

South Sudan - An Analytical Country Profile



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1. Introduction

9 July 2011 was a landmark day for Africa and the world. It was the day that introduced a new player to international politics by giving birth to the planet's newest nation: The Republic of South Sudan. As the day that marked the end of Africa's longest running civil war, 9 July 2011 was full of hope and recommencement. However, it also marked the beginning of a troublesome story: South Sudan's internal struggles for national unity and enduring peace. As a new-born country, South Sudan finds itself in a particularly important, challenging and interesting time. Therefore it is essential to ensure that the available data is put to the best use possible. This country report not only offers a collection of current, reliable, and valid data, it also provides a clear and accessible narrative for those willing to busy themselves with the newest country on earth, the beauties it entails, as well as the challenges it faces.

2. Methodology

Former Sudan is one of the few countries on earth where data collection has been extremely neglected over decades. At least since 1978, household surveys at the national level have been rarely conducted. For a long time, little was known about indicators such as poverty, income or economic prosperity in the region.

Data collection on the ground is often difficult, if not impossible. However, since 2009, the availability of data has steadily increased. Domestic programmes such as the National Baseline Household Survey (NBHS), and foreign agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or the United Nations (UN), endeavour to increase the pool of reliable data. Nevertheless, compiling a country factbook that entails all areas of interest poses a challenge for the researcher. The methodology applied in this country report is therefore based on document studies of existing records. Such records provide insights into a setting that cannot be observed in another way.

Examples of the records used as sources for this report are newspaper archives (the economist, BBC, etc.), local business records, census and vital statistics – mostly assessed through UN - and government sources. Moreover, existing academic research papers on South Sudan have been taken into account as sources of information. Naturally, a document study poses certain limitations to the research: the information might be incomplete, it is challenging to locate suitable documents poses a challenge in terms of time consumption and accessibility, and there is a higher risk that the data may be inaccurate or of questionable authenticity.

Therefore, it was essential to conduct a quick assessment of data quality before incorporating certain sources. Only reliable and current sources have been taken into account. Assembling data from various existing documents assisted in gathering information about relevant trends in South Sudan. Thereby, this factbook provides a quick reference for statistical information and serves as an introduction to available data for policy makers, the international community and everyone interested in the newest country on earth – South Sudan.

3. Critical Facts and Figures

3.1 Geography

South Sudan, officially the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked East-African country. It shares borders with Ethiopia to the east, Kenya and Uganda to the southeast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest, Sudan to the north, and the Central African Republic to the west¹. With a size of 644329 km², South Sudan is comparable to US-American Georgia or Texas².

¹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

²Ibid.

Geography of South Sudan

Geographic Coordinates

8 00 N, 30 00 E

Size of the Country

644,329 square km

World Comparison: No. 42

Coastline

0 km - landlocked

Land Boundaries

6,018 km

Temperatures

Center and North: 20 - 35 Degrees

Outlying Areas: 15 - 35 Degrees

Elevation

Mt. Kinyeti: 3,817 m

Precipitation

750 - 1,000 mm annually



The climate in South Sudan is generally very hot. Seasonal rainfall is heaviest in upland areas in the Southern country-part, while the north is quite dry³. The White Nile dominates the centre of South Sudan, constituting the country's major

³Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

geographical feature. It feeds the so-called “Sudd”, a large and swampy terrain, bigger than 1000.000 km⁴. The Sudd is one of the world’s largest wetlands, comprising 15% of South Sudan’s total area. The country’s highest peak is on mount Kinyeti at 3.187 meters above sea level.

3.2 Demographics

South Sudan, with its population of approximately 12 million people, is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse countries of the whole world. It has an estimated minimum of 163 distinct “people groups”, each consisting of numerous different tribes⁵. Despite many commonalities between them, each ethnic group has a unique system of social culture, traditions, languages and identities⁶. This diversity possesses both a unique and colorful richness, but at the same time poses a threat to national unity and a common sense of identity.

In this multiethnic society, no ethnic group constitutes a majority in South Sudan. However, Dinka and Nuer make up roughly over 50% of the population, with Dinka portraying the most populous group (35,8%)⁷, outnumbering the Nuer by a factor of two to one. Dinka and Nuer share their culture, with similar languages and spiritual beliefs⁸. Other groups include Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona and Acholi, together constituting the other half of South Sudan’s population⁹.

⁴Ibid.

⁵LeRiche, M. & Arnold, M. (2013). South Sudan - From Revolution to Independence, Oxford University Press

⁶Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan Tribes. Retrieved August 17 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-tribes.htm>

⁷Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁸Kiranda, Y., Kamp, M., Mugisha, M.B. & Ojok, D. (2016). Conflict and State Formation in South Sudan: The Logic of Oil Revenues in Influencing the Dynamics of Elite Bargains. Journal on Perspective on African Democracy and Development. Vol. 1, Issue 1

⁹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

Demographic Structure in South Sudan

Population

12,042,910 (July 2015 est.)
World Comparison: No. 75

Ethnic Diversity



Languages

- English (official)
- Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants)
- Regional Languages, including Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk

Age Structure

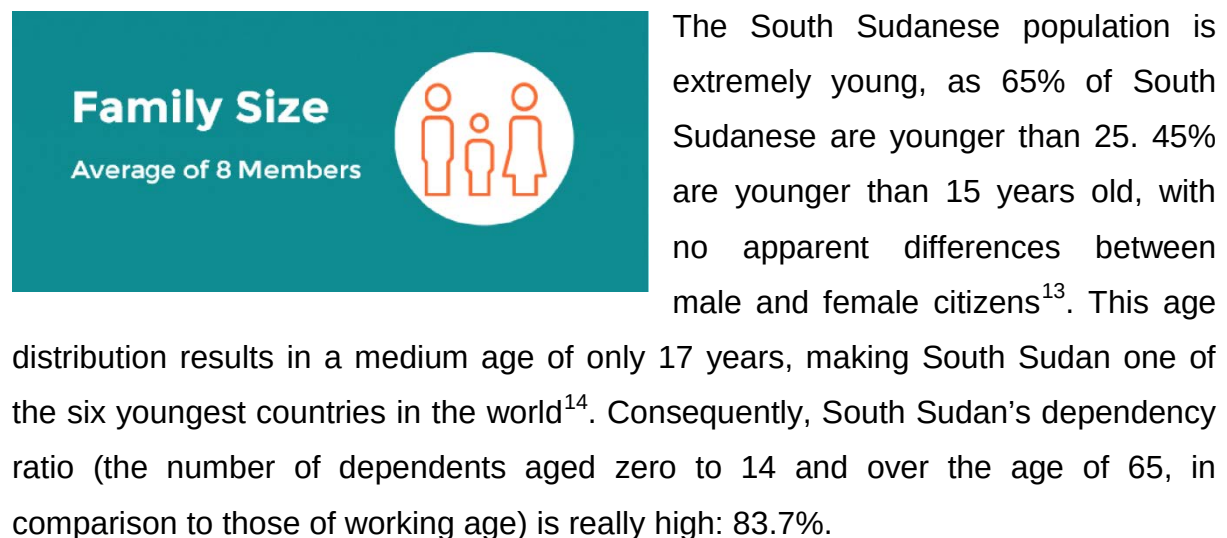


About 40% of South Sudanese speak one of the Nilo-Saharan languages, which is an extremely diverse language family¹⁰. The most common languages are Dinka and Nuer, but English has become a common second language. Today it is one of the official languages of the South Sudanese government¹¹. Religiously, Christianity has dominated South Sudan since British colonialism. However, syncretism of Christian and traditional African tribal beliefs is also widely spread, such as belief in the power of ancestors to watch over the living. A minority of Arab tribes practices Islam.

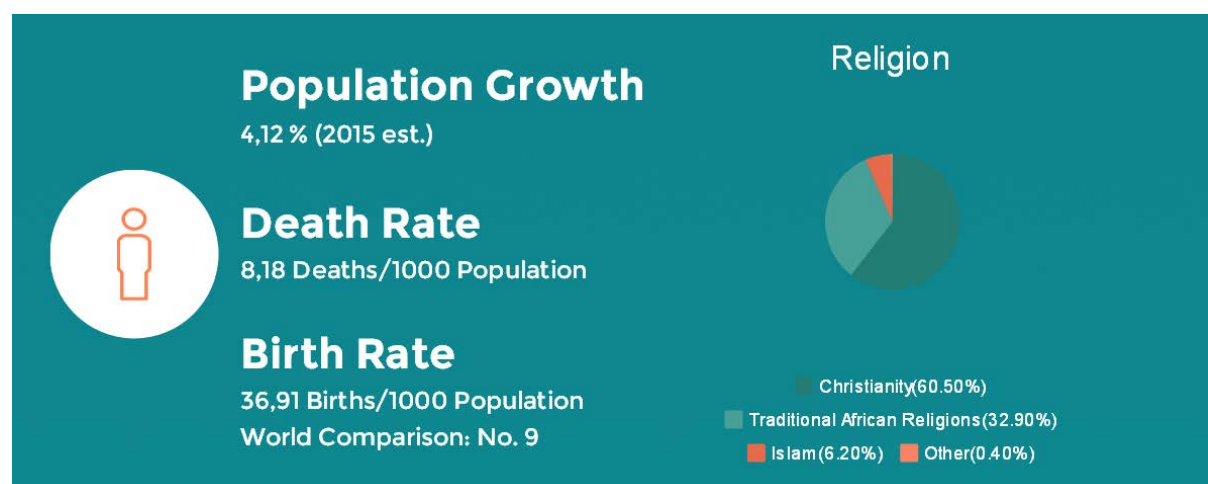
¹⁰Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Washington DC (n.d.). Languages. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.southsudanembassydc.org/map.asp>

¹¹LeRiche, M. & Arnold, M. (2013). South Sudan - From Revolution to Independence, Oxford University Press

Historically, neither the Dinka nor the Nuer have a culture of political centrality. Rather they practice a so-called cattle culture, with livestock portraying the major measure of wealth and land being held by the whole community¹².



