



*Working with women and girls in WGFSS is an important tool for prevention of GBV risks and mitigation of challenges for survivors.*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Conflict coupled with climatic shocks such as the flooding in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states as well as the economic shocks resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic have impacted the protection environment and humanitarian situation in South Sudan.

Recent crises, including flooding in Bentiu and multiple conflicts in a number of States including; Warrap; Upper Nile; Unity; Jonglei State (and Greater Pibor Administrative Area), raised concerning reports of serious human rights violations committed against civilian populations, including unlawful killings, attacks on civilians, gender and conflict-related sexual violence, destruction and limited access to basic services, forced evictions, forced displacement, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination, deaths of humanitarian workers as well as the destruction and looting of humanitarian and civilian infrastructure.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to experience new and secondary displacement, while thousands are in protracted displacement, unable to find a durable solution raising the total number of internally displaced in the country to over 2.2 million.<sup>1</sup> Displacement has undermined people's resilience and ability to cope, because of loss of assets, livelihoods, homes, properties, family members and communal networks.

Many barriers to durable solutions exist, including the ongoing conflict in several areas, extensive destruction of property and weak rule of law. In addition, structural gender inequality persists notably due to legal and societal factors. Women are particularly disadvantaged and face unique risks, even more so when compounded with other factors, such as displacement or heading a household. Overall humanitarian needs have increased over the past year, aggravating the protection situation and particularly impacting the most vulnerable, resulting in an overall 16 per cent increase in the estimated number of people in need in 2023.<sup>2</sup> These repeated shocks have weakened community-based structures and services and underline the importance of the State's responsibility to protect its citizens and the international community's commitment to support people in need in South Sudan.

In 2022 the Protection Cluster members and its four Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) worked together towards identifying and responding to protection risks in Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection, Mine Awareness and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights, as well as strengthening evidenced-based programming and advocacy through the protection monitoring system (PMS).

<sup>1</sup> South Sudan — Mobility Tracking Round 12 Initial Data Release (July 2022). Available: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-12-initial-data-release?close=true>

<sup>2</sup> South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 (November 2022). Available: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/document/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview-2023>

## 2022 PC KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**2.4 M**

protection services provided<sup>3</sup>

**1.9 M**

services for women and children provided

**56%**

of protection services delivered at community level or as individual comprehensive assistance.

**137**

protection cluster members active in the country

**37%**

of needed HRP funding received in 2022.

### Development and deployment of the Protection Monitoring System in South Sudan

The Protection Cluster, with support of UNHCR, NRC and ECHO, established the Protection Monitoring System (PMS) in South Sudan through a consultative process, including partners, AoRs, and SAG. In October, the field testing of the tools and data collection commenced, and since then the cluster, with the support of the PMS partners, published three Protection Monitoring reports from [October to December including key advocacy messages](#). The Protection Cluster convened a two-day workshop with the PMS partners on the 19th and 20th of December and the meeting was attended by approximately 30 members. The purpose was to evaluate the PMS tools and get feedback from partners on what worked and what didn't. Feedback on PMS was positive, and the pilot period ended with a slight revision of the system. The PMS is coordinated through a technical working group of the Protection Cluster (PROMO), bringing together the focal points of all contributing partner organizations. The interactive dashboard will be publicly available by March 2023.



*20 Protection Cluster member organizations participated in protection data collection and analysis covering some 25% of the country. Enumerators collecting the data are trained protection staff engaged in provision of protection services in areas they monitor.*

### Improved 5W system for coordination, advocacy, and reporting

2022 saw a major increase in quality and quantity of data shared through the 5W system. This was achieved through introduction of a comprehensive online data collection and data analysis system (Kobo and Power BI) ensuring cluster members and coordinators at all levels have access to monthly reiterations of an interactive dashboard for reporting, advocacy, and coordination purposes. This new, and useful system also triggered an increase of over 100 percent of participating members compared to the previous year (average for 2021 was 30-40 reporting organizations, while average for 2022 was on average 80). To ensure functionality, the PC team also organized 11 trainings for over 350 participants/PC member staff. To enhance effective information sharing the Protection Cluster has developed an interactive dashboard based on the 5W data that is accessible to the entire partnerships, AoRs and state-level focal points. The dashboard, while already accessible, will be available through the Global Protection Cluster country page by March 2023.

