During 2018, Education Cluster response strategy focused on protection of children and youths through access to safe and secure learning environments, cognitive development through education, and prevention of threats through life-saving and life-sustaining education interventions. Fifty-four active partners (national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies) are operating in 10 former states to support education in emergency activities for over 674,000 children and adolescents (aged 3–18 years). The projects in 2018 focused on age-appropriate education services through early childhood development, primary education, the Accelerated Learning Programme, vocational training and life skills. With the support of partners, the Education Cluster exceeded the annual target and reached 686,128 children and adolescents through the following key sector objectives:

i. Crisis-affected boys and girls (3–18 years) have strengthened cognitive skills.

ii. Crisis-affected girls, boys and communities have improved ability to cope with emergencies through relevant education activities and capacity development, including psychosocial support and lifesaving messaging to reduce vulnerability.

iii. Crisis-affected girls and boys have access to safe, protective and inclusive learning environments, including protective services and referral pathways through schools.

The Education Cluster required US$ 45.1 million to achieve core sector objectives but received generous funding of US$52.9 million to sustain critical education activities.
Cluster achievements

The Education Cluster targeted 674,619 children and adolescents (aged 3–18) through the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The following is a summary of results against interventions implemented by cluster partners.

i. Number of learners reached through early childhood development, primary and accelerated learning: In 10 former states, 686,128 children and adolescents (42 per cent female) were reached through early childhood development, primary and accelerated learning interventions (see Figure 2). Partners targeted both internally displaced persons and affected host community children based on their vulnerability and needs.

ii. Number of temporary learning spaces established/rehabilitated: Access to safe and protected learning environments is the key component of education in emergency interventions. To help ensure that children have access to safe and secure learning environments which provide education opportunities free from physical, social and emotional risks and threats, education cluster partners established and rehabilitated 659 temporary learning spaces during 2018. Temporary learning spaces are designed to protect children from environmental hazards and ensure continuation of education in extreme weather conditions.

iii. Number of learners reached with learning materials: Provision of teaching and learning materials is essential for education interventions to be implemented effectively. Nearly 640,000 children benefited from provision of learning materials, which included School-in-a-Box kits, early childhood development kits, recreational kits text books, etc.

iv. Number of teachers, parent-teacher association members and school management committee members trained: Access to education is only meaningful if education programmes offer quality teaching and learning. In the emergency context, untrained or under-trained teachers (with varying aptitudes and education qualifications) often fill the gaps left due to emergency. To ensure that teachers and other education personnel have the knowledge and skills to teach children affected by trauma caused by conflict, education in emergency partners offer training which is context-relevant and helps them cope with the challenges of creating conducive, safe and healing environments for children. Over 10,000 teachers, parent-teacher association members and school management committee members were trained on pedagogy techniques, life skills and psychosocial support; and were given awareness sessions on education in emergencies and managing temporary learning spaces through parent-teacher association-focused training materials. In addition, 2,741 teachers were trained on the provision of psychosocial support.

v. Number of teaching facilitators receiving incentives: Payment of incentives to teaching facilitators was a challenge, due to high inflation and increased incentives for casual workers in protection of civilians sites. Following the suspension of education activities due to teachers’ strikes in Bentiu and Malakal protection of civilians sites, proactive engagement of the Education Cluster, including state education bodies, led to resolution of the situation. Nonetheless, devaluation of the South Sudanese pound against the United States dollar (US$) continues to put pressure on partners to adjust rates of payment. The Education Cluster, in consultation with the Strategic Advisory Group, made a decision to mitigate the impact of inflation through periodic review and adjustment of US$ exchange rates to allow partners to compensate volunteer teachers adequately, in both protection of civilians and non-protection of civilians sites. During 2018, 4,687 teachers received teacher incentives from Education Cluster partners.

vi. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools: Cluster partners established and rehabilitated 317 latrines to ensure that partners have access to safe, protected and sex-desegregated sanitation facilities. Water points and hand-washing facilities were constructed and rehabilitated to benefit 50,309 learners, teachers and other community members. In addition to supporting education facilities with WASH facilities, partners also conducted hygiene awareness sessions; 813 sessions were conducted and 53,849 learners, community and parent-teacher association members and teachers were reached.

