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General data

POPULATION, 2023  
**11,088,796**

PHYSICIANS/1000 INH, 2020–2022  
**0.05**

NURSES/1000 INH, 2020–2022  
**0.71**

LIFE EXPECTANCY, 2022  
**57.85**

Socioeconomic data

COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL, 2022  
**Low income**

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING, 2023  
**191**

GDP PER CAPITA (US\$), 2023  
**-**

HEALTH EXPENDITURE, 2021  
**32.68**

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, 2021  
**34**



WHO FRAMEWORK FOR PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT

- ① EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
- ② POLICIES
- ③ RESEARCH
- ④ USE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
- ⑤ EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- ⑥ PROVISION OF PC

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

① EMERGING  
② PROGRESSING  
③ ESTABLISHED  
④ ADVANCED

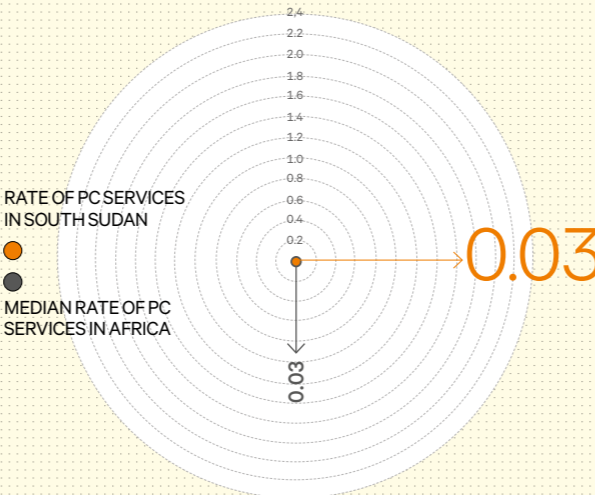
# South Sudan

F Provision of PC (Specialised Services)

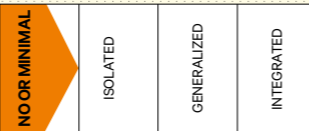
Total number of Specialised PC services  
**3**

Rate of PC services per 100,000 inhabitants  
**0.03**

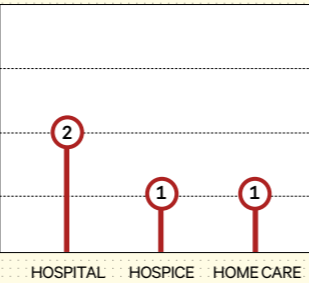
South Sudan in the context of African continent



Geographic distribution and integration of PC services



Level of development of different types of PC services



Paediatric PC Services

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND INTEGRATION  
**1**

TOTAL NUMBER  
**1**

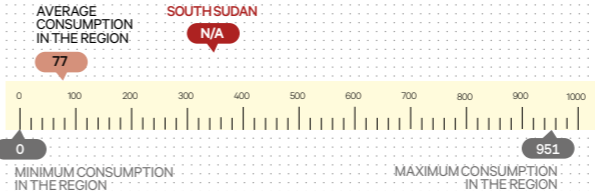
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# South Sudan

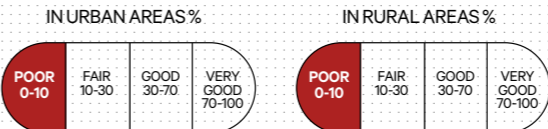
D Use of essential medicines

Opioids consumption (excluding methadone)  
**N/A**  
S-DDD/MILL INHABITANTS/DAY

South Sudan in the context of African continent



Overall availability of essential medicines for pain and PC at the primary level



General availability of immediate-release oral morphine at the primary level



C Research

PC-related research articles

**1**

Existence of PC congresses or scientific meetings

**1**



National Association: No.  
Consultants: Joseph Lou Kenyi Mogga; Odong Walter Okeny.

Data collected: From December 2023 to March 2024.  
Date validated by consultants: Yes  
Endorsed by National PC Association: N/A.  
Edition: Edited by Atlantes Research Team (University of Navarra, Spain).

E Education & Training

Medical schools with mandatory PC teaching  
**3/3**

Nursing schools with mandatory PC teaching  
**0/24**

Recognition of PC specialty  
**1**

B Policies

National PC plan or strategy  
**1**

Responsible authority for PC in the Ministry of Health  
**1**

Inclusion of PC in the basic health package at the primary care level  
**1**

A Empowerment of people and communities

Groups promoting the rights of PC patients  
**1**

Advanced care planning-related policies  
**1**

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<b>Ind1</b>  Existence of groups dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of PC, their care-givers, and disease survivors.	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Only isolated activity can be detected.</div>	
<b>Ind2</b>  Is there a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning?	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>There is no national policy or guideline on advance care planning.</div>	South Sudan has national guidelines that reference advance care planning elements, particularly in the context of COVID-19 care. According to Afolabi et al. (2021), the guidelines include provisions for sharing information and communication regarding prognosis and goals of care, as well as recommendations on decision-making and patient choice in care. Additionally, they address support for families of patients with severe COVID-19, aligning with African palliative care quality standards. However, these provisions appear to be limited to the COVID-19 context, and broader policies on advance care planning for life-sustaining treatments or end-of-life care are not explicitly mentioned.
<b>Ind3</b>  3.1. There is a current national PC plan, programme, policy, or strategy.  3.2. The national palliative care plan (or programme or strategy or legislation) is a standalone.	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Do not know or does not exist.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Not known or does not exist neither standalone nor is included in another national plan.</div>	In South Sudan, there is no standalone national palliative care plan, programme, policy, or strategy with a defined implementation framework. Palliative care is not mentioned in the National Health Policy 2016-2026. However, it is referenced in the Consolidated Clinical Guidelines on Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for HIV Treatment and Prevention, reflecting an effort to integrate palliative care practices into HIV-related healthcare frameworks. This inclusion highlights the importance of symptom management and end-of-life care but remains limited in scope to HIV-specific contexts, without a broader strategy or defined framework for implementation across the health system.

