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# The South Sudan: Tuberculosis

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# Tuberculosis in the South Sudan

**Location:** The South Sudan is located in Eastern Africa, and is a landlocked country surrounded by Sudan, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The main water source is the White Nile River, which runs through the center of the country. (“South Sudan”, 2017)



**Political Structure:** The South Sudan holds a Republic based government that was established after they became an independent country in 2011 (CIA World Factbook).

**Population:** The South Sudanese population is approximately 13,026,129, with an ethnically marginal background of Dinka. The main language spoken is English, and they also speak Arabic (CIA World Factbook).

**Religion:** The South Sudanese are generally Christian, with a small percentage of Muslim followers, and some who also follow traditional African religions (Leo, 2014).



<https://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/south-sudan-crisis>

**Major Challenges:** The South Sudan has faced an extreme problem outside of their health. Recently declared an independent nation from Sudan after 20 years of civil war, which is estimated to have killed 2 million citizens (Salman, 2013).

The flag holds great reverence to the South Sudanese, representing their struggle through war to independence. Red represents the blood of those who died for their independence, green represents their land, white symbolize the peace they obtained after so many years of fighting, blue shows the live of the country and the water that runs through it, and the star is the Star of Bethlehem, which represents hope to the people (Junubian, 2014).



<https://junubian.wordpress.com/2015/02/16/8-facts-about-the-flag-of-south-sudan/>

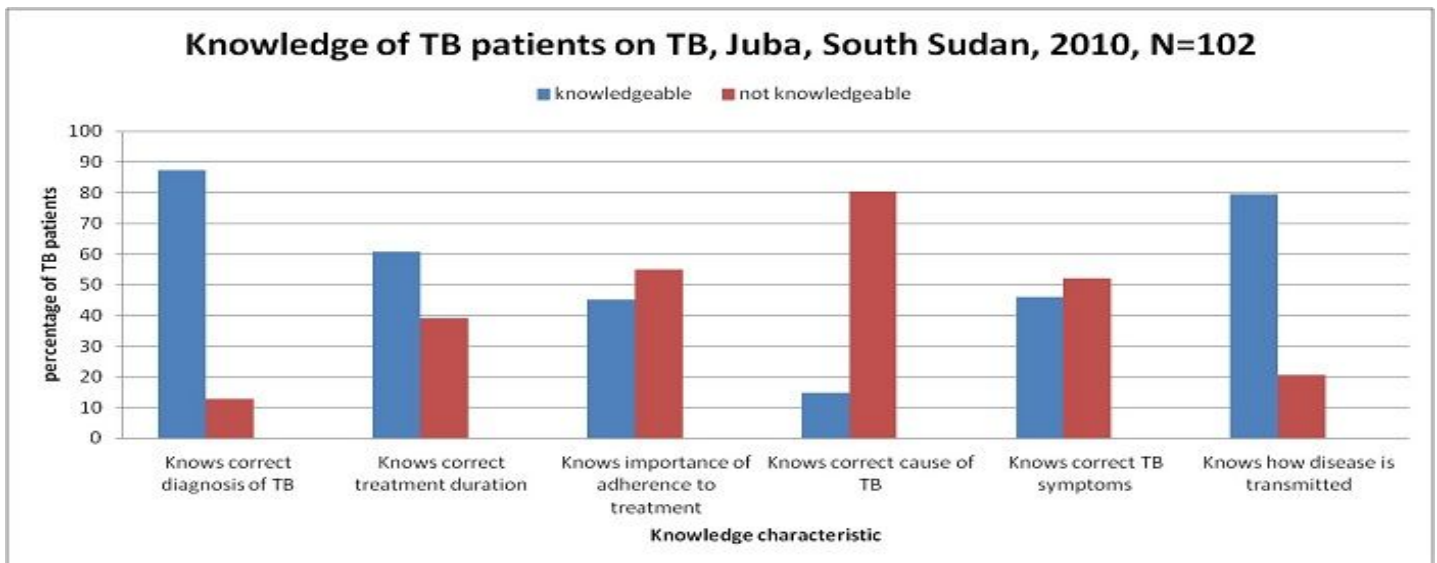
**Public Health:** The South Sudan is riddled with public health problems, but medically, one of the most severe issues is Tuberculosis. This is the leading cause of death in displaced populations in the South Sudan (WHO). After the civil war in Sudan, there are many displaced peoples within the South Sudan.

**Identification:** TB is identified by coughing, fever, coughing up blood, chills, and chest pain (WHO).

**My Solution:** I feel that the South Sudanese generally do not understand the processes of medication, and how important it is to follow the medical guidelines completely. This seems to be a main reason in why TB runs rampant in the South Sudan.

**Epidemiology:** Tuberculosis is estimated to affect 140 out of every 100,000 people. With a population of 13,026,129, that ratio translates to about 18,000 cases of tuberculosis at any given time (WHO). The graph in the second column represents the knowledge of TB by the population. Most people know what it is, and how it is transmitted, but not all know the correct symptoms, or how they must adhere to their medication. There is medication available, but it is a 6-9 month process, and not many people stick to the entire length (Kenyi et. al., 2010).

**My Solution:** A large push from a respected South Sudanese official for the education of the people about medical guidelines would benefit this community immensely, giving them someone they respect explaining the importance to them.



(Kenyi et. al., 2010).

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