Overview

- The National Task Force on Solutions (NTFS) held a meeting on 07 December, with the participation of RRC and chairpersons of the State Level Task Forces (STFS), humanitarian actors, diplomatic corp. The chairpersons of the STFS provided and overview of the context in each state, highlighting several needs for the functioning of the task forces. The RRC Deputy-Director informed that the National Durable Solutions Strategy is being drafted, and expected to be a guiding document for solutions in the country, incorporating provisions from previous documents released, including the National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons. The NTFS will hold regular meetings in 2022.

- An integrated and coordinated public health and WASH strategy with a protection cross-cutting response to mitigate and prevent the spread of water-and vector- borne diseases among people in the Bentiu IDP camp and displacements sites in Bentiu town have been developed, following the HCT recommendation. The plan summarizes the approach, response and preparedness activities to scale up the response and to address immediate gaps and needs. The strategy will be reviewed on a regular basis to reflect the developing needs and situation in the sites.

- Several events across the country celebrated the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, commemorated from 25 November until 10 December, the Human Rights Day. The national theme for 2021 was "Take action, Be accountable: End violence Against Women and Girls". The annual international campaign is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The 16 days ended with the commemorations of the Human Rights Day on 10 December, marked by events in Juba and in several states, reaffirming the need to continue working for promoting human rights to all people in South Sudan.

- The HNO process has been delayed due to the several emergencies hindering the data collection. Data from the FSNMS+ has been released in December, allowing Clusters to proceed with the analysis of the needs across the country. The HNO is currently being finalized and it’s expected to be launched by end of January.
Children affected by floods - child protection partners identified several protection risks that continue to affect children in flood-affected areas. In Cueibet (Lakes), New Fangak and Canal/Pigi (Jonglei), partners identified children are out of schools due to floods, cases of children separated from their families and children resorting to negative coping strategies and harmful practices such as child marriage and child labor. In many locations, access remain an issue due to floods and also conflicts. Lack of access was reported in flood affected locations in Upper Nile, Western Equatoria, Unity, and Jonglei. Worsening impact of floods in Unity (especially in Bentiu), Upper Nile and Jonglei demands a need to scale up child protection responses in the affected areas.
Heavy rains and widespread flooding devastated Unity state, causing loss of life, disruption of basic service delivery, ruining of harvests and destruction of livestock, farmlands and homes. Thousands of vulnerable individuals were forced to displace from Guit, Rubkona and Koch counties to flee to highlands in Ruweng Administrative Area, settling at Yaar and Panakuach. 42 pregnant women were identified among the displaced population and without access to health facilities and health professionals. Women are reportedly sharing same water source with military personnel, increasing risks for GBV. Dignity kits are currently not available to the women. Torch and sandals are also required to mitigate GBV risks. The GBV Sub-cluster and partners are planning to position dignity kits in the affected locations for distribution. Partners are also planning for creating safe spaces for women and girls, provide CMR services, establish hand washing facilities, and distribute protection based NFIs.

**Strengthening pathways to justice for GBV survivors** - the Sub-cluster participated in a two-day consultative workshop to deliberate and share insights and perspectives on gender and GBV related issues to be included in the draft of the South Sudan Penal Code Amendment Bill 2021. The Law Review Commission, in collaboration with UNMISS Rule of Law and UNDP, drafted this bill following the feedback received from a stakeholders’ consultative workshop held in June 2021. The Sub-cluster also participated in a five-day consultative workshop on victim and witness protection in South Sudan. The workshop has been convened by UNMISS Rule of Law and UNDP discussed on available rights of victim and witness under international and national law, the existing gaps within the victim and witness protection measures in South Sudan and preliminary solutions. The results of the workshop are expected to inform the development of an independent victim and witness protection mechanism in South Sudan.

**GBV Strategic Plan** - through a five-day consultative workshop in Juba with GBV partners, the Sub-cluster reviewed the South Sudan GBV Strategy for prevention and response to GBV 2019-2021, and developed the next strategy for 2022-2024. The workshop brought together GBV field coordinators from 15 locations, including from Aweil, Wau, Warrap, Rumbek, Bentiu, Malakal, Kapoeta, Torit, Yei, Maridi, Bor, Pibor, Yambio, Mundri, and Juba. In addition, the workshop was attended by State level ministries of gender, UN agencies, GBV Strategic Advisory Group, INGOs and NNGOs representatives. Following the workshop, the Sub-cluster met with the National Ministry of Gender Child and Social Well fare to share the outcome of the workshop and discuss on the roadmap to finalization of the GBV strategic plan for 2022-2024.
DanChurchAid (DCA) is implementing a school-based EORE project in Juba, Eastern Equatoria focusing on schools that are negatively impacted by COVID-19. Central Equatoria continues to have the highest contamination of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) throughout the country. Thus, the need to provide comprehensive, sustainable and innovative EORE in the area is significant.

