



Flooded farms in Rumbek. Photo: WAV.

Overview

- South Sudan is going through a rough time of intense flooding along the White Nile River. By the end of August, the seasonal flooding, which is now significantly exacerbated by a climate change, resulted in the displacement of approximately 600,000 individuals. Lakes and Jonglei accounted for approximately 77% of the displacement. The flooding causes several significant protection concerns, including displacement-related family separations, leaving children, elderlies, persons with disabilities at a greater risk. The Protection Cluster has received multiple reports of people with mobility restrictions separated from families. Many roads have been flooded, which became an obstacle to access the services; pregnant women and elderlies cannot reach health facilities without support. Many displaced individuals are living in open spaces, exposing vulnerable IDPs to various SGBV incidents. Areas affected with floods also have seen a higher rate of subnational violence, as well as criminal incidents increase, adding more to the difficulties faced by civilian populations, as well as challenges by humanitarians to support displaced population.
- Recently announced process on transition of the POC sites to the IDP camps raised numerous concerns of the protection partners, calling for better coordinated efforts on finding proper solutions for the residents of the sites, including safe dignified returns, access to the services, and ensuring HLP rights.
- COVID-19 related regulations, adopted by the National Steering Committee, provided more freedom of movement for humanitarian actors and represented a step-change in activity in the operational environment. Partners deployed in Jonglei, in Cuibet/Lakes and Mvolo/Western Bahr el Ghazal provided support despite of the combined challenge of flood response and subnational violence. Operational modalities were adapted with respect to the pandemic and response activities were implemented to ensure complementarity with health and communications efforts.

KEY FIGURES

4.5 M people in need

3.2 M people targeted

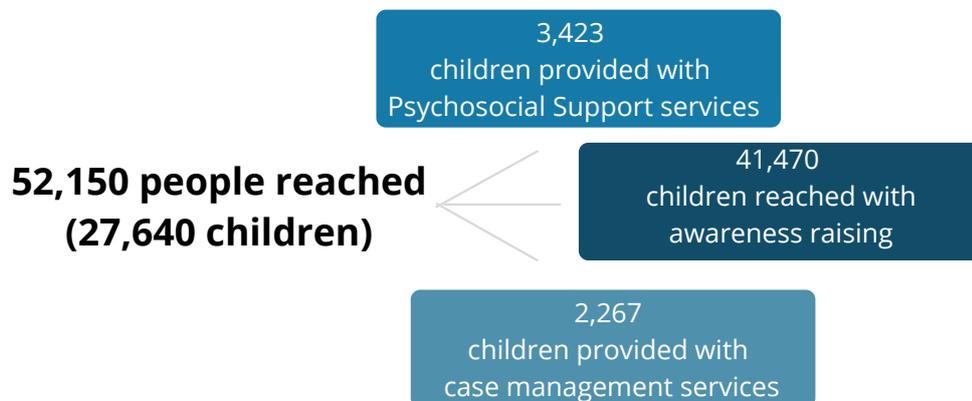
\$83.4 M HRP requirement

\$12.2 M COVID-19 requirement



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.



As a result of the escalation of the subnational violence in some parts of the country including in Jonglei, Lakes and Equatorial region coupled with the seasonal flooding have devastating impact in 22 counties of South Sudan. The Jonglei Child Protection Working Group in collaboration with the national Child Protection AOR have initiated a child protection assessment in Greater Jonglei region to gather information and analyze the needs of the affected children to better understand the nature and level of risk children face to inform planning, advocacy and resource mobilization. The CPSC is working closely with the case management taskforce and the working group on unaccompanied and separated children to monitor and support all identified child protection cases. PSS WG is also providing technical PSS support to all CP partners providing PSS services.

Child Protection partners throughout the country continue to provide awareness raising intervention on COVID-19. Plan international conducted massive awareness raising in Rumbek focusing on the preventative messages and distributed facemasks and IEC materials to communities.

Photo: Plan International



CP capacity building and technical support: To strengthen the quality of child Protection services, 45 CP staff in Boma Lekunagole, Gumuruk and Verthet counties of Jonglei were provided training on information, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) and PSS. The 2-days IDTR training which was facilitated by the Jonglei UASC working group, aimed at equipping 15 VSF-Suisse NGO staff with basic knowledge and skills. As a result, 162 unaccompanied and separated children, who had been separated from their families due to the recent intercommunal conflicts have been identified for providing the documents.

