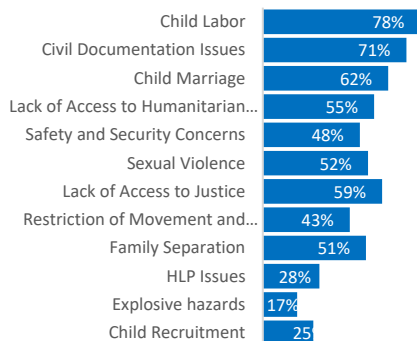
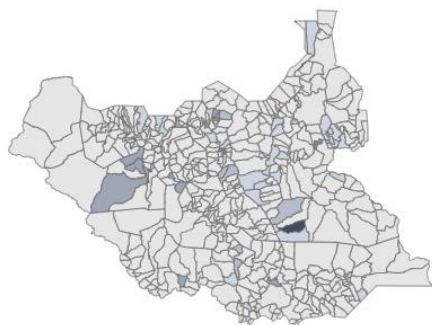
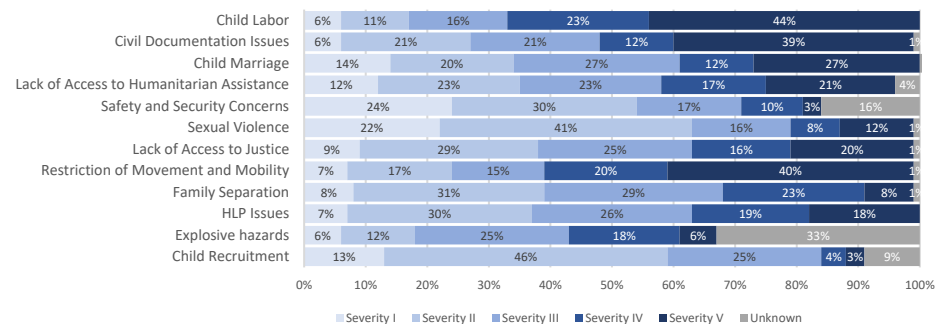


The below information reflects the **3rd round of data collection** based on harmonized and agreed upon methods and tools. The Protection Monitoring System (PMS) relies on contributions by Protection Cluster member organizations to collect data via a Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire at payam-level across twelve thematic areas thereby monitoring the occurrence of protection violations, their scale and impact on communities over time. Key informants are selected to represent a variety of backgrounds and profiles in a community. At country-level, the PMS is coordinated through the cluster’s Protection Monitoring (PROMO) working group. The roll out of the PMS is generously supported by UNHCR and ECHO including 46 tablets distributed in December to national NGOs active in PROMO.

In December 2022, protection monitors conducted 117 key informant interviews covering 67 payams in 34 counties in all ten states of South Sudan. The below graph shows the overall percentages of reported occurrence of protection violations:



The below graph shows the reported severity of protection violations and issues in the payams covered by protection monitoring in December 2022:



The below high-level protection snapshots of the 12 thematic areas monitored, are, for the most part, based on multiple choice answers, and percentages reflect the number of KI choices.

