



THE FACTS

- » Only 34% of the rural population in South Sudan has access to a basic water service.
- » A mere 9% of the rural population has access to a basic sanitation service.
- » 73% of the rural population still practices open defecation.

—WHO/UNICEF,
Joint Monitoring
Programme (JMP), 2020

About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members, 95% of whom work in their own countries, work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 technical WASH staff members guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged a leader in its global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone (2016 to 2021), we have reached nearly 22.5 million people with clean water, 15.7 million with improved sanitation, and 28.4 million with hygiene promotion.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines our intent to increase impact in priority countries, including South Sudan, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

WASH in South Sudan

World Vision's work in South Sudan started in 1989 in Khartoum, providing emergency assistance to people displaced by the war. After South Sudan gained independence in 2011, World Vision relocated its office to Juba and began recovery and development activities. When armed conflict broke out in late 2013, World Vision initiated emergency response programs serving displaced and vulnerable people.

Today, World Vision South Sudan (WVSS) operates in four major zones of the country (Juba, Upper Nile, Warrap, and Western Equatoria), in partnership with national, state, and county government ministries; decentralized government agencies; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); national and state WASH clusters; faith-based organizations; and communities. Improving the well-being of children continues to be the focus of everything we do. WVSS's multisectoral strategy focuses on catalytic interventions in the sectors of WASH; health and nutrition; food security and economic resilience; education; peacebuilding; and child protection. This strategy is realized through a staff of 1,075 people and an annual national budget of \$108 million from local revenue, as well as public and private grants.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: SOUTH SUDAN

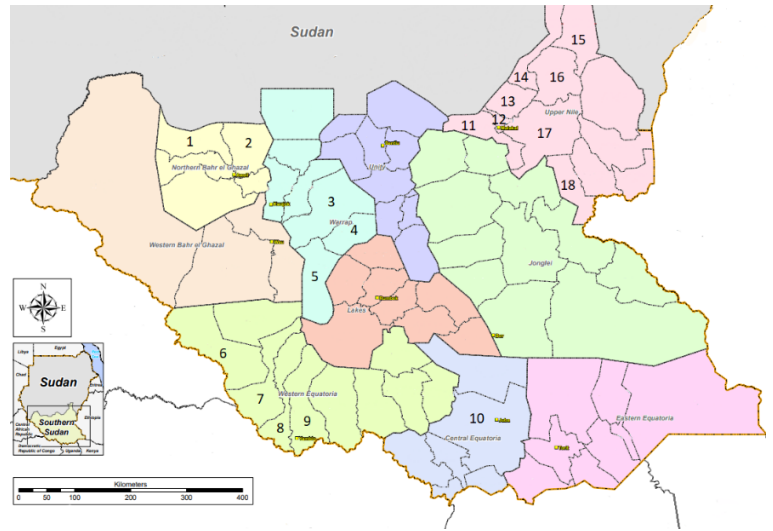
WVSS began its WASH interventions in Yambio, Western Equatoria state, in 1995. Later, WASH work expanded to Central Equatoria, Warrap (Gogrial and Tonj), Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Western Equatoria states. From 2018 to 2021, 650,000 people have gained access to clean water; approximately 175,000 people have been reached with sanitation services through the construction of latrines in communities, 122 schools, and 141 healthcare facilities (HCFs); and 644,000 people have been reached with hygiene interventions. All of this was achieved through close collaboration with the health, nutrition, and education sectors.

World Vision’s community-based approach and 32-year presence in South Sudan gives us the longevity and experience to take quality, sustainable WASH interventions to scale. Sustainable, equitable access to and management of clean water, dignified sanitation, and appropriate hygiene behaviors contribute to World Vision’s ultimate goal of improved child well-being outcomes.

The South Sudan WASH Program aligns with the WVSS FY21-FY25 National Strategy, which aims to improve the well-being of 1 million children through the integration of WASH into other sector projects in 18 counties across five states (Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr Ghazal, Upper Nile, Warrap, and Western Equatoria). This strategy is realized through a WASH technical team of 38 (including five women) and an annual WASH budget of more than \$5 million. The map at right provides an overview of World Vision’s geographic footprint for WASH in South Sudan.

Five-year targets (2021-2025) of the South Sudan WASH Program include the following:

- 830,454 people gaining access to safer, more accessible drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- 172 schools gaining access to clean drinking water on site
- 221 HCFs gaining access to water on premises, providing water essential for cleaning and handwashing



Northern Bahr el Ghazal state

- 1) Aweil North
- 2) Aweil East

Warrap state

- 3) Tonj North
- 4) Tonj East
- 5) Tonj South

Western Equatoria state

- 6) Tambura
- 7) Ezo
- 8) Nzara
- 9) Yambio

Central Equatoria state

- 10) Juba

Upper Nile state

- 11) Panyikang
- 12) Malakal
- 13) Fashoda
- 14) Manyo
- 15) Renk
- 16) Melut
- 17) Baliet
- 18) Ulang

Program Approaches

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and HCFs, summarizing capacities and achievements over the past five years, and presenting highlights of our upcoming plans in South Sudan.

Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

The WVSS WASH Program provides integrated, innovative, and inclusive WASH programming. Behavior-change practices and the themes of gender and disability inclusion are integrated across all intervention areas.



Nyanyok Majok collects water from a communal water point in Malakal.

Water Supply and Quality

Since the inception of World Vision’s WASH programming in South Sudan, bringing life-changing clean water to the forgotten, the marginalized, and the vulnerable has been central to our mission and organizational identity. This distinctive, unwavering focus has guided WVSS as we reached 1.56 million people in communities, 120 schools, and 98 HCFs with clean water from 2016 to 2020. This was accomplished by constructing mechanized boreholes, surface water treatment systems, protected springs, and boreholes with manual pumps, as well as rehabilitating boreholes with hand pumps, mechanized boreholes, and nonfunctional water treatment systems. WVSS also extended a 7,500-meter pipeline to Jelhak, Mollbogk, and

Renk in collaboration with the State Department of Physical Infrastructure in the Upper Nile.

Importantly, World Vision embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water ladder, supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure while strengthening the systems that sustain water supply and ensure quality.

Facilitate universal services coverage

The Republic of South Sudan government and its development partners (U.N. agencies, Department for International Development, and USAID) are actively working to achieve the ambitious SDG targets for universal and equitable access to drinking water for all by 2030. To support this government effort, World Vision is collaborating with its partners to create plans to reach universal water service coverage in multiple counties. WVSS is collaborating with the State Ministry of Housing, Lands, and Public Utilities (Department of Water and Sanitation Services); the WASH cluster; International Organization for Migration; UNICEF; Medair; Medicine Sans Frontier; and Humanitarian Pool Fund to develop and disseminate a state-wide Universal WASH Master Plan as a road map to reach an estimated 4.7 million people with basic drinking water services by 2030.

GENDER INTEGRATION IN WASH

To address gender inequities, World Vision’s WASH program ensures the engagement of women, girls, men, and boys in the design of facilities and planning, implementation, operation, and maintenance of WASH programs in South Sudan so no person or group of people are excluded from enjoying their rights. To bolster female participation, WVSS encourages that at least 50% of water management committees, water operators, and hygiene promoters are female.

The South Sudan WASH Program constructs and rehabilitates water systems and installs water points close to households to reduce the walking distances to collect water and to create opportunities for women and girls to spend time in educational or income-generating activities.

Safeguard sustainable management practices

Ensuring the long-term functionality of water systems is a major challenge in South Sudan. Therefore, WVSS has doubled-down on strengthening management systems and building evidence for which interventions are the most effective. WVSS partners with the Department of Infrastructure Urban/Rural

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: SOUTH SUDAN

Water Supplies to rehabilitate dilapidated and nonfunctioning water supply systems and to strengthen local capacity. WVSS builds the capacity of government staff on WASH infrastructure operations and maintenance, establishes and trains water-user committees, and coaches them during supportive supervision visits.

To enhance the profitability and sustainability of water systems, the WASH program promotes a Private Public Partnership approach in WASH interventions. In FY21, the WASH program trained and equipped 52 water technicians on water treatment plant operation and maintenance. In addition, dedicated WASH committees consisting of school administrators and students were established and trained to operate and maintain water systems at 280 schools.

Improve water quality outcomes

WVSS helps the government provide drinking water that meets World Health Organization and the government of South Sudan's water quality standards. The WVSS WASH Program conducts timely routine water quality monitoring and analysis (physiochemical and bacteriological) at the water source and household levels. Every new water system is tested and analyzed in collaboration with technical staff from the Directorate of Water and Sanitation Services before service to the community begins. Furthermore, the WASH program shares water-quality monitoring data with the WASH cluster at the state level. The WASH cluster improves coordination among WASH providers to assist people affected by emergencies. The cluster supports field operations with tools, guidance, and capacity building to coordinate and manage the WASH response effectively.

World Vision's 14-country study of WASH service progress demonstrated the continued challenge faced by the sector in supporting water systems that deliver water free from bacteria and chemical contamination. WVSS conducts awareness sessions on water quality through safe water handling from source to point of use and water treatment technologies. Messages promote the selection of appropriate containers for water collection, transport, and storage of drinking water, and the need to separate drinking water from that which is used for other purposes such as cleaning, laundry, and bathing. These interventions have greatly increased community knowledge on how to treat drinking water at the household level, helping reduce water-related diseases such as diarrhea, especially among children younger than 5.

Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision embraces a multipronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services, simultaneously working to



The water operator at the Malakal water system cleans solar panels.

bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies; identify and fill supply gaps and inequities; and engender behavior change through people-centered approaches. Some of the approaches used include Community-Led Total Sanitation, Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, Sanitation Marketing, and targeted subsidies for sanitation. In addition, barrier analysis and Designing for Behavior Change are used for promoting healthy hygiene at the community level.

WVSS trains and engages community health workers and faith leaders (pastors, imams, chiefs, and other traditional authorities) on sanitation and appropriate hygiene behavior messaging so the trainees can communicate messages such as handwashing with soap and water at critical times, safe water and food storage and handling, and personal and environmental hygiene in communities, schools, and HCFs. For example, over the last six years, WVSS trained 251 faith leaders on sanitation and hygiene messages to share with their congregations and communities. These trained leaders were instrumental in improving latrine coverage and handwashing rates in communities.

In 2021, WVSS helped 39,516 people in 7,136 households gain access to sanitation services while also reaching 94,790 people with contextualized hygiene promotion on critical topics such as handwashing, food hygiene, and safe water storage and handling practices. As a result, 21,745 households constructed handwashing facilities equipped with soap and water. The WASH program also built JMP-standard handwashing facilities in 65 schools and 48 HCFs. Key aspects of WVSS's sanitation and hygiene programming are as follows.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: SOUTH SUDAN

Strengthen sanitation enterprises

Building on demand-creation efforts, WVSS strengthens the capacity of sanitation entrepreneurs through business development services and promotes the expansion of product offerings. This is aimed at bringing robust sanitation facilities closer to communities. To address inequalities in sanitation access, WVSS uses existing data on community vulnerability and government guidelines to identify and support vulnerable households with robust latrine facilities, thus leaving no one behind in the achievement of SDG 6.2 (to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation by 2030).

Focus on schools and healthcare facilities

The South Sudan WASH Program conducts needs assessments to select the type and design of sanitation and hygiene infrastructure jointly with the ministries of Education and Health along with the management committees of the respective institutions. The WASH program constructs gender-separated latrines with facilities convenient for people with limited mobility and with areas for girls to manage menstrual hygiene. In 2021, the WVSS WASH Program constructed inclusive latrines in 41 schools and 47 HCFs. The program also constructed 28 bathing rooms for women to be able to clean themselves in privacy after delivering a baby.

The WASH program also focuses on children as community-wide change agents. School WASH committees represent a powerful means for community-wide awareness raising. WVSS adopted a Child Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

approach in schools to ensure children are engaged in championing good hygiene and sanitation practices at an early age. The program also supported the formation of School Hygiene Health Clubs and trained club members and lead teachers on sanitation and healthy hygiene practices. In 2021, the WASH program helped form 67 School Hygiene Health Clubs that collectively trained 708 student sanitation and hygiene champions who serve as agents of change in the schools and their communities at large.

Governance and Financing

To improve and sustain service of the new and rehabilitated WASH infrastructure, the WVSS WASH Program focuses on strengthening community-based management structures and local government capacity. Embracing a systems-based approach to build sustainable and resilient WASH solutions is linked to the capacities of local stakeholders and national governments as critical components of the system. Thus, World Vision works with the government to create an enabling environment where local and district governments, NGOs, and civil society leverage additional financing for the extension of WASH services to unreached populations, and for service quality improvements. Recognizing that no single actor has all necessary resources to independently achieve the SDGs, important elements of WVSS's approach in WASH governance and financing include the following.

Engage at the national level for systemic change

World Vision prioritizes engagement and advocacy with the national government as a critical component of our broader WASH strategy. The WVSS WASH Program plays a key role in supplementing the government of South Sudan's efforts in the provision of safe water, basic sanitation, and healthy hygiene practices for the people of South Sudan. World Vision has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation to operate and maintain WASH services. To strengthen the involvement of the local authorities in the provision of WASH services, the program conducts joint supervision of and monitoring visits to WASH projects. As a member of the national WASH cluster, WVSS advocates for WASH policy formulation, dissemination, and implementation; and resource mobilization and allocation. At the state level, WVSS works with the WASH cluster, U.N. agencies, and the local government to assess, design, prioritize, implement, and monitor WASH projects.

Collaborate with district governments

Working alongside district government and community institutions during the community engagement process



Stakeholders stand outside a latrine constructed at the Ikpiro public market in Yambio county.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: SOUTH SUDAN

supports sustainability, creating connections between communities and their respective government units. The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation has been fully involved in the capacity building of water-user committees, community-based organizations, local NGOs, and the private sector. The Ministry of Health has played a key role in the successful implementation of sanitation and hygiene promotion approaches, such as door-to-door visits and public awareness sessions. Further, the technical personnel from the respective ministries have participated in the planning, implementing, and monitoring of school and HCF WASH interventions. The WASH program also works in collaboration with school management committees.