CP AOR Localisation Initiative: Four remote coaching sessions, providing technical and general support, have been continuously delivered to the national actors playing a leading role in child protection coordination. The sessions are linked to the localization initiative. A total of 4 sub national coordinators from C. Equatoria (Juba and Yei) and Warrap states (Kuajok) benefited from this structured session focusing on learning, development and wellbeing. The sub-national coordinators identified strengthening their coordination role as a priority area and came up with the idea of creating a virtual platform/skype group for meetings, discussing also the need on service mapping in support of the HPC process.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster

The GBV Sub-Cluster partners continue the assessments identifying GBV incidents and risks in the areas affected by floods and subnational violence. In Rumbek East and Central, the main protection concerns identified include the increased risk of GBV to women and girls due to absence of latrines, as the houses and latrines are damaged severely, thus pushing people in bushes, additionally exposing them to snake bites. Damage of bore holes is one more reason causing the violence due to competition for resources. The communities of affected villages reported having difficulties in sleeping when it rains. Children are moving away to Rumbek town avoiding staying in the villages affected by floods. Cases of stealing the properties left behind are increasing. In Lirya Payam, Juba County in Central Equatoria, assessments findings revealed increased cases of GBV that include forced and early marriage and domestic/physical violence due to loss of livelihood and loss of personal items, and lack of hygiene materials. In Greater Pibor, tensions were reported due to limited food, water, shelter, insecurity and protection risks. Reported cases of abduction of women and children require interventions and investigations of respective authorities.

The Sub-Cluster is coordinating support for GBV victims through its partners, although gaps are still present and needs have increased. Major gaps reported are: Psychological First Aid/ Psychosocial Support/ Post trauma healing; Provision of dignity kits to adolescent girls and lactating mothers; Creation and renovation of Women Girls Friendly Space (WGFS); Comprehensive Case management; Cash for protection; Immediate lifesaving services for survivors; Capacity building training for key local actors (Police, Chiefs, religious leaders, women and youth/age set leaders); Risk mitigation on GBV; Developing effective messaging on GBV and methods for community engagement.



Among Piny flooded cultivation-Rumbek Center. Photo: WAV.



General Assessment exercise in progress in Pibor. Photo: VOP.

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

The HLP TWG is focused on advocating for a moratorium on evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic until the economic situation is improved. Evictions represent a constant risk for many communities in South Sudan. In urban and peri-urban areas, the HLP TWG has identified an increased risk of evictions of individuals and HHs during the COVID crisis, highly exposing the persons evicted to protection risks. The TWG is collecting information and monitoring cases of evictions and areas of high risk to map the current situation and needs of those affected.

Mine Action Sub-Cluster

Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Accidents

No ERW-related accidents were recorded for the month of August.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

Although mine action clearance activities have been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic until recently, mine action partners across the country have still been able to mitigate the risks of accidents through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), which reached a total of 9,042 beneficiaries (2,355 women, 2,257 men, 2,108 girls, and 2,322 boys) in August 2020.

DDG's EORE team delivers awareness messaging to a household in Rocroc. Photo: DDG



EORE needs remain, despite COVID-19 restrictions: Despite limitations on its clearance operations during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic's onset, the Danish Demining Group (DDG) continued to deliver lifesaving explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). During August, these activities included conducting EORE across Rocroc in Jur River County, Western Bahr el Ghazal, following an accident reported in this location in July. The family of the survivor, who had never received EORE prior to the accident, regularly graze cattle in an area that had been the site of several armed conflicts between opposing forces during 1989 and 2003. A 12-year-old boy, while overseeing his family's cattle grazing, discovered an explosive fuse. He was unaware of the danger that this type of item can pose. Naturally curious, he played with the item until it detonated, causing injuries from which he has now luckily fully recovered. Accidents of this nature highlight the continued need for EORE in areas that remain affected by the legacy of decades of conflict. DDG provided an initial EORE response for the family and surrounding households in July, and throughout August deployed a team to the boma to deliver EORE across the area to prevent behaviours that may lead to similar accidents in the future. Due to ongoing restrictions on gatherings, DDG limited its sessions to the household level, conducting door-to-door EORE across the village. In each session, the team incorporated COVID-19 hygiene messaging, and ensured social distancing was practised between all facilitators and participants present.

Additional Mine Action Funding in South Sudan: The Kingdom of the Netherlands announced the awarding of a 4.8 million Euro, multi-year grant under its "Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2020-2024" to DDG and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

Mine Action Support-Group (MASG): The German Ambassador, UNMAS, and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) jointly co-chaired a meeting with donors and additional mine action stakeholders in South Sudan to raise awareness on the country's international commitment on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), to remove landmines by 2026. Further meetings will be convened to garner support in achieving this goal throughout the year.



To report a suspicious object, please contact UNMAS at its 24-hour hotline (remains open during the COVID-19 crisis): **092 000 1055** or via email at report@unmas.org