

This is a summary of an evaluation of the impact in South Sudan of the Health Pool Fund. The Health Pooled Fund (HPF) was a multi-donor program launched in 2012 to support delivery of essential health services in South Sudan. The HPF contracted a network of NGOs to (a) Deliver essential health services and (b) Build government leadership and management capacity.

1. WHAT THE HPF DID AND WHAT IT ACHIEVED

a) Deliver essential health services, especially for mothers and children.

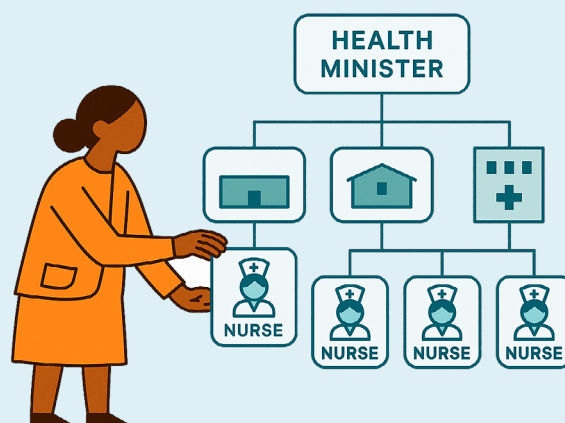
The aim was that the NGOs should operate health facilities and ensure access to vital, life-saving care.



✓ Largely successful

b) Build government leadership and management capacity.

By working with health authorities at national, state, and county levels to provide training, technical support, and mentoring, the HPF aimed to strengthen the systems and human resources needed for a sustainable, government-led health service in the future.



✗ Not successful

2. RESULTS IN CONTEXT

a) Success in delivering essential health services.

The HPF improved healthcare in South Sudan by enhancing service coverage, particularly in maternal and child health services.

The HPF significantly expanded community-level healthcare for children, treating over 3 million cases of malaria, diarrhoea, and pneumonia.

HPF also immunized a large number of children, e.g. over 1.6 million children have been vaccinated with 3 doses of the Pentavalent vaccine (a vaccine that protects children against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Septicaemia, Hepatitis B, and Pneumonia).

The HPF also greatly expanded availability and quality of maternal health services in South Sudan, which has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates. The skilled birth attendance rate rose significantly in health facilities supported by the HPF.

Based on global evidence and research, these achievements are strongly associated to reductions in either child or maternal mortality. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the HPF achieved its intended impact of decreasing maternal and child mortality.

It is also clear that HPF played a pivotal role in preventing total collapse of healthcare delivery, particularly in the face of periods of prolonged conflict and humanitarian crisis.

b) Failure to build government leadership and management capacity.

Despite the achievements of the HPF, the healthcare system in South Sudan remains highly dependent on external donor engagement and funding.

The limited institutional capacities of the Government, combined with shortage of skilled health personnel and financial constraints (or lack of prioritisation) in public budgets, has hindered progress toward a sustainable, government-led health system.

In addition, gaps or disruptions in HPF service delivery underscore the fragility of service delivery gains. There is a high risk that the HPF's achievements may be reversed in the absence of institutional and financial sustainability.

3. ABOUT THIS EVALUATION

The evaluation is based mainly on a desk review of monitoring data, reports and relevant research. More details are found in the main evaluation report.

This is a summary of the evaluation:

Impact study Health Pooled Fund, South Sudan. 2025:1f

Evaluation authors: Ayla Kristina Olesen Yurtaslan, Carsten Schwensen. (Nordic Consulting Group A/S)

The main report is available at: <https://www.sida.se/en/about-sida/publications/impact-study-health-pooled-fund-south-sudan>

The evaluation is a case study that is part of the Central Evaluation of Sida's Work with Poverty.

The evaluation was summarized by Sida / Mattias Lindgren.

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