



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

December 2019

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Situation Overview

South Sudan continues to be affected by conflict in some areas and the threat of conflict in others. This situation, coupled with a longstanding environment of poverty, lack of infrastructure and food insecurity, has caused mass displacement. This has occurred in an atmosphere where WASH coverage is also still very low at 41% coverage with basic water supply, 11% coverage with basic sanitation and with 63% of the population still practicing open defecation according to the UNICEF-WHO 2019 Joint Monitoring Programme. The situation is further compounded by the lack of sustainable operational and maintenance systems for existing WASH facilities and infrastructure as a result of governance challenges.

UNICEF continues to prioritize the provision of accessible, improved and sustainable WASH services which are essential for all humanitarian, recovery and development interventions. UNICEF's activities on the ground include rehabilitating, upgrading and constructing new critical water supply infrastructure. UNICEF also provides management support for the operation and maintenance of improved hygiene and sanitation services which will have an impact on improving the health and well-being of children and women, vulnerable groups including malnourished children.

Due to the outbreak of the South Sudan conflict in 2013, the majority of the sustainable WASH development projects designed for implementation in rural and urban settings were suspended and the WASH investments shifted focus to delivering critical water, sanitation and hygiene services.

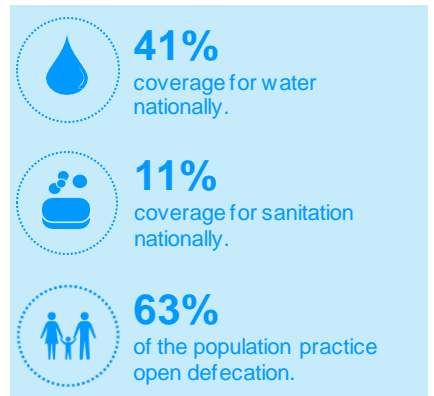
This protracted conflict has continued to affect the already poor rate of access to basic facilities, including safe water. This has, in turn, increased children's vulnerability to waterborne diseases, mainly diarrhea.

While UNICEF remains focused on delivering critical lifesaving water, sanitation and hygiene services to vulnerable populations in South Sudan, access to many of the locations remains a problem due to conflict, lack of roads, and inhospitable terrain which impedes the ability to transport the materials and staff required to build WASH infrastructure, and to reach the most vulnerable communities.

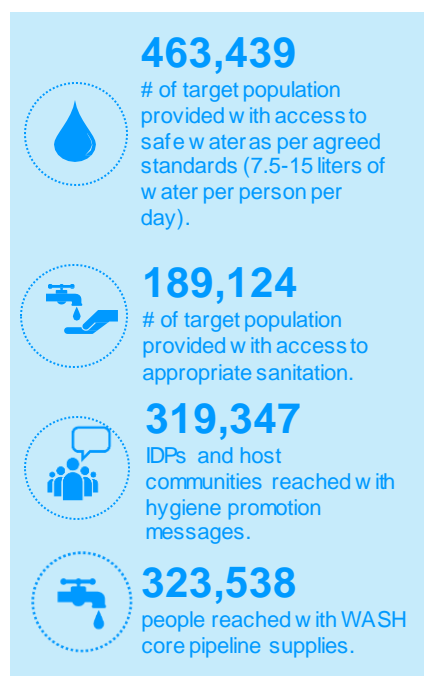
The exceptionally heavy rains since July 2019 have affected some 908,000 people in 32 counties in South Sudan. An estimated 490,000 children are affected by this heavy flooding in the country.

Many hand pumps in the affected areas were submerged under water rendering these water sources contaminated. Together with poor hygiene awareness, this has greatly put the children's health at risk.

It will require a lot of work to disinfect the boreholes, maintain them and put them back to work to renew access to safe water supply.



UNICEF & partner results 2019



UNICEF WASH and partner results



UNICEF, as WASH cluster lead agency, provides a comprehensive WASH emergency response in and outside protection of civilian sites (PoC) and in vulnerable host communities. UNICEF as the core pipelines WASH supplies manager has so far reached 323,538 people with WASH supplies in 2019.

Access to water:

This year, UNICEF has supported 463,439 people to access safe water through water trucking, drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes and the operation and maintenance of water yards and surface water treatment (SWAT) systems. In collaboration with WASH cluster partners, residents of the PoC (Protection of Civilian) and IDP (Internally Displaced People) sites continue to receive access to safe water based on Sphere humanitarian standards.

Access to sanitation:

Some 189,124 vulnerable people have been supported with access to basic sanitation facilities through the maintenance of emergency communal latrines and the construction of household latrines. Emergency sanitation facilities are gender sensitive and designed to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS):

UNICEF continues to support demand-driven approaches to sanitation through CLTS. A total of 141 villages have been triggered of which 64 villages have achieved open defecation free

status in the States of Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Yei. UNICEF continues to explore additional, flexible community approaches to increase access to sanitation in areas of displacement.

Hygiene promotion:

UNICEF continues to accelerate hygiene promotion activities aimed at preventing outbreaks of WASH related diseases, in collaboration with communication for development (C4D) and health programmes. So far 319,347 people have been reached with key messages.

Disease outbreak response:

The ongoing Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has put South Sudan at high risk. Through its partners, UNICEF has prepositioned and distributed standard WASH IPC (Infection Prevention Control) supplies and provided essential WASH services in 120 Health Facilities (HF) across the EVD high risk locations. In phase II of EVD response plan, two new isolation units are being considered for Maridi and Tambura. UNICEF and its partners have reached approximately 300,000 people through hygiene promotion and EVD messaging in public places.

WASH in Schools and Health Care Facilities:

UNICEF continues to scale up its institutional WASH programme in 2019. Schools, health care facilities and nutrition OTP patient facilities (Outreach Therapeutic feeding Programmes) underserved with WASH services are

prioritized. Latrine blocks for girls in beneficiary schools include a change room for menstrual hygiene management, helping girls stay in school. As a result, so far 17,473 individuals have benefited from WASH in health care facilities and another 66,038 in schools.

Urban WASH response:

The construction of the water supply systems for urban and peri-urban communities of Juba is currently at 35% completion. The water supply system is designed to serve a population of 50,000 living in Juba and 45,000 of people living in the PoC sites.

UNICEF and its development partners continue to support to increase safe water supply through construction/upgrading of urban water systems in Yei, Torit and Yambio. Water and sanitation committees have been established in beneficiary communities and trained to ensure sustainability of systems.

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- DFID
- GIZ
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- OFDA
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- USAID
- US Fund for UNICEF
- German Government

Funding required in 2019: **US\$ 45.6**
Funding available in 2019: **US\$ 4.6M**

89.9% funding gap

* Beneficiaries figure adjusted from previous report to improve quality of monitoring progress as well as activity that rollover between reporting periods

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More information on the situation in South Sudan and UNICEF response, including the latest situation reports, can be found at <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/>

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