South Sudan Protection Cluster Update

June 2020

Overview

- Protection cluster continues to monitor and advocate for halt to the prevailing Inter-Communal and Cattle Raid incidences across the country, especially ongoing attacks in Greater Pibor areas.

- Protection cluster continues to work with implementing partners on COVID-19 activities to enhance community understanding and protective mechanisms.

- The Protection Reference Group (PRG), jointly led by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and Protection cluster kept holding weekly meetings. The Protection Reference Group (PRG) has consolidated the action plan for the group. Several activities have already been conducted, ensuring the centrality of protection in the COVID-19 preparedness and response in South Sudan. The PRG continues participating in the TWGs of the National COVID-19 Response Plan and in the National Steering Committee for COVID-19. The PRG has developed a monitoring tool for protection concerns rising as a result of COVID-19 protective and restrictive measures to provide informed analysis and updates.

- The HRP Addendum addressing COVID has been adopted. Following the consultations with OCHA, and the PC partners, the protection streamline has been taken into consideration, overarching importance of the inclusion of persons with specific needs, persons with disabilities has been highlighted, prioritizing these categories in terms of access to services.

Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster

GBV SC meeting held two bi-monthly virtual coordination meetings on the 4th and 18th June with over 40 partner organizations participating including DFID and OFDA. Partners benefited from presentations on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in South Sudan in the context of COVID19, Floods Preparedness and Response, updates on service mapping and referral pathways which informed the partners which location has not updated their referral pathway during the COVID 19 times.

HLP TWG Collaboration: the major topics discussed were the “Overview of PBF funded Enhancing women’s access to land to consolidate peace in SSD project” - joint project of UN Habitat, FAO and NRC, Mapping of Women Leaders in Dispute Resolution Mechanisms compiled by NPA and NRC and lastly Mapping of Potential High Risk areas for HLP issues in South Sudan

Protection Technical Reference Group meeting for COVID 19; The major issues discussed were majorly on the Updates from the NSC TWGs/aligning the activities, Monitoring the implementation of the activities, foreseen in the Action Plan.

CASI online training on KAYA for partners who will be implementing The inter-agency Child and Adolescent Survivors Initiative (“CASI”) Project. 28 partners completed this training and they were drawn primarily from UNIDOR, WVI, Plan International, IRC, AYA, UNICEF, UNFPA. The the main topics Supervisor competencies, Supervisor communication skills, Reflective practice, GROW Model and Tips for giving feedback. This project is a 6-8 month capacity strengthening program for child protection (“CP”) and gender-based violence

Key Figures

- 4.5 M people in need
- 2.8 M people targeted
- $85.7 M funding requirement

Figure 1: Kuac South Executive Director, TOCH Executive Director and D/G Ministry of Gender commissioning one of Women and girls friendly space in Ajeep village, Kuac South payam
(“GBV”) organizations operating in South Sudan to improve case management services for child and adolescent survivors of sexual violence (“child and adolescent survivors”) in emergency settings – particularly those internally displaced in South Sudan.

Supported to the media training for journalists with Stationary and IEC materials - Notebooks, pens, refreshments and 2 pull up banners and facilitation of presentations on ethical reporting of GBV during COVID 19 times in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, Internews, Defy Hatenow, IRC, Radio Miraya, UNHCR, UNFPA. 100 journalists were targeted.

**Child Protection Sub Cluster**

Child Protection partners are continuously identifying children with protection concerns or at risk of the protection violations direct providing case management services. Family separation and psychological distress are the two most common child protection concerns reported. In the month of June, 3,045 children (1,552 girls & 1,493 boys) benefitted from psychosocial support. Child protection partners identified a total 45 (14 girls and 31 boys) new UASC cases and 46 (24 girls and 22 boys) other child protection case management cases during the month of the June. 15 children (5 girls and 10 boys) were successful reunified in June 2020.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility reached 89,133 people including 60,871 children (31,478 girls & 29,393 boys) with Child Protection services. This included 3,045 children (1,552 girls & 1,493 boys) who benefited from Psychosocial Support, and 35,300 reached with preventive messaging. This is in addition to 43,447 people including 22,526 children (11,895 girls and 10,631 boys) who were reached through the numerous COVID related CP services implemented as part of the on-going COVID 19 related response.