Figure 2: Number of learners reached
Support for Primary 8 exams

Education Cluster partners supported 14,478 pupils to sit for their primary leaving exams in November 2018. The cluster’s partners provided assistance through transportation of exam material to prioritized locations (state capitals and field sites), coordinated security arrangements through the United Nations Police and provided school meals during exams. The exams were coordinated for candidates in and outside of protection of civilians sites, and locations not under government control.

The National Examination Council requested the same logistical and transportation assistance for secondary examinations, which are expected to commence from 14 January, 2019.

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) mission to South Sudan

ECW conducted its first mission to South Sudan to initiate discussion on a multi-year resilience programme and facilitate the development of a comprehensive response plan for education in crisis with key stakeholders. The ECW Secretariat delegation met with the Hon. Minister and Under-secretary of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction; the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator; the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the head of cluster co-lead agencies; the Education Cluster; and local education group agencies. The ECW delegation also had bilateral meetings with the United States Ambassador, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UNICEF. These meetings conveyed mutually-supporting messages around the need for an inclusive multi-year resilience programme which, in addition to being a cornerstone for promoting further social cohesion, tolerance and peace-building, will address key intersectoral issues such as protection. The programme should also capitalize on interest from the private sector to help it effectively transition into development activities that are tailored to the emerging job market.

As a next step, the Education Cluster and ECW agreed to establish a task team to guide and lead the South Sudan multi-year resilience programme drafting process. A comprehensive joint plan is expected to bring together international donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations that will work to make the plan a reality.

Cluster core skills training

Training on cluster core skills was organized in Juba from 4–7 December 2018 with funding support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office and was facilitated by the Global Education Cluster and South Sudan Education Cluster team. The training focused on the development of a comprehensive, evidence-based and consultative needs analysis and strategy focused on the education sector’s specific needs, priorities and plans. At the end of the training participants developed and agreed on an action plan with accountabilities and timelines. The multi-year cluster strategy will inform design and planning of any multi-year funding opportunities for the sector.
‘Voices from the field’ is a collection of testimonials from beneficiaries receiving support through the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund.

Elizabeth Nyateny Duer is a widow. Her husband was a soldier and he passed away in 2016, during the July crisis in Juba, leaving her with five children.

Elizabeth is a very active parent at Jiech Primary School, which four of her children attend. She said, "Since my husband died, I was left with nothing. My children had been used to a fair life but after their father’s death food was not easy to get. I was forced to look for any kind of work to get them food and they stopped attending school, especially the young ones. They spent nights without food, and the next day it would be difficult for me to send them to school. Now, with the school feeding programme, our lives have changed. I appreciate work done by Christian Mission for Development in collaboration with donors.”

Elizabent, who prefers being called Nya-Duer (daughter of Duer), checks that her children go to school and ensures that they are in class, as well as doing work at the school. She helped repair a learning space and in return she received wages. She also carries firewood for cooking to the school and she says such work has eased her sorrow at the loss of her husband.

"Nowadays, when I get to bed, I sleep peacefully, with better memories of my husband, which never happened before. I have money to buy small things for my children like clothes and shoes, and even [some things] for myself.”

During this crisis in South Sudan, many households are either child- or woman-headed. Most children, especially boys, drop out of school to look for work and girls are being married as young as 13 or 14 years, so that their parents may get something to eat. Support from pooled fund has helped to turn around lives of many people like that of Elizabeth Nya-Duer.
Situation analysis

The nutrition situation is assessed using standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transition (SMART) surveys, food and nutrition security monitoring surveys (FSNMS), integrated phase classification (IPC) reports, and monthly selective feeding programme data. Overall, the nutrition situation was better in 2018 than in 2017, high levels of acute malnutrition continue to be reported in many parts of South Sudan.

