**South Sudan water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Report — Lakes State, Western and Eastern Equatoria**

January 2021

#### 

Cover photo credit: Gatbel Chany, 2021

**About REACH**

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@impact-initiatives.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.

**Contents**

[Introduction 3](#_Toc73012516)

[Methodology 4](#_Toc73012517)

[Findings 5](#_Toc73012518)

[1. Access to water 5](#_Toc73012519)

[Use of improved water sources 5](#_Toc73012520)

[Time required to collect water 7](#_Toc73012521)

[Protection concerns around collecting water 8](#_Toc73012522)

[Indicators combined 9](#_Toc73012523)

[2. Access to sanitation 11](#_Toc73012524)

[3. WASH NFIs and Health 13](#_Toc73012525)

[Conclusion 15](#_Toc73012526)

# Introduction

The dynamic and multi-faceted nature of the South Sudan displacement crisis has created significant challenges for the delivery of humanitarian aid.[[1]](#footnote-1) Accessibility and security issues within South Sudan have impeded a systematic understanding of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in many areas of the country. As this crisis continues to evolve, it has become increasingly important to fill information gaps to inform a more effective humanitarian response.

In response to these information gaps, this report synthesises WASH data available across different sources to enable evidence-based prioritisation as a part of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) [Sustainable WASH for Resilience Programme](https://www.acted.org/en/projects/sustainable-wash-for-resilience-2/). Specifically, this report aims to identify the level of WASH needs in UNICEF’s locations of interest as they pertain to three key categories: access to water, access to sanitation facilities, and hygiene as represented by health outcomes and access to WASH non-food items (NFIs).

# Methodology

This report is based on a review of secondary data on WASH conditions in South Sudan in the 11 counties of interest for UNICEF’s programme: Yambio County, Ezo County, Nzara County, Torit County, Lafon County, Ikotos County, Magwi County, Wulu County, Rumbek North County, Rumbek Centre County, and Rumbek East County. Three key sources of data were used to conduct this review: the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS), REACH Initiative’s Area of Knowledge (AoK) assessment, and the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

**FSNMS**

The FSNMS is a seasonal countrywide assessment that started in 2010, and is conducted, funded and run by the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The FSNMS is designed as a representative survey that employs two-stage cluster sampling, using a county-based sample size and cluster determination, that is conducted twice a year. In each county, access permitting, 9 clusters are selected and 12 households are interviewed per cluster. The resulting data is **representative** at the county level, with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10%. The FSNMS is a critical source of information at the county level that allows for the identification of affected areas, the prioritisation of resources and for monitoring trends. In this report, [FSNMS round 25](https://fscluster.org/south-sudan-rep/document/food-security-and-nutrition-monitoring-4) (November and December 2019) data is analysed, since Round 26 (September/October 2020 data) was not yet available for public use at the time of writing.

**AoK**

REACH collects primary data from key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement, a process outlined in [REACH’s AoK Terms of Reference](https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/de16db5a/reach_ssd_terms_of_references_assessment_of_hard_to_reach_areas_2_november_2018.pdf). In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs are conducted on a monthly basis using a structured survey tool. After data collection is completed, all data is aggregated at the settlement level, and settlements are assigned the modal or most credible response. Due to the data collection methodology, AoK data is **indicative** and not representative at the settlement level. All counties of interest are included, except Lafon and Ikotos Counties, where no AoK data was collected. For this report, AoK data from November 2019 was analysed, in order to align with the data collection period for FSNMS round 25.

**DTM**

IOM’s DTM team carries out multi-sectoral location assessments through KI interviews and direct observation in areas hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and/or returnees at displacement sites to gather data across the main humanitarian sectors. This data is **indicative** of the needs of IDPs and returnees living in the assessed areas. For the purpose of this overview, [DTM round 6](https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-site-and-villageneighborhood-assessment-wash-i-water-summary-%E2%80%94-mobility) (June 2019) data was used as that was the latest released data during reporting.

