



Photo: Protection Cluster.

Overview

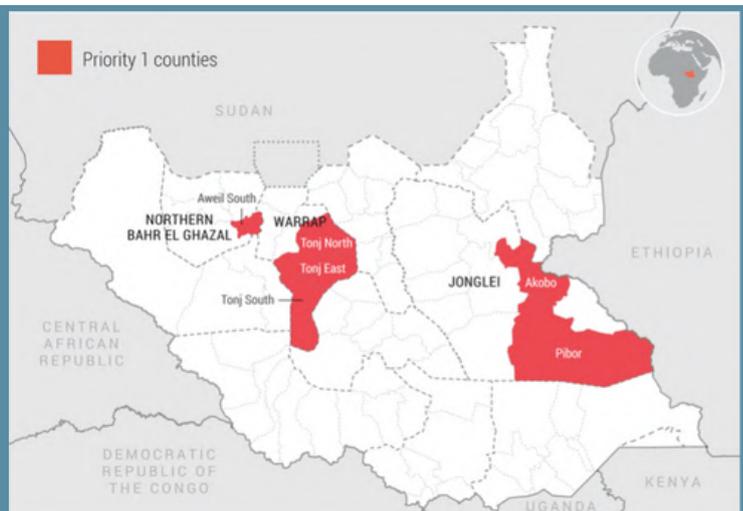
- Protection Cluster continued to scale-up the response in the acute food insecure 10 counties identified by the IPC: Pibor, Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North, and Tonj South (Priority 1), and Bor South, Duk, Twic East, and Ayod (Priority 2). More than 35K people have been reached in February with protection activities in the affected counties. Response activities were constrained in some areas due to renewed sub-national violence. Previously existing resource constraints for Protection have led to relatively low partner presence in several of the affected counties. Mobile teams will be employed to ensure speed of interventions and to support the scale-up of static partners. Additional funding will be required to deploy Mobile teams to effectively re-establish protection presence in these areas. There is an additional requirement for the procurement of dignity kits, case management, awareness raising, mental health and psychosocial support through static and mobile teams.



140K people in need of protection services in priority 1 and 2 counties



\$68,5M total funding required to scale up humanitarian activities in the priority 1 counties



Child Protection Sub-Cluster

Child Protection needs and response - the Sub-cluster continues to document pertinent issues related to unaccompanied and separated children, caused by floods and food insecurity, releases of children who had been abducted during inter-communal violence and children, adolescents and caregivers showing signs of distress and who continue to suffer GBV. In Pibor, where the child protection issues are acute, the Sub-cluster and partners are supporting the documentation and following up with local authority on the status of the 39 formerly abducted children in inter-communal violence who were released and are in urgent need of reunification services.

Key gaps and recommendations

- Expedite the reunification of the formerly abducted children who have been released and currently in Pibor and in need of FTR services.
- Funding required to effectively re-establish and scale up child protection services in most of the targeted locations mainly in Warrap, Equatorias, Akobo, Pibor and Aweil South counties.
- Mobile Child friendly spaces are required in deep field locations to expand MHPSS services.

Localisation in Child Protection Coordination - following the launch and implementation of the localisation initiative since September 2019 in South Sudan, aimed to strengthen and increase the meaningful participation and leadership of national actors in child protection coordination mechanisms, the Sub-cluster in collaboration with the Global CP AoR and Save the Children commenced the process of identifying and documenting lessons learned from the initiative. Preliminary findings indicated that coaching and flexible capacity building as well as information sharing had greatly improved local partners coordination skills and visibility amongst sub-national and national level coordination groups. Factors like time management, limited resources, COVID-19 and competing response priorities were cited by partners as some of the challenge/barrier to the above initiatives.

Joint inter agency assessment in Akobo - an assessment conducted on 27 February in Alali Payam, Akobo East County, Jonglei State revealed that around 130 households (about 700 individuals) remaining in Baba Bo and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The assessment report outlined lack of play and recreational activities for children, lack of mental health and psychosocial support services and presence of 20 UASC in need of FTR services. The Sub-cluster is coordinating the response for the identified needs and advocating for funding to fill in the service gap.

Capacity Building on Child Protection

Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) transition - in a bid to strengthen the CP information Management system/data base and as part of the roll out of the CPIMS+ in South Sudan, the Case Management Task Force has embarked on a transition process including migration of data into the new system and signing the Terms of Use (ToU) with 23 Partners, partner mapping and conducted training of trainers for 51 people on Primero /CPIMS+. The participants from the TOT training were drawn from 10 States and the Administrative Areas.

Building skills - The Sub-cluster has continued to build capacity of partners and community structures on CP approaches and parenting skills reaching a total of 126 people (63 female) including foster caregivers, adolescents and community based child protection networks in Wau, Pibor, Borm Mundri and other locations



Adolescents attending a life skill session in Gumuruk.



Parenting skills sessions in Pibor for Foster Parents organized by Plan International.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster

GBV needs and response - to strengthen response to GBV needs, the Sub-cluster continues supporting partners on assessments and rapid response for displaced communities. In February an Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment was conducted in Lainya (Bereke and Lainya) and several payams within Juba county (Bungu, Ganji and Wonduruba). Around 50,636 people are displaced in the assessed locations and in need of humanitarian response. 250 dignity kits were distributed to the most vulnerable women and girls in the locations. Key gaps identified include the lack of GBV services, including PSS and health services. As a response to the acute needs, the Sub-cluster is supporting partners for the opening of a health facility in Wonduruba.