### Protection Analysis Update and Protection Advocacy

In 2022 the Protection cluster took steps in strengthening its data on Protection risk and analysis to provide an evidence-base for programming, advocacy, and dialogue for the purpose of influencing behaviours and policies in support of a more favourable protection environment in South Sudan. The First [Protection Analysis report was published on June 2022](#) and the second update had a [thematic focus on housing, land and property rights](#) led by the HLP AoR of the Protection Cluster. Protection analysis update (PAU) sheds light on the main risks relating to HLP rights in the humanitarian context of South Sudan.

- **Space for Dialogue:** In 2022 the Protection Cluster started to issue an ad hoc update to inform the response and raise issues through recommendations. In addition, to make a better use of its platform and convening role, the Protection Cluster convened two protection roundtables. The first roundtable centered on the situation and response to the conflict in Tonga (Upper Nile and Northern Jonglei) escalating in August 2022, bringing together relevant stakeholders. The second protection roundtable took place in November 2022, focusing on Housing, Land and Property rights violations as drivers of conflict and displacement and a significant barrier to finding solutions. Prevention and response to such violations require concerted and joined efforts by humanitarian, peace, and development actors.
- **Protection Advocacy:** Based on protection analysis, and considering the centrality of protection, the Protection Cluster has developed two advocacy notes in collaboration with the Education Cluster concerning the impact of [Occupation and ulterior](#)

<sup>3</sup> Number consists of HRP and non-HRP reported activities in 2022

[use of schools](#) and IRC on [Access to Safe Health Care at Risk](#) in South Sudan. To further improve protection advocacy and emergency response, the Protection Cluster has developed an SOP to set up red flag system. The system will be used to channel to the HCT critical protection issues that require attention from the senior humanitarian leadership and relevant and timely advocacy asks. Consultations on this system will be launched in March, including with UNMISS, to establish strong referral and coordination between actors.

### **Protection Cluster substantive coverage**

Housing, land, and property rights violations are seen as both a root cause of displacement as well as pervasive protection risk, and the activation of the Protection Cluster's Area of Responsibility for Housing, Land and Property led by NRC was a critical milestone in November 2022.

### **Advancing mobile modalities**

Considering the context, advocacy and coordination of the mobile protection response is a critical area the Protection enhanced its activities in 2022, notably by strengthening role of and participation in the Mobile Protection Working Group. Next steps include discussions on enlarging participation, geographic coverage, response modalities and negotiations for protection purposes. The coordination team also established links with Access and Civil-Military Coordination.

### **Intra-cluster coordination at national and with state-levels**

The coordination within the Cluster at the National level, as well as with the Clusters at State-levels was further enhanced through more regular engagement and involvement of State-level coordination focal points and an ongoing strengthening of the roving field support team of the National Protection Cluster. The purpose of these actions was to ensure a better information and feedback flow, as well as the enhanced coordination of protection responses at the field level.

### **Capacity development**

A total of 120 protection partners were trained on Protection mainstreaming and coordination. The trainings were conducted in Wau, Kuajok and Aweil.



