

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in South Sudan

## Briefing note

### Major developments, January-March 2020:

In this period, the WASH programme provided **165,913** people with access to safe drinking water through water trucking, construction of new and the rehabilitation of non-functional water facilities. In addition, UNICEF continued supporting the construction of the water supply systems for urban and peri-urban communities in the capital Juba. The system is currently at **70%** completion and will serve a population of 70,000 living in the city and additional 33,000 vulnerable people living in the Protection of civilian (PoC) sites. Concurrently, the construction and upgrading of similar water projects are ongoing in the towns of Yei, Yambio and Torit.

A total of **4,728** individuals were provided with access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction and rehabilitation of emergency communal latrines and household latrines. In relatively stable communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria states, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programmes are implemented as the approach to improve sanitation. A total of **75,297** people within the targeted population were reached with key hygiene promotion messages and **107,570** individuals have benefited from the distribution of supplies and WASH Non-Food Items (NFI) including jerrycans, buckets, soap and water treatment chemicals.

As part of Ebola and COVID-19 prevention and response, UNICEF South Sudan is co-leading together with the Ministry of Health the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH efforts. This includes working in health facilities, ensuring frontline health workers know how to protect themselves from the virus, equipping them with essential protection gear and setting up handwashing stations.



**165,913**

people with access to safe water



**4,728**

people received access to improved sanitation



**75,297**

people reached with hygiene promotion

Follow the latest developments online:



## Major challenges:

- National access to basic water is at 40 per cent and the challenges in the water sector remain critical on the humanitarian, recovery and development front.
- Poor maintenance of the limited facilities, and weak government institutions at national and state levels, contribute to inequities in access to WASH services.
- The WASH sector – including UNICEF’s WASH programme - is also facing serious funding shortfalls which has significantly affected service delivery at scale. Without additional funding the country will not be able to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Moreover, as the impact of serious droughts and floods, linked to the effect of climate change, are creating an increased demand for WASH services.
- In addition, the deteriorated economic situation continues to be volatile, leading to high cost of service delivery.

## Solutions:

- UNICEF continued to use different approaches and interventions to deliver WASH services including the use of private contractors and NGOs for the rehabilitation of water supply systems in major towns, the construction of new water facilities and machine drilling and the rehabilitation of malfunctioning boreholes as well as the setting up of surface water treatment systems where possible.
- Use of Cash or Water Vouchers in accessing water services, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure including sanitation services (i.e. desludging).
- In addition, UNICEF supports the strengthening of the capacity of registered pump mechanics Associations and manual drillers Associations, particularly in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States. They support WASH committees with the necessary technical expertise for the construction of water points through manual drilling technology.

## Situation snapshot:



**40 %** of population have access to safe water



**10 %** of population have access to improved sanitation



**61 %** of population practise open defecation

## UNICEF targets for 2020:



**817,000** people received access to safe water



**303,500** people received access to improved sanitation



**1,454,000** people reached with hygiene promotion

## Funding situation:

2020 UNICEF South Sudan WASH appeal:

**US\$ 45,5 million**

Current funding gap: **89 %**

## UNICEF’s generous WASH donors



## 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