Moreover, South Sudan is one of the three fastest growing countries in the world. Its

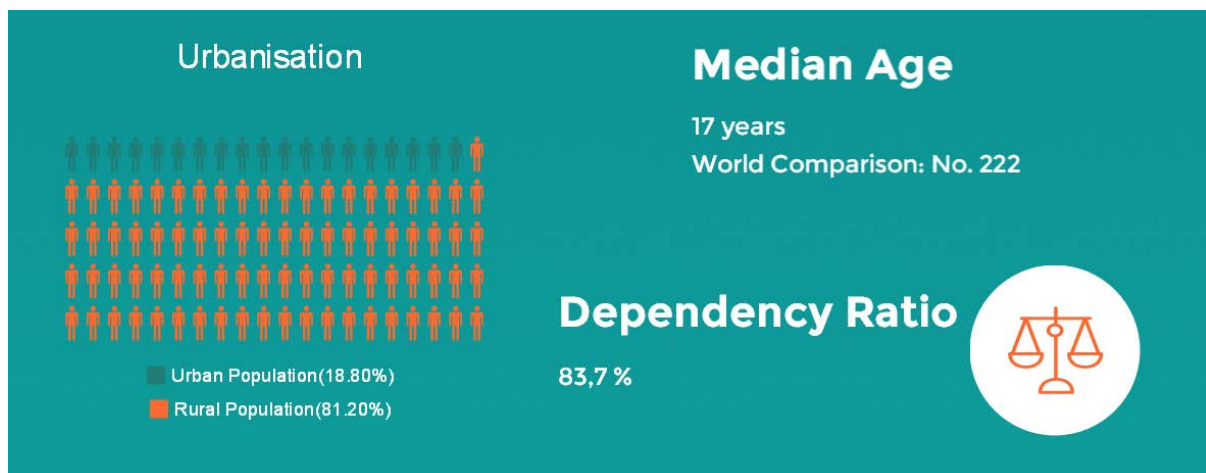


¹²Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan (n.d.). Culture. Retrieved August 25, 2016 from <http://www.southsudanembassydc.org/inner.asp?z=5C5F>

¹³Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

¹⁴Grant, K. (2014). The oldest and the youngest countries in the world. Independent. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://indy100.independent.co.uk/article/the-oldest-and-youngest-countries-in-the-world--x1RyvYIUee>

population grows by 4.12% each year, with 36.91 births per 10.000 people compared to a death rate of 8.18 deaths per 1.000 people¹⁵.



South Sudanese people mostly live in rural settings, even though urbanization – with Juba as the major urban area of the country (321.000 citizens) – is increasing.

3.3 Historical Background

The history of South Sudan is a turbulent one; one that is closely intertwined with the history of its northern neighbor, the Republic of Sudan¹⁶. Religious and ethnic tensions have shaped the relationship between those two nations for centuries. While Sudan is home to Islamized Arabs, South Sudan is characterized by Black African Christian and Animist peoples¹⁷. From 1899 to 1956, South Sudan was part of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, ruled by the joint British-Egyptian regime¹⁸. Largely left to itself, the isolated population of the South was converted by Christian missionaries who promoted the spread of English in the region. Under British-Egyptian

¹⁵Index Mundi (n.d.). Population Growth Rate. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?v=24>

¹⁶Kramer, R.S., Lobban, R.A. & Fluehr-Lobban, C. (2013) Historical Dictionary of the Sudan. 4th Edition. Plymouth, United Kingdom: Scarecrow Press, Inc.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸BBC News (August 2016). South Sudan Profile – Timeline. Retrieved August 17 from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019202>

domination, ethnic and religious distinction crystallized. For the colonial rulers, the southern part of Sudan was unimportant in economic and strategic calculations¹⁹.

As a consequence, the North started to modernize, while the South grew more and more underdeveloped. It was this push to the periphery that gave birth to South Sudanese policies as they remain today. Southern Black African regions suffered from exploitation under the British safeguard²⁰. Colonial policies solidified political, economic, and social boundaries between the North and the South.

By the end of the Second World War, Great Britain's weakened role as a global power erupted in increasing movements of decolonization and independence across the globe. In 1947, to maintain power in Sudan, the British frantically tried to develop the South in order to remove political, economic, and social barriers²¹. But bringing Southern Sudan in parity with the North failed, which led to a modernized Northern Sudan being united with a comparatively disadvantaged Southern Sudan in 1956 when British colonial rule collapsed.

Decades of marginalization and economic and political exploitation under Anglo-Egyptian rule, British colonialism, and North Sudanese administration created tensions that blew up in 1955, when late-colonial Sudan erupted into the first of two bloody and enduring periods of civil war²². After 17 years, in 1972, the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement guaranteed Southern Sudan autonomy, under the condition of a unified Sudanese state. This agreement ended the first Sudanese civil war, but the peace was fragile and of short duration.

In 1983, the government decided to impose the *shari'a* law on Sudan, violating the peace agreement of 1972. The same year, southerner John Garang gathered and united all the individual guerilla groups fighting for South Sudanese independence, most importantly including the so-called Anya Nya, to form the Sudan People's

¹⁹Kramer, R.S., Lobban, R.A. & Fluehr-Lobban, C. (2013) Historical Dictionary of the Sudan. 4th Edition. Plymouth, United Kingdom: Scarecrow Press, Inc.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid.

²²Kramer, R.S., Lobban, R.A. & Fluehr-Lobban, C. (2013) Historical Dictionary of the Sudan. 4th Edition. Plymouth, United Kingdom: Scarecrow Press, Inc.

Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)²³. For the first time, all the different separatist movements were given a unified structure. The 1983 decision to impose the *shari'a* quickly re-ignited conflict and escalated into the Second Sudanese Civil War, this time lasting more than two decades²⁴.

The two prolonged periods of civil war resulted in the death of over 2.5 million people, mostly civilians, due to starvation and drought²⁵. At the same time, the wars paved the way for the final separation of Southern and Northern Sudan and for South Sudanese independence.

²³ Peace Direct (n.d.) Sudan Conflict Profile. Retrieved August 17 from <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sudan/conflict-profile/>

²⁴ Peace Direct (n.d.) Sudan Conflict Profile. Retrieved August 17 from <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sudan/conflict-profile/>

²⁵ Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

History and Civil Wars

Most Important Historical Stages

1899 - 1956: Anglo-Egyptian Rule

1945: End of the Second World War

1956: Sudan becomes independent from its Colonial Power Great Britain

1955 - 1972: First Sudanese Civil War

1972: Addis Ababa Peace Agreement

1983: Birth of the SPLM/A

1983 - 2005: Second Sudanese Civil War

2005: Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

July 2011: A New State is Born - Referendum and Independence of South Sudan

July 2013: South Sudanese Civil War erupts



The First Sudanese Civil War

Deaths: 500.000 people

Internally Displaced: 1 million people

Refugees: 180.000 people



The Second Sudanese Civil War

Deaths: 2 million people

Internally Displaced: 4 million people

Refugees: 800.000 people

3.4 Journey to Independence

Persistent efforts by the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) led by Dr. John Garang (RIP) and the Government of Sudan to solve the conflict diplomatically finally resulted in the "Comprehensive Peace Agreement" (CPA) in January 2005²⁶. This agreement granted the south a six-year period of autonomy and at the same time set up a timetable for southern Sudan to hold a referendum on its final status²⁷. This way, the CPA put an end to Africa's longest running civil war and moreover intended to yield a more equitable sharing of oil revenues²⁸.

2011 was a landmark year for southern Sudan, as the referendum held in January resulted in an overwhelming majority of 98% in favour of secession. The world's newest nation – South Sudan – was thus created on 9 July 2011²⁹.

3.5 South Sudanese Political System

South Sudan is a presidential republic, divided administratively into ten states: Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western Equatoria, with Juba as its capital city³⁰. The country's constitution - the "Transnational Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan" - was signed on 7 July 2011 and became effective on 9 July 2011. This was also the day of national independence from its northern neighbor Sudan and is still celebrated as "Independence Day", a national holiday nowadays³¹. South Sudanese Citizenship is not granted by birth, but by descent, meaning that at least one parent must be a citizen of South Sudan. After 10 years of

²⁶Johnson, D. H. (2014). Briefing: The Crisis in South Sudan. *African Affairs*, 113(451), 300-309.

²⁷Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

²⁸Johnson, D. H. (2014). Briefing: The crisis in South Sudan. *Oxford University Press*

²⁹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

residency, citizenship by naturalization is possible³². The South Sudanese constitution grants universal suffrage to all citizens 18 years of age.

The executive branch of the country is led by the chief of state, President Salva Kiir Mayardit (since 9 July 2011) and first Vice-President Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon (since 11 February 2016) as well as second Vice-President James Wani Igga (since 12 February 2016). As President, Salva Kiir is at the same time chief of the state and head of government³³. The President is elected by simple majority popular vote for a 4-year term, a second term is possible. Elections in 2015 have been postponed to 2018 due to continuing violence and instability. SPLM, founded as the political wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983 by John Garang, is the ruling party of South Sudan and chaired by President Salva Kiir³⁴. The opposition is led by the Democratic Change Party (DCP), chaired by Lam Akol³⁵.

