

## Overview

Continued multi-lateral advocacy calling for a halt to Inter-Communal (ICV) and Cattle Raid (CR) incidences across the country. 309 reported cases of ICV and CR since the beginning of the year.

Following the issuance of the Human Rights and Protection Considerations paper for Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 in South Sudan in March 2020, OHCHR and the Protection Cluster are adopting different tools for ensuring protection and respect of human rights during the current context. The tools include remote monitoring due to the limited capacity of movement, information sharing between OHCHR, the PC and partners for joint advocacy, weekly updates to key stakeholders on protection issues and human rights violations reported, development of messaging on protection and human rights, and engagement and advocacy with government authorities and law-enforcement authorities.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) on COVID-19 decided on 22 April to establish the Protection Reference Group (PRG) for COVID-19 to ensure that centrality of protection is maintained and reflected in all preparedness and response plans, and that effective coordination and collaboration of all relevant actors at national and supporting state level structures takes into account protection and human rights considerations. The PRG will provide overall guidance for mainstreaming protection and human rights interventions in alignment with the National COVID-19 Response Plan. The PRG will be led by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and co-led by the Protection Cluster.

## Information Management

The South Sudan Protection Cluster has been working closely with Global Protection Cluster for the deployment of a data portal which has been finalized and launched. Through the data portal, protection partners will be able to access in a user-friendly manner the main documents issued by the Cluster, list of partners working in each area of responsibility, key highlights amongst other information. Please use the following link to access the South Sudan Protection Cluster data Portal: <http://data.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/situations/globalprotectioncluster/location/16335>

## Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (HLP TWG)

The current exceptional global emergency of COVID-19 is likely to significantly impact HLP in South Sudan in a number of ways. The main impacts identified include: increased risk of evictions due to loss of income and livelihood for some families; potential increase in HLP disputes in areas of return or relocation as people living in congest displacement sites may return to their places of habitual residence; and increasingly complex programming and coordination by HLP partners due to the scale down of activities by partners as a result of reduced staff on the ground and restriction of movement, aggravated with the lack local government structures in place.

Partners in need of support should refer any HLP concern including eviction to the local Protection Cluster and the HLP TWG members will be brought in to support on key issues. In addition, there are agencies working on HLP in most urban and peri-urban locations across South Sudan where issues can be referred to. In the current COVID-19 emergency, activities which are prioritized are: *awareness raising for affected communities, monitoring of HLP issues, legal assistance (where possible), and advocacy*. The HLP TWG issued an HLP and COVID-19 Guidance Note, available [here](#), that summarizes key challenges, priority actions, and recommendations from the HLP TWG for the information and action of affected agencies and partners.

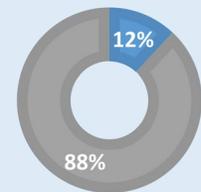
## Key Figures

**4.5 M** people in need

**3.3 M** people targeted

**\$85.7 M** funding requirement

■ Funded {US\$m} ■ Gap {US\$m}



## Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster

GBV team alongside UNFPA developed COVID-19 GBV guidelines for response and preventions. The Child and Adolescent Survivors Initiatives (CASI) global team in collaboration with the GBV SC and CPSC have finalized the selection of partners for the CASI initiative in South Sudan following their proposal review and shortlist. Two NNGOs (UNIDOR, AYA) were selected for funding and 2 INGO (WV, Plan International) were selected for capacity strengthening of GBV and CP support for child and Adolescent survivors.

The Former RTAP has now been revived to GBV and Gender Accountability Framework in South Sudan- with a draft TOR and agreed on activities/deliverables. A position paper on Gender and GBV has been developed for considerations during the COVID19. This will be shared with the COVID19 Task Force and HCT.

The GBV Sub cluster worked with the GBV State Coordinators in updating the referral pathways and GBV Service Mapping to ease referrals in the current COVID-19. Referral pathways for Juba Urban, Kapoeta, Torit, Yei, Lakes-Rumbek Centre and Yirol West, Wau, Mundri, Warrap, Aweil Centre, Malakal, Kajo Keji, Pibor and Bentiu POC have been updated. Once finalized, referral pathways will be shared with all service providers. GBV Sub cluster supported its HRP partners to review their proposals to include COVID-19 response. Out of 43 partners, 37 managed to revise their proposals and submission made to OCHA for further guidance.

## Child Protection Sub Cluster

Child Protection partners are continuously identifying and providing children with protection concerns or at risk of the protection violations direct case management services. A total of 411 vulnerable and at risks children (168 girls, 243 boys) were identified and supported through comprehensive case management and 159 UASC (119 boys and 40 girls) were identified and, provided with family tracing and reunification service. Among the UASC caseload includes 85 Children (all boys) released from detention on bail and provided with family tracing and reunification services.