Displaced communities in Wonduruba

GBV risk mitigation in other clusters - the Sub-cluster is taking part of joint safety audits spearheaded by UNICEF in collaboration with CARE and CINA. Data is being collected in eight counties and discussion are ongoing on the proceedings for the audits. The Sub-cluster is also coordinating with the Nutrition Cluster to implement an action plan for GBV risk mitigation in the Nutrition Cluster activities. In addition, the Sub-cluster supported the WASH Cluster in including a GBV risk mitigation objective in their HRP planned activities.

Mine Action Sub-Cluster

Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Accidents - two ERW-related accidents were reported during the month of February. On 13 February, in Aweil, NBeG, an 11-year-old boy found a grenade in his father's bag, who is a soldier. Without realizing it was a dangerous object, he tampered with it and it exploded killing him immediately. His two sisters (aged 5 and 8), were also injured and received medical care. Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) was conducted in the area. On 26 February, in Wangkai, Upper Nile, two 14-year-old boys found a grenade under a tree. One boy began hitting it against the tree so he could dismantle the item and hang part of it on his cow. The item exploded killing him and injuring the second child. EORE was conducted 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 have still been able to mitigate the risks of accidents through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), which reached a total of 24,612 beneficiaries (5,709 women, 5,486 men, 6,394 girls, and 7,023 boys) in February 2021.

SPEDP delivers EORE in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria



SPEDP conducting EORE awareness session in Magwi

Support for Peace and Education Development Programme (SPEDP) is a national non-government organization (NNGO) founded in 2007 and operates in seven states across South Sudan including Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal. SPEDP's EORE team is currently working in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria where there are many contaminated areas of both landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs). As one of the five pillars of mine action, SPEDP considers EORE an essential component of mine action operations. In 2020, SPEDP reached 1,844 people with risk education sessions. SPEDP's EORE team also trained eight Community Focal Points (CFP) to help create awareness within communities and trained them on how to report suspicious objects identified in their surrounding areas.



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 has endorsed the group's workplan for 2021. Conflict sensitivity and solutions have been incorporated throughout the plan, considering the potential increase of HLP issues in areas of return. The workplan also includes activities for the consolidation of tools for HLP assessments and identification of areas for prioritized assessments, including areas of return of IDPs and refugee returnees. Advocacy remains one of the key areas, including advocacy for the adoption of the Draft Land Policy and its implementation. The TWG is working to plan the implementation of the activities foreseen in the plan. A mid-year review of the workplan will be conducted to ensure the plan is updated.

HLP dispute resolution through Community Land Committees

The conflict in 2013 and 2016 led thousands of dwellers in Juba to look for safety at UNMISS base, fleeing bare handed and leaving behind their houses and other properties, which many of them have been occupied by gangs robbers and illegal secondary occupants. Aiming to address these HLP issues, HDC in partnership with UNHCR is supporting IDPs in Juba to strengthen Formal and Informal Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution) by reviving former Community Land Committees (CLCs) with members representing IDPs and host communities. The Committees are being engaged in consultative meetings, workshops, and trainings to keep them updated with HLP information and approaches for HLP dispute resolution.

HDC is also conducting information sessions with IDPs to raise awareness on HLP rights. In February, awareness sessions on HLP rights had the participation of 52 IDPs in IDP camps in Juba (33 Males and 19 Females). During the session HDC identified 18 IDPs with plots issues and encouraged them to register complaints at HDC's supported Legal Help Desk. The complainants registered at the desks are shared with CLCs members representing the specific residential area of the claims for further verifications. Recently the Committee for New Site - Goroyo II, together with IDPs representatives, declared that 400 IDPs plots in their area should be handed back to the rightful owners displaced during the conflict in 2013 and 2016.

Working with CLC members has minimized foreseeable violent disputes between secondary occupiers and the IDPs claimant. An IDP representative residing in New Side - Goroyo II has expressed happiness as he is back working together in the same office with the host community settling land issues without any sense of discrimination. He's reinstated in the office to respond to fellow IDPs Land complaints by verifying and affirming the claims to the head Chief-Host community. The CLC members shares ideas and work together on the same office as they used to do before the displacement period. HDC remains focused to support the establishment of CLCs in other areas.



CLC IDP members attending HLP training in Juba IDP Camp III

Mobile Protection Coordination

Mobile protection missions were conducted in February to Lakes (Rumbek) to provide detailed protection assessment and response. A protection report was circulated for follow-up with relevant sectors and to support work of static protection partners. Dedicated mobile protection teams were deployed as part of the response scale-up to Aweil South, Tonj North, Tonj South, Tonj East. Additionally, mobile protection teams were prioritized for mobile response to Akobo and Pibor to support static partners in scale up and community-based protection. Mobile teams have also support multisectoral assessments in areas surrounding Juba and other counties in Central Equatoria. The MPCF is conducting outreach to increase membership of Forum to include all members doing mobile protection, including new HRP partners.