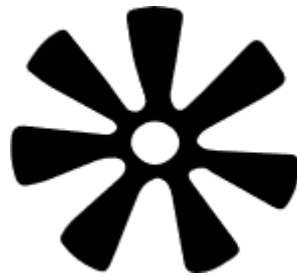


Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

South Sudan

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in South Sudan was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 South Sudan was part of Sudan until 2011, when, after a referendum, it became an independent republic. In 1950 the southern part of Sudan had 2.5 million inhabitants. At Independence in 2011 this had increased to 9.5 million, and in 2020 it was estimated to be 11.1 million. The country has experienced almost continuous war and violence since many decades, and a civil war started soon after Independence. South Sudan is one of the horror stories of Africa, and that is also visible in its education performance.
- 2 The education index is around .300, and adult literacy around 35% (40% men and 29% women), down from >40% in 2010.
- 3 Net primary school enrolment was only 35% in 2015, and secondary school enrolment one of the lowest of Africa: only 6%. Both mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling are around five years. South Sudan is one of the very few countries in Africa where children do not have a better education performance compared to their parents.
- 4 There are extreme regional differences, with Central Equatoria (around capital city Juba) having the best performance, and Unity the worst performance for the education index and expected years of schooling. Warrap and North Bar el Ghazal have the worst performance for mean years of schooling.
- 5 Figures for gross tertiary enrolment are lacking, as well as data about the South Sudanese students abroad. We counted ca 12,000 students in public universities (and mainly in Juba), but these figures are for around 2015. Figures for the private institutions are lacking.

- 6 We counted six public universities, with nine locations (but some temporarily closed?), as well as sixteen private tertiary knowledge institutions (with seventeen locations), many of those in Juba.
- 7 South Sudan has (at least) fourteen private think tanks (most of those connected to international relief NGOs) and as far as we know, three functioning museums.

Part 1: The story

Introduction: South Sudan's demographic and education development

South Sudan is the most recent sovereign state with widespread recognition. Before 2011 South Sudan was part of Sudan, that before 1956 was part of the British Empire (as 'Anglo-Egyptian Sudan'). South Sudan has been an autonomous region after the first Sudanese Civil War in 1972. A second civil war broke out in 1983 which ended in 2005, restoring South Sudan's autonomy. South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in a 2011 referendum with 98.83% support¹. South Sudan is fighting a bloody ethnic civil war since 2013.

South Sudan's population increased from 2.5 million in 1950 to 11.1 million in 2020. In 1955 a mere 9.1% of the population lived in cities (240,000). Currently the urban population has risen to 24.6% in 2020 (2.8 million people). Juba is the capital and largest city with 450,000 inhabitants along the White Nile, followed by Winejok (300,000) in the north, Malakal (160,000) along the White Nile, Wau (130,000) in the centre and Pajok (50,000) at the southern border. South Sudan's life expectancy increased from 26.6 years for males and 29.4 for females in 1950 to 57.2 for males and 60.3 for females in 2020, one of the lowest in the world. The median age first decreased (from 18.9 in 1955 to 17.6 in 2000) and then started to increase: to 19 in 2020. This can be attributed to diminishing fertility rates which really started to pick up momentum in 1995. In 1955 the average woman gave birth to 6.7 children, which increased to 6.9 in 1980, to decrease afterwards to the current level of 4.7 in 2020².

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudan

² <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/south-sudan-population/>

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<https://geology.com/world/sudan-map.gif>



https://li.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaetje:South_Sudan_sat.jpg

Literacy and enrolment

UNESCO assessments are that the adult literacy rate in South Sudan was only 35% in 2018³ (40% for men and 29% for women): a total of 1.9 million illiterate adult men and 2.3 million illiterate adult women.

Although education is compulsory between 6 and 13 years (a total of eight years), net primary school enrolment was only 35% in 2015 (down from 43% in 2011): 40% for boys and 30% for girls). In total there are 1.8 million children between the ages of 6 to 11. Net secondary school enrolment was only 6% (boys 7%, girls 5%) in 2015. There are 1.5 million children in the 12-17 age cohort. Figures for tertiary enrolment are lacking. But with 1 million people between 18 and 22 years old, the tertiary enrolment figures are probably very low.

