

## Focus on Sudan

### Prospects for Culture and Education between destruction and reconstruction

1 December, 10am to 4pm; Haus für Poesie, Kulturbrauerei, Knaackstr. 97, Berlin

According to UNESCO the effect of the on-going brutal war in Sudan on education, culture, science and communication is disastrous – in addition to the immense humanitarian crisis. 14 out of 19 million school-aged children are currently out of school, cultural heritage and the sciences are severely affected, thousands of objects have been looted or destroyed, including more than 1,800 laboratories, 240 libraries, and 2,500 lecture halls in Sudanese universities. Artists and culture professionals are also severely impacted and over 90% of media outlets had ceased operations.

The German Commission for UNESCO has established a [Round Table Sudan](#) in December 2024 to bring together experts and institutions in Germany who are working with or for Sudan within the mandate of UNESCO. The aim of the conference is to strengthen and extend the Sudanese-German network among experts and practitioners, to deepen the awareness of acute needs and to discuss concrete solutions for access to education and culture, for safeguarding heritage and scientific infrastructure. The networks' impact shall be the support of the Sudanese civil society.

### Agenda

09.30 Arrival with coffee

10.00 Opening words

- Dr. Roman Luckscheiter (German Commission for UNESCO)
- Sebastian Fuchs (Federal Foreign Office)

10.15 UNESCO Data and Action Plan Sudan

- Junaid Sorosh-Wali (Head of UNESCO Office in Sudan)

10.30 Panel 1: Education during the war in Sudan

The panel will explore challenges faced in education during the war and highlight inspiring success stories, ongoing efforts and how volunteers, civil societies and Sudanese communities tackle some of the challenges to ensure the continuation of education.

- Niddal Salah-Eldin (Committee Member UNICEF Germany)
- Prof. Sarra Saad (TU Berlin)
- Murtada Abdelkarim (Sudanese Environment Conservation Society)
- Mohamed El Hag (Brandenburg University of Technology)

11.15 Panel 2: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: Current situation and future perspectives

The panel will bring together archaeologists from Sudanese and German institutions who are working in Sudan. Participants will present the current situation and challenges, and share ideas for future developments and propose measures.

- Prof. Mohamed Bashir (Khartoum University)
- Prof. Hamad Hamdeen (Al-Neelain University)
- Prof. Julia Budka (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)
- Dr. Cornelia Kleinitz (Humboldt University, Berlin)
- Pavel Onderka (Naprstek Museum of Asian, African & American Cultures, Prague)

Moderation of Panels 1 and 2: Hannah Tümpel

12.00 Dialogue with partner institutions

- Franziska Kothe, Gerda Henkel Foundation, et al.

12.30 – Lunch Break (Buffet) –

13.00 Situation of the National Archives of Sudan

- Nagwa Mahmoud Al Haaj (Director, online)

13.15 Strengthening Sudanese Civil Society: Needs and Suggestions. Introduction to the Parallel Working Groups A – C

- Donya Zikry (German Commission for UNESCO)

13.30 Group work

A) Research on Sudanese Heritage

How to strengthen research collaboration to preserve natural and cultural heritage?

How to digitize archives/data to preserve natural and cultural heritage?

*Moderator: Dr. Manal Siyam, Sudan Natural History Museum/Museum für Naturkunde Berlin*

B) Cultural dialogue

How to provide access for culture professionals to continue their work?

Which existing measures of cultural institutions effectively support Sudanese artists?

*Moderator: Ahmad Isam Aldin, Media Artist, Khartoum/Berlin*

C) Synergies with Humanitarians and Civil Society Organisations

How can we bring together German-Sudanese networks of civil societal actors and humanitarian organisations?

What are durable solutions of capacity-building for the Sudanese Civil Society?

*Moderator: Roman Deckert, Media in Cooperation and Transition gGmbH Berlin/Geneva*

14.30 Reports from Working Groups; Wrap up and Next Steps

- Dr. Roman Luckscheiter (German Commission for UNESCO)

15.00 – Music from Sudan by *Hassan Al-Malik* –

15.30 Get Together (with Coffee)

16.00 End of the Event