South Sudan's legislative branch is a bicameral one, consisting of the Council of States (50 seats) and of the National Legislative Assembly (400 seats), 251 of which are occupied by SPLM³⁶.

The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court of South Sudan as the highest court. Judges are appointed by the President upon proposal of the Judicial Service Council. Subordinate courts are the Courts of Appeal, the High Courts, the Country Courts, the Customary Courts and other specialized courts and tribunals³⁷.

The military branch is portrayed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). In March 2012, the South Sudanese government signed an UN action plan to demobilize all child soldiers within the SPLA. However, recruitment of child soldiers

³²Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

³³Ibid.

³⁴Sudan Tribune (n.d.). Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?mot128>

³⁵Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid.

increased in recent years. According to UNICEF estimates, approximately 16.000 child soldiers have been recruited by the SPLA since fighting began in 2013³⁸.

South Sudan is a member of most major international organizations, including the African Union, the FAO, the ILO, the IMF and the UN³⁹.

3.6 After Independence – The South Sudanese Civil War

The exploitative nature of the relationship between Northern and Southern Sudan left the world's newest country heavily injured and it is yet to heal. Since its independence in 2011, South Sudan has struggled with nation building, governance, and controlling the various rebel militias on its territory. In 2012, the government decided to shut down oil production as a consequence of bilateral negotiations with the Republic of Sudan, which further deteriorated the country's economic situation⁴⁰.

In 2013, just two years after independence was finally achieved, South Sudan plunged into another devastating civil war, sparked by power struggles and conflict that erupted within the SPLM in Juba and quickly spread throughout the whole nation⁴¹.

In July 2013, President Salva Kiir dismissed not only the entire cabinet, but also Vice-President Riek Machar during a power struggle within the ruling party, the SPLM⁴². On the night of 15 December 2013, fighting broke out within the government army (the SPLA) between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and those attached to former vice-president Riek Machar. The following day, President Salva Kiir addressed the nation, accusing Riek Machar of an attempted military coup, which was denied by the former Vice-President. Immediately, fighting erupted

³⁸ Human Rights Watch (December 2014). South Sudan: Terrifying Lives of Child Soldiers. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/14/south-sudan-terrifying-lives-child-soldiers>

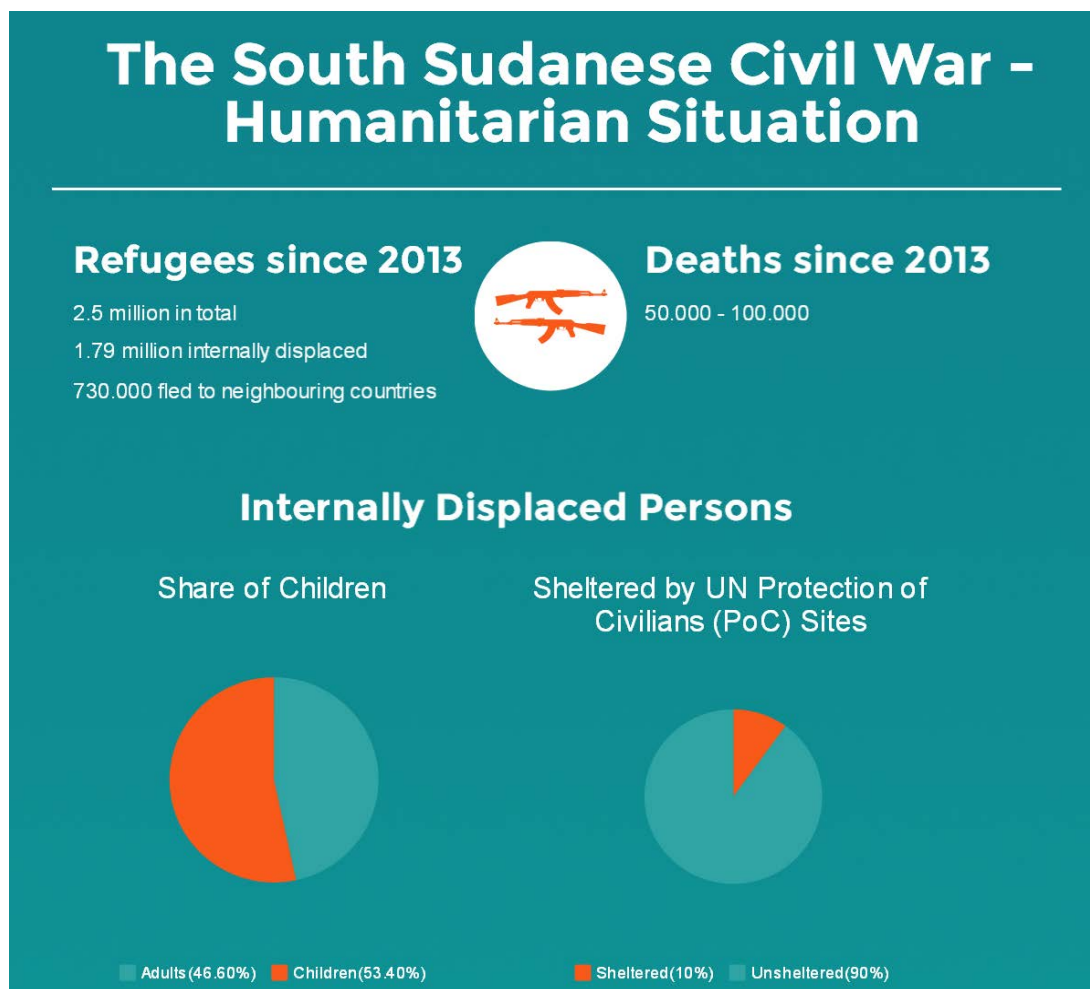
³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁴¹ Johnson, D. H. (2014). Briefing: The crisis in South Sudan. *African Affairs*, 113(451), 300-309.

⁴² BBC News (August 2016). South Sudan Profile – Timeline. Retrieved August 17 from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019202>

between government forces and rebel troops⁴³. Within only a few days, several towns have fallen under the control of rebel soldiers; among them Bor, Bentiu and Malakal⁴⁴. The conflict triggered ethnic confrontations between South Sudan's two most populous tribes: the Dinka and the Nuer. Riek Machar, a Nuer, escaped from Juba and accused President Salva Kiir, a Dinka, of targeted killings of Nuer. Machar announced that the President had only created the attempted coup to kill him. Salva Kiir denied planning genocide against Nuer and laid blame for the fighting at the feet of Riek Machar. Even though Machar denied that he had been involved in a coup, he arranged a rebellion led by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO). He urged his forces to overthrow Kiir as a consequence to killing Nuer⁴⁵, which were followed by revenge killings of Dinka.

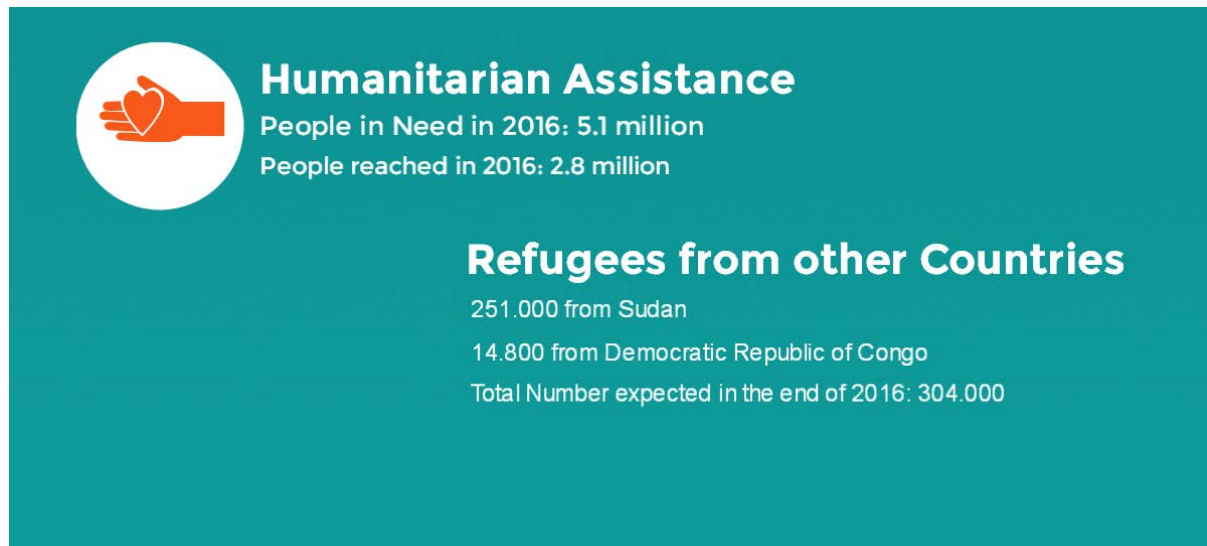


⁴³Guendell, A. O. (2015). South Sudan – Triumph of Diplomacy at Last?. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.V.

⁴⁴Johnson, D. H. (2014). Briefing: The crisis in South Sudan. *African Affairs*, 113(451), 300-309

⁴⁵Ibid.

The conflict escalated into a civil war, causing a humanitarian crisis. Both sides committed human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity by conducting murder, rape and pillage as common battle tactics⁴⁶.



