



## Overview

The Protection Cluster partners continued with ongoing activities in the month of April which include but are not limited to protection needs assessments, protection monitoring, capacity building and information awareness.

## Protection Cluster Co-Lead Rotation

There are a number of benefits for organizations in the co-ordination role of the Protection Cluster, and the Global Protection Cluster recognizes that allowing for rotation of the NGO co-coordinator of the Protection Cluster is a best practice to create equal partnership within the cluster and ownership among Protection Cluster members. Systems for rotation have precedence in Protection Clusters in Iraq, Syria (Turkey), and Somalia among others. The South Sudan Protection Cluster will adopt this practice and has introduced a system for rotation of the co-ordination in 2019. The process for rotation of the NGO co-lead will be done through a participatory process with review of expressions of interest from interested organizations to ensure that the applicants meet the minimum required criteria for the role followed by an election. The rotation process will be held every two years and completed six months prior to the date of rotation for the selected organization to make necessary arrangements.

## Mine Action Sub Cluster

During April 2019, no mines/explosive remnants of war-related accidents were reported. On 4 April, several events were held around the country to celebrate International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In Juba, Girls and boys from the Mangateen area and the adjacent communities played football matches, and enjoyed songs and drama highlighting mine risk awareness message in an event with the theme “Safe Ground, Safe home for all.”

## Child Protection Sub Cluster

### *Family Tracing and Reunification:*

Save the Children, UNICEF and partners have successfully reunified 6,000 children with their families after years of separation due to conflict. This is a milestone for the Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) programme in South Sudan since war broke out in 2013. Separated and unaccompanied children are more susceptible to violence, abuse and exploitation, which makes returning them to their parents an urgent priority for Child Protection partners. Using the national database Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), the Child Protection agencies have registered over 18,000 children for case management and family tracing and reunification services. The total active caseload is over 8,000. The highest numbers of registered unaccompanied and separated children are from Unity, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes and Central Equatoria States.

The peace agreement signed in September 2018 has prompted refugees returning to South Sudan from neighboring countries and given access to areas previously inaccessible. If the peace holds, this can provide an opportunity to step up family tracing and reunification if adequate funding for the programme is secured. Yet, family tracing will remain labour intensive due to limited access to roads, mobile and data connection in South Sudan. The family tracing and reunification programme is heavily reliant on case workers walking long distances and knocking on doors to trace children and their parents.

For more technical information on FTR in South Sudan you can access [\*A Practice Handbook: For family tracing and reunification in emergencies\*](#). South Sudan experience

**Mainstreaming:** In Unity the child protection working group (CPWG) is putting in place different activities and strategies to improve child protection humanitarian coordination and response in Unity State. Initiatives were taken to integrate child protection into other sector programming and mainly with Nutrition, Health and Education clusters.

### *Birth registration and birth documentation:*

No legislation was in place to record births or issue birth certificates when South Sudan gained its independence in 2011. With the country gripped by civil war since 2013, the vast majority of births – some 65% percent – still go undocumented. To address this shortcoming, **UNICEF launched a pilot program to assist the country’s**

## **Ministry of Health to register births. More than 100,000 newborns have now been registered in two of South Sudan's 10 states including Unity State.**

In December 2018 the birth notification project implemented by UNICEF in Bentiu and Rubkona came to an end and this created a vacuum because the project was mainly supporting community volunteers working at the grassroots level, building awareness about the importance of birth registration. To overcome this situation, the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) in coordination with Nutrition, Health and Education Clusters is currently collaborating to establish a network of focal points in Rubkona and hard to reach areas to sensitize communities on the importance to register newborns and to guarantee that newborn children are provided with proper notifications. Birth notification for children is an important element of protection also and especially in conflict affected areas such as South Sudan where family separation remains an important issue and reunification is also reduced due to the lack of documents attesting the identity of children.

### **Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster**

During the month of April, the GBV Sub Cluster provided technical support in a 3 days GBV assessment and light response in Maper, Rumbek North in collaboration with Women Aid Vision and the IPMT. There are no GBV partners or GBV specialized services in Rumbek North, Maper to respond to GBV cases including community knowledge on basic concepts of GBV. The GBV Sub Cluster will continue lobbying for more static presence by GBV partners in order to provide GBV tailored services in Rumbek North, Maper.

The GBV Sub Cluster also supported the supply of Dignity kits and transport facilitation for a national NGO for a rapid assessment to Boma. Such initiatives are part of the GBV Sub Cluster commitment to supporting national NGO capacity across South Sudan. The GBV Sub Cluster also purchased over 1000 (women hygiene pack) and supported partners with the pack to give out to the women/ girls during the rapid assessment.

The GBV Sub Cluster also participated in an assessment mission to Wau, on the Eastern Bank on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April; and some of the outcomes were as reported by the women and girls.

The GBV Sub Cluster Information Management Officer (IMO) attended GBVIMS ToT in Italy from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 with an aim at improving the overall reporting and analysis of GBV trends. The GBV Sub Cluster IMO also delivered a 5Ws kobo and GBVIMS training to the partners in Wau from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> April and facilitated the development of GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in two areas – Amadi and Jubek. The GBV Sub Cluster also participated in an Inter-Agency Needs Assessment (IRNA) which was conducted in Mundri Counties of Mundri East, Mundri West and Mvolo. The assessment looked into the areas of Protection, WASH, FSL, Education, NFI, Health and Nutrition.

### **Housing, Land, and Property**

In the month of April, the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group (TWG) worked closely with the organisers (Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Specialized Standing Land Committee to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) for the organization of varied Focus Group Discussions in varied parts of South Sudan in order to inform the national level consultations with Women - the Women Land Rights Forum – coming up in May 2019 Focus Group Discussions were held with varied IDP women in varied parts of the country, supported by UNHCR, FAO, WFP, UNFPA, IOM and other UN and NGO partners. The FGD

sessions at field level were important in order to bring the voices of women to the fore-front as the Land Policy document for South Sudan is being formulated.

In April, field mission support to Wau was conducted to support the partners in developing a HLP Referral Pathway after a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise. The HLP Referral Pathway aims to identify systematic means in ensuring that concerns related to House, Land and Property are referred and managed through the mandated government structures while ensuring that community based protection aspects are maintained during the referrals. Due to the increased number of HLP concerns in Wau related to secondary occupation, illegal occupation of land and claims on land ownership UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and South Sudan Law Society (SSLS) will engage the State Ministry of Physical Planning and Ministry of Justice to ensure that these cases are expedited and handled in a safe and dignified manner.

### **Protection Mobile Coordination Forum**

The Protection Mobile Coordination Forum gathered for a general meeting on 29th March. The Protection Cluster also hosted a Mobile Protection Assessment and Reporting Review Workshop on 14th March, with 12 participants representing six organizations. The objectives of the workshop were to review and strengthen guidance documents, assessment tools, and reporting mechanisms, as well as to share best practices between organizations, identify areas for quality improvement, and identify areas where the Protection Cluster can strengthen its support to partners. Based on the feedback shared at the workshop, an action plan was developed for the next quarter, including developing a series of capacity building sessions on guidance documents and tools.

In March, Integrated Protection Mobile Teams (IPMT) completed assessment and response missions in Pibor, Gogrial East, and Lobonok. IPMT teams are sponsored by the Protection Cluster through SSHF funding. On-going missions are being conducted by IMPT and EP&R (ECHO-funded) teams in Magwi, Mundri East, Yeri, Yei Central, Yirol West, Koch, and Pochalla.