

# Poverty & Equity Brief

Africa Eastern & Southern

## South Sudan

April 2023

South Sudan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. According to the most recent household survey conducted in 2016-17, the share of the population living below \$2.15 in 2017 PPP is estimated at 67.3 in 2016.

While more recent estimates are not available, protracted conflict and a volatile macroeconomic environment, compounded by natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to have further deteriorated living conditions. Several counties across the Greater Upper Nile and Bahr Demombynes Ghazal regions – where severe food insecurity is largely concentrated – suffered major flooding for three consecutive years, leading to widespread displacement and livelihood disruption. Inflation receded from 43 percent in 2021 to 28 percent in 2023 but remains high. The current state of food security in South Sudan is alarming, as evidenced by the latest findings from various studies. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), an estimated 7.76 million people, which accounts for 63 percent of the population, are projected to face severe acute food insecurity during the April/July 2023 lean season, with many falling under the Crisis level or higher (IPC Phase 3).

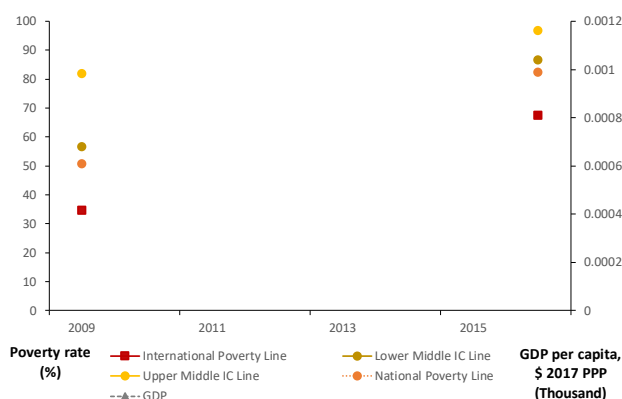
Furthermore, the Household Budget Survey conducted in 2022 revealed that the food security situation in South Sudan has significantly deteriorated compared to previous years. About 50 percent of households have a poor food consumption score, indicating a lack of sufficient caloric availability, compared to 35 percent in 2019. Moreover, the survey also revealed that a vast majority of households, 71 percent, are experiencing moderate hunger, while 10 percent are suffering from severe hunger, compared to 54 percent and 3 percent, respectively, in 2019.

Projections based on GDP per-capita growth suggest that extreme poverty will likely continue to increase, reaching 73 percent of the population by 2024. This rate is not expected to improve under the current macroeconomic outlook.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	9.1	82.3	2016
International Poverty Line 5.3 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US\$2.15 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	7.5	67.3	2016
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 9 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US\$3.65 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	9.6	86.5	2016
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 16.8 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US\$6.85 (2017 PPP) per day per capita	10.7	96.6	2016
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		84.9	2016
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		44.1	2016
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		N/A	N/A
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		N/A	N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, PIP as of April 2023, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

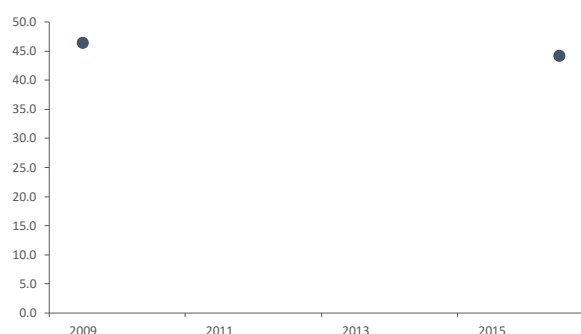
## POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2009-2016



Source: World Bank using HFS-W3/SSAPOV/GMD

## INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2009-2016

### Gini Index



Source: World Bank using HFS-W3/SSAPOV/GMD

## KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2016	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2016 (% of population)
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	56	44	21	79	<b>Monetary poverty (Consumption)</b> Daily consumption less than US\$2.15 per person 67.3
Rural population	29	71	43	57	
Males	33	67	40	60	<b>Education</b> At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school 62.2 No adult has completed primary education 39.3
Females	32	68	40	60	
0 to 14 years old	29	71	43	57	<b>Access to basic infrastructure</b> No access to limited-standard drinking water 13.9 No access to limited-standard sanitation 88.1 No access to electricity N/A
15 to 64 years old	36	64	38	62	
65 and older	48	52	28	72	
Without education (16+)	29	71	43	57	
Primary education (16+)	48	52	30	70	
Secondary education (16+)	49	51	25	75	
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	64	36	N/A*	88	

Source: World Bank using HFS-W3/SSAPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using HFS-W3/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A\* value removed due to less than 30 observations

## POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The only nationally representative household budget survey in South Sudan was conducted in 2009, before South Sudan's independence in 2011. This was the National Baseline Household Survey (NBHS) 2009, which was conducted by the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE). This survey was conducted in all 10 states of the country and it allowed for rural/urban comparisons. Since then, poverty has been tracked through a series of High Frequency Surveys using the rapid consumption monitoring methodology. This initiative was implemented through a collaboration between the National Bureau of Statistics and the World Bank, funded by DfID. This initiative started on a pilot basis covering only the 4 largest urban centers. In 2015, it was extended to rural and urban areas across 6 states, and in 2016-2017 it included 7 states. The data from the 2016-17 round is the source of the international numbers published in this brief, which have now been officially accepted by the World Bank's official poverty monitoring database – Povcalnet. Poverty was estimated using the rapid consumption monitoring approach. The data is not comparable to 2009 numbers.

**Note on new global poverty lines:** Poverty data are now expressed in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) prices, versus 2011 PPP in previous editions. As price levels across the world evolve, global poverty lines have to be periodically updated to reflect the increase of the value of the lines in nominal terms. The new global poverty lines of \$2.15, \$3.65, and \$6.85 reflect the typical national poverty lines of low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries in 2017 prices. In addition to reflecting updates in nominal terms, upper-middle-income countries raised the standards by which they determine people to be poor from 2011 to 2017. Hence, the increase in the upper line is larger, and the population that does not meet the new standard is higher in most countries than it was with 2011 PPPs. See [pip.worldbank.org](http://pip.worldbank.org).

## HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.