Regional differentiation of education results in South Sudan, 2010-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 2010 and 2018 and uses ten regions. Between 2010 and 2018 the population of South Sudan as a whole increased 1.15 times, but globaldatalab does not differentiate between the regions.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools.

We present the data for the years 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). Data for other countries already starts in 1990, but South Sudan only in 2010 (Sudan already in 1990). See tables 1-4 in part 2.

Education Index

The education index is one of the elements of the human development index. For South Sudan it was almost the same in 2010 and 2018: around .300, and this is very low for African standards. The best region is Central Equatoria, around the capital city Juba. The worst results can be noted for Unity, and regional inequality is quite extreme.

Mean Years of Schooling for Adults

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades"⁴. In South Sudan the figures for this indicator were the same in 2010 and in 2018, because of lack of dynamic data, we assume,

³ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ss>

⁴ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

due to the civil war. Central Equatoria had much better results than Warrap and North Bar el Ghazal.

Expected Years of Schooling for Children

UNDP defines the ‘expected years of schooling’ as the: “Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child’s life”⁵. In South Sudan as a whole this increased from 4.9 years in 2010 to 5.0 years in 2018; very low for African standards. Central Equatoria, again, was and is leading. Unity had the worst results. Regional inequality was and is very extreme.

South Sudan’s tertiary knowledge development

South Sudan currently has 22 universities (6 public and 16 private ones). See the table below. At least 4 out of the 16 private universities are religious (3 catholic; 1 Islamic). In addition there are 3 think tanks and research centres; however, as far as we know, there are no functioning museums in South Sudan. There is a strong concentration of tertiary knowledge institutions in Juba (and in addition to the Juba-based ones, also several other universities have now (temporarily?) relocated to Juba as a result of the civil war. Relatively speaking (compared to population numbers Central Equatoria (with Juba), but also West Bahr el Ghazal (with Wau) have a high concentration of tertiary knowledge institutes (see table 7 in part 2).

South Sudan’s universities 1960-2020 with known establishment dates

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
public	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	6	6
private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	16
total	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	3	3	6	10	22

We will now give some information about the public universities, followed by the private ones, and the think tanks.

Public Universities in South Sudan



The University of Juba⁶

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/uj.edue/>

Until 2016 there have been more public universities than private ones. Science and engineering are dominant disciplines taught at these universities. See table 5 in part 2.

Private Universities in South Sudan

Since 2008 there has been a massive increase in private universities. Christian universities have seen the largest gains with 3 out of 4 religious universities being Christian institutions. It is unclear if the other 12 universities are religious but we suspect several of those are religious as well. There is a lot unknown in this sector but science and engineering seem to be the dominant disciplines again. See table 6 in part 2.

Research centres and Think Tanks in South Sudan

We found fourteen think tanks and research institutes in South Sudan, most of those related to international NGOs and relief organizations. All are private institutions and they mainly deal with social, economic and strategic policies and disaster relief activities. See table 8 in part 2.

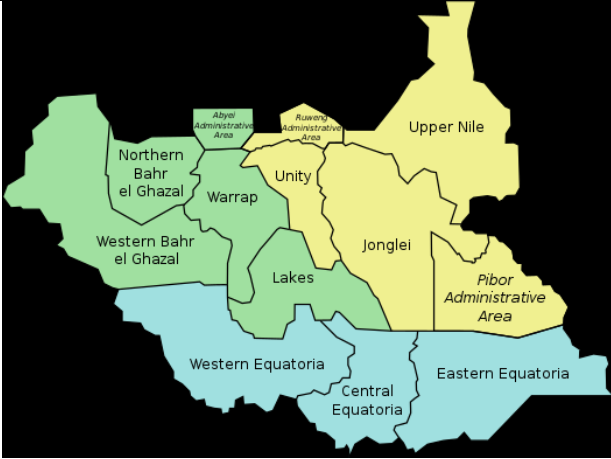
Museums in South Sudan



We found three functioning museums in South Sudan, one for the war victims, and two art museums. See table 9 in part 2.