- *COVID 19 Child Protection Response Update*

Child Protection partners are implementing COVID 19 prevention activities across the country. A total of 12,082 people including 7, 803 children (3833 girls and 3970 boys) benefited from numerous COVID related CP services including PSS, case management and awareness raising on facts around COVID-19, child protection risks related to COVID 19, available services and stigmatization

- *Child Protection Outreach Awareness on COVID 19 Preventions*

Mid-April 2020, Plan International conducted child protection awareness raising and sensitization on CP risks posed by covid-19 to the local chiefs and authorities in Yei town. The discussion was on what is child protection, what is covid-19, the symptoms, how to prevent the spread of covid-19, demystifying the myths, and the child protection risks posed by covid-19.



FIGURE 1: GIRLS DISPLAYING AND EMBROIDERING BEDSHEETS IN TAYAR PORT WOMEN AND GIRLS FRIENDLY SPACE.



- *War Child Holland – COVID 19 Preventions Awareness*

Since the Corona Virus pandemic, War Child Holland has directly reached a total of 65,403 individuals (65% children/ 55% female, 45% male) in its programme areas in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. War Child Holland's COVID Response includes: (a) risk communication through radio broadcasts, mobile awareness raising on wheels and foot, and house-to-house/family dialogues; (b) house-to-house distribution of hygiene supplies and child activity kits; and (c) house-to-house distribution of cash assistance for covid-preparedness. A key feature of the response is the support to local Afro beat artist Check-B Magiic and a youth group in Juba in the production of a Corona jingle in the local Juba Arabic dialect. The jingle has since been launched by UNMISS's Radio Miraya and been playing in local radios across the country and mobile awareness on wheels, along with IEC materials from UNICEF and the RCCE Working Group. The jingle may be found in [https://youtu.be/PD-pYP\\_eJac](https://youtu.be/PD-pYP_eJac)."

- *CPSC Localisation Initiative*

The South Sudan Child Protection Sub-Cluster (CPSC) launched a call for applications from the child protection organisations (National NGOs and Civil Society Organisations) for the 'Accelerating Localisation in Child Protection Coordination Initiative'. The above initiative which is being undertaken in collaboration with the global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) and Save the Children is aimed at accelerating the process of localising child protection coordination in South Sudan. As a result, the CPSC received CPSC 15 applications and has finalised the selection of 10 successful participants from 4 Organisations (HCO, CINA, TOCH and IPCS) who will participate in the localisation initiative.

## Mine Action Sub Cluster

- *Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Incidents: there was a verified ERW-related accident during the month of April.*

Following on 23 April 2020 in Magwi regarding a child, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) investigated the accident; and a mine action team will further conduct Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in the area once the COVID-19 situation allows. A total of 1,333 people (230 boys, 275 girls, 415 men, and 413 women) received EORE by mine action partners in April 2020. The number of people reached was limited due to the suspension of face-to-face EORE activities through group gatherings as preventive measures to COVID-19.

- *COVID-19 Responses*

Due to the rapid global and regional evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the confirmation of the first COVID-19 case in South Sudan on 5 April, mine action partners suspended the proactive clearance of minefields, cluster munition strikes and battle/confrontation areas in the country, as a preventive measure to combat the spread of the virus, since these activities involve large movements of people and the setting up of field camps in communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, mine action partners will continue providing response to emergency calls and explosive ordnance disposal; as well as providing support for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and facilitating the voluntary return, relocation and resettlement of the population across the country.



EORE trainer strictly observing social distancing while delivering the training in Torit, Central Equatoria

Photo credit: The Development Initiative

While regular Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities, conducted through gatherings of personnel, were suspended as a measure to prevent the spread of the virus, when deemed necessary, mine action partners provided emergency EORE door-to-door strictly observing the protocols instructed by health authorities.

- *Extension Request to the Ottawa Convention*

South Sudan is a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)<sup>1</sup> and as such has committed to “put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by Anti-Personnel mines” by destroying, or ensuring the destruction of, all AP mines in contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control. On 27 March, South Sudan officially requested a five-year extension for its deadline to fulfill this obligation in which it detailed its plan and ability to complete the clearance of all mined areas by 2026.



Photo Credit: UNMAS: Representatives of mine action partners (G4S, OSIL, SLI-SS and UNMAS) attended a panel discussion session on Radio Miraya on 1 April 2020

- *International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2020*

On 8 December 2005, the UN General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. This year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, mine action actors collectively commemorated the day through a media campaign from the end of March to the beginning of April with a theme entitled, “Together Make South Sudan Free from Landmines”. Multiple radio stations, notably Radio Miraya, Eye Radio and others, broadcast live panel discussions and interviews to deliver mine risk awareness messages particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The media campaign efforts also included the use of social media, mobile short message services and public display.

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