The indicators included in this report were chosen to align with the five core WASH indicators identified by REACH in 2018, in close coordination with the WASH cluster:

1. % of households by displacement status;
2. % of households reporting having safe access in under 30 minutes to an improved water source[[2]](#footnote-2) as their main source of drinking water;
3. % of households reporting having access to a latrine (private, shared, or communal/institutional);
4. % of households reporting having access to key WASH NFIs, e.g. soap, mosquito nets, water containers;
5. % of households reporting that one or more household member was affected by water or a vector-borne disease in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Data analysis consisted of the generation of summary statistics using R and Excel. These summary statistics were then compared across counties and thematic areas in order to indicate needs and gaps and identify potential links between conditions reported under separate indicators.

# Findings

## Access to water

### Use of improved water sources

The FSNMS survey asked households to identify their main source of drinking water. Options included improved and unimproved sources, and the use of improved water sources varied significantly across the 11 counties (Table 1). There appears to be a link between the proportion of households who reported using improved water sources (borehole or tapstand) and the state they lived in. When looking only at use of an improved water sources, without considering protection concerns or time spent collecting water, all four counties in Lakes State (Rumbek Centre, East and North, Wulu) had the highest proportion of households who reported using improved water sources as their main source of drinking water, ranging from 86% to 98% of households (Figure 1).

Table 1: Proportion of households reportedly using improved water sources as their main source of drinking water (FSNMS round 25)

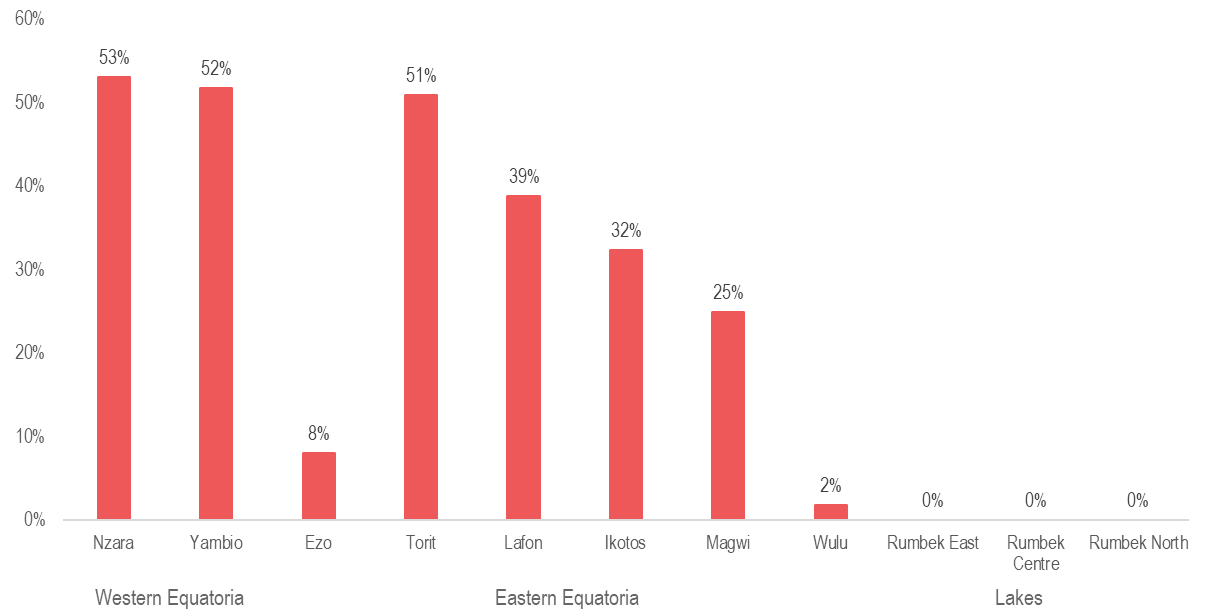
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 98% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 97% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 88% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 86% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 75% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 61% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 60% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 49% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 32% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 31% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 24% |

The use of improved water sources was also common in Eastern Equatoria, although a significantly higher proportion of households reported using water from rivers and streams than in Lakes State (Figure 2). Finally, in Western Equatoria, less than 32% of households in each county of interest reported using improved water sources as their main water source. Instead, 53% of households in Nzara and 52% of households in Yambio reported that they primarily obtained water from rivers or streams, and 58% of households in Ezo reported using unimproved wells as their main source of drinking water.

