



Photo: Protection Cluster.

## Overview

- Following the release of the Relief, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RRR) Framework in 2019 and its Action Plan in 2020, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) held the inauguration event of the National and State Level Task Forces on Solutions on 11 December. UNHCR and RRC will take the lead in the Task Forces with the support of the Protection Cluster on coordination and operational guidance aspects, linking with the Advisory Group on Solutions (AGS). The AGS will remain active and continues to be a forum for the humanitarian community to discuss on solutions, which will contribute inputs to the Task Forces.
- The Protection Cluster finalized the data analysis on persons in need and severity for the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which is planned to be launched early 2021. An estimated 4.77 million women, girls, men and boys will face protection risks and violations in 2021.
- Considering the current re-designation of PoC sites to IDP camps, several IDPs have expressed their intention to return to their places of origin or habitual residence. Assessments conducted on areas of intended return classified as IPC 4 (Integrated Food Security Classification) discouraging to support the return process to these areas until the situation improves. Returns to areas as Bor, Malakal and Maiwut may also be hindered due to insecurity and floods in these locations. The AGS endorsed the need to continue following the requirements for safe and dignified returns based on 2019 HCT Guidelines for Humanitarian Support to Returns, Relocations and Local Integration of IDPs in South Sudan and the Due Diligence Checklist.

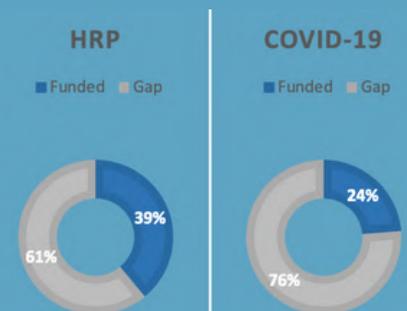
## KEY FIGURES

4.5 M people in need

3.2 M people targeted

\$84.3 M HRP requirement

\$12.2 M COVID-19 requirement



## Child Protection Sub-Cluster

**Child Protection services and response** - Child Protection partners continue providing direct case management services to the children with protection concerns and at risk of violations. Family separation and psychological distress are the most common child protection concerns reported. In December, Child Protection partners reached a total of 48,239 people including 28,062 children (13,887 boys and 14,175 girls), who received lifesaving child protection services; of them 9,751 children received psycho-social support (PSS), 911 children supported through case management including family tracing and reunification and 35,180 persons reached with life saving messages on CP related risks and prevention of COVID-19.

Sub-cluster partners in Pibor, Duk, Twic East, Ayodo, Bor Sotuh and Akobo are scaling-up their CPIE response due to worsening of protection situation in these areas, deploying frontline child protection staff in the most affected locations.

**Mangala IDP site** - was in focus for the CP Sub-Cluster. The assessment's findings revealed grave child protection concerns/risks at the site, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) without support. Interviewed children reported domestic and generalised violence, bullying among the children, and child labour. The Sub-cluster and the state level CPWG Coordinator are coordinating the response with the Juba-based partners, as there is no standing partner in Mangala.



HCO Child Protection staff and community volunteers training in Wau. Photo: CP Sub-cluster.

### Capacity building support for frontline CPIE staff

In December, Child Protection partners - Save the Children and Hold the Child - conducted two workshops with the primary focus on strengthening child protection mechanisms in emergencies in Wau (HCO) and Kapoeta (SCI). 54 frontline CP staff have been trained on case management, foster care, centrality of protection, child safeguarding and strengthening community-based child protection system.

**Enhancing participation of national NGOs in the HRP process** - As part of Localization Initiative of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the Sub-cluster organised an online workshop for 25 member organizations. The workshop engaged the national organizations in the 2021 HRP process. The participants reviewed the HRP's draft section on child protection and provided several critical inputs. The organizations highlighted the need to advocate for additional funds allocation to the child protection activities. The underfunding of the sector for the past three years resulted in negative outcomes, such as limiting the children and areas reached. Partners stressed the importance of the workshop to promote an inclusive process in drafting the HPR and providing the space for national organizations to share their inputs and concerns.

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster

**GBV incidents and response** - Violent clashes in Jebel Ladu area led to displacement of population to New-site and Gurei areas in Juba County. The Sub-cluster partners participated in a rapid needs assessment in the area to identify the GBV concerns and provide support to the displaced persons. In Yei, the Sub-cluster followed up on reported harassment cases against GBV survivors by relatives of the arrested alleged perpetrators. In Mangala IDP site, the Sub-cluster identified a need for the establishment of specialized health services for the community to ensure provision of services to GBV survivors. The Sub-cluster highlighted the need for increasing measures to protect women, especially of GBV survivors, who may be intimidated even after denouncing the violence suffered.

**Capacity building for GBV partners** - The Sub-cluster conducted the final round of trainings on enhancing the GBV partners capacity for improved service provision. The trainings were conducted in line with Sub-cluster strategic objectives to support GBV services delivery. In total, 94 staff from more than 30 partner organizations covering all states participated in the trainings. The training sessions included topics on economic empowerment and livelihoods, GBV mainstreaming in cash and voucher assistance, disability and inclusion in GBV programming, mental health and psychosocial support in GBV programming, prevention of sexual abuse, PSEA programming, collection and use of GBV survivors' data and access to justice and legal redress.



Training session on MHPSS. Photo: GBV Sub-cluster.