Only a few months later millions were forced to flee, thousands have been killed, and South Sudan's oil-production, the most important source of income for the country, halted almost entirely⁴⁷. During 2014, several ceasefires were broken. Killings, sexual violence, torture, and slaughter of thousands continued across the country. By mid-2014, the UN Security Council announced that more than five million people in South Sudan were in need of humanitarian aid and described the food crisis as the worst in the world. In June 2015, US President Obama convened a meeting with regional leaders during his visit to the African Union, attempting to halt the conflict, even though they were supporting different sides of the conflict.

Under the threat of UN sanctions, Riek Machar and Salva Kiir finally signed an internationally-mediated peace agreement in August 2015. The agreement demanded Riek Machar to return to Juba as a Vice-President⁴⁸ and arranged for a transitional government of national unity – which was delayed until early 2016⁴⁹.

⁴⁶Guendell, A. O. (2015). South Sudan – Triumph of Diplomacy at Last?. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.V.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸BBC News (August 2016). South Sudan Profile – Timeline. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019202>

⁴⁹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.) The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

Despite the peace agreement, the violence across South Sudan still continues – due to the absence of any rule of law to respond⁵⁰. The civil war has put a whole generation at risk, with every third school being destroyed⁵¹. Thousands have lost their lives and hunger and malnutrition is widespread. The extensive loss of infrastructure impedes access to safe water or healthcare. Malnutrition and disease, including an acute malaria-outbreak in 2015, have exaggerated mortality⁵². Moreover, the humanitarian crisis has intensified through refugee flows from unstable neighbouring countries. With over 90% of those refugees being cramped in upper Nile and Unity State, conflict over resources continues to increase⁵³.



Summing up the consequences of the latest conflict in South Sudan, the country, according to the UN, faces one of the world's biggest humanitarian crises⁵⁴. The situation has been declared a level-3-emergency, the highest level possible.

⁵⁰ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Jan. 2016). 2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/2016-south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview>

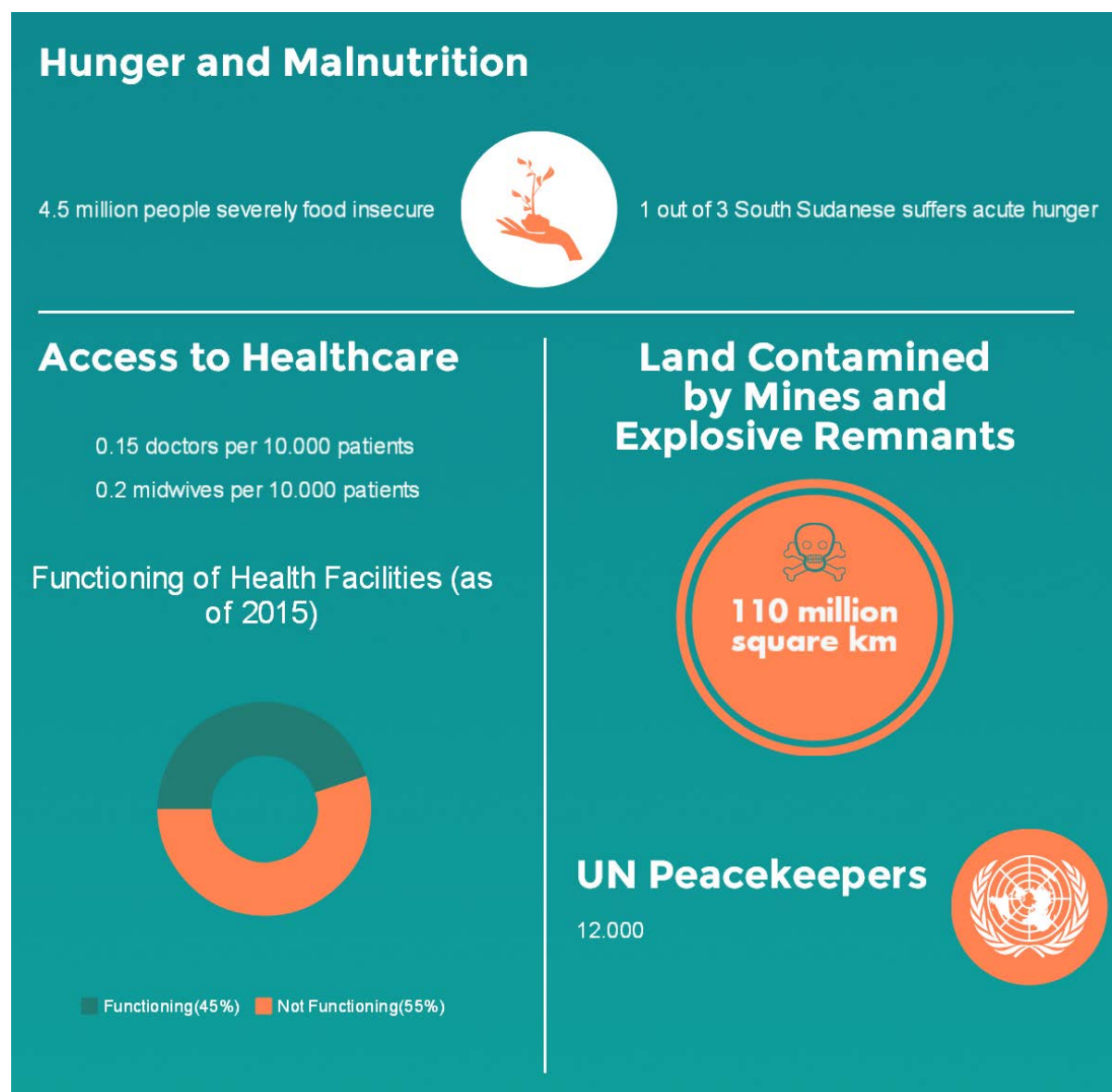
⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² UN News Centre (2016). 'Time to massively reinforce UN action' on South Sudan, Ban says ahead of Security Council meeting. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54434#.V6stDzFF1p0>

⁵³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Jan. 2016). 2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/2016-south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview>

⁵⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://www.unocha.org/south-sudan/>

Moreover, the Fund for Peace ranked South Sudan on several socio-economic indicators. It ranked 9.9 out of 10 points for demographic pressures, 10 points for refugees and internally displaced persons, 9.9 points for group grievance, 6.6 points for human flight, 9.0 points for uneven development, 9.3 points for poverty and economic decline, 9.7 points for state illegitimacy and 9.7 points for insufficient public services⁵⁵.



⁵⁵ Fund for Peace (2016). Fragile State Index 2016. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/rankings-2016>

Based on this data, the annual Fragile State Index declared South Sudan the most fragile state in the world in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, South Sudan occupied the second place, only superseded by Somalia⁵⁶.

3.7 Economic Indicators and Natural Resources

South Sudan is currently the poorest country on earth, relying entirely on foreign donor money⁵⁷. With a GDP of only 9.02 billion USD, a GDP per capita of 2000 USD and a GDP growth rate currently declining by 5.3% annually, South Sudan's economy is in a desperate state⁵⁸. Shortfalls of oil-revenues following from low oil prices and low production rates as well as increased military spending have further reduced the availability of resources for service delivery and capital spending on much needed infrastructure.

South Sudan is a highly indebted country and remains a large-scale recipient of international assistance. More than 4 billion USD of foreign aid have been transferred to it since 2005, with the main donor countries being the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Norway and the Netherlands⁵⁹. International partners keep reverting to humanitarian modes of relief aid instead of fostering development cooperation⁶⁰. South Sudan's geographical position as a landlocked country further complicates economic development.

⁵⁶Ibid.

⁵⁷Chol, J. D. (n.d.). South Sudan's Leaders have Tarnished the Dreams of Independence for their People. LSE. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2016/08/08/south-sudans-leaders-have-tarnished-the-dreams-of-independence-for-their-people/>

⁵⁸The World Bank (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://data.worldbank.org/country/south-sudan>

⁵⁹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁶⁰Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan – Economy. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-economy.htm>

Economy of South Sudan

GDP

9,02 USD

Per Capita: 2000 USD (est. 2015)

Real Growth Rate: - 5,3 %



Currency

South Sudanese Pound (SSP)

GDP - Composition by End-Use



Budget Surplus/Deficit

- 14.1 % of GDP (est. 2013)

Money Stock

Narrow: 1.873 billion USD (est. 2013)

Broad: 2.194 billion USD (est. 2013)

Current Account Balance

- 332 million USD (est. 2015)

Gross National Savings

7,1 % of GDP

After decades of civil war, both infrastructure and industry remain drastically underdeveloped. Infrastructure is extremely poor, as South Sudan possesses only 200 km in total of paved roads. Meanwhile electricity mainly stems from diesel generators⁶¹. The largest part of the country is not even accessible during the rainy season from April to October⁶². This lack of physical infrastructure increases transport costs for industry and inhibits foreign investment⁶³. The poor industrial development is intensified by a lack of both skilled and unskilled labour: 94% of young South Sudanese enter the labour market without any qualifications⁶⁴. Therefore, the labour market is dominated by non-wage jobs, predominantly in the

