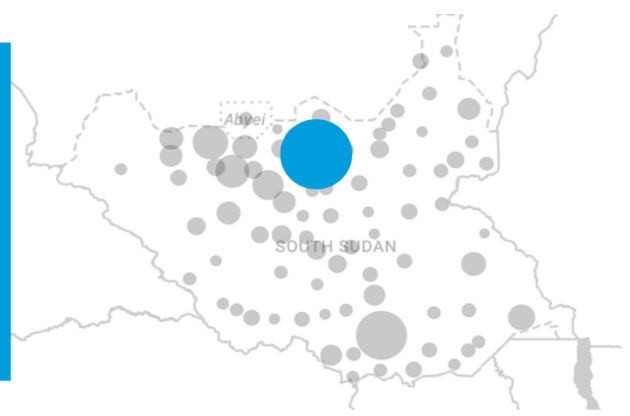


A SIMPLIFIED, CONTEXTUALIZED ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR WASH IN HEALTH FACILITIES:

AN EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN

world relief 



— WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS IN SOUTH SUDAN —

World Relief has been active in South Sudan since 1998. The mission for World Relief in South Sudan is to be the premier Christian humanitarian responder holistically engaging crises affecting fragile contexts. In our team of more than 400 people implement holistic, multi-sectoral programs in the triple-nexus of humanitarian aid, peacebuilding, and development. Our programs integrate gender equality and social inclusions alongside community mobilization to build resilience. Through South Sudan Humanitarian Funds, UNICEF, WHO, and USAID BHA combined, World Relief supports primary health care and/or nutrition services in 52 different facilities across three counties in Upper Nile State. These health facilities include primary health care units, primary health care centers, outpatient nutrition sites, and stabilization centers. World Relief supports these facilities using a health systems strengthening approach, providing support for human resources, essential medicines and medical supplies, supportive supervision, information systems, and quality service delivery. World Relief also supports community groups to engage in leadership and governance through Village Health Committees.

— THE CHALLENGE —

Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are crucial for preventing infections, especially in healthcare settings where vulnerable populations like malnourished children are treated. WHO assessments have revealed a lack of basic WASH services across the majority of health facilities in South Sudan, putting patients, staff, and the community at risk. This is particularly concerning as waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhea are leading causes of death in children.

WASH in health facilities is prioritized in the national WASH plan, but resource constraints hinder implementation. World Relief, operating in Koch, Fangak, and Rubkona counties, supports health facilities and clinical nutrition programs (both out patient and stabilization centers) treating these children, mothers, the elderly, and other community members. In 2023, World Relief had limited UNICEF and BHA funds available to support improvements in WASH for health facilities. The South Sudan team needed a tool to assess conditions that was easy to implement, provided clear results, and helped them prioritize how to utilize the funds that were available.

