

Welcome

to our Bulletin
Edition 003

BULLETIN



- GESS continues with the onboarding of learners across South Sudan. This will establish the number of children enrolled in schools in 2023.
- On June 14th GESS conducted its twelfth steering committee meeting, in which GESS stakeholders met to deliberate on progress and chart ways forward for better implementation.
- GESS continues with the school verification exercise across South Sudan, which ensures that only eligible schools receive capitation grants.
- GESS has welcomed on board Community in Need Aid (CINA). The organisation will take over the implementation of GESS activities in Upper Nile and Jonglei states.

19 years of keeping girls' education on the agenda!

On July 7th, 2023, GESS celebrated National Girls' Education Day (NGED). Designated in 2004 by the late Dr John Garang de Mabior, this day is to keep girls' education on the agenda.

To mark the day, GESS conducted career fairs across South Sudan. Learners interacted with role models from different career backgrounds.



Girls from Juba One Girls' Primary School to talk to mentors during the careers fair for National Girls' Education Day.

"I am the first born at home, all my siblings look up to me, I also need someone to look up to so that I can get the right advice to give my siblings. The careers fair has given me the opportunity to hear advice from many successful women".

Esther, Senior 3 learner, Juba.

GESS was also joined on a radio show by Gill Lever, Charge d'Affaires British Embassy and Esther Akumu, Director General Gender Equity, and Inclusive Education at the Ministry of Education and Instruction (MoGEI) to share about the state of education in South Sudan. In her remarks on the show, Gill Lever stated, "Let's light more candles for girls' education in the country. Education for both boys and girls is the foundation of a free, fair, and democratic country."

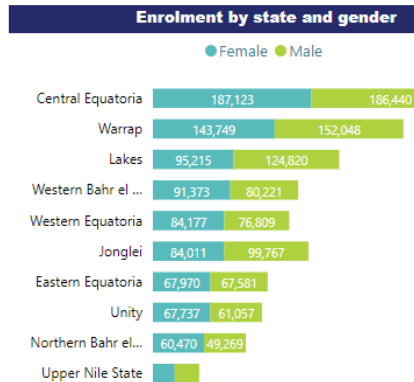
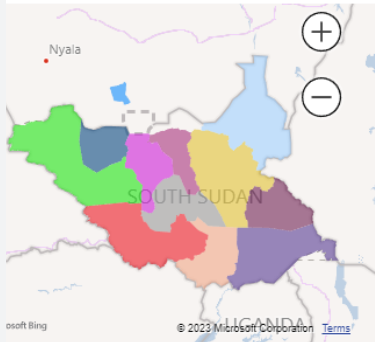
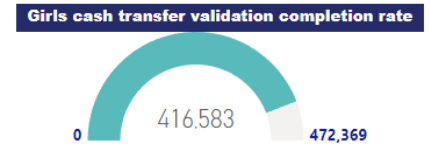
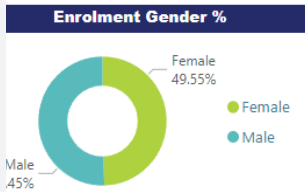
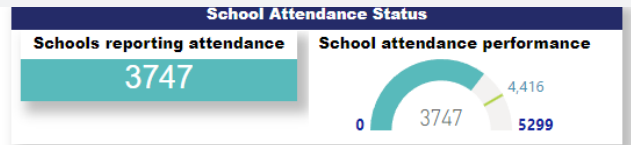
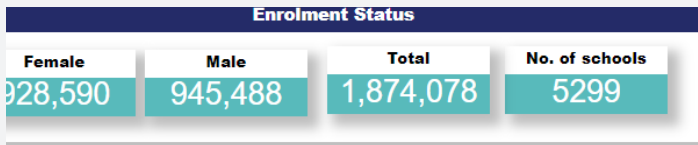
Re-usable sanitary products make a difference!

To commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day, GESS trained over 6,000 school children from 24 counties to make reusable sanitary pads. In some counties, boys played a part in the workshops by producing pads for their sisters and classmates.

"We are doing this in the schools for both boys and girls to break stereotypes around menstrual hygiene management, (like) boys cannot handle products. This is to help girls to be able to make alternative products in case they do not have money to purchase the single-use products," Tereza, GESS Mentoring Assistant in Wau, Western Bhar el Ghazal State.

Through GESS mentoring and book clubs, we continue to break biases and stereotypes around menstruation.

GESS Dashboard as of 18/08/2023



Cash transfer to girls

State	No. of Schools	No. of eligible girls	No. of validated girls
Western Equatoria	459	37,217	34,505
Western Bahr el Ghazal	417	29,615	33,660
Warrap	757	77,614	57,579
Upper Nile State	362	28,025	25,386
Unity	355	40,149	36,471
Ruweng AA	30	5,575	5,362
Pibor AA	35	1,081	997
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	585	60,953	54,086
Lakes	391	41,122	24,850
Jonglei	482	42,230	37,469
Eastern Equatoria	310	29,334	27,211
Central Equatoria	628	75,967	75,967
Abyei AA	32	3,487	3,040
Total	4843	472,369	416,583

Schools use capitation grants to make schools facilities more disability friendly!

GESS and MoGEI continue to pay 2022 capitation grants to eligible schools. Capitation grants are funds made available to all not-for-profit schools to help supplement running costs and improve the learning environment.

This year GESS has so far paid over 720,000,000 SSP to 260 secondary schools and MoGEI has paid over 960,000,00 SSP to 3,891 primary schools. GESS pays capitation grants to secondary schools whilst MoGEI pays primary schools.

Some schools have used the capitation grants to make their schools more inclusive: *“Capitation grants are very helpful; the money helped us to renovate our learning facilities. Recently we received 3,500,000 SSP. We used the money to make our classrooms accessible for learners with disabilities. We have built a ramp in the school, which makes the classes accessible. All these changes are made because of the capitation grants,”* Ajok, a Head Teacher in Warrap State.

GESS celebrates Global Day of Parents

Parents and guardians play a very vital role in the lives of children. On June 1st, the world celebrated the Global Day of Parents under the theme; ‘The power of parenting: raising happy, healthy and hopeful children’.

GESS shed light on two guardians who are supporting their children to be in school: *“I give Winne enough time for her books. Winnie has lived with me since she was a very little girl and I want to see that she achieves something,”* Asunta (see photo below), a grandmother of a learner with a physical disability in Wau, Western Bhar el Ghazal.



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For more information visit www.girlseducationsouthsudan.org or info@gess-southsudan.org

