

HEALTH

December, 2019

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Situation overview

Health services in South Sudan remain extremely constrained and, where functional, have focused on ad hoc services intermittently accessed by communities with women and children the worst affected. The country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world (789 deaths per 100,000 live births), as well as a mortality rate for children aged under five years of 96 per 1000 live births, with over 65 per cent occurring soon after birth or the first year of life. Most of these deaths, however, are preventable.

Family healthcare practices and health seeking behaviors are poor, as reflected by late consultations, high levels of home deliveries and poor hygiene practices. Social mobilization activities with comprehensive messaging are being scaled up to sustain community demand for health services and appropriate care practices. Prior to the crisis, total health sector staffing stood at 10 per cent of actual need. Approximately 80 per cent of health services are provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with only 20 per cent provided by the government.

A total of 3,043 suspected measles cases were reported, 112 confirmed IgM positive leading to 23 deaths, resulting in a case fatality rate of 1 per cent in 19 counties and 5 Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs).

Active measles transmission is ongoing in Ikotos, Budi, Aweil South and Maban. Reactive vaccination campaigns are being implemented in these counties to control the outbreak spread.

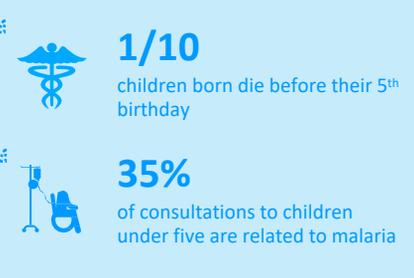
Ongoing challenges include poor road networks, necessitating the use of costly charter flights to transport supplies to some locations. With the dry season comes the opening of transport routes, but also increased likelihood of ambushes and looting, constraining the prepositioning of supplies. Rains during the wet season leave approximately 60 per cent of the limited road network in the country inaccessible.

Impact of the conflict

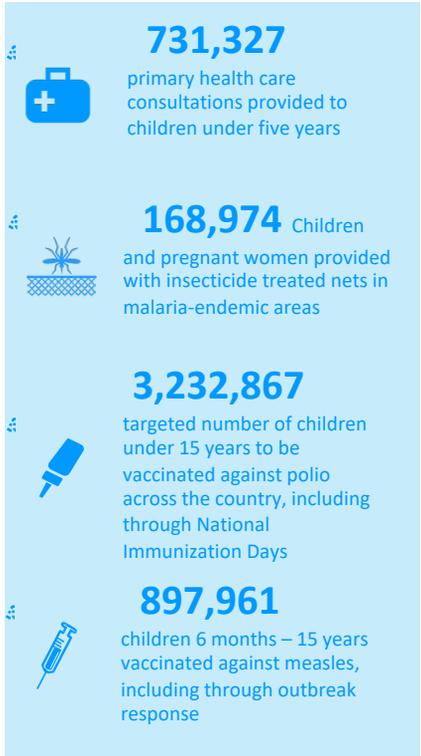
The ongoing crisis has forced large numbers of women and children to move to inaccessible areas where basic lifesaving services are unavailable.

UNICEF remains committed to emergency lifesaving preventive, and curative activities, and has been at the forefront of responding to infectious disease outbreaks. However, insecurity, inaccessibility and climatic conditions have affected the timeliness of response due to limited air services to move supplies and staff to remote or affected areas, leading to interruptions in immunization campaigns and outreach activities.

Situation of children



UNICEF and partner results





Primary health care consultations and morbidity:

As of November 2019, UNICEF and implementing partners have provided 1,952,370 primary healthcare consultations, including 731,327 to children under five years. Among these, 1,815,469 consultations were provided at a health facility, 45,046 through the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM), 10,978 through integrated Community Case Management and 80,877 through community outreach activities. Of those seen, 254,470 were diagnosed with malaria, 147,693 with acute respiratory infections and 118,490 with diarrhoea. UNICEF supports partners through supply provision, operational costs, and technical assistance.

Malaria response:

Malaria control efforts are ongoing. Activities include provision of antimalarial drugs, rapid diagnostic tests, and long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), as well as vector control activities. As of October 2019, 152,556 children and pregnant women received LLITNs.

Maternal and newborn health and PMTCT services:

From January-November 2019, a total of 113,834 pregnant women received their first antenatal care services while 48,933 attended recommended antenatal fourth visits and 21,988 deliveries took place with assistance from skilled birth attendants. Meanwhile, 41,758 pregnant women were counselled and tested for HIV; 846 were tested positive and 591 newly started antiretroviral therapy (ART). In addition, by Oct 2019, a total of 1,386

adolescents were counselled and tested for HIV, 104 were positive and commenced antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Polio vaccination campaigns:

The final result from April-May 2019 national immunization days (NIDS), shows 102.4 percent of 3,157,577 targeted children aged 0-59 months were vaccinated.

Measles:

While adequate vaccines and commodities are in place to support the reactive measles vaccination campaigns, responses are being constrained by funding gaps and INGO capacity. Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing to address this gap, which is being led by WHO. Since January-September 2019, a total of 897,961 children aged 6 months to 15 years have been vaccinated for measles.

Cold chain:

As of September 2019, there are 707 functional cold chain units across the country. Forty-two sets of cold chain equipment, including two generators were installed in Equatoria region to increase vaccine storage capacities, supporting both routine immunization and upcoming mass vaccination campaigns. One hundred seventeen (117) health workers at county and health facilities are trained on Effective Vaccine Management.

Meningitis:

A meningitis vaccination campaign was implemented in Maban refugee camps (Batil, Doro, Gandrassa and Kaya) in March 2019, during which 29,096 out of 31,286 (93%) people were

vaccinated. A reactive yellow fever vaccination campaign targeting 19,578 individuals aged 9 months to 65 years in Sakure Payam, Nzara County was conducted with 19,981 (102%) individuals vaccinated. UNICEF provided support for vaccine and cold chain management and social mobilization.

Ebola Preparation:

UNICEF continue to support the Government in preparedness activities for Ebola through active participation in the technical working groups, taskforce meetings at state and national levels. UNICEF is also provided cold chain management in the ongoing Ebola vaccination campaign for targeted frontline workers.

With thanks to our generous donors, including:

- Canada
- Consolidated Funds from NatComs
- Czech Republic
- GAVI Vaccine Alliance
- Germany
- Global - Health/HIV AIDS
- Global - Thematic Humanitarian Resp
- Italy
- Permanent Mission of Slovakia
- Kuwait
- SIDA
- The United Kingdom
- UNAIDS
- UNDP – MDTF
- UNDP USA
- UNICEF-Saudi Arabia
- UNOCHA

Funding required in 2019

US\$ 11,201,300

Funding available in 2019

US\$ 4,863,577

**57%
funding
gap**

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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/>