



Welcome

to our Bulletin
Edition 007

BULLETIN



- The UK Minister for Development Rt Hon Anneliese Dodds MP, alongside our Technical Director, Akuja de Garang visited GESS supported schools in Bentiu, Unity State.

National Girls' Education Day 2024

On July 8th, GESS organised an empowering event for secondary school girls, celebrating 20 years of the National Girls' Education Day with a Careers Fair.

The event brought together 250 girls from five secondary schools in Juba. The day was filled with learning and excitement as mentors from diverse career paths including Engineers, Nurses, Teachers, Journalists, among others engaged with the girls, discussing vital topics such as career choices and life decisions. The heartfelt conversations left a lasting impact, inspiring the girls and fostering appreciation for the event. "I am happy to be part of this event. Today, I heard from someone I can consider a role model. I feel encouraged to stay focused, make good decisions and believe in myself because everything is achievable," Dalia, a Senior 4 learner.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Kobi Bentley, Development Director at the British Embassy in Juba; Robina Araba, Director for Gender at the State Ministry of Education in Central Equatoria; and Esther Jonathan, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from GESS.

GESS also marked the International Literacy Day and the International Day of Sign Language on September 8th and 23rd respectively through digital campaigns.

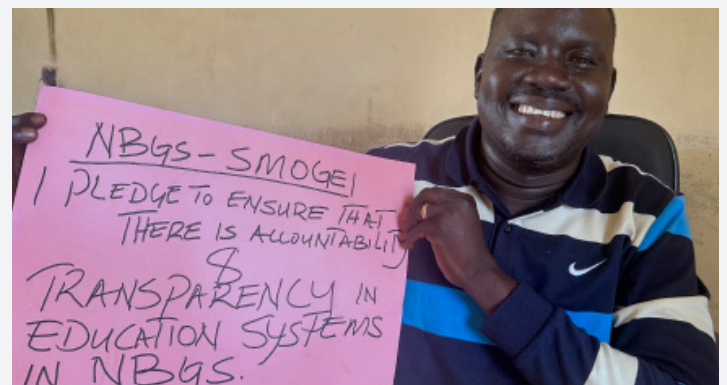
Enhancing Public Financial Management

GESS continues to work collaboratively with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to enhance public financial management (PFM) across South Sudan. GESS has made significant strides towards improving resource and funds management in education.

To date, GESS has established 81 functional State Education Transfer Monitoring Committees (SETMCS) and County Education Transfer Monitoring Committees (CETMCs) across all the 10 states and 3 Administrative Areas of South Sudan. These committees are trained on key areas including; accountability and transparency, resource mobilisation and management, financial reporting and report writing, ledger bookkeeping, and budgeting priorities

The establishment of these committees has led to improvement in resource movement from the national level to the State level. "In our PFM monitoring visits across the country, we have seen the improvement in the flow of funds from the national Ministry up to the country level. Members of the committees have been trained on budgeting and accountability," Paul Kitonga, PFM Specialist, GESS.

"The continued work to improve PFM aims to ensure efficient allocation and utilization of resources, ultimately fostering a better educational environment for all learners, including learners with disabilities. The benefits of transparency and accountability that an established PFM system brings are unspeakable and GESS will continue to work with the government and partners on this," Mamer Peter, PFM Analyst, GESS.



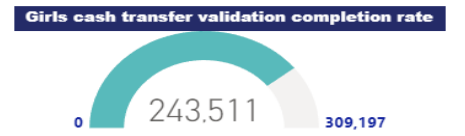
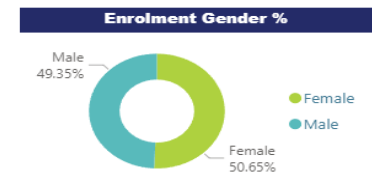
Enrolment Status

Female	Male	Total	No. of schools
1,109,993	1,081,553	2,191,546	6795

School Attendance Status

Schools reporting attendance: **3747**

School attendance performance: **3747** / 5,663 (6795)



Enrolment by state and gender

State	Female	Male
Warrap	176,203	196,310
Central Equatoria	175,096	173,556
Jonglei	126,614	138,191
Northern Bahr el...	112,642	85,294
Unity	106,447	76,737
Western Equatoria	90,020	77,740
Western Bahr el ...	82,437	66,860
Upper Nile State	78,823	76,184
Lakes	77,056	103,782
Eastern Equatoria	56,007	55,912
Ruweng AA		

Cash transfer to girls

State	No. of Schools	No. of eligible girls	No. of validated girls
Western Equatoria	448	23,051	17,542
Western Bahr el Ghazal	413	26,857	19,357
Warrap	784	44,658	33,570
Upper Nile State	426	25,092	18,505
Unity	427	35,364	25,672
Ruweng AA	39	4,145	2,427
Pibor AA	34	1,059	784
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	538	30,143	21,056
Lakes	278	16,369	13,341
Jonglei	569	33,654	28,731
Eastern Equatoria	260	14,524	10,816
Central Equatoria	737	51,435	49,068
Abyei AA	31	2,846	2,642
Total	4984	309,197	243,511

GESS releases study briefs to inform education financing in South Sudan

In August GESS published six comprehensive research studies and briefs. These studies delve into various critical aspects of the programme, including cash transfers, capitation grants, distance learning, school financing, behaviour change communications, and biometrics. This significant achievement not only underscores GESS's commitment to advancing education but also provides invaluable insights that will inform future funding and support strategies.

The insights gained from these studies are not just academic exercises; they are practical tools that will shape the future of education in South Sudan by providing evidence-based recommendations.

You can access the research briefs and the full reports here (<http://bit.ly/3UF0gXv>)

GESS validates boys with disabilities to receive 2024 cash transfers

GESS completed the validation exercise to identify eligible learners for the 2024 cash transfers. This important initiative

began in July and concluded in September. The purpose of this exercise was to verify the enrollment and regular attendance of learners, ensuring they receive financial support starting in October.

This year, Girls enrolled and regularly attending from Primary 7 to Senior 4, as well as those in levels 3 and 4 of the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) were validated. Notably, for the first time, boys with disabilities in these classes were also included in the validation process to receive support.

We anticipate that up to 250,000 learners, including boys with disabilities in Primary 7 to Secondary 4, and level 3 and 4 ALP learners will benefit from the cash transfers this year. These financial contributions are crucial in helping learners access essential school materials, thereby enhancing their educational experience and attainment.

Since the inception of the programme, over 1.2 million girls have received cash transfers, contributing to increased progression rates for girls in Primary schools and from Secondary schools to higher education institutions.

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, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). 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, and BBC Media Action, together with seven State Anchor NGOs that implement the programme in the ten states and three administration areas of South Sudan.



Norwegian Embassy
Juba