These FSNMS findings seem to be supported by figures found at the settlement level through REACH’s AoK assessment. Observing AoK data available for November 2019, key informants in more than 60% of all assessed settlements reported that a borehole was present and functional in their settlement (Table 2). Similar to FSNMS data in Lakes State, KIs from 90% or more of all assessed settlements in Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East and Wulu County reported using improved water sources as their main water source.

Nonetheless, FSNMS and AoK findings seem to differ when it comes to Nzara and Yambio counties, possibly due to differences in methodologies and coverage.

**Figure 1: Proportion of households reportedly using a river/stream as their main source of drinking water across 11 counties (FSNMS round 25)**



**Table 2: Proportion of settlements where KIs reported improved, functional water sources are present (AoK November 2019)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Borehole present** | **If present, borehole is functional** | **Unimproved water source used as main source** |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 94% | 100% | 3% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 96% | 100% | 0% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 100% | 100% | 33% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 100% | 100% | 0% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 100% | 75% | 0% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 88% | 73% | 27% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 79% | 100% | 17% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 80% | 92% | 0% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 83% | 100% | 0% |

Through REACH’s AoK survey, KIs in 33% of assessed settlements in Rumbek North reported that residents used unimproved water sources as their main source of drinking water, which is possibly attributable to the security concerns around usng improved water sources that were reported through the FSNMS (please see the section on protection concerns below). Similar to FSNMS data reported in Figure 2, KIs from a large proportion of settlements in Torit and Ezo Counties reported usage of unimproved water sources. According to data from IOM DTM, , IDP and returnee households in Ezo and Torit Counties also reported have the lowest usage of an improved water source as their main source of drinking water compared to other counties, at 32% and 48% respectively,[[3]](#footnote-3) which may be an indication of a need for targeted interventions.

The FSNMS findings suggest that interventions around improved water sources are most needed in Western Equatoria, followed by Eastern Equatoria and then Lakes State (Table 1). However, REACH’s AoK data shows that, even where improved water sources are present, they are not always be used.

Reasons may include the time required to collect water and perceived protection concerns, which will be discussed in the next sections.

### Time required to collect water

The five core WASH indicators set the standard for time required to collect water from an improved water source to 30 minutes, which includes the time required to get to the water source, collect water and return home.[[4]](#footnote-4) When this indicator is added to the analysis, Lakes is no longer the state that is closest to meeting the standards set by REACH and the WASH cluster for acceptable access to water. Instead, differences between counties within a single state become visible, and there appears to be less of a link between the state that a county is in and access to water (Table 3).

**Table 3: Proportion of households who reported using improved water sources within their compound or in less than 30 minutes as their main source of drinking water (FSNMS Round 25)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 85% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 83% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 79% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 75% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 69% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 69% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 68% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 66% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 59% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 38% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 28% |

The highest levels of access to water were reported in Lafon and Torit Counties, with more than 80% of households reporting that they can collect water in less than 30 minutes, and where only 2% of households reported that it took them more than an hour to collect water. Rumbek Centre, North, and East were the only counties of interest where a significant proportion of households reported that they collected water inside their compounds: 18%, 17%, and 9%, compared to the other counties where less than 1% of households reported using water collected inside their compounds.

Rumbek North stands out as a county where 59% of households reported that they could collect water from an improved source in less than 30 minutes or within their compound, but nearly 20% required more than an hour to do so. Additionally, 7% of households who reported accessing an improved drinking water source reportedly spent half a day or more accessing it, the highest of any county of interest. This could suggest that public water sources in Rumbek North are quite distant from the households that require them.

Similarly, the majority of households in Ikotos and Yambio were reportedly not able to collect water from an improved water source in under 30 minutes (Figure 2). Indeed, 59% of households in Ikotos reported needing 30 minutes to one hour to collect water from an improved water source, the highest of all counties; the same was reported by 39% of households in Yambio County.