About 45 per cent of the 51 SMART surveys conducted in 2018 reported critical nutrition situations with global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 15 per cent and above, the World Health Organization emergency threshold, compared to 65 per cent of the 55 SMART surveys conducted in 2017. None of the counties reported extreme critical levels (GAM above 30 per cent) in 2018. Although the number of counties that reported critical levels of acute malnutrition are relatively fewer in 2018 than in 2017, 76 per cent of the 21 repeat SMART surveys conducted in the same period and locations in 2017 and 2018 continued depicting critical levels of acute malnutrition.

The 2018 FSNMS survey results, which included anthropometric indicators for the first time, continued to depict a concerning nutrition situation in most parts of the country, with Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states exhibiting the highest prevalence of wasting at 19.4 per cent, 16.6 per cent, 16.3 per cent and 15.3 per cent, respectively.

The IPC for acute malnutrition also indicates a decrease in the number of counties classified with critical nutrition situations, from 43 in September 2017 to 31 during the same period in 2018. It is expected that populations will be in catastrophe (IPC 5) in eight counties between September 2018 and March 2019.

In 2018, the admission trends of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in stabilization centres and outpatient treatment programmes (OTPs), and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFPs) were slightly lower than in 2017 while coverage increased in 2018 in numbers of stabilization centres, OTPs and TSFPs.

Nutrition response

Curative and preventive nutrition responses were scaled up in all former states using a combination of response approaches, including static and outreach, as well as the rapid response mechanisms that were implemented in conflict and difficult to reach areas. The continued high level of acute malnutrition in the country reflects a lack of significant improvement in the drivers of acute malnutrition, which include food insecurity, suboptimal child care and feeding practices, morbidity, lack of safe water and sanitation, internal displacement and conflicts.
Figure 3: Admission trends for children with SAM to stabilization centres in 2016, 2017 and 2018

Figure 4: Admission trends for children with SAM to OTPs in 2016, 2017 and 2018

Figure 5: MAM admission trends in 2016, 2017 and 2018
Admissions in nutrition sites

In 2018, a total of 57 stabilization centres, 899 OTP sites and 854 TSFP sites were reported as being operational. Over the year, 8,303 and 197,018 children aged 6–59 months affected by SAM were admitted to stabilization centres and OTPs, respectively, i.e. a total of 205,321, fewer than the 208,320 admissions in 2017. Figure 3 and 4 show SAM admission trends of 2016, 2017 and 2018 with reporting rates for stabilization centres and OTPs.

For TSFPs, a total of 411,576 children aged 6–59 months affected by MAM were admitted, which was lower than the number of 433,421 admitted in 2017. Figure 5 shows the MAM admission trends of 2016, 2017 and 2018 with reporting rates.

Achievement performance of nutrition sites response

Static nutrition services were implemented by 44 partners. By the end of December 205,321 SAM cases were admitted, i.e. 98 per cent achievement against the target of 209,140 and 79 per cent of the 261,424 people in need (PIN). For MAM, the number of 411,576 admissions corresponds to 80 per cent achievement against the target of 512,941, and 50 per cent achievement of the 827,324 PIN. The performance indicators for both SAM and MAM are above the Sphere standards. Figures 6 to 8 illustrate the performance indicators.

Nutrition rapid response missions

In 2018, 50 integrated rapid response missions were carried out to provide nutrition services to children and women located in hard-to-reach areas, and also to support implementing partners to re-establish nutrition services when security situations improve. Through these integrated rapid response missions, UNICEF and the World Food Programme succeeded in reaching 76,550 children aged 6–59 months (37,487 girls and 39,063 boys) that were screened for acute malnutrition, with 2,383 children (1,201 girls and 1,182 boys) identified with SAM and 7,379 (3,477 girls and 3,902 boys) with MAM. All children with SAM and MAM were treated in OTPs and TSFPs, respectively. In addition, 45,178 children (23,186 girls and 21,992 boys) received vitamin A supplementation; 34,211 children (16,263 girls and 17,948 boys) received deworming tablets; and 35,350 pregnant and lactating women were reached with key maternal, infant and young child nutrition messages.

