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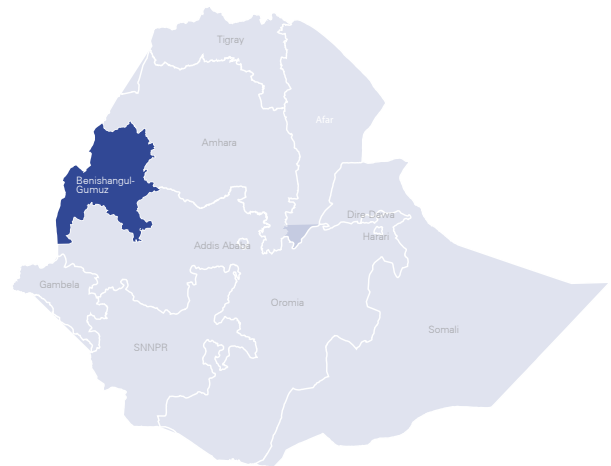
# Benishangul-Gumuz

## Regional Brief

### General Overview

The Benishangul-Gumuz regional state is located in the north-western part of Ethiopia. It shares borders with Sudan in the north-east, with the regional state of Amhara in the east, and Oromia regional state in the south. The main sources of livelihoods include, farming, traditional gold mining, petty trade, forestry and lowland bamboo production.

The region is also one of the four developing regional states in the country with many indicators below the national average. For instance, Benishangul-Gumuz region has the highest rate of neonatal mortality rates in the country.



Population data based on a projection from the 2007 census



**Total Population**  
1,157,000



**Capital: Semera**

The region comprises of three zones (Assosa, Kamashi, and Metekel), one special woreda (Mao Komo) and one town administration (Assosa Town).

# Programme Overview



## WASH

An estimated 82 per cent of households use improved drinking water sources in Benishangul-Gumuz compared to a national average of 65 per cent<sup>1</sup> (the second highest rate in the country, after Gambella)<sup>2</sup>. Urban areas have near universal usage of improved water sources (98 per cent) and the rate in rural areas is also relatively high (79 per cent). Unlike the other regions, the sustainability of water schemes is not a challenge in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. Yet, sanitation is a massive challenge with only 1.8 per cent of the households using improved sanitation which is below the already low national average of 6.3 per cent<sup>3</sup>



**82%**

of households use improved drinking water sources



**1.8%**

of households use improved sanitation facilities



## Health

Benshangul-Gumuz has made progress in healthcare over the past two decades. Notably, the under-five mortality rate fell from 169 deaths in 2011 to 98 per 1,000 live births in 2016; the infant mortality rate declined from 101 deaths per 1,000 births in 2011 to 62 deaths per 1,000 births in 2016.

Yet, the neonatal mortality rate in the region is the highest in the country, 55 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the national average of 33 per 1,000 live births.<sup>4</sup> The region also has the second highest death rate of children under the age of five next to Somali region.



The neonatal mortality rate is 55 per 1,000 live births.



The under-five mortality rate is 90 per 1000 live birth



of infants under the age of 1 year receive all basic vaccinations

**66.1%**



## Nutrition

Recurrent emergencies, poor feeding practices and diseases, particularly malaria and diarrhoea, contribute to persistently high levels of undernutrition in Benishangul-Gumuz, and seems to be increasing among children under 5 years of age, threatening their physical growth and cognitive development<sup>5</sup>. Another huge concern is the region's high stunting prevalence of 43 per cent of children under 5 years which is above the already high 38 per cent national average. The children most at risk from stunting are those from lower socio-economic groups and children whose mothers have not had secondary education.



**41%**

of children under 5 years of age are stunted



**6.1%**

of children under 5 years of age are wasted



**31.4%**

of children under 5 years of age are underweight



## Education

The net enrolment rate for pre-primary education in Benishangul-Gumuz stands at just 24.5 per cent which is lower than the national average of 27.5 per cent<sup>6</sup> and is far from reaching Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.2. A gross enrolment rate for primary education of 110.6 per cent shows more children in primary grades than there are children between 7 and 14 years in the region, indicating that children younger than 7 years or older than 14 years are enrolled in primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 0.86 compared to a national average of 0.90 indicates more boys are enrolled in primary education than girls<sup>7</sup>. Barriers for girls staying in school include child marriage and sexual violence against girls in school (on the way to and from school)<sup>8</sup>. High number of unskilled

1 UEDHS, 2016

2 With the exception of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa, which are urban areas

3 EDHS, 2016

teachers, irrelevant curriculum and inadequate learning materials also undermine the quality of education in the region.



The net enrolment rate for primary school



The net enrolment rate for grades 11 and 12



Gender parity index for primary education is **0.86**

## Child Protection

Although the median age at first marriage of 17.1 years (according to interviews with married women aged 20-49 years)<sup>9</sup> is still low, the age of marriage has increased significantly since 2011 when it averaged 15.9 years. However, to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3. in 2030, the rate of reduction needs to be 14 times faster. The female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) prevalence rate at 63 per cent among women aged 15 to 49 years<sup>10</sup> is high but lower than the national average of 65 per cent. Encouragingly the FGM/C prevalence rate is lower (43 per cent) among adolescent girls (ages 15-19 years) indicating that the practice may be declining. Only 3.8 per cent of children under the age of 5 years are registered at birth with civil authorities in Benishangul-Gumuz.



**17.1 Years**

is the median age at first marriage among women now aged 20-49 years.<sup>10</sup>



**63%**

of women interviewed now aged 15-49 years underwent FGM/C (2016).



**3.8%**

of children under 5 years of age had their births registered with civil authorities

## Social Policy

Benishangul-Gumuz ranks amongst the highest in deprivation in sanitation (97 per cent) and housing (93 per cent). In 2020, the over 200,000 displaced and around 165,000 refugees<sup>11</sup>, mostly from South Sudan, have made extra demands on the already stretched social services. The federal government implements the Protective Safety Net Programme (PSNP), targeting selected vulnerable woredas, yet this too is overstretched.



**27%**

of the population live in monetary poverty



**89%**

of children are deprived in 4.5 out of 5 basic needs.

## Humanitarian Situation

Sporadic conflict in the region left thousands to flee for safety. According to the Regional Disaster Risk Management Commission (DRMC), 440,000 people were displaced across 16 woredas in Metekel, Kamashi and Assosa zones. This number decreased to 288,000 as of December 2021 with the return of IDPs to their places of origin due to relative improvement in the security situation. In addition to the displacement, the conflict in the region has affected basic services provision. It was found out that 97 Health Posts and 6 Health Centers were partially damaged, 42 primary schools and five secondary schools were partially damaged, and 103 primary and 6 secondary schools were fully damaged in the 7 conflict affected woredas of the Metekel zone. At present, the security situation in Metekel zone has relatively improved, however the situation in Kamashi zone and some woredas of Assosa zone continue to be fragile and unpredictable.

4 EDHS, 2016/2019

5 EDHS, 2016

6 Education Statistics Annual Abstract (ESAA) September 2019-March 2020, EDHS, 2016, MoE

7 Ibid

8 ESDP V, p. 17

9 EDHS, 2016

10 EDHS, 2016

## Key results achieved in 2021

UNICEF reached an estimated:



178,000 children with nutritional services



50,000 children with educational support



154,000 children with basic health services



95,500 people with basic WASH services



38,000 children and women with child protection services

## Key targets in 2022

UNICEF plans to reach an estimated:



190,000 children with nutritional services



13,000 children with educational support



200,000 children with basic health services



110,000 people with basic WASH services



28,000 children and women with child protection services