

Health in South Sudan

Briefing note

Major developments, January-March 2020:

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners have provided curative consultations to **285,478 people**, including **103,890** children under five. 37,667 of these children were diagnosed with and treated for malaria, 21,727 for acute respiratory infections, 16,787 for diarrhoea. In addition, **157,686** children aged 6 months-15 years were immunized against measles during reactive measles vaccination campaigns in response to the measles outbreaks in South Sudan and Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) missions.

UNICEF supported routine immunization services by ensuring uninterrupted availability of vaccines and injection supplies through strengthening the immunization supply chain and enhanced access through outreach and mobile strategies. As a result of the latter, 8,133 children under 12 months was vaccinated with Penta 3 during the first three months of the year. A total of 15,147 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito to help prevent malaria were provided to children and pregnant women in the same period.

7,616 pregnant women received their 4th antenatal care visit during the reporting period and 3,918 deliveries was attended by skilled birth attendants. Meanwhile, 10,576 pregnant women with unknown HIV status were counselled and tested for HIV; 187 tested positive and 115 started antiretroviral therapy (ART). UNICEF's health section continued to support the prevention and preparedness activities for Ebola and COVID-19.



103,890

consultations provided to children under five



8,133

children receiving 3 doses of the penta 3 vaccine



7,574

families provided with mosquito nets

Follow the latest developments online:



Major challenges:

- Ongoing challenges include poor road networks, necessitating the use of costly charter flights to transport health 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.
- While adequate vaccines and commodities are in place to support the reactive measles vaccination campaigns, responses are being constrained by funding gaps and international NGO capacity.
- Lack of skilled health workers in South Sudan
- Poor health seeking behavior in the population

Solutions:

- 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 community health services through the roll out of the *Boma Health Initiative* (BHI) thanks to the World Bank-UNICEF Health partnership.
- Coordination within the health cluster and mobilization efforts are ongoing to address the measles vaccination gap.

Situation snapshot:



1/10

children die before the age of five



1,150

maternal deaths per 100,000 live births



44 %

routine immunization rate

UNICEF targets 2020:



910,000

consultations provided to children under five



70 % of all children under

12 months receiving 3 doses of the penta 3 vaccine



170,000 families provided with mosquito nets

Funding situation:

UNICEF South Sudan health appeal for 2020

US\$ 6 M

Current funding gap: 6 %

For more information, please contact:

Mohamed Ag Ayoya
Country Representative
mayoya@unicef.org

Yves Willemot
Chief of Communication
ywillemot@unicef.org

Jennifer Banda
Donor Relations Manager
jebanda@unicef.org

UNICEF's generous Health donors

Canada

Gavi
The Vaccine Alliance

German
Cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEITUNG

ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

القائمية الكويتية للتعاون
Kuwait Fund

UKaid
from the British people

Sweden
Sverige

The Czech Republic and
the Slovak Republic