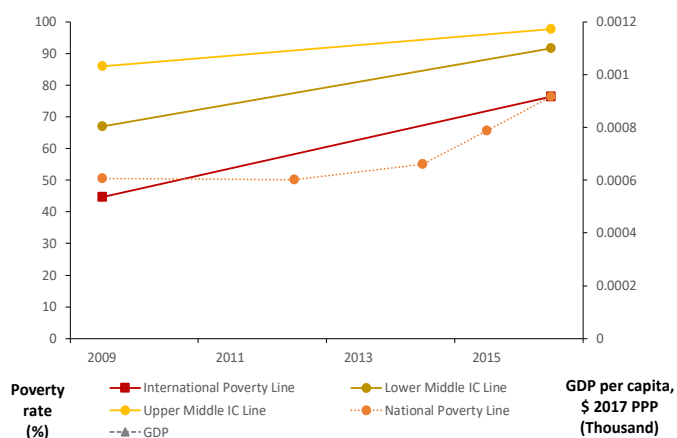According to the most recent household survey conducted in 2016-17, poverty headcount (at the international poverty line of $1.90 per person per day in 2011 PPPs) in South Sudan is estimated at 76.4 percent nationally. Within the country, large disparities exist in living standards. Rural areas recorded a poverty headcount of 79.6 percent; 26 percentage points higher than in urban areas, where poverty was 54.2 percent. Given the current macroeconomic conditions and the pressures exerted by security issues, the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, poverty is projected to remain stagnant at 76.8 percent in 2020. Recent phone surveys conducted to ascertain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also captured a deterioration in income as the pandemic disrupted livelihoods. 51.2 percent of respondents reported reduced earnings from their main income source in June 2020 and the proportion was still 50.7 percent in October 2020.

Inequality is high with a Gini coefficient of 0.44 (using High Frequency Survey 2016), down from 0.46 in 2009 (using National Baseline Household Survey 2009). This drop was driven by relatively wealthy households experiencing even greater losses of consumption than poorer households. In this sense, the reduction of inequality was not driven by pro-poor growth, but rather by a sharp contraction at the top of the distribution.

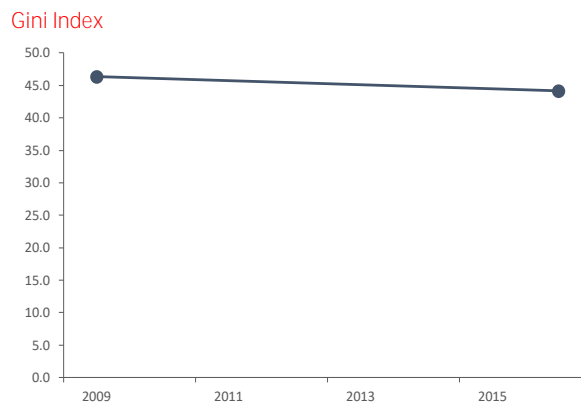| POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	8.3	76.4	2016
International Poverty Line 6.8 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	8.3	76.4	2016
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 11.4 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	9.9	91.6	2016
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 19.6 in South Sudanese pound (2016) or US$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	10.6	97.8	2016
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		87.5	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, POVCALNET as of Feburary 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2009-2016

Poverty rate (%)		
■ International Poverty Line	● Lower Middle IC Line	
● Upper Middle IC Line	● National Poverty Line	
▲ GDP		GDP per capita, $ 2017 PPP (Thousand)

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 (%)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60
Urban population	46	54	21	79
Rural population	20	80	43	57
Males	24	76	40	60
Females	23	77	40	60
0 to 14 years old	20	80	43	57
15 to 64 years old	27	73	38	62
65 and older	39	61	28	72
Without education (16+)	20	80	43	57
Primary education (16+)	38	62	30	70
Secondary education (16+)	42	58	25	75
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	57	43	12	88

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

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

Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2016	(% of population)
Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Daily consumption less than US$1.90 per person	76.4
Education	
At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	62.2
No adult has completed primary education	39.3
Access to basic infrastructure	
No access to limited-standard drinking water	13.9
No access to limited-standard sanitation	88.1
No access to electricity	98.8

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

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), only one nationally representative household budget survey has been conducted, when Sudan was still one country. This was the National Baseline Household Survey (NBHS) 2009 conducted by the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) in all 10 states. The data allows comparison across rural and urban areas and states. Since then, poverty has been tracked using the rapid consumption monitoring methodology, implemented under the World Bank's High Frequency Survey (funded by DfID). The High Frequency Survey was implemented by the National Bureau of Statistics and was extended to a representative level for the urban and rural population in seven out of ten states. The data and the reported poverty numbers have now been officially accepted by the World Bank's official poverty monitoring database – Povcalnet.

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.