

WELCOME

to our Bulletin

Edition 005

BULLETIN



- An exit workshop for Mentoring Assistants from across the country in Juba.
- An exit workshop for School Officers in Juba.
- Mobile application training for the onboarding of learners.

Back to School

"The new school year starts on February the 5th; it is very important that parents and guardians do everything they can to send their children to school on the 5th of February," Guy Warrington, the British Ambassador to South Sudan highlighted on Radio Miraya.



Tawanda Madhangi, GESS Deputy Team Leader; Guy Warrington, British Ambassador; Sebit William Ker, Radio Host on Radio Miraya; and Emily Gray, Lead Education Advisor, British Embassy.

Spot-checks have been carried out by GESS across the country since the term began on February 5th. We continue to support a national and state-level Back-to-School campaign, including radio shows and community outreach activities to ensure learners return to school on time.

"We don't have specific state-level exams, all final year

examinations are national, and all learners are going to be examined based on the same curriculum. If some schools take longer to reopen, they are denying the children instructional time and the chance to compete with their peers", Daniel Gesaka, GESS Finance Manager.

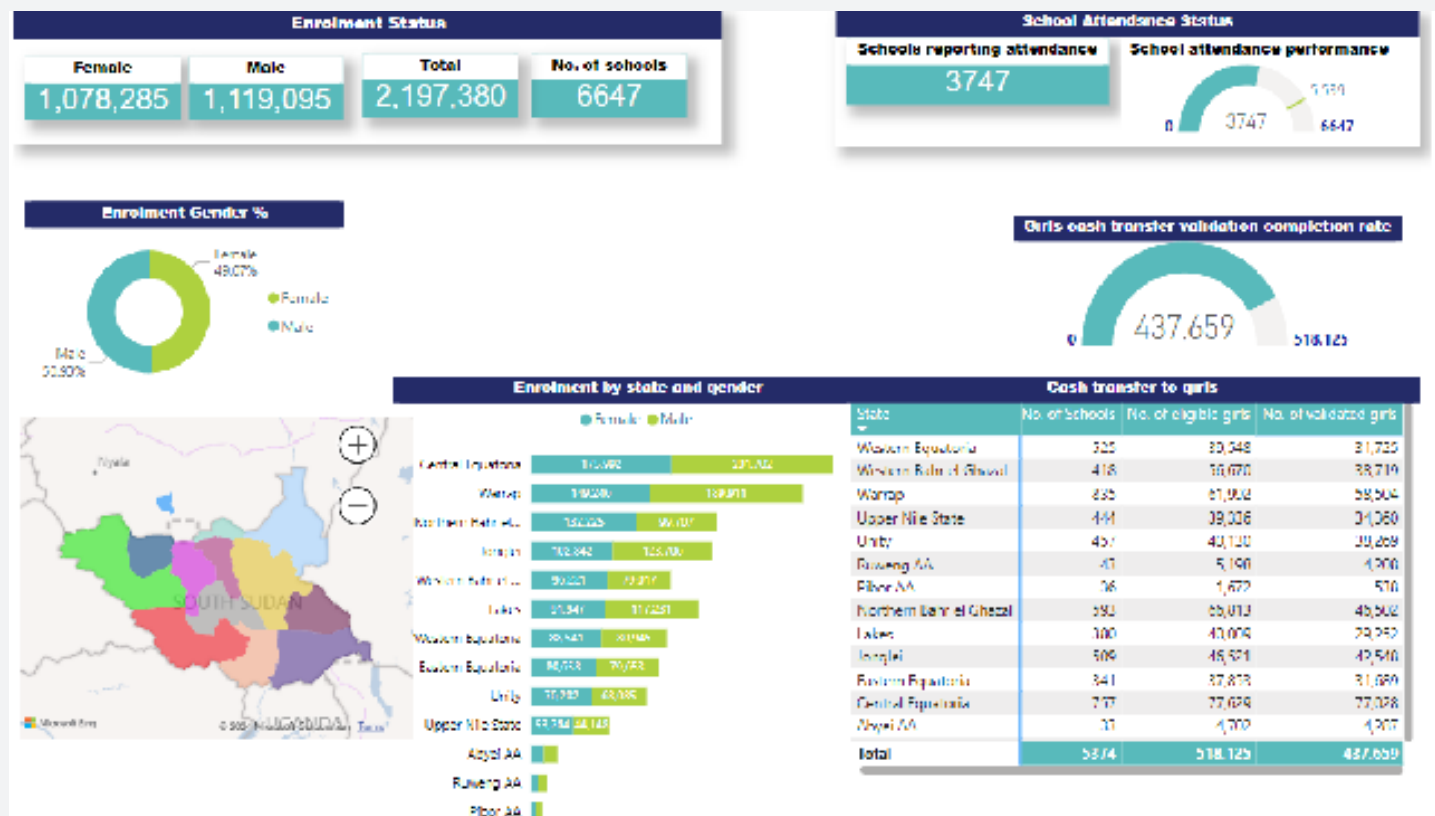
GESS and the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) urge all learners to return to school on time. Enrolment of learners will stop by March 31st. Girls that enrol after the 31st March will not be eligible for a cash transfer.

GESS cash transfers

Cash transfers continue to see girls enrol, stay in, and complete school. In 2023, over 425,000 schoolgirls were validated to receive a cash transfer and more than 90 % have already been paid. Girls in candidate classes (P8 and S4) receive 32,000 SSP, whilst those in other classes (P5 to P7, S1 to S3 and those in the Accelerated Learning Programme levels 3 and 4) receive 25,600 SSP.

"The situation in many families is very difficult, parents only have money to buy food. I have some friends who will not report to school immediately because they have not yet bought what they need to be in school such as books, pens, and uniform. With the cash transfers, they will be able to buy what they need and be in school," Lucia, learner.

GESS continues to navigate very difficult conditions, such as flooding, to reach all eligible girls receive their cash transfers. Due to schools closing for the Christmas break in December and challenges such as floods and insecurity, the payment of the 2023 cash transfers will be completed by March.



International Observance Days

Since December, we have celebrated several international observance days to highlight the importance of the theme in focus: The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and most recently, the International Day of Education.

In this edition of our bulletin, we share voices of different stakeholders who joined the commemoration of the different celebrations.

“The representation of persons with disabilities across all fronts is paramount for development. We should start in families, at schools and in our workplaces to be inclusive and ensure that children with disabilities feel comfortable,” Esther Akumu, Director General, Gender, Equity, and Inclusive Education, MoGEI. (IDPD)

“We are committed to ensuring all children with disabilities are enrolled and their disabilities clearly recorded so that we can work to support them better,” Lily Riko, GESS Disability

Inclusion Specialist.

“Men and even boys should stop harassing or doing anything harmful to our women and girls in our communities, families, schools, and even in public places so that we give them the opportunity to participate fully in the development of our country South Sudan” Ben Poggo, Director, Gender-Equity and Inclusive Education. (16 Days of Activism)

International Day of Education

We are committed to ensuring all children with disabilities are enrolled and their disabilities recorded clearly so that we can work to support them better.

Lily Riko
GESS Disability Inclusion Specialist

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