*Interview techniques enable protection monitors to ensure active participation of key informants ensuring their knowledge becomes meaningful advocacy messaging.*

**AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**0.6 M**

protection services provided by **Child Protection AoR members**

**0.7 M**

protection services provided by **GBV AoR members**

**82 K**

protection services provided by **HLP AoR members**

**0.5 M**

protection services provided by **Mine Action AoR members**

**0.5 M**

of other protection services provided by **Protection Cluster members**

**Gender-based Violence**

- A major challenge for the GBV response in emergency programming in South Sudan was the significant reduction of funding in 2022 (20 % coverage in 2022 compared to 45% in 2021) causing gaps in GBV service provision in some of the hotspots including provision of dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls.
- In 2022, GBV responding organizations provided more than 727 thousand services, prevention, and risk mitigation actions. Five GBV AoR members also engaged in cash-based assistance integrated with GBV in emergency programming.
- An estimated 2.8 million people will face GBV risks in 2023. A nine per cent increase from the 2022 estimates. They will need GBV prevention, risk mitigation and scale-up of specialized GBV response services



*GBV One-stop Centers support programmes to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including training social workers and health staff to meet the needs of violence survivors sensitively and professionally.*

**Child Protection**

- Children and adolescents, including those with disabilities, continue to be exposed to a wide range of protection risks, such as family separation, recruitment, and use of children by armed forces and groups, psychosocial distress, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), neglect, abuse, and exploitation. From January to September 2022, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting verified 302 grave violations affecting 246 children (141 boys, 105 girls). Boys between 13 and 17 years old are significantly at risk of conflict-related violence including abduction, killing and recruitment<sup>4</sup>.
- According to the newly implemented Protection Monitoring System, in the last quarter of 2022, Child Labor is the most mentioned violation by 78 percent of Key Informants while Child Marriage (62%), Family Separation (51%) and Child Recruitment (25%) demonstrate the grave impact conflict, natural hazards, poverty and cultural practices have on children in South Sudan.
- During 2022, Protection Cluster Child Protection AoR members provide over 580 thousand services to children and their caregivers while, at the same time, other AoRs provided other protection services to a further 787 thousand children.
- An estimated 3.1 million children and adolescents, a 3.5 per cent increase from 2022, will need immediate life-saving child protection services in 2023. The Child Protection AoR will focus on the provision of life-saving child protection and specialized services through an integrated approach to address the priority needs of more than 1 million vulnerable girls, boys, and their families.



*Sarah (name changed) enjoys drawing at a UNICEF supported Child Friendly Space in Yei, the centre provides children with a protected environment in which they can participate in organized activities to play, socialize, learn, and express themselves as they rebuild their lives.*

<sup>4</sup> HNO 2023

### Mine Action

- The Mine Action AoR prioritized and addressed protection needs of the most vulnerable. More than 341,000 girls and boys who are the biggest victims of accidents caused by explosive ordnance, were reached out by Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) that enables them to understand the risk and thereby promote safe behaviour to prevent accidents. Emergency EORE was proactively provided to IDPs and refugees rapidly reacting to a new displacement or movement to enhance their awareness of potential threats during transit or as they arrive in new areas.
- More than 9.9 million m<sup>2</sup> of land (equal to 1,414 x football pitches) was surveyed, cleared, and released, facilitating safe movement and resettlement of IDPs and refugees, enabling children to play and resume education in safer environments as well as the communities to build safe and sustainable livelihoods, and facilitating life-saving assistance to be delivered to hard-to-reach areas.
- In 2023, the Mine Action AoR will target 223,000 people out of an estimated 538,000 people in need. The focus will be on surveying and clearance of explosive hazards, as well as Providing Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE).



*PHOTO: Sean Sutton, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)/Mine Action partner delivering EORE safety message to community members in Rokon Payam in Juba County*