Part 2: The Data

Table 1: South Sudan: regions and population, 2010 and 2018

Map	Region	Population x 1000		'18/'10
		2010	2018	
	C. Equatoria	1250	1440	1.15
	E. Equatoria	1030	1190	1.16
	Jonglei	1390	1600	1.15
	Lakes	750	870	1.16
	North Bahr el Ghazal	890	1020	1.15
	Unity	670	780	1.16
	Upper Nile	1150	1330	1.16
	Warrap	1290	1490	1.16
	West Bahr el Ghazal	360	420	1.17
	W. Equatoria	740	850	1.15
	Total South Sudan	9510	11000	1.16

Source : <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Map : <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/0d/c0/8c/0dc08c4b0fbd9cae53b173fd25743491.png>

Table 2: South Sudan: Education index 2010-2018⁷

Region	2010	2018	2018/2010
C. Equatoria	505	512	1.01
E. Equatoria	308	312	1.01
Jonglei	175	177	1.01
Lakes	188	190	1.01
North Bahr el Ghazal	186	189	1.01
Unity	172	173	1.01
Upper Nile	361	366	1.01
Warrap	177	179	1.01
West Bahr el Ghazal	363	367	1.01
W. Equatoria	415	421	1.01
Total	297	301	1.01
Inequality	2.9	3.0	

Table 3: South Sudan, Regional data for 'mean years of schooling' for adults

⁷ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Region	2010	2018	2018/2010
C. Equatoria	7.8	7.8	=
E. Equatoria	5.0	5.0	=
Jonglei	3.0	3.0	=
Lakes	3.2	3.2	=
North Bahr el Ghazal	2.9	2.9	=
Unity	3.4	3.4	=
Upper Nile	5.2	5.2	=
Warrap	2.9	2.9	=
West Bahr el Ghazal	5.9	5.9	=
W. Equatoria	6.2	6.2	=
Total	4.9	4.9	=
Inequality	2.7	2.7	=

Table 4: South Sudan, Regional data for 'expected years of schooling' for children

Region	2010	2018	2018/2010
C. Equatoria	8.8	9.0	1.02
E. Equatoria	5.1	5.2	1.02
Jonglei	2.7	2.7	1.00
Lakes	2.9	3.0	1.03
North Bahr el Ghazal	3.2	3.3	1.03
Unity	2.1	2.2	1.05
Upper Nile	6.7	6.9	1.03
Warrap	2.9	3.0	1.03
West Bahr el Ghazal	6.0	6.2	1.03
W. Equatoria	7.6	7.8	1.03
Total	4.9	5.0	1.02
Inequality	4.2	4.1	

Table 5: Public universities in South Sudan

	Public	Since	Location(s)	Students	Type (NS: Natural Science, TS: technical science, MH: medicine & health, HSS: humanities and social sciences, BEL: business studies, economics, law and others)	Website
University of Juba		1977	Juba, and Kuajok	9,000 in 2016	NS, TS, MH, HSS, BEL	http://jubauni.net/
University of Bahr El-Ghazal		1991	Wau	~1,000	MH, HSS, BEL	?

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<i>Upper Nile University</i>	1991	Malakal (currently relocated to Juba because of the ongoing civil war)	?	NS, TS, MH, HSS, BEL	?
<i>Dr John Garang Memorial University (2007 as John Garang Institute of Science and Technology), 2010 (as John Garang Memorial University)</i>	2007 (2010)	Bor, Juba	~1.000	NS, TS, BEL	http://www.jgmust-edu.org
<i>Rumbek University</i>	2010	Rumbek	~500	HSS, BEL	?
<i>University of Northern Bahr El-Ghazal</i>	2011	Aweil	?	?	?

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_South_Sudan, <https://www.southsudaneducation.info/universities> and <https://www.4icu.org/ss/>; also: https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php

