

## Health in South Sudan

### Briefing note

#### Major developments, October - December 2021:

During this quarter curative consultations were provided to 394,161 people mostly (through the partnership with the World Bank) in Jonglei and Upper Nile States including 205,215 children under five years old. 65,245 of these children were treated for malaria, 40,082 for acute respiratory infections and 37,516 for diarrhea. A total of 1,108 children, aged 6 months to 15 years, were vaccinated against measles through reactive measles vaccination campaigns. A total of 26,147 long lasting treated mosquito nets were distributed during the quarter. UNICEF ensures continuity of essential health services in health facilities in Jonglei State and Upper Nile States, through COVID-19 triage and adherence to strict Infection Protection and Control measures.

UNICEF is supporting the humanitarian scale-up response in the most food insecure counties by providing primary healthcare services, along with providing routine immunization and outreach services. In these counties UNICEF and partners reached 87,563 people through community consultations supported by the Boma Health Initiative (BHI) programme since the beginning of the year.

UNICEF has paired up with Malaria Consortium to launch the mass distribution of 861,919 Long Lasting Impregnated Nets in Jonglei State to reach at least 85% of households and reduce the morbidity and mortality related to malaria among the population, one of the main killers in South Sudan.

UNICEF continues to support routine immunization services by ensuring availability of vaccines and injection supplies, through strengthening the immunization supply chain nationwide and by enhancing access via outreach and mobile strategies. As a result of these efforts, 105,676 children under 1 year were vaccinated with Penta 3 during this quarter (447,852 cumulatively from January to December 2021), thereby protecting children against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B and Hemophilus influenzae type B. Similarly, 92,838 children under 1 year had been vaccinated against measles (433,263 cumulatively from January to December 2021).

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country. UNICEF provided both technical and financial support to ensure smooth implementation of COVID-19 vaccination in South Sudan. So far, three rounds of vaccination have been rolled out successfully (first two rounds with AstraZeneca followed by one round with J & J vaccines), reaching 132,232 people. UNICEF supported with the joint national planning, training of vaccinators, distribution of vaccines and provision of vaccination services. UNICEF also supports the Government through communication activities that help create a demand by the population for the vaccination.



**888,358**

consultations were provided to children under five mostly in Jonglei and Upper Nile States Jan–Dec 2021



**433,263**

children vaccinated against measles Jan – Dec 2021



**128,698**

families received mosquito nets in Jonglei and Upper Nile States Jan – Dec 2021

## Major challenges:

- Poor road networks necessitate the use of costly charter flights to transport health supplies to some locations.
- Rains during the wet season leave approximately 60 per cent of the limited road network in the country inaccessible. With the dry season comes the opening of transport routes, but also increased likelihood of ambushes and looting, constraining the prepositioning of supplies.
- Limited capacity of field implementation partners, including a significant shortage of skilled health workers.
- Funding gaps for operational costs for vaccination campaigns and some of the routine vaccines.
- Poor health seeking behaviors in the population.
- Vandalization of cold chain equipment by armed groups.

## Solutions:

- Through a continued partnership with several implementing partners, drugs, supplies, and equipment are being prepositioned during the dry season to ensure continuous delivery of services even during the rainy season, when many health facilities are inaccessible.
- Intensifying supervision and monitoring visits during the dry season also ensure improved quality of care.
- An agile mix of service modalities is being used to expand equitable access to services, including static services (health facilities), outreaches and mobile services and community health services through the roll out of the Boma Health Initiative (BHI).
- Mass campaign approach to distribute long lasting impregnated mosquito nets to households in Jonglei State.
- Coordination within the health cluster and mobilization efforts are ongoing to address the vaccination funding gaps.

## Situation snapshot:



1/10

children die before the age of five



789

maternal deaths per 100,000 live births



44 %

routine immunization rate

## UNICEF targets 2021:



818,000

consultations provided to children under five



70% of all children

under 12 months receiving 3 doses of the Penta 3 vaccine



100,000

families provided with mosquito nets

## Funding situation:

2021 UNICEF Health appeal

US\$ 6 M

Current funding gap:

6 %

## UNICEF's generous Health donors:



Canada



TheGlobalFund



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