



Education in South Sudan

Briefing note

Major developments, October - December 2021:

In October 2021, with funding provided by the European Union through the Outreach project, UNICEF paid incentives to a cumulative total of 34,312 primary school teachers who had resumed teaching when schools reopened in May 2021. The one-off payment covered the months of May, June and July.

During the quarter, UNICEF provided continuous support to the National Examinations Council to develop examination blueprints and examination items as part of strengthening the administration of public examinations system aligned to the new curriculum.

With funding from GPE, AFDB and the EU, UNICEF provided equipment and staffing to strengthen the Education Management and Human Resource Information Systems in the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI).

UNICEF continued to support MOGEI to deliver radio distance learning broadcasts in collaboration with South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Miraya and Africa Educational Trust. The broadcasts complement in person learning and also support teachers to deliver the new curriculum including on the use of the new curriculum textbooks. UNICEF has already distributed over 4.9 million textbooks across the country.

Furthermore, through the integrated education and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programme, UNICEF jointly with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction started to drill 48 boreholes in 48 schools with support from the Global Partnership for Education, GPE.



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



4.9
million textbooks
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, has exacerbated the pressure on existing school facilities.
- Non-payments of salary for teachers increases risk of quitting teaching and losing both qualified and nonqualified teachers.
- Inaccessibility due to insecurity and weather-related factors like floods impacts timely implementation of interventions.
- High costs to reach areas difficult to access and high cost of doing business in general impacts effective delivery of programme targets.
- 2042 schools operating under trees, 1134 schools are temporary structures, 848 are semi-permanent and only 1115 schools are permanent.

Solutions:

- Continue support for the 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 in 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 to remain open and function safely throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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.
- Comprehensive collection of education data through the national education census 2021.

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

Funding situation:

2021 UNICEF Education appeal:

US\$ 48.8 M

Current funding gap:

6.8 %



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SSHF South Sudan Humanitarian Fund



Funded by the European Union



UNICEF's generous Education donors:

For more information, please contact:

Hamida R. Lasseko
Country Representative
hramadhani@unicef.org

Yves Willemot
Chief of Communication
ywillemot@unicef.org

Jennifer Schulz
Donor Relations Manager
jschulz@unicef.org