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Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

A total of 2,269,615 million children aged 6–59 months were reached with vitamin A supplementation to prevent infections and diseases and 1,884,479 million children aged 12–59 months received albendazole tablets for deworming. The exclusive breastfeeding rate was reported to be 74 per cent in 2018 (FSNMS) as opposed to 45 per cent in 2010 (South Sudan Household Health Survey).

A number of 2,831 front-line health and nutrition workers were trained on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and 843,485 mothers and caretakers of children aged 0–23 months were counselled on key infant and young child feeding practices.

Capacity building for partners

The Nutrition Cluster coordinated training at the national, state and county levels to improve the quality of nutrition response.

Nutrition in emergencies training drew participants from the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and partners.

Infant and young child feeding in emergency training was organized in collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Nutrition Cluster and the Ministry of Health. The training is informing plans to improve infant and young child feeding in emergency assessments, response and policy.

Training was conducted on gender mainstreaming and gender-based violence risk mitigation, targeting nutrition partners and aimed at enhancing overall accountability towards gender equality and gender-based violence.

SMART training was carried out in collaboration with Action Against Hunger regional office and the Ministry of Health to enhance capacity to conduct surveys by partners and the Ministry of Health.

A joint nutrition and food security cluster training workshop was held in January and December 2018 for building partners’ capacity for integrated programming for improved collective outcomes and developing action points for better integrated programming for improved nutrition outcomes.

Subnational nutrition cluster coordination

Subnational cluster coordination remains suboptimal, unconnected with national coordination. In April 2018, participants at the nutrition in emergencies training session raised concerns over subnational coordination, and proposed strengthening of leadership for improving coordination at state level. The Nutrition Cluster will strengthen subnational coordination via a training workshop and continuous mentorship of sub-level actors.

For further information on the Nutrition Cluster, please contact the cluster coordinator, Hermann Ouedraogo, at houdraogo@unicef.org or the cluster co-coordinator, Koki Kyalo, at koki.kyalo@wfp.org.
Key achievement

In 2018, child protection actors reached a total of 296,256 children (46 per cent girls) with psychosocial support activities throughout the country, including hard-to-reach areas. Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) members exceeded the 2018 HRP target, which was for 271,000 children to be reached with psychosocial support activities.

Child protection case management information system in South Sudan

As part of strengthening the case management system initiative in South Sudan, the Case Management Task Force (CMTF), an inter-agency group within the CP AoR, led by UNICEF, worked in 2018 to develop and improve the information management system in South Sudan, as well as to develop a strategy to support strengthening of case management in the country. In summary, the CMTF has developed three interlinked objectives, all of which contribute to the realization of the overall CP AoR strategy for South Sudan. Specifically, the CMTF strategy aims to enhance protection of children and improve access to quality child protection services by developing the case management process in South Sudan in terms of standard operating procedures, tools and human resources.

To this end, a new case management toolkit was developed and rolled out at the end of 2018 after a piloting phase in Yambio earlier during the year. The toolkit comprises several...
different forms, including general case management forms and supplementary forms for unaccompanied and separated children and alternative care. Meanwhile, the newly developed case management standard operating procedures were launched officially in Juba on September 26 and endorsed by the Government of South Sudan.

In addition, Save The Children, as the system administrator agency for the Child Protection Information Management System, has customized the current information management system to accommodate the newly developed case management forms and ensure that the database is comprehensive. The installation of the new database by all child protection partners took place in September 2018.

The CMTF also provided training-of-trainers sessions to more than 60 child protection focal points from different child protection organizations across the country. These sessions were result of the training package developed by the CMTF based on the global inter-agency guidelines on case management and the standard operating procedures for South Sudan.

A case management handbook has been developed and is currently at the design stage. The roll-out of case management training is ongoing and is expected to reach all front-line workers in 2019.

Children and armed conflict in South Sudan

In 2018, under the global agenda of the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, the South Sudan United Nations Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) was active in several ways. The priority for the CTFMR was to boost engagement with the Government of South Sudan for a complete revision of the country’s action plan to halt violations affecting children in armed conflict. The revised action plan, now in development, will be the first of its kind. It will reflect the six most common grave violations of children's rights in armed conflicts – with specific activities and indicators for de-listing (from the list annexed to the Secretary-General’s annual reports on children and armed conflict) to be co-developed with the Government of South Sudan.