**Figure 2: Time reportedly spent collecting water from improved water sources, among households who use improved facilities as their main source of water, by county (number of households with access inside their compounds or within thirty minutes/number of households using improved water sources) (FSNMS round 25)**

These findings suggest that interventions to reduce the time needed to collect water from improved water sources are most needed in Western Equatoria State and Rumbek Centre, Rumbek North and Ikotos Counties.

### Protection concerns around collecting water

It is worth noting that there is no clear connection between collection times and perceived insecurity in the reviewed data. In Ikotos, for instance, only 2% of households reported feeling unsafe when collecting water, although 72% have to travel for more than 30 minutes. Conversely, in Rumbek North (48%) and Yambio (39%) counties, water collection times do indeed seem to correspond with the high proportions of households reporting feeling unsafe while collecting water (Table 4).

**Figure 3: Proportion of households who reported using an improved source of water (borehole or tap stand) that they could reach within 30 minutes and without facing perceived safety concerns, compared to overall use of improved water sources (number of assessed households in each category) (FSNMS round 25)**

**Table 4: Proportion of all households who reported that any member had felt unsafe during water collection in the two weeks prior to data collection (FSNMS round 25)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 1% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 2% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 4% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 5% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 6% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 7% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 16% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 19% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 36% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 39% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 48% |

The longer distances to and from water sources may correspond with the insecurity felt during water collection in these two counties, although other factors such as different levels of conflict and criminal activity may also play a role. In Yambio county, only 5% of IDP and refugee households reportedly felt safe when collecting water.[[5]](#footnote-5) Interestingly, counties with the next highest proportions of IDP and returnee households that felt unsafe (67%) are Ezo County and Nzara County, which may indicate a need for interventions specifically targeting IDPs and returnees in these counties since their outcomes differ from those of the general population.3

In conclusion, residents in counties of interest in Lakes State and Ezo and Yambio Counties appear to face more protection concerns around collecting water than those in the other states, which may be related to overall insecurity.

### Indicators combined

**Table 5: Proportion of households whose primary source of water was improved, accessible in under 30 minutes, and where no members felt unsafe while collecting water in the two weeks prior to data collection (FSNMS Round 25)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Wulu | Lakes | 64% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 64% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 54% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 50% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 46% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 41% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 32% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 21% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 21% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 16% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 6% |

Combining the three aforementioned indicators, safe access to an improved water source within 30 minutes is one of the five core WASH indicators. Findings under this combined indicator reflect the geographic pattern found for the use of improved water sources, where the highest proportions of households with acceptable levels of access to water were found in Lakes State, followed by Eastern Equatoria and Western Equatoria.

Although the AoK data suggests that functional boreholes are present at the settlement level, in a number of counties a relatively low proportion of households reported using improved water sources through the FSNMS. This may indicate that existing improved water sources cannot easily be accessed by local communities.

Adding in the indicators for the time required to access water and perceived safety further illustrates overall needs and allows for the key barriers to water access to be identified. For instance, in Ikotos and Yambio, the use of existing, improved water sources appears to be primarily limited by the time needed for households to reach them. In addition, specifically in Yambio, there are also protection concerns, with 39% of households reportedly feeling unsafe when collecting water. Overall, the proportion of households with acceptable levels of access to water appears to be lowest in Western Equatoria State, as well as in Ikotos in Eastern Equatoria.

## Access to sanitation

According to FSNMS findings, latrine presence and usage align quite closely across all counties of interest; in counties where latrines were reported to be present, households generally answered that they had used them as their primary location for defecation in the two weeks prior to data collection (Table 6). The counties of interest in Western Equatoria had by far the highest reported presence of latrines, with 90% or more households in each county reporting that there was a latrine in their settlement, and a similar figure reporting the presence of a family latrine. Latrine presence appears to correspond with usage in Western Equatoria, with more than 90% also reporting that they had always used a latrine for defection in the two weeks prior to the assessment.

