One in three people in Sudan do not have access to basic drinking water and a similar proportion does not have access to latrines and practice open defecation. Lack of access to water and sanitation facilities impacts whole communities, especially children and women as it not only hampers their health but also affects their safety and wellbeing.

The disproportionate responsibility women and girls bear as primary users, providers, and managers of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) at the household level is yet to be matched by a commensurate representation in WASH-related decision-making. While women’s participation has long been encouraged, this engagement has a long way to go to be translated into better services for themselves and empowering them to take decisions at all levels.

Girls and women are particularly vulnerable in conflict and post-conflict settings and the lack of water and sanitation services in these areas is often restricting their involvement in daily life activities and impacting their long-term growth and development. Water fetching is a daily, predominantly a female-oriented, activity and the construction of new water points can reduce travel time and ensure safer environments for girls and women.

For example, gender-based violence remains a risk when girls and women collect water or use latrines in the night. By focusing on safe access to WASH services, women and children will not only be protected from violence but also from malnutrition and disease (e.g., clean water and toilets will help prevent diarrhea and communicable diseases).

The lack of gender-sensitive bathroom facilities in schools is a major cause of girls not attending classes or dropping-out of school. Many children do not live near accessible schools and the construction of new classrooms as well as water and sanitation facilities (with separate toilets for girls and boys) in schools will allow girls and boys to go to school safely. Understanding of menstrual hygiene will inform girls and boys about their bodies, removing the confusion, shame and isolation that often results from misunderstandings.
UNICEF and partners collaborate to ensure children and their communities have access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Six: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

**BASIC WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL**
To enable universal access to basic water and basic sanitation for all (SDG 6), UNICEF works with federal/state partners (Ministries of Irrigation and Water Resources, Health, Education and civil society) to influence sector-wide thinking; implement water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in communities, schools and health centres; and strengthen systems and governance structures at sub-national and community levels.

UNICEF supported the development of the SDG 6.1 and 6.2 plans; the national and state roadmaps to eliminate open defecation in Sudan; the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and the online WASH Information Management System. UNICEF-supported interventions reached more than 2.3 million people with safe water and another 1.5 million with basic sanitation in vulnerable rural areas in both humanitarian and developmental settings, enabling water security and climate change adaptation. By engaging communities, UNICEF supports participatory planning and fosters community cohesion and peace. In the last two years, 680 communities became Open Defecation Free (ODF).

**CHALLENGE**
One third of the Sudan population practices open defecation and do not have any form of sanitation facility, another third lacks access to basic drinking water. This disproportionally affects women and children. Investing in basic water and sanitation for all, will prevent children dying from water-borne diseases and allow them to grow up healthy and strong.

Annually between 1.5 million and 3 million people need to be reached with access to basic water and basic sanitation respectively - to realise its vision of ‘basic water’ and ‘basic sanitation’ for all by 2030.

USD 5.8 billion is needed between now and 2030 to accelerate coverage of water and sanitation services in Sudan.

With USD 1 million we can support a village with access to basic water and sanitation facilities.

With USD 175,000 we can support a school with a solarised water supply system, gender segregated toilets and handwashing facilities.

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