### Housing, Land and Property

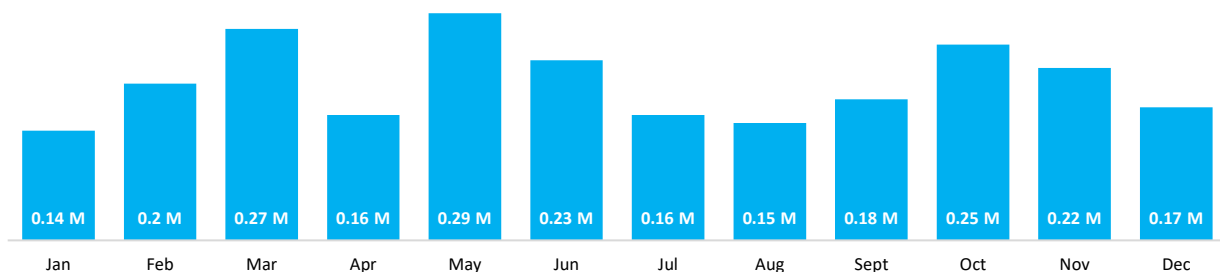
- In 2023, the newly established the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR will aim to provide legal assistance and services to 323,643 people in need. HLP issues such as forced eviction, demolition, land grabbing, land access, and lack of HLP documentation against the backdrop of capacity and funding gaps for responding HLP AoR members remain a major issue affecting IDPs and returnees' abilities to find housing and livelihood solutions across the country.
- The promulgation of South Sudan Transitional Constitution (2011), Land Act, 2009 and Local Government Act, 2009 brought into place concerns about urgency for land reforms that hold the key to solving some of the greatest HLP challenges such as landlessness, lack of land documentations and sustainable development.
- The centrality of protection within durable solutions for displacement-affected communities is exemplified in the struggle that vulnerable groups face to claim and enjoy their HLP rights. To promote and facilitate durable solutions for Displacement Affected Communities, interventions must focus on Housing, Land and Property (HLP).



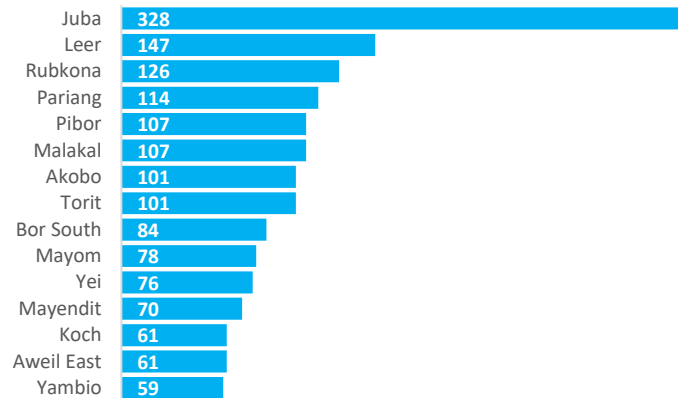
*Provision of legal counselling and aid in obtaining property documentation is of major importance for those displaced people needing mitigation of their HLP issues.*

### 2022 IN NUMBERS

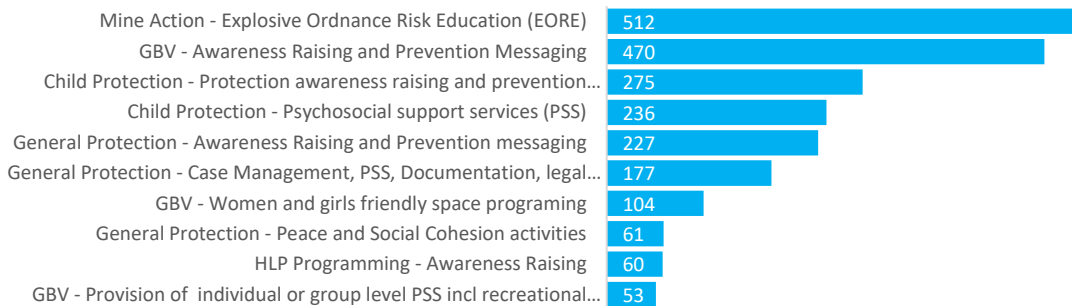
In 2022, Protection Cluster members provided an average of 202K services per month, with peaks related to emergency responses and resource-related fluctuations.



Targeting of protection services delivery based on needs and the ability to re-prioritize and respond to emerging hotspots was at the heart of Protection Cluster South Sudan's efforts during 2022. The graph on the right showcases top-15 counties recipients of protection services, in thousands



While activities requiring a mass communication approach, such as GBV prevention and awareness raising activities and Mine Action's Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) continue to be much needed in South Sudan, the main driver behind a high ratio of low-cost activities vs. the delivery of more targeted and high-impact group or individual protection services is limited funding opportunities and mid to long term projects for protection members, especially national NGOs. The below graph represents the number, in thousands, of assistances for the top-ten activities implemented by the cluster members.