Table 6: Proportion of households by reported the presence andusage of latrines in the two weeks prior to data collection (FSNMS round 25)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Latrine present** | **Always use latrine** |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 95% | 95% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 95% | 97% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 91% | N/A[[6]](#footnote-6) |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 59% | 59% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 26% | 6% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 26% | 13% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 20% | 10% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 19% | 18% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 15% | 15% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 6% | 6% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 4% | 2% |

In contrast, in the remaining seven counties of interest, the sanitation situation appeared quite poor, with the majority of households reporting that there was no latrine present in their settlement, and that they had most commonly turned to open defecation in the bushes in the two weeks prior to data collection. Similarly, November 2019 AoK findings also highlighted that residents of a higher proportion of settlements in the Equatorias use latrines compared to Lakes, and that this proportion is particularly low in Rumbek North and Wulu Counties (Table 7). This was also true for IDP and returnee populations in Rumbek East, Wulu, and Rumbek North Counties, where households reported that they most commonly practiced open defecation at 100%, 93% and 89% respectively.[[7]](#footnote-7) These figures are aligned with FSNMS findings showing that only 2% to 6% of households in these three counties reported always using a latrine for defecation (Table 6).

Table 7: Proportion of settlements where KIs reported that any residents used a latrine in the month prior to data collection (November 2019 AoK)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of settlements** |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 100% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 100% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 100% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 94% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 86% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 84% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 58% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 29% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 0% |

Extrapolating findings from all three sources underline Rumbek North, Rumbek East, and Wulu as the three counties with the most urgent sanitation needs, principally when it comes to infrastructure and hygiene promotion. In the case of Rumbek East, as well as counties such as Rumbek Centre and Ikotos, the comparatively low proportion of households reporting to have used latrines for defecation in the two weeks prior to data collection compared to the proportion of households with access to latrines anywhere in their settlement, may indicate that existing infrastructure is insufficiently accessible or appropriate.

## WASH NFIs and Health

Inadequate WASH conditions may affect the health of affected populations. In round 25 of the FSNMS, all households were asked to state whether any member had been sick in the two weeks prior to data collection,[[8]](#footnote-8) inclusive of waterborne diseases. In 10 of 11 counties, 60% of households or more reported that they had experienced illness either among adults, children or both in the two weeks prior to data collection (Table 8). This was predominantly reported in Western and Eastern Equatoria, although Nzara County (Western Equatoria) was the only county where less than 50% of households reported illnesses.

**Table 8: Proportion of households with any WASH-related illness reported in the two weeks prior to data collection (FSNMS round 25)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 93% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 88% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 85% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 81% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 79% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 79% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 77% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 71% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 65% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 60% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 41% |

Lafon County had the highest proportion of households where one or more members had reportedly been ill in the two weeks prior to data collection, at 93%; illness among children was reported by 64% of households. Respondents in Lafon County also most frequently reported the symptom of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) among children, at 40%, second to fever (74%). This may be correlated with the relatively high proportion of households who reported using rivers and streams as the main source of water, at 39%.

**Figure 4: Proportion of households who reported that children had experienced malaria, AWD, and/or fever in the two weeks prior to data collection, by county (FSNMS round 25)**

Malaria was the most commonly reported disease affecting children, followed by fever, across all counties with the exception of Ikotos and Lafon (Figure 4). However, when households were asked whether all members had slept under a mosquito net in the two weeks prior to data collection, more than 50% of them in all counties except Wulu and Ikotos said yes (Table 9). In Rumbek North, uptake was 94%, yet 55% of households reported that a child had experienced malaria in the two weeks prior to data collection. This suggests that the use of mosquito nets may be insufficient to combat malaria. This may in turn be connected to inadequate sanitation facilities and standing water, which can serve as a mosquito breeding ground.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**Table 9: Proportion of households who reported that all household members slept under a mosquito net in the two weeks prior to data collection (FSNMS round 25)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 94% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 84% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 84% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 75% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 71% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 68% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 67% |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 62% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 58% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 43% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 31% |

