



Education in South Sudan

Briefing note


Major developments, October - December 2020:

In response to the closure of all educational institutions due to COVID-19, UNICEF supported the roll-out of the radio distance learning program, initiated by the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) in April 2020. By December 2020, over 1.5 million students were reached with the radio lessons on South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC) and Radio Miraya. UNICEF signed agreements with community radio stations to rebroadcast the lessons in areas not served by SSBC and Radio Miraya. With the financial support of USAID, UNICEF procured and distributed 32,000 solar powered radios to over 128,000 most disadvantaged children who have no access to radios at home. From May 2020, a total of 600 radio lessons have been broadcast and 460 recorded lesson made available for rebroadcasting in areas beyond the reach of SSBC and Radio Miraya.

UNICEF actively contributed to the reopening of schools for candidate classes in October 2020. UNICEF provided technical support and essential supplies for the safe reopening of schools. The supplies included educational materials and recreation kits, dignity kits for adolescent girls, water tanks, buckets, handwashing facilities, chlorine, soap and face masks for students, teachers and nonteaching workers.

In this reporting period, UNICEF supported and validated the pre-service training syllabus and curriculum; finalization of test specifications and blueprint for examinations for Primary 8 and Senior 4 classes; and completion of the School Inspection Framework. Construction of a new office block at the MoGEI commenced and 4,056 teachers completed professional development activities on Peace Education, Conflict Sensitivity, or Conflict Transformation.



 **1,500,000**
million students tuned
into live radio lessons

 **32,000**
solar power radio sets
procured for the most
disadvantaged children

887
teachers and caregivers
trained on basic pedagogy
and learner-centered
methodologies

Major challenges:

- Significant increase in the number of out-of-school children, from 2.2 million in 2018 to 2.8 million in 2020. The anticipated return of refugees from neighbouring countries will further exacerbate the out of school children crisis.
- Poor access to distance learning due to limited resources and lack of radios among disadvantaged households.
- Increased risk of sexual abuse and violence against children due to not being in school.
- Severe impact of travel restrictions and COVID-19 prevention measures on the capacity of UNICEF and Implementing Partners to provide education services across the country.
- Increased risk of drop-out and non-return of qualified teachers.
- Inaccessibility and limited provision of education opportunities due to insecurity and weather-related factors (like floods) led to increased cost of operations (supply and logistics).

Solutions:

- Support Government led “Back to Learning” campaign to increase the re-enrolment and retention of out-of-school children and ensure delivery of essential education services, including hard to reach locations.
- Support children to return to school and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s long-term learning.
- Support MoGEI in coordination of a multisectoral effort with Health, WASH and Protection sectors to reopen schools safely.
- Increase access to education for hard to reach children after the reopening of schools.
- Mobilize efforts and resources to enhance teacher capacity to provide quality teaching and measurable outcomes for children.

Funding situation:

2020 UNICEF South Sudan education appeal:

US\$ 42,8 M

Current funding gap:

63 %

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Situation snapshot:



2.8 million
children out of school



63 %
teachers without formal
training (unqualified)



1/3 schools
damaged or destroyed

UNICEF targets for 2020:



729,000
out-of-school children
provided with access to
education in emergencies.



5,500 teachers and
caregivers trained on basic
pedagogy and learner-
centered methodologies.



322 classrooms built
and rehabilitated.

UNICEF's generous Education donors



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