

# South Sudan

## *Ethnicity in South Sudan*

The political life in South Sudan is dominated by the two largest ethnic groups Dinka and Nuer. The Dinka is the largest group and is the senior partner in the government and holds most of the highest positions in the administration. The President – Salva Kiir – is from this group and the South Sudanese government is structured in a very hierarchical manner, which gives him extensive power. The Nuer are the second largest group, holding some important positions, and are therefore coded as a junior partner. The highest Nuer official is Riek Machar, Vice-President of South Sudan. (Machar was sacked in July 2013 but as the coding starts at the beginning of each year, this does not affect the 2013 coding). The Nuer and Dinka domination is extensive and gives little room for other ethnic groups. In South Sudan, the Murle community is much stigmatized and a dominant perception among many ethnic groups is that this group consists of “brutal savages”. Due to the profound political repercussions of this social stigmatization, the group is coded as discriminated here.

## *Political status of ethnic groups in South Sudan*

*From 2011 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Dinka	0.4	SENIOR PARTNER
Nuer	0.2	JUNIOR PARTNER
Azande	0.1	POWERLESS
Toposa	0.08	POWERLESS
Shilluk	0.05	POWERLESS
Murle	0.04	DISCRIMINATED
Anyuak	0.015	POWERLESS
Mundari	0.015	POWERLESS
Bari	0.01	POWERLESS
Didinga	0.01	POWERLESS



Figure 688: Political status of ethnic groups in South Sudan during 2011-2013.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in South Sudan*

*From 2011 until 2013*

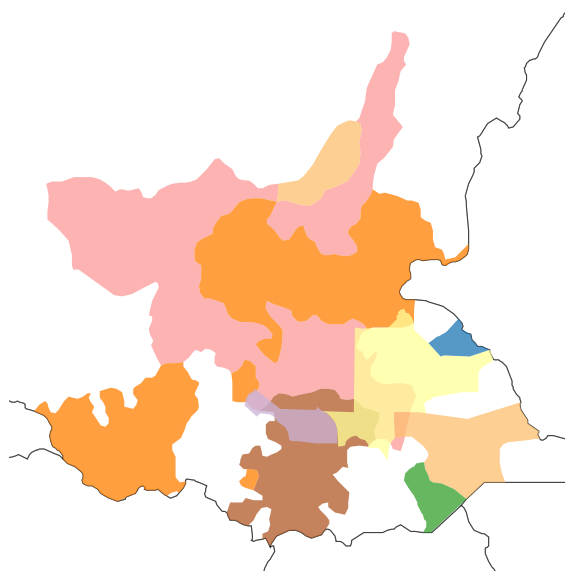


Figure 689: Map of ethnic groups in South Sudan during 2011-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Dinka	145 290	Regionally based
Nuer	80 800	Regionally based
Azande	45 947	Regionally based
Bari	45 566	Regionally based
Murle	36 719	Regionally based
Toposa	25 582	Regionally based
Shilluk	11 470	Regionally based
Mundari	7 870	Regionally based
Didinga	7 061	Regionally based
Anyuak	3 875	Regionally based

Table 201: List of ethnic groups in South Sudan during 2011-2013.

## *Conflicts in South Sudan*

*Starting on 2011-08-20*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of South Sudan	SSDM/A		2011-08-20			
Government of South Sudan	SSDM/A - Cobra Faction	Murle	2011-09-26	Explicit	Yes	No
Government of South Sudan	SSDM/A - Cobra Faction	Anyuak	2011-09-26	Explicit	Yes	No
Government of South Sudan	SSLM/A	Nuer	2011-10-09	Explicit	Yes	
Government of South Sudan	SPLM/A In Opposition	Nuer	2013-12-16	Presumed	Yes	Yes

*Starting on 2012-03-27*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of South Sudan	Government of Sudan		2012-03-27			