The use of soap is the most cost-effective method of preventing the spread of disease, including AWD and fever.[[10]](#footnote-10) In most counties in Eastern and Western Equatoria, a relatively higher proportion of households was able to locate a piece of soap and show it to FSNMS enumerators upon request, compared to households in Lakes State (Table 10). The two exceptions are Ikotos and Lafon, which were also two counties where households most commonly reported that fever had affected children, as opposed to malaria. This may suggest a link between the presence of the disease and the lack of access to hygiene NFIs in these two counties as well as Lakes State. Finally, disease may be prevented through the use of closed or covered water containers. Across all counties, the median number of buckets or jerry cans in all households was found to be two, which is in line with Sphere standards.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Table 10: Proportion of households with soap present and seen (FSNMS round 25)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **State** | **Proportion of HHs** |
| Torit | Eastern Equatoria | 62% |
| Magwi | Eastern Equatoria | 58% |
| Ezo | Western Equatoria | 50% |
| Yambio | Western Equatoria | 46% |
| Nzara | Western Equatoria | 42% |
| Rumbek Centre | Lakes | 42% |
| Lafon | Eastern Equatoria | 29% |
| Rumbek East | Lakes | 27% |
| Ikotos | Eastern Equatoria | 13% |
| Wulu | Lakes | 11% |
| Rumbek North | Lakes | 9% |

# Conclusion

As stated in the introduction, the purpose of this report is to identify and compare WASH needs and conditions across a number of locations of interest identified by UNICEF, based on data available through secondary sources. Overall, the WASH needs in the area of interest vary by county and specific areas of WASH. In regards to water use, the greatest gaps were found in Western Equatoria State, particularly in Yambio County. Households in Yambio predominantly reported using unimproved water sources, having to travel long distances to access water, and facing security concerns along the way. On the other hand, the proportion of households with access to improved water sources was highest in Lakes State, although households did report facing security concerns.

Furthermore, the proportion of households who reported having access to sanitation facilities (specifically latrines) was relatively high in Western Equatoria, but comparatively low in the other two states. Ikotos and Lafon counties, as well as Lakes State, are the locations with the lowest reported use of soap as a hygiene practice. Finally, the prevalence of WASH-related illnesses, especially malaria, was reported frequently in all counties of interest, despite the use of mosquito nets reportedly being relatively widespread.

**June 2021 update**

In May 2021, the first ever WASH Severity Classification (WSC) workshop for South Sudan took place. The aim of this workshop was to identify the level of WASH needs in each county in South Sudan, classifying them on a scale of one to five. WSC analysis was based on consensus between participants on the interpretation of the available data, including FSNMS Round 26 and REACH AoK data for November 2020. In contrast to the data in this report, the WSC findings do not break down needs by category; instead, they represent the severity of WASH needs overall. The findings from this workshop will be released in July or August 2021. They will present another option for comparing WASH conditions and informing aid prioritisation and programming.

1. [UNICEF (2021), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in South Sudan Briefing note](https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/7681/file/WASH%20Briefing%20note_Jan-Mar%202021.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. An improved water source is “a source that, by nature of its construction, adequately protects the water from outside contamination, in particular from faecal matter” ([World Health Organization, Water Sanitation Hygiene Key terms](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmp2012/key_terms/en/)). Common improved water sources in South Sudan include boreholes, tap stands, and water yards. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. International Organization for Migration, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](https://displacement.iom.int/node/7776), June 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Sphere Standards Handbook](https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-Handbook-2018-EN.pdf), 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. International Organization for Migration, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](https://displacement.iom.int/node/7776), June 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The FSNMS data indicates that 92% of households in Yambio always used a latrine for defecation in the two weeks prior to data collection. Since this is higher than the proportion of households who reported the presence of a latrine, this figure may be the result of a data quality error within the FSNMS dataset. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. International Organization for Migration, [Displacement Tracking Matrix](https://displacement.iom.int/node/7776), June 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. This indicator is based on self-reporting, and data was not confirmed through health records. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [Sphere Standards Handbook](https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-Handbook-2018-EN.pdf), 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [UNICEF (2020), Strengthening Hygiene Promotion and Handwashing with Soap During Epidemics and Beyond.](https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/7996/file/Strengthen%20Hygiene%20Promotion%20and%20Handwashing%20with%20Soap%20during%20epidemics%20and%20beyond.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [Sphere Standards Handbook](https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-Handbook-2018-EN.pdf), 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)