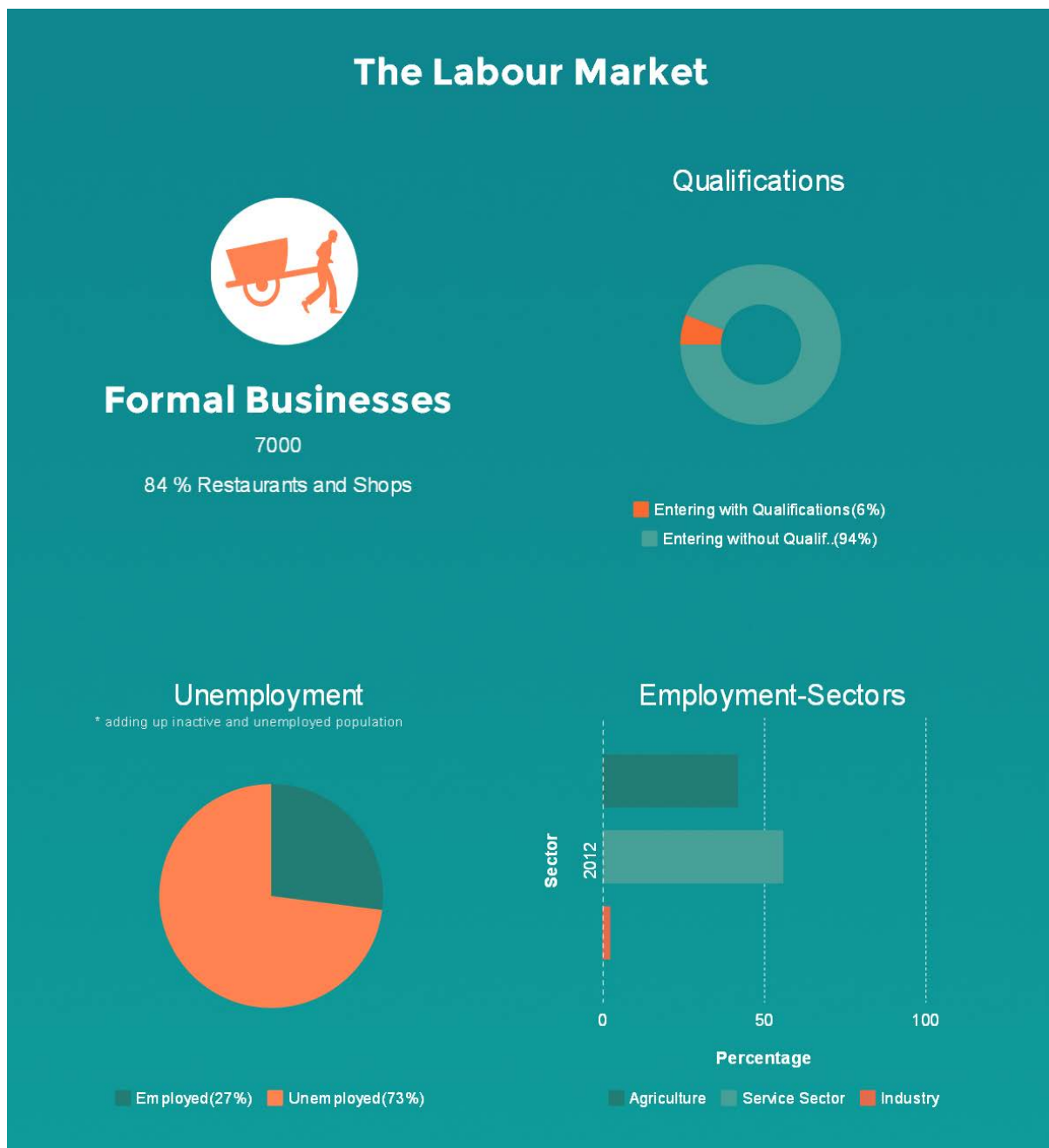
⁶¹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.).The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁶²Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan – Economy. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-economy.htm>

⁶³Ibid.

⁶⁴Ibid.

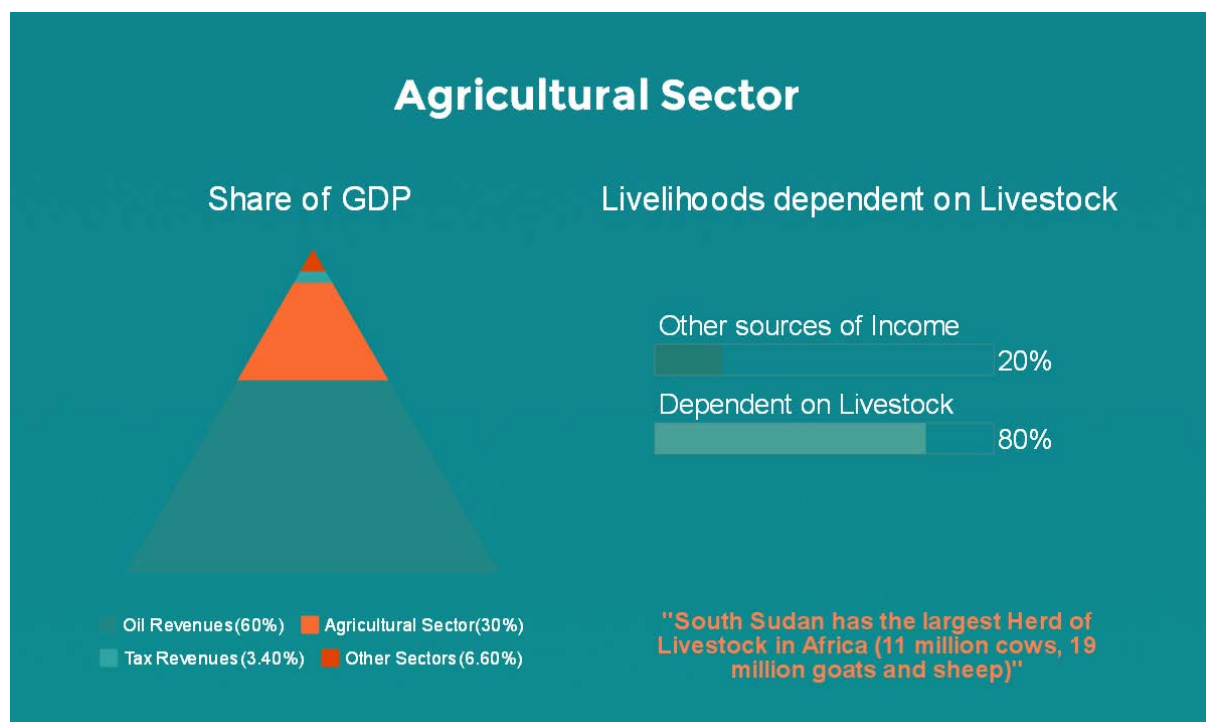
agricultural sector⁶⁵. 84% of the approximately 7000 formal businesses in South Sudan are restaurants or shops⁶⁶.



⁶⁵Ibid.

⁶⁶Ibid.

Total unemployment rate, measured as the percentage of the working population, was last reported at 12% in 2008. Youth unemployment at that time ran at 18.5%, while the actual number is estimated to be much higher. However, in adding up inactive and unemployed people in South Sudan, unemployment is actually estimated to exceed 73%⁶⁷.



Since its independence, South Sudan has reported a positive trade balance. The top export destinations of South Sudan are China (\$3.96B), India (\$58.9M), Algeria (\$3.64M), Uganda (\$1.44M), and Pakistan (\$1.03M)⁶⁸. South Sudan has an Economic Complexity Index (ECI) of -2.689, meaning that the country's industrial composition is extremely one-sided.⁶⁹ However, positive trade reports have only been due to extensive amounts of oil exports, as the country depends heavily on imports of goods, services, and capital, mainly from Uganda (46%)⁷⁰. There is no manufacturing industry and practically all intermediate and consumer goods are

⁶⁷Shimeless, A. & Verdier-Chouchane, A. (2012). Poverty Situation and Prospects in South Sudan. African Development Bank, Volume 3, Issue 8

⁶⁸The Observatory of Economic Complexity (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/ssd/>

⁶⁹Ibid.

⁷⁰Ibid.

imported. The only modern industrial sector is the oil industry, in which foreign investors, particularly Chinese, Indian, and Malaysian, dominate⁷¹.



Following the outbreak of violence in 2013, trade balance has shifted to a surplus of imports⁷². Trade blockades and disruptions, mostly related to conflicts with Sudan, have been imposed on South Sudan several times since its independence⁷³.

Markets in South Sudan are not well organized, therefore price signals remain weak. Moreover, the country has the highest rate of hyperinflation worldwide: 661%, which drastically diminishes the purchasing power of citizens, with food inflation being even higher⁷⁴. This contributes to extreme poverty and malnutrition. In 2015, the South Sudanese central bank announced a plan to abandon fixed exchange rates in order to target inflation, without success⁷⁵.

⁷¹UNDP (n.d.). About South Sudan. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from http://www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/countryinfo.html

⁷²Trading Economics (n.d.). South Sudan Economic Indicators. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/south-sudan/indicators>

⁷³Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁷⁴Trading Economics (n.d.). South Sudan Economic Indicators. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/south-sudan/indicators>

⁷⁵Ibid.

Instead of tackling these economic challenges, corruption is rampant among South Sudan's political and military elites. More than 4 billion USD have been reportedly misappropriated⁷⁶. Moreover, South Sudan's tax budget is miserable. Only 3.4% of GDP are constituted by tax revenues⁷⁷.



