



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in South Sudan

Briefing note

Major developments, July - September 2021:

During this quarter, the WASH programme has provided 343,032 people with access to safe drinking water through water trucking, the construction of new water points and the rehabilitation of non-functional water facilities in schools, health care facilities, communities and sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNICEF also provided support for operation and maintenance of water yards, surface water treatment systems and urban water systems.

A total of 73,547 individuals have gained access to basic sanitation facilities through rehabilitation of latrines in health facilities and construction of communal latrines in the communities. 127,849 individuals have gained access to household handwashing facilities as part of participatory community action.

UNICEF continued scale up of WASH activities in the high food and nutrition insecure areas. 81,732 individuals have gained access to safe water through the drilling of new boreholes and rehabilitation of broken-down boreholes. Additionally, 10,610 individuals have gained access to basic sanitation resulting from construction of latrines at the community level and rehabilitation of latrine facilities at nutrition centers. A further 58,363 individuals also gained access to lifesaving non-food items (NFIs) which included WASH kits for care givers, menstrual hygiene management kits, soap, and water treatment chemicals in addition to the NFIs provided to the broader WASH Cluster through the management of the WASH core pipeline.

Overall a population of 191,454 individuals were reached with key hygiene promotion messages to help enhance their hygiene behaviours to avoid WASH related illnesses.



343,032

people cumulatively
provided with access to
safe drinking water



114,401

people cumulatively
reached with critical
WASH supplies



73,547

people cumulatively
gained access to basic
sanitation

Major challenges:

- National access to basic water is at 40 per cent and the challenges in the water sector remain critical on the humanitarian, recovery and development front.
- Poor maintenance of the limited facilities, and weak government institutions at national and state levels contribute to inequities in access to WASH services.
- The WASH sector – including UNICEF’s WASH programme - is facing serious funding shortfalls which has significantly affected service delivery at scale. Without additional funding the country will not be able to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or respond to critical humanitarian needs.
- Moreover, the impact of serious food insecurity and floods, linked to the effects of climate change, continue to create an increased demand for WASH services. This is aggravated by displacement of population through intercommunal violence.
- The deteriorated economic situation continues to be volatile, leading to high costs of service delivery.

Solutions:

- The use of private contractors and NGOs for the rehabilitation of water supply systems in major towns, the construction of new water facilities and machine drilling, the rehabilitation of malfunctioning boreholes and establishing surface water treatment systems where possible.
- Strengthening of community resilience including joint sector programming with focus on generating community demand for stimulating and adopting key safe WASH practices as well as other positive behaviours related to health and education.
- Developing capacity of communities for operation and maintenance of WASH services and facilities, including training of hand pump mechanics and WASH committees, with a focus on meaningful gender participation and equality.
- Increased focus on inter sectoral programming to ensure synergies and value for money.

Situation snapshot:



40% of population have access to safe water



10% of population have access to improved sanitation



61% of population practise open defecation

UNICEF targets for 2021:



920,000 people receive access to safe water



460,000 people receive access to improved sanitation



800,000 people reached with hygiene promotion

Funding situation:

2021 UNICEF WASH appeal:

US\$ 60 million

Current funding gap:

45%

UNICEF’s generous WASH donors:



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