

# Welcome

to our Bulletin  
Edition 004

# BULLETIN



- GESS steering committee *meeting 14* with stakeholders happened on November 2nd.
- GESS received funding from two new donors - the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Above photo shows Norway's Ambassador to South Sudan committing to working with other donors to expand access to education for the children of South Sudan.

## Over 420,00 schoolgirls will benefit from 2023 cash transfers

GESS commenced the payment of the 2023 cash transfers to schoolgirls across South Sudan on 6th November after a two month-long validation exercise that documented the number of girls eligible to receive the money.

Girls in the candidate classes, (P8 and S4) will each receive South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) 32,000, whilst those in the other classes (P5, P6 and P7 and S1, S2 and S3) will receive SSP 25,600. For the first time, cash transfers will benefit girls in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), levels 3 and 4. The ALP learners will each receive SSP 25,600.

Cash Transfers help girls to afford school-enabling materials so they do not miss out on study time. *"The main thing I always use my money (cash transfers) for is buying sanitary pads. I buy enough pads for the whole school term so I don't miss school when I get my period,"* Nidal, a learner in Light House Secondary School in Juba.



## GESS builds capacity of state level educational bodies

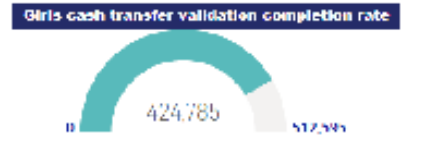
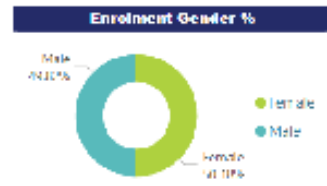
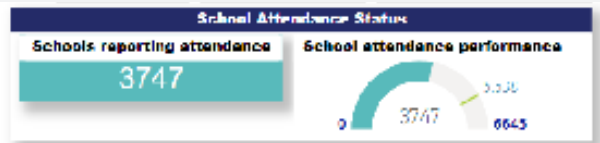
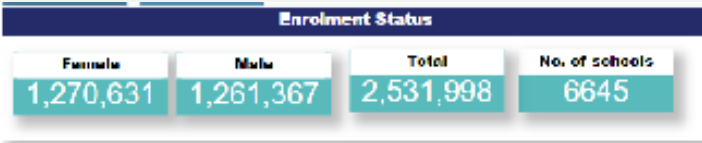
To date, GESS has trained over 200 State Education Transfer and Monitoring Committee (SETMC) members on public financial management (PFM) and accountability. GESS is working to strengthen the capacity of these bodies to improve the management of educational resources, such as capitation grants, and for them to be able to mobilise resources for education at the local level.

*"Before the SETMC (State Education Transfer and Monitoring Committee) was set up, there was no systematic reporting system at the State Ministries of Education. But now through the SETMC, our Director General and the Director for Admin and Finance are making reports monthly on how education grants are spent. This shows transparency and improves service delivery,"* Peter Deng, Director of Planning and Budgeting, Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

*"We don't train them (members of the SETMC) to only manage and account for grants from GESS, but all education grants and resources, including locally mobilised resources,"* Naphtali, GESS Education Public Finance Specialist.

With a strengthened ETMC, there will be improved accountability and reporting on education funds and resources. GESS continues to build the capacity of the national and state-level transfer and monitoring committees to run even beyond the life of the programme.

# GESS Dashboard as of 28/11/2023



### Enrolment by state and gender

State	Female	Male
Central Equatoria	184,204	187,667
Warrap	147,220	155,516
Northern Bahr el Jebel	124,230	123,117
Western Bahr el Jebel	117,381	124,354
White Nile	111,265	125,735
Lakes	104,289	121,562
Western Equatoria	77,017	82,309
Bahr el Jebel	81,885	81,549
Unity	101,491	77,446
Upper Nile State	75,545	-
Abyei AA	-	-

### Cash transfer to girls

State	No. of schools	No. of eligible girls	No. of validated girls
Western Equatoria	521	39,172	21,300
Western Bahr el Ghazal	473	56,091	28,182
Warrap	820	61,891	28,004
Upper Nile State	445	37,048	10,045
Unity	437	40,037	28,098
Bahr el Jebel	17	4,943	1,011
White Nile	16	1,672	576
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	523	61,132	10,000
Lakes	300	10,005	29,110
Equatoria	570	46,494	40,071
Eastern Equatoria	241	31,476	20,278
Central Equatoria	756	76,150	76,790
Abyei AA	33	4,707	4,787
Total	5167	512,545	424,785

## GESS launches issue 2 of Teens Ta Guwa Magazine

GESS launched issue 2 Teens Ta Guwa magazine in October. This issue covers topics such as career opportunities, environmental protection and menstruation. Over 19,000 copies of the magazine will be shared with young people across South Sudan through GESS' Mentoring Clubs and Book Clubs (over 200 across the country), and through the [GESS website](#).



"For me, I can say I have developed confidence and my reading and listening skills have improved." Keji, Mentoring Club member, Juba.

## GESS celebrates International Day of the Girl

GESS celebrated the International Day of the Girl on 11th October under the theme 'Invest in Girls' Education.' GESS ran a competition through Mentoring and Book Clubs, asking learners to author poems on topics that interest them. They won prizes such as sanitary products, books and pens.

In Juba, GESS celebrated the day at Juba Day Secondary School alongside representatives from two of our donors, namely UK aid and USAID. Members of the Mentoring Club shared what the day meant to them, and their aspirations: "I used to think being a girl is all about growing up, being in the kitchen and getting married. Now I know that that is not the case. When girls are supported to get an education, they will become doctors, engineers, pilots want to become a nurse," Stella, a learner in Juba.

Read more about how GESS celebrated, [here](#).

**Disclaimer:** The GESS programme receives funding through UK aid from the UK Government, the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) supports the GESS programme, which is managed by implementing partners who provide technical advice. These implementing partners include Cambridge Education/Mott MacDonald as the consortium lead, BBC Media Action and Windle Trust International, together with seven State Anchor NGOs that implement the programme in the ten states and three administration areas of South Sudan.

For more information visit [www.girlseducationsouthsudan.org](http://www.girlseducationsouthsudan.org) or [info@gess-southsudan.org](mailto:info@gess-southsudan.org)



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Juba