Table 6: Private universities in South Sudan

<i>Private</i>	<i>Since</i>	<i>Location(s)</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Type (NS: Natural Science, TS: technical science, MH: medicine & health, HSS: humanities and social sciences, BEL: business studies, economics, law and others)</i>	<i>Website</i>
<i>Catholic University of South Sudan (religious/Catholic)</i>	2008	Juba (plus: Wau)	?	NS, TS, HSS, BEL	?
<i>St. Mary's University (religious/Catholic)</i>	2009	Juba	?	HSS, BEL	?
<i>South Sudan Christian University (religious/Catholic)</i>	2010	Juba	?	NS, TS	
<i>Islamic University of South Sudan (religious/Islamic)</i>	2012	Juba			
<i>Kampala University South Sudan Center</i>	2015	Juba			
<i>Kuda University</i>	2016	Kuda	?	?	?
<i>Star International University</i>	2016	Juba	?	?	?
<i>Starford International University College</i>	2016	Juba	?	BEL	?
<i>Remedial University College</i>	2016	Juba	?	MH?	?
<i>Attasons University College</i>	2019	Torit			
<i>Akobo Heritage and Memorial University</i>	?	Akobo	?	?	?
<i>Bentiu Heritage & Memorial University</i>	?	Bentiu	?	?	?
<i>Mikese University College</i>	?	Yambio	?	?	?
<i>Ebony University</i>	?	Bar-el-Ghazal	?	?	?
<i>Yei Agricultural and Mechanical University</i>	?	Yei	?	NS, TS	?
<i>Equatoria International University</i>	?	Torit	?	?	?

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_South_Sudan, <https://www.southsudaneducation.info/universities> and <https://www.4icu.org/ss/>; not included in https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php

Table 7: Regional distribution of the locations of tertiary knowledge institutions in South Sudan, 2020

Region	Cities	Public	Private	Total	Total per million inhabitants
C. Equatoria	Juba, Kuda, Yei	3	10	13	9.0
E. Equatoria	Torit	0	2	2	1.7
Jonglei	Bor, Akobo	1	1	2	1.3
Lakes	Rumbek	1	0	1	1.1
North Bahr el Ghazal	Aweil	1	0	1	1.0
Unity	Kuajok, Bentiu	1	1	2	2.6
Upper Nile	Malakal	1	0	1	0.8
Warrap		0	0	0	0.0
West Bahr el Ghazal	Wau	1	2	3	7.1
W. Equatoria	Yambio	0	1	1	1.2
Total		9	17	26	2.4

Table 8: Research centres and think tanks in South Sudan

Research center/Think Tank	Since	Where	Website
<i>Rift Valley Institute (private non-profit)</i>	2001	Juba	http://riftvalley.net/publications?lan=396
<i>The Sudd Institute (private)</i>	2012	Juba	https://www.suddinstitute.org/
<i>South Sudan Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (private)</i>	2011	Juba	http://ss-csps.org/
<i>South Sudan Law Society</i>	?	Juba	https://southsudanlawsociety.org/
<i>SAADO Youth against Poverty</i>	?	Juba	https://www.saado.org/
<i>Mines Advisory Group South Sudan</i>	?	Juba	https://www.maginternational.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/south-sudan/
<i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i>	?	Juba	https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/africa/south-sudan
<i>British Council</i>	?	Juba	https://southsudan.britishcouncil.org/
<i>UNHCR</i>	?	Juba and elsewhere	https://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan.html and https://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan-emergency.html
<i>Plan International South Sudan Country Office</i>	?	Juba	https://plan-international.org/south-sudan
<i>Caritas South Sudan</i>	?	Juba	https://www.caritas.org/where-caritas-work/africa/south-sudan/
<i>South Sudan Bible Society</i>	?	Juba	https://unitedbiblesocieties.org/locations/bible-society-in-south-sudan/
<i>World Vision International South Sudan Office</i>	?	Juba	https://www.wvi.org/south-sudan
<i>Pact South Sudan</i>	?	Juba	https://www.pactworld.org/country/south-sudan

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Save the Children International	?	Juba	https://southsudan.savethechildren.net/
Samaritan’s Purse International Relief Agency	?	Juba	https://www.samaritanspurse.org/
Health Link South Sudan	?	Juba	https://www.healthlinksouthsudan.org/
Malteser International	?	Wau	https://www.malteser-international.org/en/our-work/africa/south-sudan.html
Rural Development Action Aid	?	Yambio	https://rdaass.org/

Sources: Source: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report and <https://www.policycenter.ma/events/conferences/2018-africa-think-tank-summit#.XhjA4MhKiU>; and google maps search

Table 9: Museums in South Sudan

Remembering the Ones we Lost Museum	Juba https://rememberingoneswelost.org/ ; also see: https://sites.tufts.edu/wpf/remembering-the-ones-we-lost-south-sudan/
Hugh Jackman Museum	Yambio
Studio One Art Gallery	Juba https://studiooneartgallery.business.site/?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=referral
Also see: https://southsudanmuseumnetwork.com/	Oxford UK

Sources: via google maps search

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