Additionally, over this past quarter, the South Sudan CTFMR hosted the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG CAAC) on a mission to South Sudan in early November as a follow-up to the working group’s advocacy mission to South Sudan in early September 2018. The SCWG CAAC’s mission was to follow up with key actors on commitments previously made toward halting the six grave violations from continuing in South Sudan and to engage with top-level government officials, including the Chief of the Defence
The child protection working group in Bentiu

In line with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, held from 25 November to 10 December, 2018, child protection working groups in Bentiu supported the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster in developing a calendar of activities for the protection-of-civilians site and the ‘beyond Bentiu response’. The international theme for this year’s celebration was ‘End gender-based violence in the world of work’ and the national theme was ‘Make peace count: End violence against women and girls’.

In particular, on 5 December the child protection working group in Bentiu co-facilitated a workshop on the Strategic National Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Sudan with the Director General of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The objective was to create awareness and build the capacity of the government on the implementation of the Action Plan. Almost 40 participants attended from different counties of Greater Unity State. The part of the workshop facilitated by child protection working groups was related to legal frameworks around child marriage in international, regional and national law.
Information management activity in support of child protection humanitarian coordination

Information management is a key activity of the CP AoR in South Sudan. Over the past year, the CP AoR focused on capacity-building of reporting by CP AoR members on their child protection activities. These reports are needed by the CP AoR for the collection and analysis of information to guide its coordination activities. Reporting on activities by the CP AoR improved in 2018, and resulted in the production of the child protection working group map, which highlighted the geographical location of each coordination hub in each state (including remote areas), lead and co-lead organizations and their contact persons, as well as the presence of child protection actors’ operations.

Avoiding response duplication is one of the positive results achieved. In collaboration with states’ coordination working groups’ coordinators, estimations of child protection needs in each county were collected, and fed into the Humanitarian Needs Overview process. The data then informed the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Efforts in improving the CP AoR information management system have paid off. Data collection, analysis and information sharing within the humanitarian network helped the CP AoR to appropriately and strategically allocate resources from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund and the Rapid Response Fund to CP AoR members.

Situation and response monitoring in South Sudan

The purpose of situation and response monitoring is to gather information on the condition of children in South Sudan affected by conflict, as well as the quality of response provided by child protection actors. Although situation and response monitoring was piloted in June 2016, it was only rolled out in April 2018. The monitoring was conducted by the CP AoR in the Pibor area in Boma State, as well as in Western, Eastern and Central Equatoria states.

Four monthly reports were produced in 2018 highlighting the situation of children and the quality of response to children from child protection actors.

Central Equatoria remains the state with the highest incidents of unexploded ordinance, and psychosocial support was recognized as a particular need. In places such as protection-of-civilians sites, women with no males in the household were particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence from community members. The presence of street children in these areas was also reported, as were child labour cases resulting from household pressure to provide for the family. The cases often involved children selling on the street, as well as staying home from school to help with looking after siblings. Children in contact with the law continue to experience delayed judicial processes, and while child friendly services are recognized as being important for processing children (through action plans and concept notes of the government and its partners), lack of implementation of child friendly judicial processes continues. High numbers of cases of family separation and sexual gender-based violence, which often coincided with renewed conflict, were reported. Access issues, preventing humanitarian actors from accessing populations and providing services, were also reported. Communities often cited education, psychosocial support, food and peace as their top priorities for helping children. Other priorities included health services, recreational facilities and cultural institutions (including church activities).

Nine hundred and fifty five children associated with armed forces and armed groups were released in Pibor and Yambio in 2018. Children associated with armed forces and armed groups were released in Pibor and Yambio in 2018. They continue to receive reintegration support from UNICEF and partners.

The information gathered through situation and response monitoring will be integrated by the CP AoR in its strategy to guide child protection actors for improving coordination for humanitarian response.