Trend vs. November: ↓ % decrease ↑ % increase – no change

Child Labor - 1% ↑	Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance - 5% ↓	Lack of Access to Justice - 31% ↑	Civil Documentation Issues - 15% ↑	Child Marriage - 1% ↑	Safety and Security Concerns - 6% ↓
Adolescent boys (35%) and adolescent girls (35%) are most affected by child labor, according to KIs. 76% of reported child labor involves domestic work outside the home and 70% involves lifting of heavy objects. 70% of KIs reported child-headed households and forced labor (62%) as main contributing factors.	87% of KIs reported older men and women, especially those living with disabilities, as the population group faced with the highest challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance. Corruption (62%) and lack of awareness on how to access humanitarian assistance (64%) are the most cited reasons for lack of access to assistance.	The two population groups reportedly most impacted by lack of access to justice were adult women (30%) and adolescent girls (32%). Family disputes (80%) as well as GBV (79%) are the issues for which justice is sought most frequently. Corruption (71%) is the main barriers to accessing justice as reported by KIs.	66% of KIs reported the issuance of birth certificates as rare in their communities. Inability to reach registrars is most cited barrier (66%) to accessing civil and identity documentation.	39 % of KIs reported child marriage occurring very often or often in their respective communities.	Physical violence and abuse (72%), violence against children (52%), and abduction, kidnapping, arbitrary arrest, and detention (50%) are the most reported violations affecting the safety and security of monitored communities.
Family Separation - 24% ↑	Sexual Violence - 8% ↑	Restriction of Movement –	HLP Issues - 12% ↓	Explosive Hazards - 21% ↑	Child Recruitment – 220% ↑
67% of KIs reported that family separations have equally affected all age groups. Some KIs reported boys and girls as well as adolescent girls to be the most affected. Domestic violence (70%), early marriages (63%) and death of caregiver (60%) are among the most cited reasons for family separations.	According to KIs, other community members (40%) youth groups are among the main factors contributing to the risk of sexual violence in communities. Overall, 39% of KIs said that survivors do not report the incident, while fear of stigma (76%) is major barrier that prevent survivors from reporting.	Within the communities, KIs cite fear of death or injury (63%), flooding (60%) and fear of GBV (53%) as most common factors resulting in mobility reduction or constraints. Such movement restrictions negatively impacted access to life-saving services (78%).	96% of KIs reported persons with disabilities as the most affected by difficulties related to their housing, land, and property rights. Main factors causing HLP challenges are floods (63%), and destruction caused by armed conflict (56%). Homelessness (89%) is major impact on the affected communities.	77 % of KIs reported the presence of explosive hazards hindering access to livelihoods, and 87% reported access to education for children hindered. Reportedly, 62% of explosive hazard incidents happened to community members while farming.	KI reported boys being the most likely victims of child recruitment. While the PMS register a large increase compared to the previous month, KIs report that some 60% or recruitments were voluntary.

Mobility – Host Community members leaving their homes	Mobility – IDPs leaving and returning home	Mobility – IDPs leaving to other areas	Mobility – Returns	Mobility - Arrivals	Mobility – Refugee Return
According to KIs, host community members have been observed leaving in the following 14 payams: Adong, Ayod, Baidit, Kaldak, Korwach, Kurmuot, Manyang-ngok, Narus, Nyal, Pwata, Rubkuay, Thaker, Ulang and Wunlem	According to KIs, IDPs are leaving the area and returning to their former areas of habitual residence in the following eight payams: Central Malakal, Korwach, Nyal, Rejaf, Rubkuay, Thaker, Wunlem, and Yambio Town.	According to KIs, IDPs are leaving the area and moving to other areas from the following 10 payams: Alali, Belewach, Central Malakal, Kaldak, Korwach, Kurmuot, Nyal, Thaker, Wunlem and Yambio Town.	According to KIs, people have been returning to the following 13 payams: Alali, Anyidi, Belewach, Central Malakal, Jak, Kaldak, Korwach Nyainthokmalual, Nyal, Rejaf, Rubkuay, Thaker and Wunlem.	According to KIs, people have been arriving from other areas to the following 15 payams: Alali, Anyidi, Ayod, Belewach, Central Malakal, Kaldak, Korwach, Manyang-ngok, Nyainthokmalual, Nyal, Rejaf, Ringi, Rubkuay, Thaker, and Wunlem.	According to KIs, returning refugees have been observed in the following 13 payams: Alali, Anyidi, Ayod, Belewach, Central Malakal, Kaldak, Korwach, Nyainthokmalual, Rubkuay, Thaker, Wau North, Wunlem, and Yei.
Protection monitors reported the following 14 payams as inaccessible due to natural disasters: Padiet, Kiech Kuon, Roam, Dingkar, Mading, Niemni, Kuerguini, Nyathoar, Kedad, Wathnyona, Duach, Mayom 2, Boaw, and Nhialdiu. Rejaf payam was partially inaccessible due to youth gang activity.			49 KI interviews were conducted in collective sites or IDP camps.	58% of monitored payams are in predominantly rural areas.	Protection monitors requested 51 urgent follow-ups regarding reported instances of child labor and child marriage, sexual violence and safety and security.

Trend analysis for the 4th quarter of 2022 (October – December)

Child Protection: Child labor has consistently been reported as one of the highest protection violations in South Sudan. 76% of KIs report it is happening to adolescents and mostly consists of domestic work outside the home, of which consists of casual work that includes lifting of heavy items. KIs also report that the largest contributing factor to child labor is child-headed households and the lack of livelihood opportunities for adult women. **Child recruitment** has also steadily been on the rise. From 17% of KIs reporting it in October to 26% in November, with boys being the most affected, especially UASCs. Important to note that 12% of KIs also reported girls being affected, possibly meaning that they are being subjected to GBV and child labor. Through continuous protection monitoring and analysis, a range of human rights violations and protection risks were identified related to forced recruitment incidents, including abductions, and restriction of freedom of movement. It is likely that such incidents will continue to be observed due to the weak implementation of the revitalized peace agreement.

