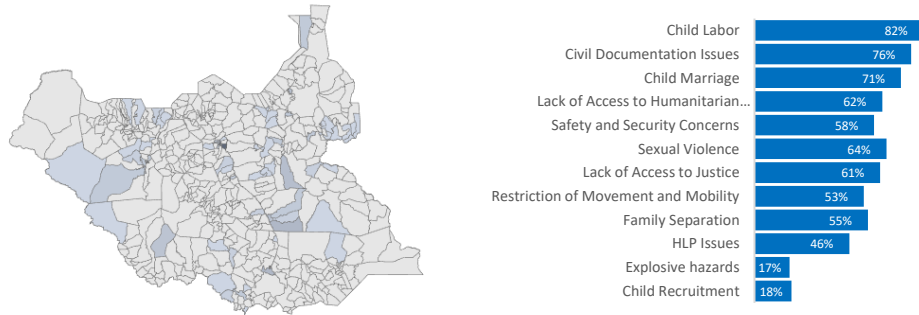
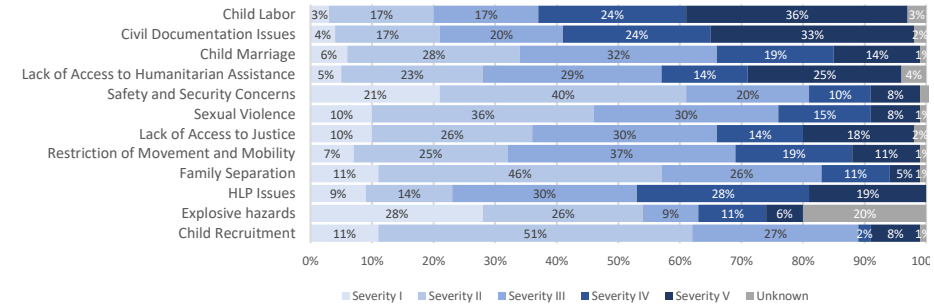


The **Protection Monitoring System (PMS)** of the Protection Cluster (PC) in South Sudan was rolled out as pilot in October 2022. The below information reflects the 4th round of data collection based on harmonized and agreed upon methods and tools. The PMS relies on contributions by PC member organizations 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.

In January 2023, protection monitors conducted 212 key informant interviews covering 85 payams in 36 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 in the payams covered by protection monitoring in January 2023:



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 times a key informant (KI) chose one of the response options. Trend vs. December 2022: ↓ % decrease ↑ % increase no change