For further information on the CP AoR Cluster, please contact the cluster coordinator, Francesca Cazzato, at fcazzato@unicef.org or the cluster co-coordinator, Bashir Said, at bashir.said@savethechildren.org
WASH Cluster

Structure and ways of working

• **WASH Cluster strategic shift towards more integration.** In 2018, the WASH Cluster initiated an intersectoral strategic shift to target acute vulnerabilities more effectively by formalizing WASH minimum packages (such as WASH in Nutrition for famine prevention and WASH and Protection for mitigation of gender-based violence). This shift was supported by South Sudan Humanitarian Fund standard allocations through prioritizing inter-cluster interventions and the 2019 HRP, including a new cluster objective on integration.

• **Formalization of cluster coordination and co-coordination roles.** The first memorandum of understanding on WASH Cluster coordination/co-coordination in South Sudan was signed on 4 October 2018 between UNICEF (the cluster lead agency) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (the co-lead agency). This key document clarifies the division of labour between both parties, ensuring a complementary and effective way of working.

• **WASH Cluster coordination at decentralized level.** A one-day workshop on WASH Cluster coordination at the subnational level was organized by the WASH Cluster in Juba in November 2018 to review the main roles and responsibilities of all ‘state focal points’, now named WASH Cluster ‘subnational coordinators’, to ensure greater geographical flexibility, increased levels of responsibility and autonomy, improved lines of communication at national and inter-state levels and closer alignment with all key core functions of cluster coordination.

• **WASH Cluster monthly meeting.** Monthly cluster meetings have been restructured to limit the time required from partners each month and narrow the aim of this platform to a more informative and collective decision-making one. Meetings conducted on the last Friday of each month for a maximum duration of one hour, compared to twice every month, are focusing on (i) information-sharing on key issues, especially those arising from the WASH Cluster strategic advisory group, the steering committee, the emergency preparedness and response working group, the various technical working groups and the related core pipeline system; and (ii) collective decision-making, for example on technical documents such as the monitoring matrix of WASH and gender-based violence activities; and terms of reference of committees and working groups.

Main WASH achievements

• In 2018, more than 2 million of the 2018 HRP target of around 3.3 million vulnerable people were reached through lifesaving activities aimed at providing access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion conducted by 73 WASH actors.

• Of those reached, more than 1.5 million people benefited from essential WASH items provided through the WASH Cluster core pipeline system – a system aiming at pre-positioning and supplying WASH critical supplies throughout the whole country.

• **Information-sharing.** New, user-friendly and easily accessible WASH information management products were developed throughout the year with the support of the global WASH
Cluster, including (i) a new WASH Cluster website (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/water-sanitation-hygiene) integrated into the Global Humanitarian Response website, (ii) 3W/5Ws interactive maps, (iii) monthly dashboards (WASH operations and core pipeline), and (iv) a redesigned arborescence of the Google Drive for easier reference.

- **Core pipeline of WASH items with faster approval of partners’ requests.** More than 1.5 million people were reached with WASH core pipeline items. The core pipeline system, which was revised in June 2018, allowed 40 national and international partners, through more than 400 interventions, to access WASH-related items stored in a total of 20 warehouses throughout the country more easily and quickly (two days on average from request submission to analysis and approval for delivery). The new system includes revised standard operating procedures; the creation of a new generic and centralized WASH core pipeline email platform; a revised core pipeline request form; a tracking system of all requests received/processed; and a monthly core pipeline dynamic dashboard which allows for a more comprehensive analysis of countrywide needs in terms of pre-positioning and greater reliability of responses.

- **Integration with other sectors to address acute vulnerabilities**

  **WASH in Nutrition for famine prevention**
  - A WASH, nutrition, food security and livelihoods and health minimum package for famine prevention was defined to implement integrated humanitarian responses and complement efforts and resources for enhanced impact;
  - A WASH in Nutrition strategy workshop with both clusters held with Action Against Hunger led to the development of a WASH in Nutrition minimum package to be implemented by partners in priority counties as part of an integrated response framework.
  - A WASH in Nutrition flexible model for hard-to-reach areas was developed as a pilot intervention in Pibor county during the first quarter of 2018;
  - In October 2018, a WASH in Nutrition strategic objective was endorsed at the inter-cluster working group peer review of the 2019 HRP, led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
  - An integrated WASH in Nutrition response through famine prevention minimum package, including key strategic indicators, was included as an objective of the WASH Cluster in the 2019 HRP.

