



**High Level Meeting of Sanitation and Water for all: a Global Framework for Action**

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN STATEMENT

By

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## A. Political prioritisation:

The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) recognises the need to focus and sustain incremental allocation of resources for the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation, with special attention to the most impoverished members of the population. This is to accelerate progress towards achieving and sustaining progress on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector development targets such as the MDGs, which culminated in GoSS presenting the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation services among its 6 top expenditure priorities during the 3rd Sudan Consortium in Oslo (May 2008).

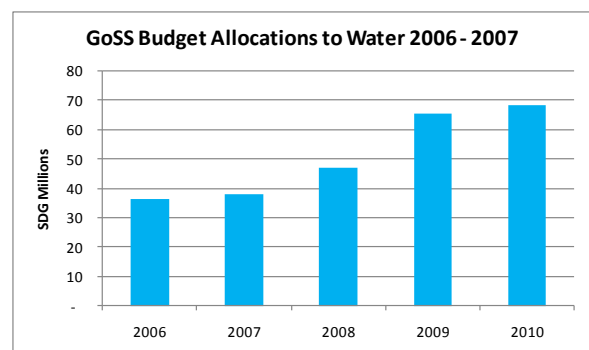
GoSS acknowledges the fact that the coverage of water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in Southern Sudan remains low; and further recognises the fundamental role that safe water supply and improved sanitation plays: Not only in the establishment and maintenance of peace and stability; but also in enhancing the productivity of the people, and in eliminating endemic diseases such as Guinea worm. In fact the territory of Southern Sudan now accounts for most of the world's burden of this harshly debilitating disease.

Therefore, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is pleased to participate in this High Level Meeting (HLM) pertaining to the envisaged principle of Sanitation and Water for All; and will be therefore committed to effectively implement its resolutions. Indeed, GoSS is willing to immediately adopt the guiding principles of the renewed Sanitation and Water for All declaration, to forge the development of a new national Sanitation and Water for All Strategy for Southern Sudan by the end of 2010.

In fact, GoSS made significant efforts and progress to improve and strengthen government-led monitoring of the MDGs; hence established a committee in this regard in the Office of H. E. the President of the Government of Southern Sudan. This committee liaises with the existing Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) coordination mechanisms, including the Bi-annual Planning and Coordination Meetings and the Water Sector Steering Committee that includes representatives from all the stakeholders (government institutions, donors, UN Systems, NGO's and CBOs).

GoSS hereby reaffirms its commitment to implement the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action, defining 'country ownership' principles in terms of providing government leadership, with transparent budgetary processes and accountability to citizens and donors. These have to be ensured through effective partner coordination and full engagement of civil society, donors and other development partners. In fact, as a manifestation of its commitment to these principles, GoSS has set up an efficient Aid Coordination Unit within the MoFEP and adopted sector-wide working groups budgeting process.

It is noteworthy that GoSS has been increasingly allocating financial resources for service delivery and capacity building in the water and sanitation sector; accounting for 1.5% of the overall own resource envelope.



We will continue to invest and spend in the same manner not only to address the attainment of the water and sanitation related MDGs but also to provide peace dividends to our people. Indeed, 1GoSS recognises the significant donor expenditure in the WASH sector, although tracking the allocations across time is complicated due to difficulties in obtaining data from humanitarian sources. Some donors find it difficult to disaggregate their projects, hence not reporting separately their water and sanitation components, leading to understatement of the true amounts spend in the Southern Sudan WASH sector.

## **B. Evidence-based decision-making:**

In addressing historic disparities, GoSS is following equity principles as a fundamental basis for the delivery of services, hence with the help of its development partners (Unicef & UNECA). GoSS is establishing a sustainable sector management information system (MIS) known as Southern Sudan Water Information Clearing House (SSWICH). This is to facilitate improved priority setting, better planning between central and State levels, more effective monitoring of operational status and knowledge capture among all stakeholders engaged in this high-turnover sector. This system will be established by the end of 2010, initially at GoSS level.

SSWICH will be web-enabled, permitting all sector stakeholders to submit real-time updates, add service level operational data, generate status maps and conduct queries for sector planning purposes involving all stakeholders from locations at Central, State as well as County level. GoSS will build institutional capacity at different levels to sustain a two way flow of data and information from community to central level. Inventory of existing water and sanitation facilities will be carried out across all states to establish a solid evidence baseline. The system, once fully functional, will contribute significantly to evidence-based decision-making, especially in addressing disparities and areas where major disease control and eradication efforts are prioritised. This will enable GoSS to take a leading role in updating, contributing to and carrying out surveys such as the Country Status Overview (CSO) and the Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLASS).

## **C. National Strategic planning processes:**

Within its overall strategic plan, GoSS is committed to implement the approved Water Policy which was launched by the President of the Government of Southern Sudan in April 2009. The water and sanitation sub-sector strategies will enable implementation of this policy and preparation of the investment plans for water supply, sanitation and water resource management, which will be implemented to ensure sustainable sanitation and water services to the people of Southern Sudan.

The strategies will highlight the envisaged legal and institutional frameworks such as the formation of GoSS Water Council with representation of all the relevant institutions, so as to provide policy and strategic guidance in a holistic and an integrated manner on the interventions in the WASH Sector.

It is worth mentioning that the Water Supply and Sanitation sector in Southern Sudan has had different and many actors for a long time. The activities were fragmented as the organizations pursued their individual policies, making it difficult to monitor and evaluate the quality and efficiency of facilities and services provided and their contribution to the socio-economic development of the people of Southern Sudan; because, responsibilities have been shifting across different institutions. But, in 2008 the

functions and duties of the Government of Southern Sudan Ministries were reorganized, bringing under the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation all aspects of water and sanitation. Now, the Ministry is streamlining the sector by developing service delivery procedures, guidelines, regulations, standards and manuals for guidance and supervision of different actors within the WASH sector.

GoSS has taken a giant step forward to consolidate administrative and fiscal decentralization, so as to devolve development and delivery of services. Hence, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) budgeted for salaries and operating costs in support of Water and Sanitation Departments in the States; and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning directly transfers this money accordingly on a monthly basis. GoSS will maintain its commitment to sustain capacity for the implementation; operation and maintenance; and monitoring of water and sanitation programmes.

The completion of a new Sanitation and Water for All National Strategy and the finalisation of the SSWICH establishment by the end of 2010 will lead to more transparent and strategically focused sector development plans. The government is committed to pursue accelerated sanitation and hygiene practices and is prepared to allocate increased and distinctive budget categories to facilitate rapid progress with the full and determined support of our donor partners.

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