This is despite the fact that South Sudan possesses abundant natural resources and mineral wealth, including: petroleum, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, rough diamonds, hydropower and forestry resources like teak⁷⁸. Without doubt, South Sudan's fate hinges on its most important resource, oil. South Sudan's significant oil wealth, if used effectively to stimulate development, could theoretically provide for progress in the coming years. However, in practice, the almost total reliance on oil export makes the country extremely vulnerable to economic shocks⁷⁹.

Before 2011, South Sudan accounted for 85% of former Sudan's oil output at nearly half a million barrels per day⁸⁰. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, between Northern and Southern Sudan, required the country to split oil revenues

⁷⁶Chol, J. D. (n.d.). South Sudan's Leaders have Tarnished the Dreams of Independence for their People. LSE. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2016/08/08/south-sudans-leaders-have-tarnished-the-dreams-of-independence-for-their-people/>

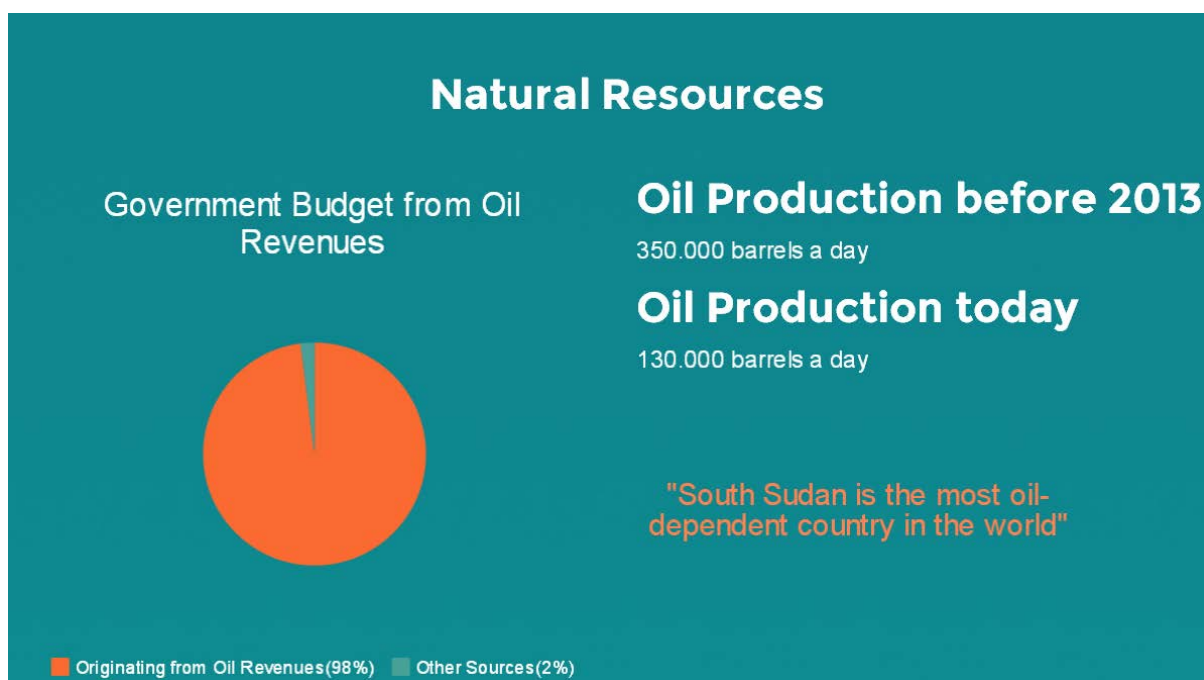
⁷⁷Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁷⁸Government of the Republic of South Sudan (n.d.). Natural Resources. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.goss.org/index.php/about-south-sudan/natural-resources>

⁷⁹Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan Oil. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-oil.htm>

⁸⁰Ibid.

equally with the North for the duration of the agreement⁸¹. After independence, South Sudan gained control over the largest part of production site. Even though the arrangement of 2005 expired in 2011 with the country's independence, South Sudan, as a landlocked country, remains dependent on Sudan's processing facilities and pipelines. Still, South Sudan is exceedingly oil dependent. In fact, it is the most oil dependent country in the world, as its government derives 98% of its budget from the oil revenues generated by approximately 222.000 barrels of oil per day⁸². South Sudan's economy will remain closely linked to Sudan as long as its oil is exported through Port Sudan on the Red Sea. Especially considering the great expenses required to build a new, independent pipeline.

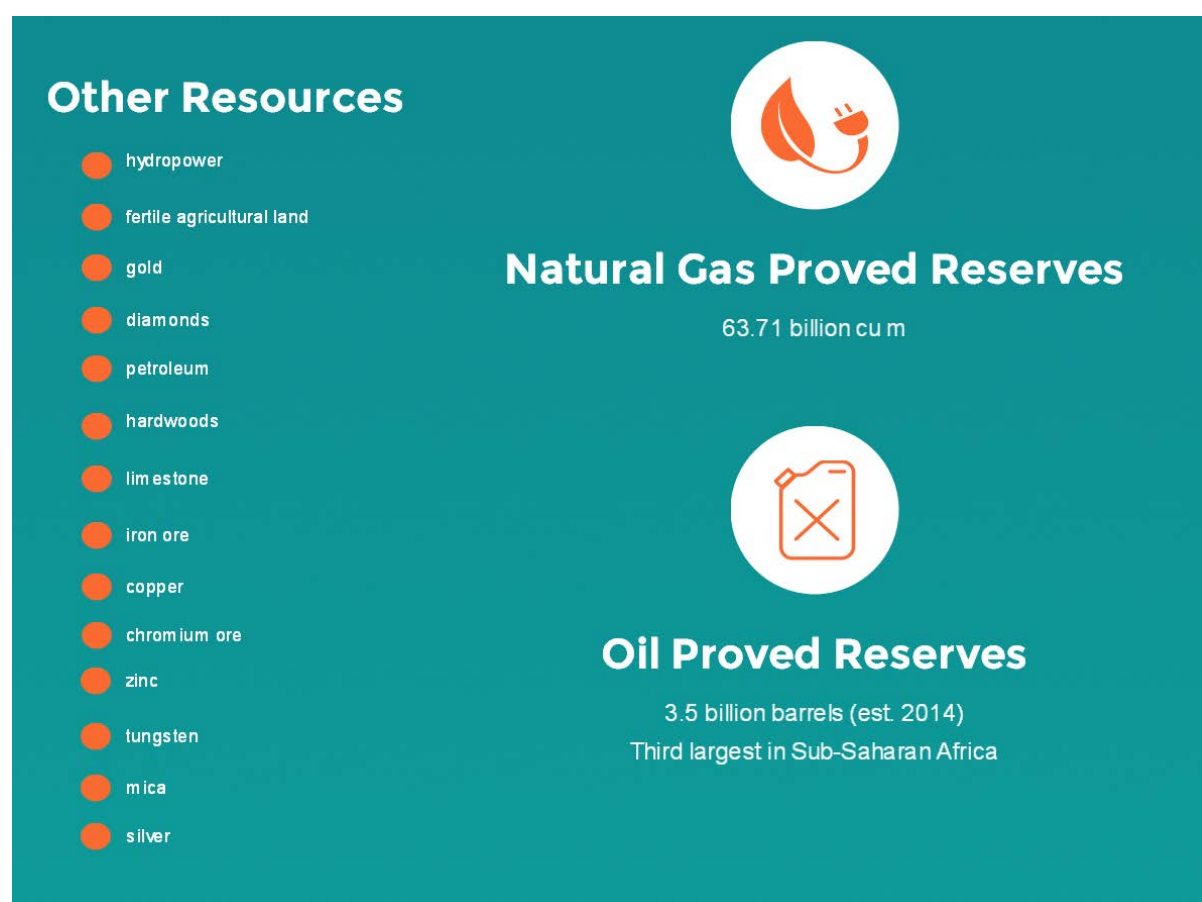


Developments of recent years have proven how interdependent oil production and economic performance are in South Sudan. In 2012, South Sudan suspended production of oil due to a dispute with Sudan over transshipment fees. This suspension had a devastating impact on South Sudan's economy, with GDP declining by more than 55%. Even though oil prices and economic performance were

⁸¹Ibid.

⁸²Sudan Tribune (2016).IMF warns of further deteriorating economy in South Sudan. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article59164

recovering in 2013, the outbreak of conflict in December 2013, combined with a further reduction of oil prices, pushed South Sudan deeper into economic crisis. Shrinking oil revenues fueled a depreciation of the parallel exchange rate and pushed inflation⁸³. Coupled with the rapidly depreciating value of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP), shortages of hard currency, and a significant dependence on imports, the decline in oil price has crippled the social services sector and pushed an additional one million people below the poverty line since 2013⁸⁴.



To sum up South Sudan's economic situation; the country holds one of the richest agricultural areas in Africa, full of fertile soils and abundant water supplies. Nevertheless, it faces an overwhelming amount of long-term economic challenges.

⁸³The World Bank (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview>

⁸⁴UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Jan. 2016). 2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/2016-south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview>

These include the alleviation of extreme poverty, the creation of macroeconomic stability, and the diversification of the economy in general by abandoning its dangerous dependency on oil revenues⁸⁵.

3.8 Social Indicators

Poverty in South Sudan is not only widespread, but also deeply entrenched, with more than 50% of the total population living below the poverty line of less than \$1 per day⁸⁶. Poverty figures vary significantly considering geographic regions. Northern Bahr El Ghazal has the highest rate of poverty at 76%, and Up-per Nile the lowest, at 26%⁸⁷. Moreover, female-headed households are suffering more intensively from poverty as their poverty incidence counts more than nine percent points higher than male-headed households⁸⁸. Only 1% of South Sudanese households hold a bank account⁸⁹. Income distribution in South Sudan is skewed, with a Gini-Coefficient of 45.5%, which is higher than the Sub-Saharan average of 42%⁹⁰.