  **WASH and cholera in hotspot areas**
  - Cholera hotspot classification (types 1, 2, 3 and 4), mapping (12 counties containing 2 million people) and issues of cross-border transmission have been identified in a cholera study conducted in the region by UNICEF. These have been integrated in the WASH Cluster Cholera Strategy, as well as in the national Cholera Prevention and Response Plan for 2018–2020, which is being finalized by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health;
  - Cholera hotspot typology has been included in the seven humanitarian needs overview parameters for determination of the population in need and in the 2019 HRP.

  **WASH and Ebola at wider community level**
  A WASH Ebola introductory workshop was organized by UNICEF with the support of the WASH Cluster, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in November 2018. General information about Ebola virus disease and infection prevention and control were demonstrated in an Ebola isolation unit and at the wider community level to about 30 participants from various WASH organizations;
  - The WASH Cluster shared the positioning of WASH actors with regard to WASH Ebola preparedness and risk reduction on 27 September 2018 with the following recommendations:
    - Risk reduction by handwashing with soap and chlorinated water (0.05%) should be promoted widely by training and setting up handwashing devices, especially in public places such as health facilities, schools and markets;
    - Preparedness activities should be extended beyond the health system, for instance by liaison cross-border with traditional healers located in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and focus on social mobilization through an anthropological community for development approach, taking into account traditional protocols for treatment of affected people, funerals and burial;
    - WASH Cluster partners without Ebola field experience should not take part in burial management or directly in WASH service upgrades for Ebola virus disease case management on the ground (e.g., in Ebola isolation sites or in Ebola treatment units).

  **Strategy for WASH for gender-based violence mitigation**
  To ensure safer and more secure WASH services and practices for women and girls and to mitigate WASH-related gender-based violence risks, a dedicated framework for ‘WASH and gender-based violence’ was developed at the beginning of the year by the WASH Cluster, with the participation of WASH actors, to guide project design and monitoring. As a result, key ‘WASH for gender-based violence mitigation’ indicators were integrated in
the two South Sudan Humanitarian Fund standard allocations of 2018 and finally integrated in the 2019 HRP as follows:

- **Cluster objective**: Mitigate WASH-related gender-based violence (target of 1.8 million vulnerable people);
- **Activities**: WASH activities specifically for gender-based violence mitigation in and outside of protection of civilians settlements will be based on protection assessments conducted by female staff to women, adolescent girls and children and with larger community inputs;
- **Key strategic indicators**: Number of women and girls with (i) safe/secure access to water and (ii) with safe/secure access to sanitation and hygiene facilities based on a gender-based violence risk analysis carried out through focus group discussions with women and girls conducted by female staff.

**Accountability for affected population feedback mechanism**

In 2018, the WASH Cluster accountability for affected population (AAP) technical working group developed an operational checklist to guide WASH partners on how to incorporate AAP aspects into their programming and engage the community throughout the project cycle, by addressing: (i) needs assessment and analysis, (ii) strategic planning, (iii) implementation and monitoring, and (iv) evaluation and learning.

**WASH core indicators available at national level**

The WASH Cluster – supported by the REACH Initiative and in consultation with all WASH Cluster partners, including donors – developed and adopted a total of seven core indicators for the WASH sector. Four of these indicators were included in the national food security and nutrition monitoring system conducted between July and September 2018 to inform the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Data obtained through the monitoring system showed that:

- Approximately 29 per cent of the population countrywide have access to an improved water source in 30 minutes walking distance or less without protection from gender-based violence. This indicates that the remaining two-thirds of the population spend longer periods of time to access water, are unable to access an improved water source or are reliant on surface water or water sources that are not protected;
- Less than 10 per cent of the population do not practice open defecation. This indicates that around 90 per cent of the population do not have access to or are not accustomed to using a basic sanitation facility when defecating;
- Thirteen per cent of the population reported having access to WASH non-food items, in combination with poor sanitation facilities. The interlinked impact on the well-being of the population of poor water and sanitation and limited access to WASH non-food items can be seen through the health and nutrition status of the population;
- Seventy-five per cent of the population reported that household members had been self-diagnosed with a water-borne illness in the previous two weeks.
International Organization for Migration

