

Navigating the Post-Conflict Landscape: A Scoping Review of Medical Challenges and Opportunities in South Sudan

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Abstract

South Sudan's health system remains fragile following protracted conflict, presenting distinct medical challenges and potential avenues for innovation in a post-conflict setting. A clear understanding of this landscape is necessary for informed health sector reconstruction. This scoping review aims to map and synthesise existing literature on the medical challenges and opportunities in South Sudan, focusing on the field of medicine within post-conflict African states. A scoping review was conducted following the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology. Multiple academic databases and grey literature sources were systematically searched. Studies and reports were screened against pre-defined inclusion criteria, with data extracted and analysed thematically. The evidence base was fragmented. A predominant theme was the critical shortage of skilled healthcare workers. Key challenges included destroyed infrastructure, failed supply chains, and a high burden of communicable diseases and maternal mortality. Identified opportunities centred on community-based service delivery, task-shifting, and the potential application of digital health technologies. The medical landscape in post-conflict South Sudan is defined by systemic weaknesses but also demonstrates resilience and potential for context-specific innovation. Literature suggests a dual need to rebuild core infrastructure while supporting adaptive, community-engaged models. Future efforts should prioritise health workforce development and creating sustainable supply chains. Research should focus on evaluating local innovations and strengthening health information systems. International partners should align support with national priorities for long-term system strengthening. post-conflict, South Sudan, health systems, medical challenges, scoping review, global health, maternal health, healthcare delivery This review consolidates evidence on the medical landscape in post-conflict South Sudan, clarifying key challenges and potential pathways for reconstruction.

Keywords: *Post-conflict health systems, Fragile states, Sub-Saharan Africa, Health system strengthening, Humanitarian medicine, Scoping review, Medical innovation*

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