

Dr Rens Willems

UPEACE The Hague

Rens.Willems@upeace.nl

Tel. (The Netherlands): +31 70 302 2877

David Deng

SSLS

ddeng@sslawsociety.org

Tel. (S. Sudan): +211 954 890 507

Tel. (Kenya): +254 703 754 068

Daud Gideon

PAX

gideon@paxforpeace.nl

Tel. (S. Sudan): +211 922 202 208

Kathelijne Schenkel

PAX

schenkel@paxforpeace.nl

Tel. (The Netherlands): +3 16 489 1498