WASH and gender-based violence mitigation: Using environmentally friendly methods to bring safe, clean water to Juba

Residents of Joppa benefit from an USAID-funded Solar Water Yard

Joy Jugo Ladu holds her 5-month-old baby, Elizabeth, near her home in Juba, South Sudan. Joy is responsible for collecting water for her household.

When she returned to the area in 2012, the whole community only had access to one borehole. She said, “It was very difficult to even get one jerrycan of water.” She went on to say that women would wake up as early as four a.m., just to queue at the water point: “We could get no rest.”

More recently, the young mother of three says the family had issues accessing clean and safe water. “We had to walk far for water and what we could get tasted very salty,” she said. “It was very difficult to prepare tea for the children and clean their face and clothes, so they were always late for school,” explained Joy. “Without water, you cannot do anything. You can’t even go outside because you have not bathed. It affected us in every aspect of our lives.”

She was very happy when the construction of the solar-powered water system started near her house. “It will solve many issues in the house. That is why my heart is full of joy when I see the water with my own eyes,” she said.

Joy is also a key member of the water management committee for the water yard, which she said is important because “our voices are included in the decision-making process” and because “it can encourage more women to take other leadership roles in the community”. She explained that women’s participation is core to the sustainability of this project, as the burden of collecting water falls on them.

As a member of the water management committee, she took part in some training. Looking to the future, she called for more training and support: “The training should not just end here. If there is specific training on gender-based violence or women’s leadership, we really need it.”

She even saw an impact on men in the community and noted that they are now treating women better following their involvement in the training. “This facility is where all our hearts are now!”

“The training should not just end here. If there is specific training on gender-based violence or women’s leadership, we really need it.”

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WASH Cluster coordinator field mission to Pibor, Jonglei: 8 to 11 December 2018.

Aim of the mission: To assess the WASH situation.

Participants:
- Subnational WASH Cluster in Pibor led by Catholic Relief Services;
- Core pipeline items managed by Peace Corps;
- Active WASH Cluster members, Catholic Relief Services, International Aid Services, Joint Aid Management, Live Well, Peace Corps, Stop Poverty Communal Initiative.

Main observations:
- Population semi-nomadic, not stable;
- Security issues, including destruction of handpump-equipped boreholes;
- Access constraints during the rainy season with only four months of dry season;
- Duration of project funding insufficient;
- Lack of drinking water infrastructure/facilities (e.g. 40 per cent of handpumps non-functional, one borehole for every 3,000 people);
- Surface water mostly highly turbid;
- Water burden for women with SAM/MAM crossing rivers to reach Pibor OTP;
- High risk of gender-based violence associated with long distance walked by women to reach water points;
- Lack of prepositioning of spare parts for handpumps at community level.

Some key identified actions:
- Lack of and unsafe drinking water access (mapping of gender-based violence cases needed for drilling/hydrogeological study prioritization; hydrogeological studies to be supported at national level (WASH Cluster and cluster lead agency – UNICEF).
- Seasonality-appropriated funding timeframe (advocacy for South Sudan Humanitarian Fund allocations to be extended from six to 12 months).
- Logistical access constraints during the rainy season (container to be set up for better pre-positioning of spare parts during the rainy season).
- WASH in Nutrition (WASH and Nutrition activities to be strengthened at community level through health promoters to better monitor household water treatment and safe storage).
- Knowledge management (good practices for household latrines must be shared, recommendations for key additional core pipeline items to be made, e.g. specific items for pits in unstable soil).

For further information on the WASH Cluster, please contact the cluster coordinator, François Bellet, at fbellet@unicef.org or the cluster co-coordinator, Cristina Mena-Lander, at cristina.lander@nrc.no.