

## > South Sudan



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	To strengthen the capacity of local authorities to provide sustainable water and sanitation services (WASH)
<b>TARGET GROUP</b>	Civil servants at 2 state ministries and in 2 counties in the state of Eastern Equatoria
<b>INTENDED RESULT</b>	Increased capability of state and county authorities to develop, implement WASH policies and strategies and manage related services for local communities
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	Workshops, trainings, on-the-job coaching, study visits

South Sudan is Africa's youngest state. After many years of civil war, the southern part of Sudan gained independence in 2011. The new country faces enormous challenges. For example, the security of the food supply is under pressure and sustainable sanitation facilities for the citizens are, to a great extent, lacking. The enormous backlog in these areas impedes economic and social development.

Due to the weak capacity of, inter alia, the local government apparatus, it is primarily international NGOs that provide basic services to the population. Local governments face the challenge of gradually retaking control of these tasks.

### COST-RECOVERY

The LGCP South Sudan programme concentrates on 2 of the 8 counties and 2 state ministries in Eastern Equatoria State, one of South Sudan's 10 states.

The aim of the programme is to enhance the capacity of the local authorities in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene. They are supported in the development of policy and the design of systems for management and maintenance. It is important to realise a financially sustainable approach in this respect. Identification of appropriate cost-recovery mechanisms will feature prominently in the programme.

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a responsibility of local authorities, but the transition from national policy to local implementation has barely been made. The LGCP South Sudan supports this transition. •



• **'The South Sudanese are very clear on what they want assistance with: soft skills, instead of only hardware. Wells have been sunk in their country for decades, with the help of NGOs, but for maintenance they have to rely on those same NGOs. Local authorities are eager to take over the management of the basic service delivery. We can assist them in this.'**

Chris van Hemert, Country Programme Manager of LGCP South Sudan •

## Background

It is estimated that less than 15 percent of the population in South Sudan has access to decent sanitation facilities. There is little acknowledgement of the importance of hygiene to prevent disease. Almost half of the water points do not function because of overdue maintenance.

By law, local authorities are responsible for basic facilities like safe drinking water, public toilets and hygiene. They should not only provide the facilities, they are also responsible for the maintenance. Because local administrators and civil servants lack capacity, experience and financial resources, they are often not able to properly execute their tasks.

## Aim

The LGCP South Sudan programme works on enhancing the capacity of local authorities in the area of water, sanitation facilities and hygiene in Eastern Equatoria State, one of the ten South Sudanese states. Specifically the programme will support the state ministries of Housing & Public Utilities and of Local Government and the counties of Torit and Kapoeta North in:

- translating national WASH policy and strategy to policies and strategies at the local level;
- Identifying cost-recovery mechanisms that will sustain WASH services and infrastructure.

Furthermore, the programme supports awareness raising on the part of the population and lobbying among decision makers. It also facilitates cooperation between the various government layers. With this the LGCP South Sudan aligns with the policy of the South Sudanese central government and with the water programme of the Netherlands embassy.

## Activities

What are the tasks and responsibilities of local administrators and civil servants? And how do you ensure that basic services are sustainable? Investing in transferring such knowledge contributes to capacity building. Use is made of the knowledge and experience of peer professionals from the same target group, such as civil servants, water technicians or administrators. These experts may come from the Netherlands, but also from South Sudan itself or a neighbouring country like Uganda. Knowledge transfer takes place in the form of coaching and on-the job training.

There is no local government association in South Sudan. Through stimulating a community of practice, experience will be shared with colleagues from the various government layers, from central government to village level.

## → What do we want to achieve?

- **Enhanced capacity among the selected ministries and counties to develop sustainable policy and strategies for water, sanitation and hygiene services.**
- **Enhanced capacity among the selected ministries and counties to implement that policy and related strategies.**