Mobilize communities to advocate for change

At the local level, the WVSS WASH Program has strong ties with a range of partners, including local governments, community-based organizations, NGOs, local mechanics, and the private sector, which supplies water and sanitation technologies and hygiene products. World Vision helps build the capacity of these groups to improve their ability to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions.

WVSS also uses our hallmark Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) model to complement WASH interventions, informing and empowering communities to advocate for improved WASH services with the government. WVSS employs this approach in all operational areas, enabling citizens to demand the right to safe water and hold local governments accountable. The model begins by making communities aware of the roles and responsibilities of local government in WASH service provision and then transitions to a scorecard approach, whereby communities evaluate the performance of local government against key service delivery indicators. Communities then use the scorecards to engage public leaders and highlight areas of weak performance.

Over the last six years, WVSS helped form and train 20 CVA groups. Recently, this CVA effort resulted in the government taking over the operation and maintenance of treatment plants in Melut and Renk after they were rehabilitated, and the Department of Water and Sanitation increasing its frequency of water quality monitoring.

Water Security and Resilience

World Vision’s approach to water security requires looking “beyond the pipe” to the broader integrity of ecosystems and water catchment areas, with upstream interventions to improve watershed management as a critical aspect of safeguarding the

downstream drinking water supply. Quality and sustainability of surface water are affected by pollution from the catchment in Upper Nile state and Bahr el Ghazal state, and drought affects groundwater recharge in Western Equatoria state.

The WASH program has adopted fragile context programming, a flexible approach that buffers target communities against adverse effects of climate change and disasters. It builds the skills of water-user committees on water catchment conservation and natural resources management. The program also encourages the establishment of tree nurseries around water points to encourage agroforestry and income-generation opportunities. To mitigate the low yield of some boreholes, the WASH program mechanizes other high-yield boreholes and pipes water to communities in need. World Vision also builds the capacity of communities and local governments on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as contingency planning.

In addition, the WVSS WASH Program has adopted technical measures to protect WASH infrastructure from the effects of flooding. These measures include elevating water point platforms, anchoring pipeline sections, and protecting water intakes by creating diversion canals and installing access bridges to water intakes to allow access during floods.



Community members access safe water at a communal water point in Malakal.

Partnerships for Effective WASH

Over the years, World Vision has built strong partnerships at the local, national, and global levels to develop joint efforts that address the WASH challenges in South Sudan and foster sustainability for WASH investments. WVSS looks at the various stages of project implementation to identify the strategic partners with whom to unify efforts, resources, and conflict resolution, and to establish mechanisms that facilitate the development of projects and ensure monitoring and follow-up after WVSS withdraws from the area.

To implement its WASH program, WVSS partners with U.N. agencies such as the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR (the U.N. Refugee Agency), the International Organization for Migration, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program, and UNICEF; bi-lateral agencies including USAID, Department for International Development, and the European Union; the private sector; national and state WASH clusters; and community leaders.

Responsibilities of some of these institutions are as follows:

The WASH cluster coordinates emergency WASH interventions and guides the quality and standards for humanitarian response. WVSS partners with local leadership to mobilize communities for effective participation, project acceptability, and ownership of and participation in community-led interventions.

Water-user committees ensure that WASH interventions are operational, well-managed, and sustainable.

Faith-based leaders create awareness on sanitation and hygiene among their congregations. They disseminate appropriate sanitation messages and conduct follow-up on sanitation and hygiene practices.

The private sector (contractors, suppliers, transporters) ensures that the required WASH supplies and construction services are readily available for timely implementation within South Sudan.

WATER SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan is recently faced its worst floods in nearly 60 years, with the Upper Nile among the worst-affected states. In addition to providing food and temporary shelters, World Vision is working with partners to enhance water security and effective water resources management in two counties (Baliel and Malakal) in the Upper Nile state that experience recurrent flooding and dry cycles. Partners include the Ministry of Housing, Lands, and Public Utilities (Department of Water and Sanitation); Ministry of Agriculture (Meteorological Department); and the WASH, Food Security, and Livelihoods cluster partners. The project aims to address these challenges through four main activities:

1. Enhance water resources decision-making by establishing a hydrometeorological database in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Ministry of Infrastructure. Key steps include installing four meteorological stations across four sub-catchments and six river-gauging stations along the Sobat and Nile Rivers, and working with the ministries to compile this data.
2. Construct three 30,000-cubic-meter reservoirs, each equipped with a small solar-powered water treatment system, to provide flood protection and harvest water during rainy seasons for productive use in dry periods.
3. Increase rainwater catchment and reduce runoff volume during floods by establishing fruit-tree nurseries and woodlots as buffer zones.
4. Build local watershed management capacity by forming and training five water catchment management associations across five sub-catchments and five water-user management committees, and developing one water catchment integrated management framework and plan.

