



Photo: Protection Cluster.

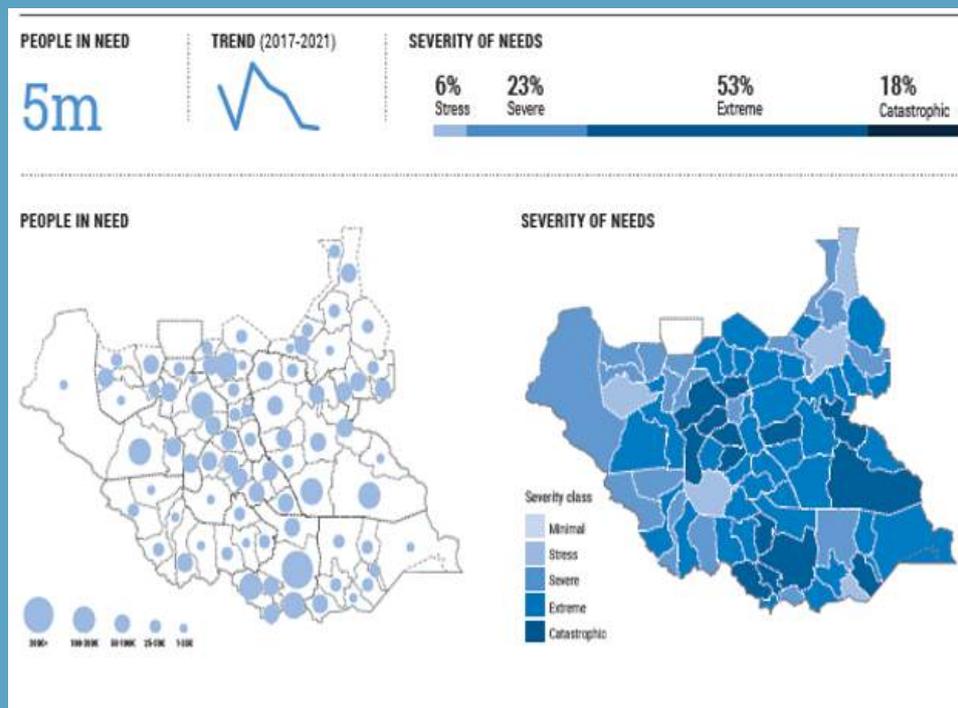
Overview

- The HCT has endorsed a response scale-up for identified 10 counties in acute food insecurity situation: Pibor, Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North, and Tonj South (Priority 1), and Bor South, Duk, Twic East, and Ayod (Priority 2). An estimated number of 138,597 people are in need of protection response in priority 1 and priority 2 counties. The Protection Cluster has been working to ensure that core protection activities and interventions are included in the response scale-up. The activities include protection monitoring, assessments and analysis of protection and human rights violations, followed by immediate short-term life-saving response, case management, PSS, child protection activities, GBV case management and referral, mine action risk education, amongst others lifesaving protection activities

2021 HNO SOUTH SUDAN

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) South Sudan has been launched on 26 January, which estimates that a number of 8.3 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2021, including an estimated 5 million women, girls, men and boys who will face protection risks and violations.

The Protection sectoral analysis classifies 14 counties as catastrophic (severity 5), 41 counties as extreme (severity 4), 18 counties as severe (severity 3) while 5 counties are classified as stress (severity 2). The 2021 HNO can be accessed [here](#).



Overview of the Protection sectoral analysis.

Child Protection Sub-Cluster

Child Protection and food insecurity - The CP Sub-cluster commenced a scale-up of lifesaving child protection interventions in the 10 food insecure counties to mitigate the impact of food insecurity on children and their families. The continued conflict, displacement and climatic shocks combined with deteriorating food security continues to expose children to the risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Food insecurity has possible impact on children's safety and well-being and some of the choices taken to meet the immediate household food security needs can have lasting consequences on children, exposing them to risks such as child labor and child marriage. In addition to the risk of family separation, violence, school dropout and psychosocial distress, food insecurity also increases the likelihood of children and youth recruitment into armed groups.



The Sub-cluster and partners continue to prioritise case management service including to unaccompanied and separated children, mental health and psychosocial support, community based child protection, outreach and messaging on relevant protection risks, capacity building of CP frontline actors and monitoring, and reporting on the situation of children. Additional funding is required to effectively re-establish and scale up child protection services in most of the targeted locations mainly in Warrap, Akobo, Pibor and Aweil South counties. Mobile Child friendly spaces are required in deep field locations due to the lack of static partners' presence.

