

Sanitation activities in South Sudan

The challenge

South Sudan, the world's youngest country which gained independence in July 2011, has a total population of 8.26 million as per the census in 2008. In 2011, only 15% of South Sudan's population had access to adequate sanitation while about 34% had access to water supply (South Sudan Development Plan). The under-five child mortality rate in South Sudan is 135 per 1000 live births (World Health Statistics, WHO).

The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) and the Ministry of Housing and Physical Infrastructures (MHPI) are responsible to provide water and sanitation services at the national and state level respectively. Sanitation provision remains a challenge due to high construction costs owing to inavailability of building materials and lack of proper institutional framework and government programs especially for sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Our approach

The GIZ program called "Development of the Urban Water and Sanitation Sector" (DUWSS) supports the strengthening of the MWRI to improve the framework conditions for the urban water supply subsector and to create an enabling institutional and legal environment for all actors in the sector. It further supports the national state owned service provider South Sudan Urban Water Corporation (SSUWC) in a reform process involving improvements of operational procedures, changes to the business philosophy and adjustments to the organisational structure towards gradual decentralisation and commercialisation of services. Taking into consideration South Sudan's status as a young and fragile post conflict state, GIZ is focusing on developing institutional arrangements, leadership, knowledge and accountability capacities within the urban water and sanitation sub-sector.

Yei is a medium sized town in the Eastern Equatoria state of South Sudan. It is located approximately 170 kms southwest of

the capital Juba. Owing to its proximity to Uganda there is a flourishing market and trade activities. Due to its relative safety, many of the returnees have settled in this city leading to urgent need of improved water and sanitation provision.

Pilot projects for water supply and public sanitation infrastructure in Yei town are currently being implemented by GIZ. The private utility Yei Town Water and Sanitation Services (YTWSS Ltd.) has been established with the support of GIZ to provide access to drinking water and improved sanitation services as well as to train people in the operation and maintenance of the constructed infrastructure.

Two more urban centres, Rumbek (Lakes state) and Yambio (Western Equatoria state), are proposed as a part of this component in 2013.

Project name	Development of Urban Water and Sanitation Sector (DUWSS)
Partner	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) and South Sudan Urban Water Corporation (SSUWC)
Duration	June 2009 – December 2013 (current phase)
Budget for sanitation	623,000 Euro (includes 50% co-financing from French Development Agency AfD)
Scale	Yei: Number of inhabitants directly covered with access to sanitation: 20,000 inhabitants. Number of people reached indirectly: 50% of the population (approx. 95,000 people)

The program aims to use school children as agents of change. GIZ anticipates that promoting sanitation and hygiene in schools will have a multiplier effect on the sanitation and hygiene behaviour in households in Yei. Furthermore, improved hygiene and sanitation in schools is expected to reduce the dropout rate among girls in the schools.



Left: Handwashing facility constructed by GIZ in a school in Yei; (© GIZ / R. Ingle, 2012)

Right: Students playing netball – sports as a communication tool for WASH behavior change messages; (© GIZ / R. Ingle, 2012)

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Since April 2011, the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement - AfD) also financially supports GIZ activities in South Sudan. Further infrastructure investments will follow in close collaboration with the German Development Bank KfW from 2013 onwards.

Programme activities

- The GIZ program aims at improving hygiene and sanitation awareness at five selected schools in Yei reaching about 5,600 pupils through the establishment of School Health Clubs (SHC), the construction of tippy-taps for the SHCs, distribution of deworming pills and distribution of girls' hygiene kits to female students aged above 12 years.
- The GIZ program will target the urban population of Yei with important hygiene and sanitation information using the existing water kiosks and public toilets as entry points. Community hygiene mobilisers will be trained in the use of hygiene awareness information material.
- GIZ will get involved in public awareness raising using media campaigns like radio broadcasts, games and quizzes via mobile phone text messaging, as well as special events such as Global Hand Washing Day, World Toilet Day and World Water Day. Sport events such as football matches, running competitions, netball matches for girls will help to disseminate and spread the information on good hygiene behaviour to the whole population of Yei.
- GIZ will work on capacity building of local artisans for the production, dissemination and marketing of concrete latrine slabs called SanPlat. In addition public campaigns will be used to reach out to the wider community in Yei for introduction and promotion of the SanPlat that can be used for low cost improvements of existing latrines at household level.
- To improve hygiene and access to sanitation in schools, GIZ will construct handwashing facilities and new toilet blocks for three schools in Yei town and refurbishing approximately 100 existing VIP latrines in 20 schools with casual labour work. The maintenance of the toilet will be done by the school health clubs.

Partner country: South Sudan

- A public biogas latrine at Yei market square and urine diversion dry toilets (UDDTs) for a school and at the Yei Capacity Development Training Centre are piloted to introduce new sanitation technologies to the service providers and the community.
- In Yei, GIZ has tendered the construction of a septic tank for the slaughterhouse and a sludge disposal pond to establish a pit and septic tank emptying service with a vacuum desludging tanker to be operational by early 2013.

Outcomes

- GIZ assisted the establishment of the Yei Town Water and Sanitation Services Ltd., an autonomous commercialised water and sanitation service provider in April 2012. The company is publicly owned to provide access to water and improved sanitation to the people in Yei.
- Local artisans and small construction companies have been invited to training sessions on construction of toilets to improve local sanitation expertise.
- VIP toilet blocks, UDDTs and handwashing facilities in 14 schools have been constructed in Yei so far.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Layout GIZ
As at September 2012
On behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division Water, Energy, Transport
More information <http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/313.html>