The project targets 6,000 students across 50 schools in Juba and is implemented in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, including wearing masks and social distancing throughout the EORE sessions. In schools where children might not have masks and where the classrooms do not have sufficient space for the group sessions, DCA are conducting the sessions outside in the open. According to the collected baseline data, 94% of the students included in the project have never before received any EORE information.

The project is funded by World Without Mines and runs from October 2021 – April 2022.

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 unmas.ss.ops@unops.org
Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (HLP TWG)

HLP issues in flood affected areas - the TWG members have identified several HLP issues in flood affected areas. Partners identified IDPs living in congested places, public buildings and also in open air areas without shelter, exposing themselves to several protection risks. In addition, as a result of the floods, IDPs lost their documents or were damaged in some cases. Cases of theft and secondary occupation of abandoned property were also reported. Partners identified a risk of increased HLP issues when water levels recede and IDPs return, as houses may be illegally occupied or destroyed. In some areas, there is an additional risk of conflict between host communities and IDPs on the allocation of land for the displaced population. The Protection Cluster has been advocating and supporting partners to include HLP considerations throughout flood preparedness and response.

Based on the field experience of UN-Habitat, the Global Land Tool Network, the HLP Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster, UNHCR, NRC and partners, a publication on Key Messages on Sustaining Peace through Women’s Empowerment and Increased Access to Land and Property Rights in Fragile and Conflict-affected Contexts were developed.

The Key Messages provide a quick reference on how to empower women and protect their housing, land and property rights in fragile and crisis affected contexts, and why this is an essential element to sustain peace and stability. The publication also includes a list of useful resources to further inform the development of related programmes and projects. The publication is available here in English and Arabic.

Mobile Protection Coordination

During the month of December, mobile protection teams from DRC, MHA, and NP, have deployed to New Fangak, Bor South, Canal/Pigi, and Tonj North. The teams identified several protection risks that continue to arise due to the floods. Sub-national violence and cattle raiding incidents are also affecting the communities in the affected locations. The mobile teams have conducted protection activities in the locations, including rapid protection assessments, provision of individual protection assistance, capacity building, awareness raising sessions and distribution of dignity kits.

The MPC also identified as priority locations for deployment in December the following locations: Nagero, Tambura, Ezo, Lafon, Old Fangak, Magenis, Nyirol.
35 Protection Cluster partners reported in December 2021 (28 of which HRP members)

Protection cluster partners were active in all 10 states of South Sudan

48% of partners delivering Protection assistance are National NGOs and Faith-based organisations.

**Number of PC members active by State**

- Western Equatoria: 5
- Western Bahr el Ghazal: 2
- Warrap: 2
- Upper Nile: 11
- Unity: 8
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal: 5
- Lakes: 6
- Jonglei: 17
- Eastern Equatoria: 8
- Central Equatoria: 11

**154,262 people were reached with protection assistances**

**Over 8,220 people with disabilities were reached**

Highest number of reached was in Lakes state with over 26,500 followed by Central Equatoria (2724,840) and Upper Nile (24,380).

**List of Protection Cluster partners active in South Sudan October 2021**

- **Central Equatoria**: Coalition for Humanity South Sudan, Community Action Organization, Danish Church Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Hope Restoration South Sudan, IPCS, Mine Advisory Group, Mobile Theatre Team, Non Violent Peace Force, Plan International, United Nations Mine Action Service, World Vision International
- **Eastern Equatoria**: American Refugee Committee, CARE International, Community in Need Aid, Danish Church Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Mine Advisory Group, Plan International, United Nations Mine Action Service
- **Northern Bahr el Ghazal**: Charity and Empowerment Foundation, International Organization for Migration, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children International, United Nations Mine Action Service
- **Unity**: Child's Destiny and Development Organization, Coalition for Humanity South Sudan, Danish Refugee Council, Hope Restoration South Sudan, International Rescue Committee, MEDAIR, Non-Violent Peace Force, United Nations Mine Action Service
- **Warrap**: United Nations Mine Action Service, Veterinaires Sans Frontieres Germany, World Vision International
- **Western Bahr el Ghazal**: Johanniter International Assistance, United Nations Mine Action Service

For more information about the Protection Cluster South Sudan activities please visit [www.southsudanprotectioncluster.com](http://www.southsudanprotectioncluster.com)