Lack of access to Justice: A notable increase in the number of KIs reporting lack of access to justice has been observed (51% as quarterly average and 58% in November alone) reportedly, affecting mostly adult women and girls. This indicates that GBV issues in South Sudan have the least access to justice response. Corruption/bribery, fear of stigmatization, lack of funds to travel to the office of the local authorities, as well as lack of capacity of local authorities were identified as the highest barriers to access to formal justice, making customary law a preferred turn.

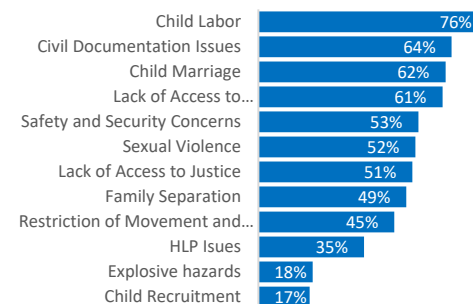
Sexual Violence: Continuous displacement or restriction of movement caused by conflict or flooding creates an environment in which sexual violence including intimate partner violence is on the rise. Most of KIs interviewed who reported sexual violence occurring in their communities (52% across the country) claim it happens often though many incidents remain unreported due to stigma and lack of knowledge of the rights of the survivors. Nevertheless, monitoring indicates that the understanding of the importance of access to medical support is high and 45% of KIs name Health Centers as preferred reporting and assistance points.

Lack of Access to Humanitarian assistance: A concerning trend of abuse of assistance and exclusion from assistance was reported by the KIs. Elderly men, women, adolescent girls, adult women, and especially people with disability (82%) were reported to be the most affected. 58% of KIs reported assistance was denied due to corruption/bribery and lack of awareness of the available services and the most denied assistance included food, shelter NFI and Health Services. Collected data and PROMO WG analysis call for improvement of coordination and working with local leaders, government officials, and humanitarian actors and improved accountability to communities in need.

Restriction of movement: 54% of KIs reported that, all groups in the community are equally affected by restriction of movement but about a quarter of them singled out adolescent girls, adult women, and men being impacted the most. Fear of death or injury, flood or natural disasters, fear of GBV/sexual violence, and fear of kidnapping are the most common reasons affecting people’s mobility. Movement restrictions also increased the protection risks of vulnerable groups within the community. KIs have reported that restriction of movement has negatively impacted the communities, leading to a lack of income, lack of access to life-saving activities, and a lack of quality education. KIs reported that the main reason for the movement is people moving out of their communities to seek better social economic opportunities and access to services.

Explosive Hazards: 67% of KIs reported fear of explosives affects livelihood opportunities including farming and 49% claim it negatively affects children going to school. It was reported in 57% of cases that incidents happened while community members were farming. Clearance efforts have been impacted by a lack of access due to insecurity and flooding.

In Q4 2022, protection monitors conducted 558 key informant interviews covering all ten states. The below graph shows the overall percentages of reported occurrence of protection violations and challenges.



Organizations contributing to the PMS in December: African Community Agency for Development and Relief, Agency for Women and Children Development, Alliance for Action Aid, Christian Agency for Humanitarian Relief and Development, Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Mission Community Development Agency, Nonviolent Peace force, Norwegian Refugee Council, OSIL Partners in Relief and Development, Road to Economic Development Organization, Survivor Aid, UNHCR/Adventist Development and Relief Agency, UNHCR/Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, UNHCR/Humanitarian & Development Consortium, UNHCR/International Rescue Committee, UNHCR/World Vision International. **Thank you to all the member organizations for their contributions!**

