World Toilet Day: One third of Sudanese people have access to improved sanitation

19 November is World Toilet Day, a day to raise awareness and inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis – a topic often neglected and shrouded in taboos. Today, 2.4 billion people globally are struggling to stay well, keep their children alive and work their way to a better future – all for the want of a toilet. The Sustainable Development Goals, launched in 2015, include a target to ensure everyone everywhere has access to toilets by 2030. This makes sanitation a global development priority.

In Sudan, as of 2014 only 23.6 percent of the population (about 9 million people out of 38.4 million) have access to improved sanitation, according to the World Bank and World Health Organization/UN Children’s Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS). According to JMP for WSS, an improved sanitation facility – a proper toilet – separates human waste from human contact. The absence of adequate sanitation has a serious impact on health and social development, especially for children, according to WHO.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 survey for Sudan indicates that 32.9 per cent of household members in Sudan are using an improved sanitation facility. This means that the number of people in Sudan who lack access to improved sanitation is estimated to be between 25.7 million (JMP for WSS) and 29.3 million people (MICS 2014). It is estimated that about half of them are children.

The S3M survey carried out in 2013 highlights disparities between states in terms of access to improved sanitation. Blue Nile State (except the capital Ed Damazine town) has
the highest percentage of households with access to improved sanitation – 73.3 per cent, followed by Northern State (52.4 per cent for the whole state excluding the capital) and Khartoum State (47.9 per cent). The states (except their capitals) with the poorest access to improved sanitation are North Kordofan (2 per cent), South Darfur (2.2 per cent) and White Nile (3.3 per cent).

According to a 2008 WHO report on the impact of safe water and sanitation on health, 88 per cent of diarrhoea cases globally are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene.

**WASH funding under Sudan HRP declining since 2008**

As of 20 November, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Sudan is only 26.4 per cent funded against the 2016 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). FTS tracks financial contributions against HRPs globally. The WASH sector is seeking $78 million from donors for its activities in Sudan in 2016.

Overall, funding available for WASH sector activities under the Sudan HRP has been decreasing since 2008 (see the graph below for more details), with a slight increase in 2013.

![Graph showing donor funding for water and sanitation activities in Sudan from 2008 to 2016.](source: FTS)

During a mission to Sudan as part of the visit to the region in early November, John Ging, the Director of the Operations of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), highlighted a major funding gap for humanitarian action in Sudan amounting to US$555 million. Mr. Ging said that his mission to the region had been focused on the issue of connecting humanitarian actions with development, recalling that the World Humanitarian Summit earlier this year in Istanbul had emphasised the links between humanitarian and development activities.

**Save the Children phasing out health and nutrition services in 20 centres in South Kordofan**

The international NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) announced that it is phasing out health and nutrition services in 20 centres in South Kordofan State due to funding constraints. This will affect about 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community who were supported by these services.
Save the Children Sweden (SCS) is phasing out health and nutrition services in 20 centres in South Kordofan State due to lack of new funds.

The centres affected are located in Dalami (1 centre), Al Goz (1), and Abu Kershola (1), Habila (2) and Kadugli (2), Kalogi (3), Diling (5) and Al Reif Ashargi (5).

Through these clinics and health centres, SCS with the current support of OFDA, is providing health and nutrition services for more than 58,000 IDPs and 142,000 people from the host community. The services include rapid response kits, training, awareness and health promotion in addition to incentive payments for the vaccination and mobile teams. Nutrition activities provided by SCS include services such as Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programmes and Supplementary Feeding Programmes as well as paying incentives for staff and volunteers, quarterly nutrition screening campaigns.

Increase in 2016 arrivals by sea to Italy from Sudan, major drop in arrivals from Eritrea and Somalia

On 18 November, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) issued an infographic on migration flows to Europe indicating that the number of arrivals by sea to Italy from Sudan during January-August 2016 increased compared to the same period of 2015, while the number of arrivals from Eritrea and Somalia has dropped significantly. Sudan is one of the main transit countries for Eritreans and Somalis travelling to Italy by sea (see an IOM map for details on page 4).

According to IOM, between 1 January and 17 November 2016, 167,276 persons arrived to Italy by sea, compared to 140,987 sea arrivals in the first 10 months of 2015. The total number of arrivals in Italy this year is similar to those of the previous two years, but recently IOM has noticed an increase in departures from Libya.

In terms of countries of origin, 13 per cent of all sea arrivals to Italy originated from Nigeria, followed by Eritrea (9 per cent), Sudan (5 per cent) and other countries, including Somalia (3.6 per cent). Compared to the same period in 2015, the number of arrivals from Sudan increased by about 13 per cent (from 7,131 to 8,066 arrivals), while the number of arrivals from Eritrea and Somalia decreased by 52 and 32 per cent respectively (from 31,080 to 15,043 arrivals and from 8,790 to 6,025 arrivals respectively).

In April 2016, the European Union said it would provide about €100 million (an estimated US$110 million) to address irregular migration and improve living conditions of refugees and host communities in eastern Sudan. Sudan also benefits from additional funding under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, including a €40 million (about $42.5 million) programme to better manage migration in the region. In addition, the German government has earmarked €12 million (about $12.7 million) for projects aimed at stemming illegal immigration of Africans across Sudan to Europe.
Migration routes from Horn of Africa to Europe - IOM