Mangalla IDP site - the Central Equatorial Child Protection Working Group has released the Mangalla IDP child protection rapid assessment report, which was conducted in late December 2020. The Assessment highlights the acute child protection concerns, including family separation, lack of psychosocial support services, child labour, child marriages and violence in the camp. The assessment findings highlight the urgent need to establish critical child protection services in the camp including FTR and case management services for the many undocumented UASC in the camps.

Capacity Building on Child Protection



The IRC conducted a Comprehensive Case Management SOP training for their frontline child protection staff in Panyijiar County (Ganyiel and Nyal) aimed at strengthening the capacity on child protection case management.



CP Sub-cluster partners have trained 52 frontline workers (25 women and 27 men) on child protection in emergencies (CPIE) in Likuangole (Pibor county) and Bilkey (Akobo county) in Jonglei. The photo above shows the training conducted by Plan International in Pibor on child friendly and confidential feedback mechanisms.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster

GBV and food insecurity - the GBV Sub-cluster targeted 49,107 people for frontline GBV services and another 15,593 women and girls for core pipeline line supply (dignity kit supply) in the six priority 1 famine prone counties. Lack of dignity kits supplies during the menstrual period in famine prone counties limits women and girls' mobility and access to humanitarian assistance, including food distribution, nutritional services for their children, or fetching water. Women and girls are at a greater risk of experiencing violence/domestic violence by the intimate partner following a conflict and tension at home due to lack of food. Vulnerable groups such as female heads of households might be forced to engage in negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex because of economic hardship and adolescent girls may be exposed to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Sub-cluster has scaled-up the provision of GBV services in the famine prone counties.



6,134 persons reached with GBV services in the priority 1 counties.



GBV partners trained 106 frontline workers in Tonj North, Pibor, and Akobo.



4 complaint and feedback mechanisms were established in Pibor, Gumuruk, Likuangole, and Verteth.



3 Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS) established in Tonj North and Tonj South. 962 women and girls accessed services in the WGFS.



4,454 Dignity Kits allocated for distribution in Pibor, Aweil South, Tonj North, Tonj South, and Tonj East.

The funding requirement for the GBV response scale-up is of USD 1,972,194. In addition to the request submitted to OCHA, through UNFPA's allocation of internal resource amounting to USD 142,528, around 4,454 Dignity Kits were procured and reprioritized from other locations for distribution in Pibor, Aweil South, Tonj North, Tonj South, and Tonj East.

Mundri East IDP site - through an interagency assessment (IDP verification exercise) in Mundri East, the Sub-cluster identified several GBV risks affecting the IDPs living in the site. Women and girls need to move long distances to collect water and firewood, increasing the risks of GBV. Several cases of sexual violence have been reported generating fear amongst the women and girls. The insecurity is increased due to absence of a police unit and GBV/CP service providers in the area. Sub-cluster partners have distributed 200 dignity kits for immediate response in the location. The assessment recommended the urgent establishment of a police post in the area.

GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development

Throughout a 2 days training, 27 participants from partner organizations having GBV interventions in Juba received capacitation on GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) development. An updated GBV SOP for urban Juba is expected to be released as a follow up of the training.



Mine Action Sub-Cluster

Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Accidents - On 14 January, an uncontrolled explosion occurred in Moti, Eastern Equatoria when two boys aged 14 and six were playing with a hand grenade. They removed the pin from the grenade in an attempt to make a necklace out of the pin, and the grenade exploded injuring the 14-year-old boy's hands and upper legs. UNMAS conducted an investigation of the accident and provided explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in the area.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) - Although mine action clearance activities have been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and mandatory door-to-door sessions, mine action partners across the country mitigated the risks of accidents through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), which reached a total of 21,060 beneficiaries (4,558 women, 4,752 men, 5,335 girls, and 6,415 boys) in January 2021.

Explosive Ordnance Clearance Operations Improves Livelihoods in Kit, Central Equatoria

Regina Achaia is a single mother of nine children living on a small farm in Kit, Central Equatoria. At the beginning of the civil war in 2013, she fled to Uganda with her family before returning to South Sudan in 2018 when she learned that she could begin farming on her brother's small plot of land. The land was previously occupied by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and was highly contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO). During clearance operations on the hazardous area, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) found over four tonnes of explosive-free remnants of war and 150 cluster munitions that needed to be destroyed.