Protection Risk	Advocacy Goal	Key Messages	How?
Child recruitment	<p>State and non-state parties to the conflict adhere to international humanitarian law and human rights law prohibiting the use and recruitment, killing, and maiming of children during armed conflict.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to safeguard and promote children right. • Advocacy at the government level to stop child recruitment and start disarmament. • Religious and community leaders involved in messaging to stop child recruitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating and engaging the government to re-establish/strengthen a National Action Plan for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR). • Awareness raising at community level about the damaging consequences of child recruitment. • Religious leaders involved in messaging to stop child recruitment • Protection and peacebuilding actors should coordinate activities in responding to forced recruitment incidents, including on establishing the roles of reporting and follow-up on cases. • Humanitarian and peacebuilding actors should reinforce advocacy efforts with the government and relevant groups, highlighting the relevant humanitarian and human rights instruments that outlaw forced recruitment and recruitment of children. This includes reinforcing ceasefire monitoring, verification, and reporting, enabling accountability and ensuring de-escalation.
Access to Justice	<p>Engage with the government and other stakeholders to facilitate and increase access to justice for all communities living in South Sudan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to justice is a basic human right as well as an indispensable means to combat poverty, prevent conflicts. • Informal and traditional mechanisms of justice are often more accessible to poor and disadvantaged people and may have the potential to provide speedy, affordable, and meaningful remedies to them. But they are not always effective and do not necessarily result in justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing awareness and knowledge of the community on their legal rights. • Advocate with the government to bolster mobile court initiatives to enhance access to justice in hard-to-reach areas. • Advocate for free legal aid programs to assist people who do not have financial resources to seek legal services. • Build capacity of traditional leaders to resolve cases within their mandate and to refer criminal cases to formal justice systems.
Sexual Assault	<p>Survivors of sexual assault in South Sudan access legal assistance and essential services without discrimination and intimidation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault has numerous potential consequences that can have lifelong impacts with serious adverse effects on health, education, employment, crime, and the economic well-being of individuals, families, and community. • In South Sudan, the penal code criminalizes a wide range of sexual offences. Survivors need to access essential services according to their wishes. Therefore, communities need to better understand the roles and responsibilities of those investigating and prosecuting sexual violence. • Access to Justice - Most survivors are denied access to justice, their wishes must be respected. Timely and non-discriminatory access for survivors that is affordable and dignified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in dialogues around social norms that are exacerbating sexual violence in communities. Religious leaders and elders can spearhead these dialogues, i.e., Messaging to be included in prayer congregations. • Building the capacity of sexual assault response teams, and work closely with activists and women groups to campaign in support of access to justice for survivors. • Support GBV prevention interventions that tackle the root causes of GBV and work toward changing harmful social norms. These include increased support to legislative, policy and community advocacy to improve protection of women, girls, men, and boys from GBV. • Increase Mobile health outreach to provide timely response in hard-to-reach areas.

Explosive Hazards	Reduce the incidents of Explosive Hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing of explosive Hazards save lives. • Report to authorities or call 0920001055. • Seen suspicious items? STOP! DO NOT TOUCH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and awareness raising for humanitarian actors on Explosive Hazards and referral pathways. • More EORE trainings for community and children
Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance	Humanitarian assistance is provided in-line with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and reaches the most vulnerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian action must be taken without any adverse distinction based on sex, age, disability, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, class, political opinion, or other ground. • Humanitarian actors to implement a no tolerance policy for acts of exploitation and abuse of power, including sexual exploitation and abuse. • Reinforce the principle that protection mainstreaming is the responsibility of each individual agency and cluster-lead agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make substantial improvements to include women, young people, older persons, people with disabilities, persons with minority clan affiliations, in the decision-making process, including the design, and implementation of humanitarian programs. • Strengthen/ increase information sharing especially when it comes to selection criteria, items that will be delivered and who to contact in case of challenges. • Increase Protection Mainstreaming training for protection and non-protection actors. • Humanitarian actors to increase presence in settlements and improve the monitoring of the four mainstreaming principles by including them in their post-distribution monitoring tools.
Restriction of Movement	Safe and conducive environment for freedom of movement of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of non-international armed conflicts, peace actors like UNMISS and local authorities need to ensure that conditions are conducive to people's mobility and subsequent access to humanitarian support, livelihood, etc is ensured. • Humanitarian and development actors need to coordinate and increase peace-building activities to improve social cohesion within the communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace actors, authorities (especially local) and other stakeholders to work together to immediately put a stop to non-international armed conflicts and facilitate Access that Protects which enables humanitarian actors to deploy services and ensure mobility of people. • Together with youth groups, community leaders, religious leaders, and local authorities develop peace-building and social cohesion programmes while advocating with all coordination levels and donors, for increased and sustainable support.