**GBV data collection** - In partnership with IOM, the Sub-cluster organized a virtual discussion on the importance of ethical evidence on data collection and use in GBV programming. 38 partners and donors attended the virtual discussion. The participants addressed issues on data collection and use of data for strategic decision making, population estimate surveys, use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to identify GBV risks, and the gender gaps in WASH programming and its implications for GBV protection.



**16 Days of Activism  
Against Gender-  
Based Violence**  
25 November - 10  
December

A virtual panel with invited guests from the Sub-cluster member organizations concluded the 16 days of activism against GBV in South Sudan. The representatives from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UNFPA, IRC, CARE, IsraAid, Crown the Woman and LULU Care formed a panel. The participating organizations provided updates on their activities advanced during the 16 days, which involved dissemination of the info on GBV Helplines to wider communities, strengthening institutional capacity of women-led organizations and updating the GBV referral pathways across the country.

## Mine Action Sub-Cluster

**Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)-Related Accidents** - On 16 December 2020, in the village of Umbili, Western Bahr el Ghazal, five children found a hand grenade left by soldiers inside a tukul. The children started playing with the grenade which caused it to detonate; two children were killed and three were injured.

**Clearance and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)** - Although mine action clearance activities were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, mine action partners released 9,885,138 square metres of land throughout 2020, removing 36,579 items of ERW as well as 543,664 rounds of small arms ammunition. Partners also mitigated the risks of accidents through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), which reached a total of 245,689 beneficiaries (59,421 women, 56,167 men, 62,507 girls, and 67,594 boys) during 2020.

**DDG removes the explosive legacy of conflict in Magwi** - With support from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF), Danish Demining Group (DDG – a unit within Danish Refugee Council) has been providing lifesaving clearance of ERW in New Site Boma, Magwi, Eastern Equatoria. The area contains known hazardous areas that are littered with land mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from Sudan's civil war, including across highly residential areas and Magwi Town's centre. Bordering Uganda, the county is also expected to be an important area of return and transit point for refugee returnees. Spontaneous returnees are particularly at risk of injury or death from ERW-related accidents, as they are transiting through unfamiliar locations, and are returning to areas where the threat is less known to them.



Main picture: DDG conducting BAC drills on its a clearance task in Magwi that will be used for farming land, whilst under observation by the National Mine Action Authority, November 2020. Top left: green marking represent tukuls, spanning across the hazardous area in red.

Since October 2020, DDG has been removing ERW on land that is being used for housing (with over 70 residential tukuls located on this hazardous area, see image on the left), as well as farming by local populations. It also serves as a major access route for people travelling to the County's Town Centre and Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC). For years, ERW in this area has represented an obstacle to free and safe movement to these vital socio-economic resources.

The nature of the hazard on this site is particularly concerning – the area is partially contaminated by PM-1 cluster sub-munitions. Cluster munitions are dropped from aircraft or fired from the ground, opening up in mid-air to release tens or hundreds of sub-munitions, which can saturate an area up to the size of several football fields. Anybody within the strike area of the cluster munition, be they military or civilian, is very likely to be killed or seriously injured. However, relative to other munitions, large numbers of sub-munitions often fail to function as designed, and instead land on the ground without exploding, where they remain as very dangerous hazards that are volatile to touch.

During the clearance of this site the DDG team has faced challenges in communication with communities, while ensuring the safety of local populations during clearance, as well as working in terrain that is highly contaminated with scrap metal that renders use of metal detectors more challenging. Despite these issues, DDG has cleared 91,035 square metres of land, during September – December 2020, removing 43 cluster sub-munitions, 63 items of UXO and 1 anti-tank mine in this time.



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](mailto:report@unmas.org)

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

The HLP TWG identified the main challenges for addressing HLP issues 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 TWG recognised the cross-cutting nature of HLP issues, requiring multi-sector approaches for addressing the needs. The Protection Cluster, in collaboration with the Shelter/NFI Cluster continue leading the national HLP TWG, to work on establishing comprehensive programs on HLP and shelter.



Video animation released by the Global Shelter Cluster highlighting key HLP rights. [Access it here.](#)

## Mobile Protection Coordination

Mobile protection teams continued to prioritize flood response, as well as beginning to look at opportunities to scale up protection response in food-insecure counties. During the month of December, mobile protection partners conducted missions to Duk Padiet, Kopera, Mankien, Koch, Leer, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lobonok, and Cuiebet to conduct assessment and protection response activities, as coordinated through biweekly MPCF meetings.

Gaps in protection partner coverage in Northern BeG, Western BeG, Lakes, and Warrap State prevent an effective protection response, as well as the capacity for protection analysis of the current context. These locations will continue to be prioritized for mobile protection assessments and capacity-building to strengthen consistent protection monitoring and analysis from those locations. During the response scale-up for food insecurity, there is a need for continued advocacy on the links between protection and food insecurity, as well as supporting protection mainstreaming and conflict-sensitivity in humanitarian response.

In addition, protection partners raised concerns about the escalation of violence related to cattle raids and subnational organized violence, particularly in Warrap and Lakes State, where such incidents led to killings and displacement. Violent clashes in Central Equatoria were also reported, which are expected to escalate throughout the dry season. The PC met with static protection partners working in the 10 priority counties affected by cattle raids and subnational organized violence to discuss capacity for response scale up. Based on protection cluster priorities, it was agreed to include a mobile protection response in the SSHF RA3, covering Tonj East, Tonj South, Tonj North, and Aweil South, due to the gap in general protection partners in these areas.