UXO found on Regina's land. Photo: TDI

UNMAS specifically explained to Regina the different demolition practices to destroy UXOs and highlighted that the use of explosives are commonly used to destroy the ordnance. When using explosives, the items are blown apart and can cause metal shrapnel (also known as fragmentation) to litter the land.

Regina's main cash crop is ground nut which needs to be dug into the ground and is often times harvested by hand. She expressed grave concern of possible fragmentation left in the soil from the demolition as her children regularly help her harvest her crops and are more susceptible to injury and infection. To try and reduce the risk of fragmentation during demolition, UNMAS decided to utilise a different methodology and burn and incinerate the items as opposed to using high explosives. Not only was this more appropriate for the safety of Regina and her children, it was also more environmentally sustainable for her agricultural practices.

Since returning to the area in 2018, the profits from her ground nut crops have allowed Regina to purchase bricks to build a more secure and comfortable house for her family, as well as pay for school fees for all of her children. Now that the land is free from explosive hazards, she is confident that it will enable more of her relatives to return from Uganda and help her to expand the farm even further.



Regina's newly constructed house and her main cash crop of ground nuts lying out to dry. Photo: TDI

The incinerator uses grass and charcoal as the igniter and fuel; an explosive demolition would have required more than 5kg of high explosives. Photo: TDI



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

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

The HLP TWG identified and released a note on the main HLP issues and challenges in South Sudan to plan the response for 2021 and to align with the 2021 HRP. The inadequate land administration and dispute resolution mechanisms, lack of legislation and absence of a harmonised and coherent national land registration and documentation system are the key challenges that are still to be addressed. The full note is available [here](#).

HLP dispute resolution mechanisms

DRC is supporting Peace Committees in six Payams in Koch County, Unity State within the Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund Consortium in partnership with World Relief, CARE and Mercy Corps. The Committees, composed of men, women, youth, and elders, are primarily responsible for adjudicating cases that don't fall under the chief's court jurisdiction. In Mirmir, Koch County, members of the Peace Committee were approached with a secondary occupation dispute between two community members. The owner of a land plot who fled to Sudan during the conflict without clear record of ownership recently returned and found another household occupying his land. The occupier refused to vacate the land upon request by the primary owner. The matter was brought before the Committee which emphasized the importance of dialogue and communication in solving the matter. They advised and referred the case to the chiefs who are responsible for settling communal land matters. The chiefs adjudicated on the case and allocated a separate land to the secondary occupier as compensation, whereby the original landowner got his and back.

This case highlights that the intervention of the Peace Committee was both successful and efficient through using skills of peacebuilding, dialogue, and conflict management acquired from DRC HLP activities. As a result, the process was fair, protection risks were averted for both parties and surrounding households, as well as prevented the matter from escalating, which may have caused long rivalry among the parties involved.



Members of the Peace Committee engaging on resolution of HLP disputes in Koch, Unity State.

Mobile Protection Coordination

Mobile protection teams shifted beyond the prioritized flood response to engage on food-insecure counties and inter-communal violence increases with the arrival of the dry season. During the month of January, mobile protection partners deployed to Rumbek in Lakes, Tonj in Warrap, Kajo Keji in Central Equatoria and Pibor and Ayod in Jonglei to conduct assessment and protection response activities. Coordinated through the biweekly MPCF meetings, the following priorities were identified for response in February. In Warrap State, namely Gogrial West and East, reports of displacement as a result of inter communal conflicts, floods and food insecurity. Rumbek East and Rumbek North in Lakes were affected last year by flood and ongoing insecurity/inter communal violence.

Mayendit and Panyijiar in Upper Nile were heavily affected by the floods and identified for response as soon as a fall in the flood waters allows. Old Fangak in Jonglei is affected by floods and inter communal conflicts and is only accessible from Juba by air and from Malakal by river. Mangalla IDP site in Central Equatoria continues to report new arrivals and land issue with associated protection concerns. Magwi in Eastern Equatoria was identified as areas of high return with HLP issues. In Mundri West and East in Western Equatoria over 8049 individuals displaced due floods and inter communal conflicts.

Concerns around funding persist as partners struggle with short term funding approaches and regular gaps which entail struggles to maintain consistency in the approach. Gaps in coverage persisted due to ongoing hostilities, transportation costs and ongoing flooding. Locations will continue to be prioritized for mobile protection assessments and capacity-building to strengthen consistent protection monitoring and analysis