Overview

The National Protection Cluster conducted the annual cluster retreat in Juba from 22-24 August 2019, with 36 protection cluster state and field focal persons including sub cluster state and field focal persons. The main recommendations from the retreat were:

- To strengthen field level coordination roles and communication with deep field coordination structures.
- To strengthen TORs for each state and field levels focal points and strengthen information sharing and feedback mechanisms.
- Identify engagement and advocacy opportunities to support robust advocacy on prevention and response.
- Identify strengthened opportunities to engage with Youth including girl and women youth.
- Agreed that social cohesion activities must be scaled up at all levels in the field working closely with other clusters.
- That solutions to displacement must be driven by explicit requests by IDPs themselves and that due diligence must be done in accordance to the 2019 HCT Updated Guidance on Returns, Relocation and Local integration.
- Local Integration opportunities must also be considered.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) briefed the Protection Cluster members on the 27th August 2019 during the Protection cluster meeting. The SRSG provided summary updates on the current peace process, reunification of forces, political positions in the transitional government and the 180 Day Report.

Housing, Land, and Property Technical Working Group

The HLP TWG met on 30th August and discussed the need to take stock of our HLP activities since the inception of the TWG in December 2018. A HLP retreat was proposed in end September 2019 in order to better understand where we stand with our HLP interventions, identifying HLP initiatives that could be strengthened, learning best practices from the field and discussing challenges for implementation.

Mobile Protection Coordination Forum

Four mobile protection teams were deployed to assess and respond to the following locations: Lobonok, Renk, Longochok and Terekeka (Tali and Tindilo). The teams comprise of DRC and NP mobile support partners, responding to displacements as a result of on-going conflict / inter-communal in the areas.

Information Management

Following several bilateral meetings with partners and continuous support from the Protection Cluster, Partners committed to report in a timely manner resulting in more than 1.8 M individuals (boys, girls, women and men) reached until end of August 2019 through our HRP and Non HRP partners.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

A monitoring mission to monitor performance of partners supported under the SSHF was conducted in Unity State. The objectives of the monitoring mission included assessing the status of performance indicators and progress made towards achieving the protection cluster strategy objectives as well as noting the good practices and challenges partners are facing during implementation. Of particular interest was the good coordination and collaboration among partners INGOs and NNGOs within and across protection sub clusters as well as other clusters. The challenges noted included inadequate evidencing of activities undertaken by partners which in some cases makes assessment of progress difficult. This will be followed up upon with partners in order to support them strengthen their reporting and evidencing of activities.

Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster

The GBV Sub Cluster supported commemoration of World Humanitarian Day Celebrations under the Theme Women Aid workers which took place on the 19th of August and was graced by the Humanitarian Coordinator. There were exhibitions of women Aid worker’s contribution to humanitarian work, presentation by a representative from the women led organization on challenges women Aid workers face, their contributions to humanitarian work and the need for support.
(i) GBV Case Management Train the Trainers (TOT)
A total of 20 (12F, 8M) GBV Case Management TOTs drawn from all the states were trained. Participants were guided with effective facilitation skills and simulation exercises on case management. Those trained are expected to train other case workers in the field.

(ii) Field Missions
A field mission was conducted in Yei to support the GBV sub cluster coordination in Yei and discuss challenges on management of the “One Stop Center” at Yei Hospital. The GBV Field Roving Coordinator will support the Yei Coordination until the national partner (CIDO) is fully strengthened to manage GBV coordination. The OneStop Center will be supported by IsraAid although their funding will be concluded in October 2019. There is need for a follow on strategy in order to ensure continuity of care and services.

(iii) GBV Assessment
The GBV Sub cluster supported MACDA for a Protection cluster led assessments in Kurki. Nile Hope joined an Inter cluster assessment in Paluony in Uror, Jonglei.

Child Protection Sub Cluster

(i) Strengthening case Management referrals
The Case management taskforce of the CP Sub-Cluster is currently engaged in the harmonization of the child protection referral system; a guidance note is being developed along with harmonized inter-agency referral tools. This will directly contribute in strengthening case management system in the country and will expedite response timeliness. Child Protection partners and state level coordination focal points were engaged and consulted in the process.

(ii) Child Protection Case Management Training in Nimule
On 29th to 31st August 2019 Plan International conducted case management training in Nimule. The case management training targeted caseworkers from Nimule and Torit, A total of 17 caseworkers were trained (6 M and 11F). The primary objective of the training was to impart case management knowledge and skills for frontline case workers who play critical role in protecting children with particular vulnerabilities and who experience violations. The training emphasized on the case management process especially on comprehensive assessment, development of case plans, review and follow ups.

Mine Action Sub Cluster

(i) Explosive Ordnance-related Incidents
During August 2019, no mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) related accidents were reported. A Mine Action implementing partner (IP) participated in the Protection Cluster assessment led by UNHCR to Kuruki, Central Equatoria, where the community and soldiers from the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces (SSPDF) identified six ERW. Upon SSPDF’s approval, UNMAS safely destroyed the items. Another IP further supported the OCHA-led inter-cluster assessment in Kajo Keji, Central Equatoria to enable humanitarian actors to establish a humanitarian hub where they may operate without Force Protection.

(ii) Support for Humanitarian Actors
In August, flooding caused by heavy rains uncovered a buried stockpile of ERW in the proximity to the Jesuit Refugee Service’s compound in Maban, Upper Nile. Survey and clearance was conducted and removed 112 ERW. During the reporting period, clearance operations continued in the Kurkal IDP camp in Rubkona, Unity. A total of 380 mortars and 55 fuzes have been removed thus far. Also this past month, two anti-personnel (AP) mines discovered at the Dr. John Garang Primary School in Juba, Central Equatoria, were destroyed and risk education (RE) sessions were delivered to the students and community.

(iii) Training Opportunity
The Mine Advisory Group (MAG) will be conducting three trainings/workshops for national mine action partners. A workshop on Resource Mobilisation (including advocacy and proposal writing) will be held from 30 September to 4 October and a workshop on Project Management (including narrative and financial reporting) will be held 21 October to 25 October. A third workshop, Mine Risk Education Training of Trainers will be held, with dates to be announced. If you have any questions, or if your organisation is involved in mine action and interested in applying to attend one of these workshops please email Katie.Shaw@maginternational.org