

Improving the health sector in South Sudan



Operational excellence for results that matter

The people of South Sudan suffer from a large range of health problems, exacerbated by poverty, malnutrition, a lack of basic water and sanitation and a very underdeveloped health system. The maternal mortality rate is the highest in the world and it is estimated that one out of every seven children will die before their fifth birthday — many due to malaria in the absence of treated bed nets.

Large sections of the population do not have any access to a modern health service with only 44 percent of settlements lying within five kilometres of a health centre. It is estimated that only about 20 percent of people receive services from any kind of health facility over their entire lifetime.

The South Sudanese population requires rapid improvement in their access to preventative and curative health care, particularly maternal and child health services, to fulfil their development potential.

UNOPS and health globally

Health is one of UNOPS five focus areas and we have considerable experience helping our partners deliver successful health projects around the world, often in challenging environments.

UNOPS operations include the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of hospitals, clinics and warehouses as well as the procurement of pharmaceuticals, bed nets, contraceptives, test kits and other health commodities.

UNOPS also implements projects in health fund management and fiscal oversight through our partnership with the Global Fund in more than ten countries.

Constructing health centres under the Sudan Accelerated Infrastructure Program

USAID is funding a range of infrastructure projects that are being implemented by UNOPS across South Sudan. Under the health component of this programme we have rehabilitated two dilapidated rural health care centres in order to improve the care of women and children and reduce the extremely high rates of maternal and infant mortality.

The improved facilities include consultation rooms, pharmacies, overnight care, delivery rooms, waiting rooms, staff accommodation, water supply, toilets and furniture.



UNOPS is rehabilitating health centres on behalf of USAID, including this one in Wulu County, Lakes State.

Photo: UNOPS

Services provided at the centres by the government include immunization, vitamin supplements for children, maternal health and family planning services, and the control of diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory diseases.

Improving Government capacity for health communication

UNOPS is also strengthening the capacity of the South Sudanese health sector by enabling state ministries to run an online health system.

On behalf of the Sudan Multi-Donor Trust Fund, and in partnership with the Ministry of Health, all of the ministry offices in each of the ten state capitals now have the computers, office equipment, network servers, and related equipment to facilitate their connection to a new South Sudan e-Health System.

UNOPS technical experts have procured and installed all the IT equipment as well as the power generators required. The new system will now allow for the collection and timely supply of health data regarding disease outbreaks, for the monitoring of pharmaceutical stocks, the generation of health statistics, and the provision of internet access to support health professionals in their research.

UNOPS also provided IT training to technicians in every state in order to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the system.