Housing characteristics are typical for a poor developing country. The vast majority of the population relies on subsistence agriculture to make a living, but property

⁸⁵Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.). The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁸⁶Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan – Economy. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-economy.htm>

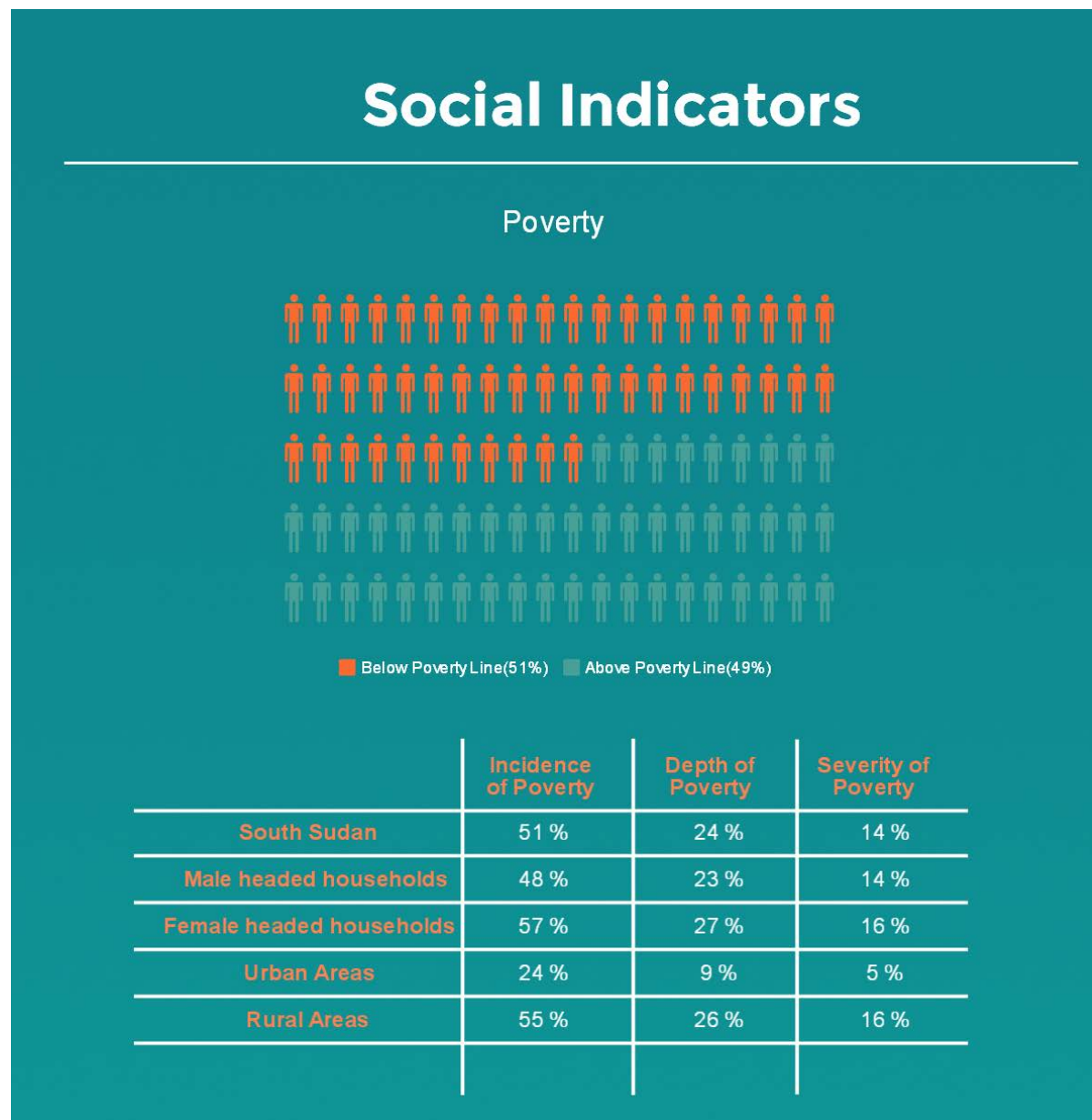
⁸⁷The World Bank (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview>

⁸⁸Shimeless, A. &Verdier-Chouchane, A. (2012). Poverty Situation and Prospects in South Sudan. African Development Bank, Volume 3, Issue 8

⁸⁹Ibid.

⁹⁰Ibid.

rights are insecure⁹¹. 83% of South Sudanese still live in mud-walled and grass-roofed traditional tukuls⁹². The majority of South Sudan's population survives on subsistence agriculture and cattle rearing⁹³.

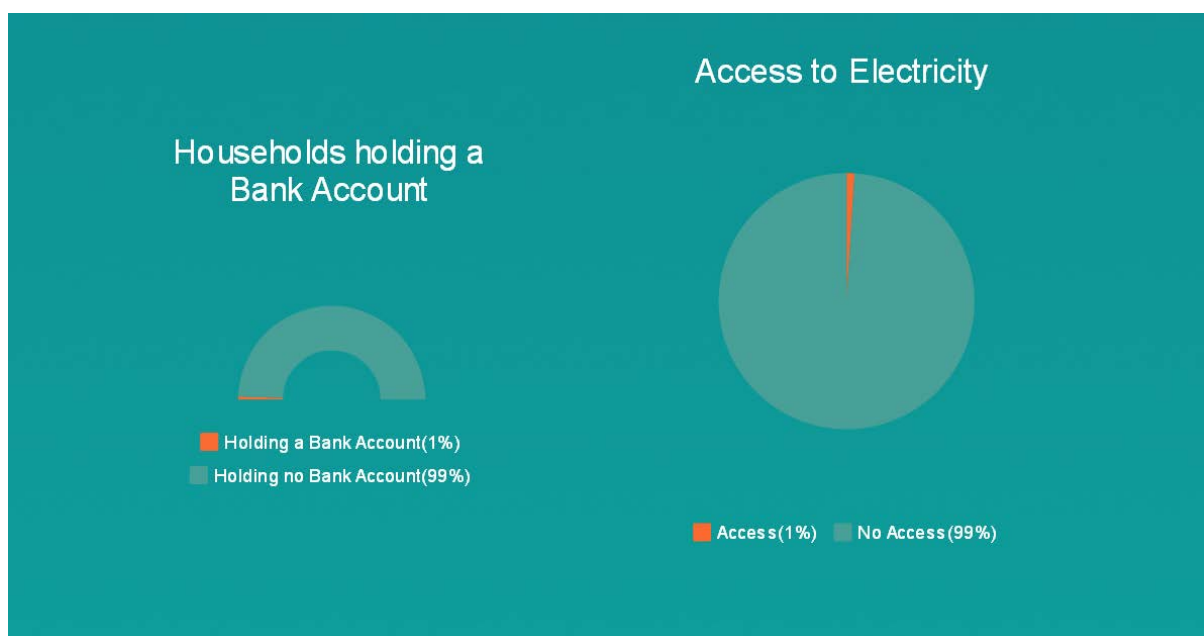


⁹¹Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.).The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁹²Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan – Economy. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-economy.htm>

⁹³Ibid.

With more than 11 million cows and 19 million goats and sheep, South Sudan has the largest herd of livestock per Capita in the whole of Africa⁹⁴. Livelihoods of 80% of the population in South Sudan are dependent on this livestock, which represents not only the primary investment resource, but generates cash income, food, employment and even clothing for most South Sudanese⁹⁵. Consequently, livestock in South Sudan portrays the primary source of wealth. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector provides less than 30 percent of Gross Domestic Product. Only 1% of all South Sudanese has access to electricity, leaving 99% dependent on grass and wood as their primary source of energy for cooking and lighting⁹⁶. Even worse, the same numbers represent for access to clean water⁹⁷.



Education remains one of South Sudan's most severe challenges. Education indicators for the country remain among the worst in the world. With an expenditure

⁹⁴Ibid.