**Commemoration of the Day of African Child**

The commemoration of the day of African child (DAC) was held on the 16th of June in South Sudan. The theme for the DAC 2020 was “Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa”, focusing on the growing needs in justice for children who are in conflict with the law, moving toward child friendly justice system. Due to the current COVID19 crises, the commemoration of the events was done mainly through webinars, online meetings and radio/TV programs. Media including social media events were virtually organized as well as community level events by child protection partners such as IRC, HCO, CINA, UNICEF, SCI, Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, Plan International and the Ministry of Gender, child and social welfare offices in the different states.

As part of the media campaigns on the day of African child, Unicef and Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative called for the unconditional release of child soldiers in the country, both organisation did radio interviews with Eye radio where the advocacy calls for the release of children was made. See the link: [https://eyeradio.org/unicef-calls-for-unconditional-release-of-child-soldiers/](https://eyeradio.org/unicef-calls-for-unconditional-release-of-child-soldiers/)

**Strengthening Child Protection frontline staff capacity**

Over 60 Child protection frontline workers were trained on GBV risk mitigation, self-care and wellbeing. The GBV risk mitigation training was aimed at equipping Child Protection partners with knowledge and skills to reduce the risk of exposure to GBV and consider undertaking specialized response programming related to survivor care and assistance. The self-care and wellbeing training focused on ensuring that frontline child protection staff can detect an issue and take appropriate actions when they experience stressful situations.

**CPSC Strategic Advisory Group Quarterly Meeting**

The CPSC second quarter SAG meeting was held on the 24th June 2020, the discussion were mainly centered on COVID-19 preparedness and response, renewal of the co-leadership role of the CPSC, Stock-taking of the lesson learnt from 2019 floods, the funding status of the CP Sector in the country and progress updates on the localization initiative.
Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (HLP TWG)

The HLP TWG has developed a mapping of potential high-risk areas for HLP issues considering house-hold level risks. The mapping is overlaid with HLP partner’s presence, identifying areas in need of strengthened HLP assistance. The TWG has in addition identified the participation of women in local land dispute mechanisms. A gap in women participation in these mechanisms has been identified, although the legal framework in the Land Act guarantees and enforce the participation quota to be met. The HLP TWG will continue advocating for the participation of women in the local land dispute mechanisms and for the guaranteed access to the mechanisms by all the population.

Mine Action Sub Cluster

**Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Accidents**

During June, one ERW-related accident was reported in Jur River, Western Bahr el Ghazal; a 12-year-old boy was injured by a fuze that he found while grazing livestock. He hammered it until it detonated. UNMAS investigated the incident and a mine action (MA) partner will further conduct explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in the area.

**EORE Practice by SLI-SS Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Save Lives Initiative—South Sudan (SLI-SS), a national MA partner, conducted emergency EORE for men, women, and children in Gudele South in Juba, Central Equatoria, following an accident from explosives that killed two boys, aged 14 and 16, on 28 May. The explosion happened when the boys were playing inside a former military building.

SLI-SS adapted a house-to-house approach and delivered numerous EORE sessions for the entire community. In each session, SLI-SS incorporated COVID-19 preventative messaging in line with the national directives, in addition to explosive risk awareness messaging. Its activities were well received by the Village Chief, Mr. Deng Addit.

Despite multiple challenges related to COVID-19 as well as floods and insecurity, SLI-SS managed to conduct EORE activities for members of host communities, IDPs, and returnees in Juba, Lamiya, Tambura, and Terekeka Counties in the Equatoria region by limiting the number of audience per session but also increasing the number of sessions, thus reaching more than 10,000 men, women, and children.

Collectively, a total of 11,911 members of host communities, returnees, and IDPs, including over 2,760 men, 2,920 women, and 6,220 children received EORE by MA partners in June 2020. The number of people reached was limited due to the suspension of in-person EORE activities through group gatherings as a preventive measure against COVID-19.

To report a suspicious object, please contact UNMAS at its 24-hour hotline: 092 000 1055 or via email at report@unmas.org