



## EDUCATION FACT SHEET - SOUTH SUDAN

<p><b>Country in Brief</b></p>	<p><b>Population:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.26 million (4.29 males, 3.97 females)</li> </ul> <p><b>National Languages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language and Arabic</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The literate population remains very low at 44.1%,</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Literacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49%</li> </ul> <p><b>Female Youth Literacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48%</li> </ul> <p><b>National Curriculum:</b>  South Sudan competency-based curriculum aims to develop Good citizens of South Sudan, Successful lifelong learners, Creative and productive individuals, and Environmentally responsible members of society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Early Childhood (Age 3-5):</b> Areas of Learning: Language; Mathematics; Outdoor &amp; Physical; Environmental, Personal &amp; Social; Creative, Music; Religious Education</li> <li><b>Primary:</b> Required: National Language, English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, Social Studies, The Arts, and Physical Education with Arabic from P5 School programmes: Personal Development and Careers Guidance (from P7).</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Required: English; Mathematics; Religious Education; Citizenship; History; Geography; Physics, Chemistry, and Biology  Options: Two options from a menu School programmes: (e.g., guidance, sports, personal development).</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Required: English; Mathematics, Religious Education; Citizenship  Options: Three options from a menu School programmes: (e.g., guidance, sports, personal development).</li> <li><b>Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET):</b> Academic subjects: English language, mathematics, religious studies, citizenship, school programme. Vocational subjects: Mechanical engineering, agriculture, commerce,</li> <li><b>University:</b> Sciences and arts</li> </ul> <p><b>Primary Language of Instruction:</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English language</li> </ul> <p><b>High School Leaving Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Sudan Secondary School Certificate of Education</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March every year</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Calendar</b>	<p><b>Primary/Secondary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting month: February yearly</li> <li>Ending month: December yearly</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Tertiary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting month: August yearly</li> <li>Ending month: September yearly</li> </ul> <p><b>Private Tertiary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting month:</li> <li>Ending month</li> </ul>
<b>Education Overview</b>	<p>The Education System in South Sudan is guided by a series of laws and policy documents that have been adopted since Independence. The document that shows all laws and policies is the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011, which states that education is a right for every citizen, is compulsory for everyone, and shall be free of charge. Additionally, it asserts that all levels of government shall promote it without discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, gender, or disability. Furthermore, the General Education Act 2012 defines the system's guiding principles and goals and provides the general framework for efficient functioning. The Act incorporates 12 guiding principles, mainly emphasizing free and compulsory primary education for all citizens without discrimination. It also states that education shall promote gender equity throughout its different levels and encourage alternative ways of learning. Additionally, it underscores that education shall foster development through integration, peace, self-reliance, patriotism, and respect for other cultures, among different values (National Legislative Assembly, 2012).</p> <p>The development strategies and policies outline the policy framework in the country. In the last approach published, the South Sudan Development Strategy 2021-2024, education is a critical element of cluster 3 on services (social development), with the goal of "increasing support to the social sector for human capital development and protecting the vulnerable population, to leave no one behind."</p> <p>The priorities on education are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National capacity assessment and surveys</li> <li>Infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>Teachers' education and training curricula.</li> </ul>

The General Education System in South Sudan comprises the Formal Education System and the Non-Formal Education System. Each component is further divided into various levels of education or programs, each addressing different target groups and educational challenges, all with the common objective of ensuring access to education and instruction for all people living in South Sudan. The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and its State Ministries deliver and manage the system. This section provides an overview of the structure of the Education System in the country, describing its components and their interconnections.

Primary education constitutes the fundamental cycle of academic education in South Sudan. The recommended enrollment age for primary education is between 5 and 6, typically eight years from P1 to P8.

The final level of formal education is secondary education, designed for individuals who have completed primary education and are typically aged between 14 and 17. Secondary education comprises two types of schools: academic schools and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) schools.

Non-formal education in South Sudan is primarily delivered through the Alternative Education System (AES). It offers flexible education programs to various population groups excluded from the formal education system due to conflict, natural disasters, lack of schools in their communities, poverty, and other challenges. Currently, the AES programs include:

1. The Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) targets individuals aged 12 to 18 who either dropped out from lower primary classes or could not access education and those aged 18 to 30 who were part of the armed forces. ALP condenses the 8-year formal primary education into a 4-year program.
2. The Community-Based Girls Schools (CGS): CGS focuses on girls aged 8 to 12 in villages without schools. Boys can also access CGS centers, but their enrollment should be at most 40%. CGS condenses the first four years of formal primary education into a 3-year program.
3. The Basic Adult Literacy Program (BALP): This program targets individuals aged 18 and above who lack opportunities for literacy and numeracy due to conflict and socio-economic barriers. Over four years, learners develop literacy skills and engage in basic livelihood activities.
4. The Pastoralist Education Program (PEP): PEP is designed for primary-age children in pastoralist communities and provides mobile primary education with teachers who travel within the community.
5. Intensive English Course (IEC): IEC addresses the needs of the population lacking proficiency in the English language. It consists

	<p>of 3 short courses to enhance English skills and facilitate social integration.</p> <p>6. University Education: This is available to individuals who have completed secondary education.</p> <p>These programs collectively ensure accessible education for diverse groups within the South Sudanese population.</p>
<b>School System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8+4+4 (8 years of primary, four years in secondary, and four years of University)</li> </ul>
<b>Language of Instruction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● English Language</li> </ul>
<b>School Leaving Exams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primary Leaving Examinations</li> <li>● South Sudan Secondary Certificate of Education (SSSCE)</li> </ul>
<b>Available Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8,000 Primary Schools,</li> <li>● 120 Secondary Schools and</li> <li>● 12 Universities (5 Public and seven private universities).</li> </ul>
<b>Tertiary and University System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arts courses with four years and Sciences with 5-6 Years.</li> </ul>
<b>Issues with the Education System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education in South Sudan is characterized by low quality, funding, and inadequate quality of teachers.</li> <li>● The literacy rate is below 50%, with females having even lower literacy rates than males.</li> <li>● Frequent interruptions in the education calendar due to conflicts, flooding, and strikes resulting from delayed teacher salary payments.</li> <li>● Teaching is undervalued due to low salaries compared to other professions like Medicine, Law, Finance, and Banking.</li> <li>● University education falls short of expected standards due to poor secondary education quality, insufficient teacher quality, and low remuneration.</li> <li>● Both secondary schools and universities lack adequate textbooks and well-equipped libraries. Sciences subjects are theoretical due to the lack of Laboratories in Secondary schools. Universities need to have well-equipped laboratories as well.</li> <li>● Insecurity and persistent flooding disrupt learning opportunities.</li> <li>● Poor learning facilities and inaccessible infrastructure are significant challenges.</li> <li>● A need for more female teachers limits the availability of female role models in the education sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Calendar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yearly February to December Yearly for primary and secondary schools</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yearly from August to September for universities</li> </ul>
<b>SAT Test Centers</b>	Universities have their own SAT Test Centers
<b>ACT Test Centers</b>	Universities have their own ACT Test Centers
<b>IELTS/TOEFL</b>	The university conducts its own IELTS harmonization process.
<b>Best Time for Admissions Officers to Visit</b>	is February and August every year.
<b>HALI Contacts</b>	+211 (South Sudan)

**Sources:**

- South Sudan General Education Act 2012
- South Sudan Population Estimation Survey 2021: Summary report modelled estimates
- National Teacher Education Policy-South Sudan2023-2023
- South Sudan education curriculum