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3.3. There are indicators in the national plan to monitor and evaluate progress, with measurable targets.	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Do not know or does not exist.</div>	
<b>Ind4</b>  PC services are included in the list of priority services for Universal Health Coverage at the primary care level in the national health system.	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Not at all.</div>	
<b>Ind5</b>  5.1. Is there a national authority for palliative care within the government or the Ministry of Health?  5.2. The national authority has concrete functions, budget and staff.	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>There is no coordinating entity.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Does not have concrete functions or resources (budget, staff, etc.).</div>	

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<div>Ind6</div> <div>Existence of congresses or scientific meetings at the national level specifically related to PC.</div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>There are no national con-gresses or sci-entific meetings related to pallia-tive care.</div>	
<div>Ind7</div> <div>Estimation of the level of peer-reviewed articles focusing on PC research published in any language in the past 5 years with at least one author from the country.</div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Minimal or nonex-istent number of articles published on the subject in that country.</div>	A comprehensive scoping review conducted in March 2023, covering publications from 2017 onward, did not identify any peer-reviewed articles on palliative care in South Sudan that met all the inclusion criteria for this indicator.
<div>Ind8</div> <div>Reported annual opioid consumption –excluding methadone– in S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.</div>		No Data Reported for South Sudan.


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<div>Ind9</div> <div>9.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in Urban areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.</div> <div>9.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.</div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Poor: Between 0% to 10%.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Poor: Between 0% to 10%.</div>	
<div>Ind10</div> <div>10.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).</div> <div>10.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).</div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Poor: Between 0% to 10%.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Poor: Between 0% to 10%.</div>	

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<div>Ind11</div> <div><div>11.1. The proportion of medical schools with <b>COMPULSORY</b> teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching)</div><div>11.2. The proportion of medical schools with <b>OPTIONAL</b> teaching in PC.</div><div>11.3. The proportion of nursing schools with <b>COMPULSORY</b> teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching).</div><div>11.4. The proportion of nursing schools with <b>OPTIONAL</b> teaching in PC.</div></div>	<div>3/3</div> <div>0/3</div> <div>0/24</div> <div>24/24</div>	<div></div> <div>South Sudan has three medical schools: the University of Juba, the University of Bahr el Ghazal, and the University of Upper Nile. These institutions play a critical role in training the country's healthcare workforce. However, ongoing challenges such as limited infrastructure, insufficient resources, and the impact of political instability affect the consistent functioning of these medical schools.</div>
<div>Ind12</div> <div><div>Existence of an official specialisation process in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority in the country.</div></div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>There is no process on specializa- tion for palliative care physicians.</div>	

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<div>Ind13</div> <div><div>13.1. There is a system of specialised PC services or teams in the country that has a <b>GEOGRAPHIC</b> reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.</div><div>13.2. Are available in <b>HOSPITALS</b> (public or private), such as hospital PC teams (consultation teams), and PC units (with beds), to name a few examples.</div><div>13.3. Free-standing <b>HOSPICES</b> (including hospices with inpatient beds).</div><div>13.4. <b>HOME CARE</b> teams (specialised in PC) are available in the community (or at the primary Healthcare level), as independent services or linked with hospitals or hospices.</div><div>13.5. Total number of specialised PC services or teams in the country.</div></div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams exist in the country.</div> <div><div>2</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Ad hoc/ in some parts of the country.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Not at all.</div> <div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Not at all.</div>	<div>Palliative care services in South Sudan are emerging and primarily led by NGOs and international partners. Palliative Care South Sudan (PCSS), established in 2018, is a registered charity advocating for palliative care integration into the national health system. It focuses on improving access to pain relief medication and providing holistic support for people with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses. In Bentiu, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has offered palliative and end-of-life care since 2021, including staff training, clinical guidelines, and documentation systems suited to humanitarian contexts. In JubeK State, the Women Relief Organisation, with support from Medair South Sudan, provides paediatric palliative care for children living with HIV/AIDS and cancer in rural areas. These initiatives represent early but important steps toward improving access to palliative care in the country.</div> <div><div>RATE OF SPECIALISED PC SERVICES/100,000 INH</div><div><div><div>MEDIAN RATE IN THE REGION</div><div>0.03</div></div><div><div>SOUTH SUDAN</div><div>0.03</div></div><div><div>MINIMUM RATE IN THE REGION</div><div>0</div></div><div><div>MAXIMUM RATE IN THE REGION</div><div>1.68</div></div></div><div><div>3</div><div>← SPECIALISED PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES</div></div></div>
<div>Ind14</div> <div><div>14.1. There is a system of specialised PC services or teams for <b>children</b> in the country that has geographic reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.</div><div>14.2. Number of pediatric specialised PC services or teams in the country.</div></div>	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams for children exists in country.</div> <div><div>1</div><div>PPC TEAMS</div></div>	<div>The Women Relief Organisation, with support from Medair South Sudan, has provided pediatric palliative care services to children and adolescents in rural communities of JubeK State. This initiative has offered treatment to numerous children affected by HIV/AIDS and cancer, aiming to improve their quality of life.</div>