



South Sudan Country Office

Situation overview

Since the South Sudan conflict began in 2013, over 1.9 million people (53.4 per cent children) have been internally displaced and 2.1 million others have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Population displacement, chronic hyperinflation, civil conflict and food insecurity have all led to a deterioration in an already fragile education system characterized by poor educational outcomes. According to the 2018 Out-of-School Children South Sudan Country Study, at least 2.2 million school-aged children across the country are now out of school. More than 70% of primary level teachers are untrained or underqualified, which has a negative impact on the quality of learning outcomes. In addition, teachers often leave schools due to insufficient, delayed or unpaid salaries, as well as insecurity.

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and approximately 30 implementing partners to address the challenges facing education in South Sudan. The long-term, countrywide presence and experience of UNICEF has greatly facilitated implementation of innovative, effective and context-specific education interventions through its strong network of partnerships.

UNICEF's government-led approach involves working in close cooperation

with national and state education ministries, giving them 'ownership' and responsibility over such areas as the payment of government teachers' salaries and providing supervision of teachers and head teachers. However, since MoGEI's personnel capacity and financial resources remain constrained, UNICEF continues to actively support capacity building of the ministry staff and strengthening of education systems.

Impact of the conflict

Renewed conflict since 2016 seriously undermined the provision of education services. In conflict-affected locations, schools remained closed, often occupied either by armed forces or by internally displaced persons seeking shelter and protection.

A peace agreement signed in September 2018 is holding in most areas of the country allowing UNICEF to reach previously inaccessible areas and provide much-needed educational services.

Refugees and internally displaced persons (including children) in some areas are beginning to return home. In response, UNICEF and partners are scaling up education services in the appropriate areas and working to integrate these children back into school.

Situation of children



2.2 million
school-aged children out of school.



30%
of schools are damaged, destroyed, occupied or closed.

UNICEF & partner results 2019



615,840
(41% female)
of out-of-school children (aged three to 18 years) provided with access to education in emergencies.



644
targeted number of classrooms in temporary learning spaces established/rehabilitated (2019).



5,025 (20% female)
of teachers and early childhood development (ECD) caregivers trained.



34
partners implementing education in emergency projects across the country.



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Back to Learning (BTL)

First launched by the Government in 2015, the flagship Back-to-Learning (BTL) initiative supported by UNICEF shows that well-coordinated efforts with Government and partners are effective in bringing children back into education, providing them with learning opportunities in a safe and protective environment, building the capacity of teachers and mobilising communities to support schools. Since 2015, 1,258,244 children have been reached through the BTL initiative. This year's nationwide BTL launch was held on 4 February 2019 in Renk, Upper Nile, under the theme "Education is your right. It's now time to exercise it". Similar launches have taken place in states throughout the country. Key strategies for BTL 2019 include: strengthening the delivery of education services; placing a special focus on girls, pastoralists and other marginalised groups; emphasising measurable learning outcomes for children; boosting inter-sectoral convergence and expanding services to previously inaccessible areas.

Education in Emergencies

UNICEF works with 34 partners across all 10 former states of South Sudan to ensure children affected by severe humanitarian crises have access to quality education in a safe and protective environment.

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Building on the success of the previous Emergency Education Programme (EEP), the USAID-funded Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services (IEEES) programme has enrolled 615,840 children so far in 2019 out of a target of 729,000 children for the year. In addition, 644 temporary learning spaces have been established, 615,840 children (41 per cent girls) have received learning materials, and 5,025 teachers (20% female) have been trained in teaching methodologies, classroom management and other essential topics.

In July 2019, UNICEF, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and partners celebrated the National Girls' Education Day in Kuajok, Warrap state, under the theme: "Educate a girl to change a nation." The purpose of celebrating the day was to create awareness and increase advocacy for enrolment of girls in schools. Following the national event, similar celebrations were held at the state level.

Funding support from the African Development Bank (AFDB) as well as additional funds from the Royal Norwegian Government will continue to ensure the provision of high quality education in emergencies interventions throughout 2019 and beyond.

Global Partnership for Education

UNICEF, as Grant Agent for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), works closely with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), to build its capacity, develop its ownership of education interventions and strengthen education systems.

MoGEI, through GPE support, has printed 1.95 million new textbooks and oriented 24,000 teachers on their use. Nationwide distribution has commenced.

The MoGEI launched its first Education Sector Budget Brief which represents a crucial step in improving public finance for children.

With thanks to our generous donors :

- SSHF
- CERF
- ECHO
- Global Partnership for Education (PPE)
- EU
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- Denmark
- Norway
- USAID
- The German and US National Committee for UNICEF

Funding required in 2019

US\$ 45,000,000

Funding available in 2019

US\$ 25,000,000

**44 %
funding
gap**

unicef 

for every child