



Education in South Sudan

Briefing note

Major developments, July - September 2021:

In July 2021, UNICEF completed a nationwide verification exercise of 47,940 teachers (26,118 male and 21,822 female) teachers in preparation for a one-time payment of teacher's incentives to attract and sustain teachers in schools. With the support of the European Union funded Outreach Programme, UNICEF has paid incentives to 34,854 eligible teachers across South Sudan for three months.

In August 2021, with the support from UNICEF, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction completed the distribution of 2.7 million copies of new curriculum textbooks for even grades to all primary and secondary schools in the country, with the objective to reach a textbook ratio of one book for one student. An additional 2.2 million textbooks are currently being reprinted for odd grades (1.6 million textbooks) and even grades (800,000 textbooks). They will be ready for distribution to all schools by December 2021. UNICEF provided a total of 19,000 teachers with training and orientation on the use of the new textbooks. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to develop instructional materials for Arabic language and Islamic Religious Studies for primary and secondary schools.

Furthermore, through the integrated education and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programme, UNICEF is working closely with the the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to drill 45 boreholes in 45 schools, in four states. The boreholes will ensure access to clean drinking water in targeted schools. Lack of drinking water in schools was identified as one of the main causes of school absenteeism and dropout.



2,055,373
students to benefit
from the newly
printed textbooks



19,000 teachers
completed orientation
training on the new
textbooks



600 Copies of teacher
training course materials
printed and distributed

Major challenges:

- Significant increase in the number of out-of-school children, from 2.2 million in 2018 to 2.8 million in 2021.
- The voluntary return of refugees from neighbouring countries, especially those returning from Uganda due to protracted closure of schools, will further exacerbate the pressure on existing school facilities.
- School closures due to COVID-19 and non-payments of salary for teachers increased risk of drop-out and non-return of both qualified and nonqualified teachers.
- Inaccessibility due to insecurity and weather-related factors like floods.
- High costs to reach areas difficult to access.

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 the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) in coordination of a multi-sectoral effort with Health, WASH and Protection sectors to help schools remain open and function 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 learning outcomes for children.

Funding situation:

2021 UNICEF Education appeal:

US\$ 48.8 M

Current funding gap:

6.8 %

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Situation snapshot



2.8 million
children out of school



63 %
teachers without formal
training (unqualified)



1/3 schools are
damaged or destroyed



32,000 solar power
radio procured and distributed
for distance learning

UNICEF targets for 2021:



770,000 out-of-school
children provided with
access to education in
emergencies



4,000 teachers and
caregivers trained on basic
pedagogy and learner-
centered methodologies



500 classrooms built and
rehabilitated

UNICEF’s generous Education donors:

SSH F South Sudan
Humanitarian
Fund

GPE Transforming
Education

United Nations
CERF Central
Emergency
Response
Fund



KFW



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