⁹⁵Global Security (n.d.). South Sudan – Economy. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-economy.htm>

⁹⁶Chol, J. D. (n.d.). South Sudan's Leaders have Tarnished the Dreams of Independence for their People. LSE. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2016/08/08/south-sudans-leaders-have-tarnished-the-dreams-of-independence-for-their-people/>

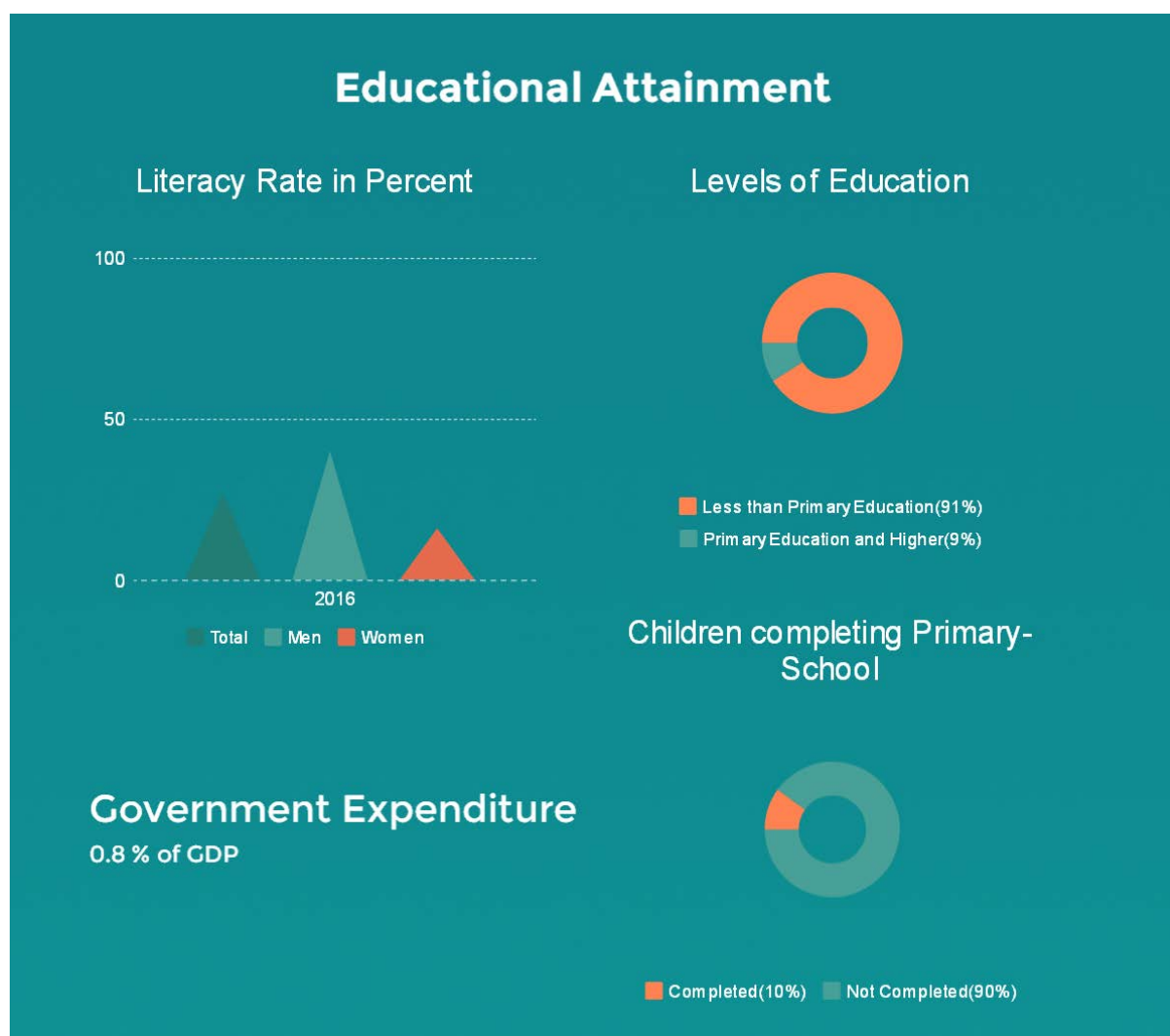
⁹⁷ Ibid.

of only 0.8% in the GDP⁹⁸, only 27% of the population aged 15 and older is able to read and write. There are huge gender disparities apparent (40% literacy for men compared to 16% for women). More than one million primary-school aged children are not in school. More than 70% of children between six and 17 years have never seen a classroom and less than 10% of children actually complete primary school⁹⁹. Particularly high gender and geographic disparities aggravate the problem, with proportionally fewer girls going to school than in any other country in the world (33% of girls)¹⁰⁰. These inequalities pose enormous challenges to South Sudan's development.

⁹⁸Central Intelligence Agency (n.d.).The World Factbook. Retrieved August 17, 2016 from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>

⁹⁹Unicef (n.d.). South Sudan. Retrieved August 23, 2016 from <http://www.unicef.org/southsudan/education.html>

¹⁰⁰Ibid.



Data reveals that poverty levels and educational attainment are closely interconnected. At a difference of 45%, there is an extreme variance in poverty levels between household heads who have completed secondary education and those with no education. Therefore, the role of education is central in tackling poverty¹⁰¹.

¹⁰¹Shimeless, A. &Verdier-Chouchane, A. (2012).Poverty Situation and Prospects in South Sudan. African Development Bank, Volume 3, Issue 8
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Health in South Sudan

Infant Mortality Rate

66,93 Deaths/1000 Live-Births

World Comparison: No. 16

Total Fertility: 5,31 Children/Woman



Maternal Mortality Rate

789 Deaths/100.000 Live-Births

World Comparison: No. 1

Sanitation Facility Access

Urban

Rural



Improved (16.40%)
Unimproved (83.60%)



Improved (4.50%)
Unimproved (95.50%)

Water Sources

Urban

Rural



Improved (66.70%)
Unimproved (33.30%)



Improved (56.90%)
Unimproved (43.10%)

Health Expenditures

2.2 % of GDP

73 USD per capita (est. 2014)

Major Infection Diseases

- Food/Waterborne Disease: Bacterial and Protozoal Diarrhea, Hepatitis A and E, Typhoid Fever
- Vectorborne Disease: Malaria, Dengue Fever, Trypanosomiasis-Gambiense (African Sleeping Sickness)
- Water Contact: Schistosomiasis
- Respiratory Disease: Meningococcal Meningitis
- Animal Contact Disease: Rabies

HIV/AIDS

2.71 % Prevalence Rate

193.400 People living with HIV/AIDS

12.700 Deaths (est. 2014)

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate

4 %

Children Underweight



Underweight (25.09%) Not Underweight (74.91%)

3.9. The Current Situation

After the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ACRISS) was signed in August 2015 under international pressure, a shaky ceasefire and a Government of National Unity (GoNU) began to run its course¹⁰². This Government of National Unity, with Kiir as the President and Machar as the first Vice President, failed to implement any of the core principles of the agreement. In reality, the situation worsened, as neither Kiir nor Machar show any control over their forces. As a consequence, fighting erupted again on 8 July 2016 among the presidential guards and spread across the country over time. Despite an officially declared ceasefire, killing and rape of innocent citizens continues and has currently caused hundreds and thousands to flee their homes.

4. Implications of the Figures

Having compiled a broader picture of what makes up South Sudan, it is clear that, regarded positively; the country is rich in potential and beauty. Demographically, South Sudan possesses an enriching cultural and linguistic diversity. Largely unexplored, South Sudan has an amazing wealth of tribal groups and national parks packed with untouched natural beauty. From an economic perspective, South Sudan is undoubtedly one of the world's richest nations in terms of mineral wealth.

However, this potential richness has been undermined for centuries. Historical examinations show that South Sudan's enormous human and natural resources were plundered for generations. First it was plundered by European invaders seeking trade commodities such as slaves, gold or ivory; then by an exploitative Northern administration; and finally by ongoing internal conflicts impeding their conducive usage. Consequently, in the midst of an abundance of resources, we find

¹⁰²Chol, J. D. (n.d.). South Sudan's Leaders have Tarnished the Dreams of Independence for their People. LSE. Retrieved August 19, 2016 from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2016/08/08/south-sudans-leaders-have-tarnished-the-dreams-of-independence-for-their-people/>

the world's poorest and most underdeveloped nation. How can this disparity be explained from the figures presented in this report?

First of all, it becomes clear that oil has always been central in both South Sudan's positive and negative turns in history. On the one hand, oil provided the incentive for the numerous South Sudanese militia to coalesce and thereby provided the strength to demand for an independent South Sudan. On the other hand, oil revenues created perverse incentives that inhibited the necessary political reforms, breeding corruption and undermining the creation of institutions for good governance¹⁰³.

Secondly, the demographic diversity presented by the data poses the question if ethnic quarrels are the driving force behind ongoing conflict in South Sudan. Findings suggest that the answer is definitely more complex than simply attributing all violence to ethnic tensions. Relationships between Dinka and Nuer were historically not only marked by rivalry, but also by similar cultural roots and cooperation¹⁰⁴. During the outbreak of violence in Juba in 2013, many people targeted were protected by their neighbours and friends – regardless of their ethnic belonging¹⁰⁵. Rather, the current outbreaks of violence are traceable to the modes of mobilisation that political leaders employed in South Sudan over decades, marked by parity of representation in the new power structures¹⁰⁶.

Following those two key developments, current South Sudan remains characterised by poverty and tedious social violence.

5. Conclusion

South Sudan's start into an independent existence is hampered by a mixture of disputed borders, economic despair, extreme dependency on oil revenues, social

¹⁰³Kiranda, Y., Kamp, M., Mugisha, M.B. & Ojok, D. (2016). Conflict and State Formation in South Sudan: The Logic of Oil Revenues in Influencing the Dynamics of Elite Bargains. *Journal on Perspective on African Democracy and Development*. Vol. 1, Issue 1

¹⁰⁴Ibid.

¹⁰⁵Ibid.

¹⁰⁶Ibid.

unrest, weak governance structures, poor service delivery, and food insecurity. Consequently, the legitimacy of the South Sudanese government is questioned as well, since it fails to fulfil basic state functions. So how can a torn, landlocked and poverty-stricken state like South Sudan survive its own independence?

Considering the fact that the current disaster in South Sudan is mainly caused by the failure to strike a political settlement between President Salva Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar, the solution is still to be found in politics. Only from a political solution can state institutions, which guarantee stability and service delivery for the people of South Sudan, arise.

South Sudan requires a new mindset, a new beginning of tolerance; with ethnic diversity providing a source of pride and the shared struggles for liberty and peace over the last decades providing a sense of unity and common identity.