— WORLD RELIEF'S APPROACH —

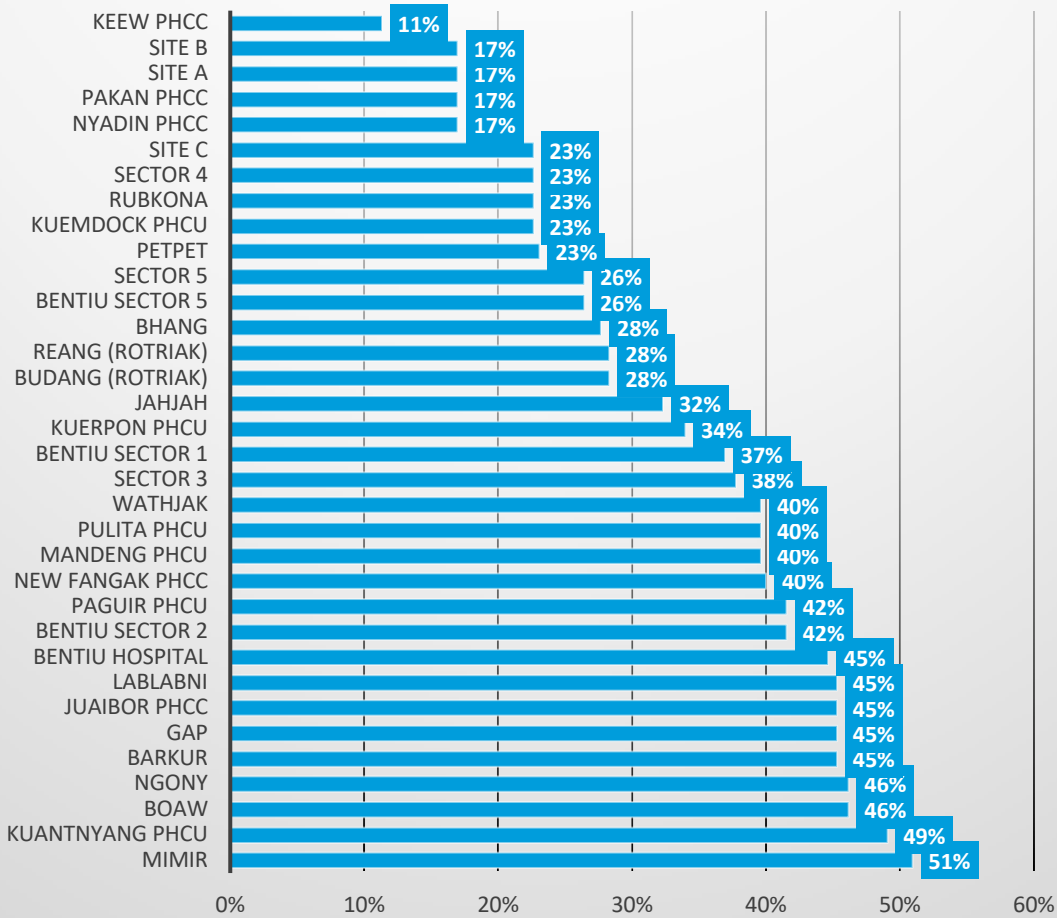
World Relief reviewed existing tools for assessing WASH in health facilities such as:

- [The Sphere Standards WASH Standard 6: WASH in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [WHO and UNICEF's WASH Fit Tool](#)
- [WHO's Rapid Assessment Tool](#)

World Relief needed a tool for assessment and a way to understand the results from the assessment that could meet the following minimum criteria:

- Could be implemented alongside normal supervision visits to different facilities
- Could be utilized for health and nutrition sites
- Could measure 38 indicators, including 2 WASH related indicators specific to nutrition sites
- Could provide an overall score, and a score for categories of Water Supply, Hygiene, Sanitation, and medical waste management
- Results visualization would allow managers to identify priorities for WASH support

Overall WASH in Health Facility Scores



FINDINGS:

World Relief has assessed 34 health facilities in the last 6 months. The average total score was 33%. Most facilities (91%) had access to safe drinking water and containers for collecting waste (81%). However, appropriate sanitation and medical waste management were poor across the board.

LESSONS LEARNED

The tool works to measure the domains that mattered to the program implementers, and provided them with useful information in a timely way. There were challenges in designing the tool, and it is clear that pilots and testing were needed to get the assessment tool measuring exactly what aligned with the standard tools as well as local guidelines for South Sudan. Lastly, there are ongoing conversations about the best ways to create data visualization that shows what matters to various stakeholders.

For 80 years, across 100 countries, World Relief has been tackling the world's greatest crises. As hundreds of millions of people are driven from their homes as a result of violent conflict, climate change, and extreme poverty, World Relief engages communities in crisis, builds communities of resilience, supports communities on the move, and creates communities of welcome amongst host communities.

Mission: Boldly engaging the world's greatest crises in partnership with the Church.

Vision: We envision thriving, welcoming communities where families flourish, and people experience restorative relationships with God, their neighbors, themselves, and all of creation.