

Workshops: The Challenges of Returns and Provision of Basic Services

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Water and Sanitation

Facilitated by:

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Question 1: What we know from our experience that will help others work in Southern Sudan.

- Local community involvement is essential in sustaining solutions and services deployed in the sector.
- Innovative solutions are available and should be explored more (Nuba Water Project as a prototype.)
- Capacity building should be a long-term process.
- There are cheap techniques to locate water sources before spending significant sums digging wells.

Question 2: What we want the Government of Southern Sudan to know about the needs we see in Southern Sudan from our experience.

- As everyone knows, the outbreak of waterborne diseases in Southern Sudan are primarily caused by the lack of water and sanitation services.
- Public-private partnership schemes should be explored by GOSS in the water and sanitary service provision sectors.
- Big projects funded by the World Bank and others are not successful without planning for sustainability and lifecycle use.
- Water and sanitation service should not be planned in isolation from the other sectors like health and education.
- Going back to the point about empowering and involving the population receiving this service, some of the essential sanitation practices like chlorination and even maintenance of wells should be handled by trained members of the recipient communities.
- There are other sources of water that are more economical in the context of Southern Sudan than the traditional well digging method. In many parts of Southern Sudan, surface water from the rains could be harvested at a fraction of the cost. Please reference the proposed project from "Nuba Water Project" which illustrates a pilot prototype water project in the Nuba Mountains to serve over 3,000 families at a cost of only \$150,000. This is a fraction of what most people think it would cost to provide clean water to such a population.
- There is a need to explore leveraging our army's personnel as participants in the development process. Their numbers and training should be utilized in sectors such as "water & sanitation" and road building. The US Army Corp of Engineers and The National Guard are models, though not to the same level of sophistication, for how GOSS can start to work with SPLA as a partner in development.