**During 2022, the following organizations delivered protection interventions as part of the Protection Cluster in South Sudan:**

Across Africa Development Organization, ACT Alliance / Danish Church Aid, ACT Alliance / Norwegian Church Aid, Agency for Technical Development and Cooperation, Action Against Hunger – USA, Action Aid Intervention for Development Organization, Action For Children Development Foundation, Active Youth Agency, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Africa Development Aid, African Community Agency for Development and Relief, African Humanitarian Organization, Agency for Women and Children Development, Alliance For Action Aid, American Refugee Committee - Alight, Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale, CARE International, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Charity and Empowerment Foundation, Child's Destiny and Development Organization, Christian Agency for Humanitarian, Relief and Development, Coalition for Humanity - South Sudan, Community Action Organization, Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, Community Care & Development Support, Community Development Aid, Community Empowerments Against Poverty, Community Health and Development Organization, Community in Need Aid, Community Initiative for Development Organization, Confident Children out of Conflict, Danish Church Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, Dialogue and Research Institute, Federation of Women Lawyers - South Sudan, Girl Child Africa Foundation, Grassroot Empowerment and Development Organization, Greater Upper Nile Organization, Group 4 Securicor, Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion, Health Action Africa - South Sudan, Health Link - South Sudan, Healthcare Foundation Organization, Help a Child South Sudan, Hold the Child Organization, Hope Restoration South Sudan, Human Must Access Essentials, Humane Aid for Community Organization, Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International, Humanity and Development Consortium, Initiative for Community Prosperity, Institute for Promotion of Civil Society, International Medical Corps, International Organization for Migration, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization, Islamic Relief Worldwide, IsraAID, Johaniter International Assistance, Lulu Care - South Sudan, Medair, Media Theatre Team, Mercy Corps, Mine Advisory Group, Mission Community Development Agency, Mobile Humanitarian Agency, Mobile Theatre Team, Morning Tears South Sudan, Mundri Relief and Development Association, Narrative Hub, National Mine Action Authority, National Relief and Development Corps, Nile Hope, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Norwegian Church Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Operation Save Innocent Lives - Partners in Relief and Development, OSIL Partners in Relief and Development, OXFAM GB, Pilgrims of Hope, Plan International, Polish Humanitarian Action, Reach Alternatives, Recovery and Access to Commonly Best Optimism - South Sudan, Relief Agency, Relief International, Road to Economic Development Organisation, Rural Women for Development South Sudan, Safe Lane Global, Salvation and Light Development Action, Samaritan Mission Aid, Save the Children International, Saves Lives Initiative, Smile Again Africa Development Organization, South Sudan Health Association, Stewardwomen, Sudan Evangelical Mission, Support for Peace and Education Development Program, Support for Women in Governance Organization, Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development, Survivor Aid, Tearfund, The Development Initiative, The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid, The Organisation for Children's Harmony, Titi Foundation, Touch Africa Development Organization, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Association of Christian Resource Organisation South Sudan, Hold the Child, Humanitarian & Development Consortium, Jesuit Refugee Service, Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan, United Humanitarian Development Organisation, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Mine Action Service, United Nations Population Fund, Universal Intervention and Development Organization, Universal Network for Child Defence Rights, Universal Network for Knowledge and Empowerment Agency, Upper Nation Initiative for Rural Development Organization, Veterinaires Sans Frontières – Germany, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières – Suisse, Vision for Community Development, Voice of the Peace, War Child Holland, Wider Aid & Development Agency - South Sudan, Women Advancement Organization, Women Agency for Resilience and Transformation, Women Aid Vision, Women for Change, World Vision International and Youth Empowerment Foundation. **Thank you all!**