Thematic Area	Percentage	Trend
Child Labor - 5% ↑	Adolescent boys (31%) and adolescent girls (23%) are most affected by child labor, according to KIs. 77% of reported child labor involves domestic work outside the home, 67% involves lifting of heavy objects, while 24% entails involvement in illicit and/or degrading activities. 61% of KIs reported lack of work opportunities for older individuals main contributing factors. School drop-out (60%) and exploitation and abuse (64%) are reported as most common effects of child labor.	↑
Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance - 12% ↑	78% of KIs reported all groups were affected by lack of humanitarian assistance. Corruption (58%), lack of awareness on how to access humanitarian assistance (45%), and poor targeting (32%) are the most cited reasons for lack of access to assistance, of which food, health and shelter are the ones most often referenced (48-55%).	↑
Lack of Access to Justice - 3% ↑	78% of KIs reported all groups were affected by lack of access to justice. GBV (61%) as well as family disputes (55%) are the issues for which justice is sought most frequently. Corruption (73%) is the most cited barriers to accessing justice as reported by KIs. Customary law is the preferred method of achieving justice in the community, according to 79% of KIs.	↑
Civil Documentation Issues - 7% ↑	60% of KIs reported the issuance of birth certificates as rare in their communities, while IDs can reportedly not be obtained by the community according to 78% of KI. Inability to register SIM cards (54%) and inability to be employed (64%), are the most common repercussions of under-documentation or gaps in documentation. Unaffordable administrative fees are most cited barrier (61%) to accessing civil and identity documentation.	↑
Child Marriage - 14% ↑	14 % of KIs reported child marriage occurring very often in their respective communities, and 99 % reported adolescent girls to be the most affected by child marriage in their respective communities.	↑
Safety and Security Concerns - 17% ↑	Conflict-related sexual violence/harassment (57%) and physical violence or assault or abuse (51%) are the most reported violations affecting the safety and security of monitored communities.	↑
Family Separation - 7% ↑	76% of KIs reported that family separations have equally affected all age groups. Domestic violence (49%), voluntary separations (44%) and death of caregiver (43%) are among the most cited reasons for family separations.	↑
Sexual Violence - 10% ↑	According to KIs, other community members (34%) youth groups (27%) and business owners (23%) 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 (68%), lack of knowledge of rights (44%) as well as social norms (43%) are barriers that prevent survivors from reporting, KIs indicate.	↑
Restriction of Movement - 19% ↑	Within the communities, KIs cite fear of death or injury (41%), fear of GBV (51%), and checkpoints (37%) as most common factors resulting in mobility restriction or constraints. Such movement restrictions negatively impacted livelihoods (60%) and access to life-saving services (50%).	↑
HLP Issues - 40% ↑	66% 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 armed conflict (51%), lack of title deeds (49%), floods (40%) and unlawful forced evictions (34%). Homelessness (77%), increased violence (43%) and loss of income (43%) are the top three impacts on the affected communities.	↑
Explosive Hazards - no change	51 % of KIs reported the presence of explosive hazards hindering access to livelihoods, and 40% reported affect on ability to reach markets. Reportedly, 34% of explosive hazard incidents happened to community members while farming.	no change
Child Recruitment - 28% ↓	KI reported boys being the most likely victims of child recruitment. According to KI reports, as a prevention strategy, 49% community members engage in negotiations and 27% pay ransom to get children back.	↓
Mobility – Host Community members leaving their homes	According to KIs, host community members have been observed leaving in the following 31 payams: Adok, Alali, Atar, Ayod, Baach, Belewach, Bilkey, Bor, Gangura, Guat, Juong Kang, Kaldak, Korwach, Kuach-deng, Leer, Luom, Munuki, Northern Malakal, Nyainthokmalual, Nyal, Nyambor, Panyang, Paya, Rejaf, Tharjiath, Tutnyang, Wunlem, Yambio Town.	
Mobility – IDPs leaving and returning home	According to KIs, IDPs are leaving the area and returning to their former areas of habitual residence in the following 17 payams: Bor, Central Malakal, Gangura, Jekow, Juong Kang, Kolnyang, Kuach-deng, Leer, Luom, Makuach, Munuki, Northern Malakal, Nyal, Tharjiath, Tutnyang, Yambio Town, Yei.	
Mobility – IDPs leaving to other areas	According to KIs, IDPs are leaving the area and moving to other areas from the following 24 payams: Adong, Alali, Ayod, Belewach, Bilkey, Bor, Central Malakal, Gangura, Guat, Jekow, Juong Kang, Kaldak, Korwach, Kuach-deng, Leer, Luom, Munuki, Nyainthokmalual, Nyal, Panyang, Rejaf, Tharjiath, Wunlem, Yambio Town.	
Mobility – Returns	According to KIs, people have been returning to the following 13 payams: Bilkey, Central Malakal, Jekow, Juong Kang, Kolnyang Leer, Luom, Mundri, Munuki Northern Malakal, Tharjiath, Tutnyang, Yei	
Mobility – Arrivals	According to KIs, people have been arriving from other areas to the following 18 payams: Adok, Ayod, Baach, Bilkey, Central Malakal Guat, Juong Kang, Kolnyang, Leer, Luom, Mundri, Munuki, Northern Malakal, Nyal, Payuel, Rejaf, Tharjiath, Wunrok.	
Mobility – Refugee Return	According to KIs, returning refugees have been observed in the following 16 payams: Ayod, Belewach, Bor, Bou, Central Malakal, Juong Kang, Kaldak, Kolnyang, Korwach, Leer, Luom, Munuki, Northern Malakal, Nyal, Wunlem. Yei	

At any given time, protection monitors reported the following 1 payams as inaccessible due to other reasons: Rejaf; disease outbreak: Kuac North; and ongoing conflict: Wau South.

125 interviews were conducted in predominantly HC locations and 121 in predominantly IDP locations

78% of monitored payams are in predominantly rural areas.

Protection monitors requested 68 urgent follow-ups regarding reported instances of child labor and child marriage, sexual violence and safety and security.

Organizations contributing to the PMS in January: African Community Agency for Development and Relief, Agency for Women and Children Development, Christian Agency for Humanitarian Relief and Development, Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, Community in Need Aid, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, Mission Community Development Agency, Mobile Humanitarian Agency, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Norwegian Refugee Council, Road to Economic Development Organisation, Survivor Aid, UNHCR/Adventist Development and Relief Agency, UNHCR/Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, UNHCR/Hope Restoration South Sudan, UNHCR/Humanitarian & Development Consortium, UNHCR/International Rescue Committee, UNHCR/INTERSOS, UNHCR/Jesuit Refugee Service, UNHCR/Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan, UNHCR/World Vision International, Wider Aid & Development Agency - South Sudan **Thank you to all the member organizations for their contributions!**