

## Situation Overview

The signing of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 17 September 2018 has brought relative calm in most parts of the country. Positive steps toward realizing the concord have been taken, including several peace conferences and signing of MoUs around the country, as well as the restoration of civilian and humanitarian access in a number of locations. Through a variety of push and pull factors, some displaced populations are now considering returning to their areas of origin, while others still seek protection and services in Protection of Civilian and other collective sites, among host communities, and as refugees in neighboring countries. The diversity of displacement dynamics underscores the necessity to work on voluntary, safe, and informed Durable Solutions that meet the needs and intentions of



### Key Figures

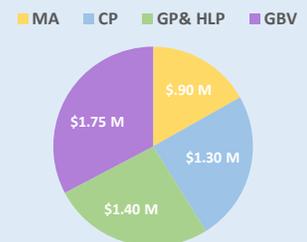
**6.0 M** people in need  
**3.6 M** people targeted  
**1.8 M** IDP  
**121 M** Fund requested

the civilian populations. Furthermore, remaining tension or clashes, particularly in the counties of Yei, Morobo, and Mundri, on-going intercommunal violence—such as cattle raiding, revenge killings, and GBV—compounded by poor access to services, food insecurity, and widespread violation of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights leaves large protection gaps that the Protection Cluster (PC) and its partners are working hard to address through static programming, mobile response, and advocacy efforts.

## South Sudan Humanitarian Fund

This month, the Protection Cluster and many of its partners have entered into the process of the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund Standard Allocation 1 for 2019. With a total budget of 5.8 million USD, 1.4 million USD was earmarked for General Protection (GP), including 450,000 USD allocated for HLP, 1.35 million USD for Child Protection (CP), 1.75 million USD for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), 900,000 USD for Mine Action (MA), and 420,000 USD for 2 Integrated Protection Mobile Teams (IPMT). Overall, the PC received 61 proposals: 13 proposals for GP (4 proposals for HLP and 3 proposals for IPMT), 20 for CP, 24 for GBV, and 6 for MA. Of those received, 41 proposals were from NNGOs, 20 were from INGOs, and 2 were from UN agencies. The Protection Cluster Strategic Review Committee—comprised of members of the Cluster Coordination Team, representatives of UNOCHA, UNHCR, INGO and NGO partners—recommended 34 proposals for technical review (8 GP/HLP, 2 IPMT, 10 CP, 11 GBV, and 3 MA). Recommended proposals came from 16 NNGOs, 17 INGOs, and 1 UN agency. Funded projects will cover life-saving activities in priority areas facing critical protection gaps in the country-wide protection response.

**5.8 million** SSHF 1st Allocated budget



## Protection Mobile Teams

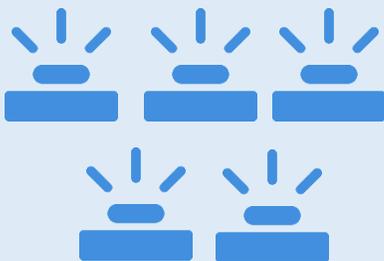
January was an active month for mobile protection teams (MPTs), with 20 new missions and 1 on-going mission to assess blind spots or respond to incidents of clashes between armed groups, cattle raids and other types of intercommunal violence, CP and GBV violations, and geographic gaps in static protection coverage. During the month, MPTs from DRC, NP, NRC, and UNICEF RRM completed assessments in various areas of Yeri, Leer, Nasir, Lobonok, Maiwut, and Ayacci counties. Responses were completed in areas of Mundri East and West, Yei, Lainya, Magwi, Akobo Central and West, Uror, Pathai, Pulchuol, Modit, Rokon, and Nasir counties by mobile teams from INTERSOS, NP, NRC, Oxfam, and UNICEF RRM. Assessment and response missions are also planned or on-going in Yirol West, Mundri East, Pibor, Kupera, and Gogrial counties by DRC, INTERSOS, NRC, and Oxfam. These missions were coordinated through the Protection Cluster's mobile team coordination forum and in conjunction with the Inter Cluster and Needs Analysis Working Groups.

## Mine Action Sub-Cluster

On 30 January 2019, the one millionth explosive hazard was destroyed in South Sudan. However, contamination by landmines and ERW continue to be a direct risk to civilians. In January, four separate accidents from explosive hazards were reported. One child was killed and 10 people were injured (four children, four women, and two men) in accidents in Bor South (Jonglei), Rubkona (Unity), and Juba (Central Equatoria).

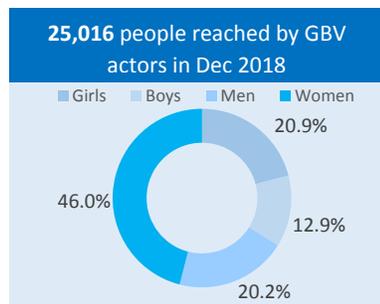
### January milestone

**One Millionth** Explosive Hazard  
Destroyed in South Sudan



## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster

In December 2018, a total of 444 GBV incidents were reported across the country by 10 data gathering organizations. Two safety audits were conducted, one each in Jonglei and the Wau POC. Additionally, GBV SC partners undertook key activities to deliver lifesaving assistance and support to women, men, girls, and boys throughout South Sudan. Awareness raising on available services and the importance of timely reporting was given to 850 individuals, while Women and Girl Friendly Spaces served nearly 2,800 women and girls. Nearly 2,150 people benefitted from GBV mobile team activities and 117 women and girls received dignity kits to support their specific needs.



In January 2019, the GBV Sub-Cluster developed and rolled out SOPs of the GBV strategy in Mundri in collaboration with Sub-Cluster partners from the area. Meanwhile, referral pathways were updated in Warrap and GBV basic trainings were conducted targeting 44 participants (24 male and 20 female). Throughout the month, GBV Sub-Cluster partners were integrated in various multi-sector assessments, ensuring GBV mainstreaming and a Do No Harm approach. Additionally, mobile responses were conducted by GBV partners in the greater Baggari area, targeting 900 women in Farajal and Ngusulugu following the access

corridor. Furthermore, GBV services were expanded in Rokon and Kuda with RRF funding through the setup of two Women and Girl Friendly Spaces.

### Child Protection Sub-Cluster

The CP Sub-Cluster's Situation and Response Monitoring (SRM) is an initiative to gather information on the condition of children in South Sudan affected by conflict, as well as the quality of response provided by CP actors. SRM mechanisms have been established in the priority areas of Pibor and Greater Equatoria. Four reports were produced in 2018 highlighting the situation of children and quality of response to children from CP. Findings in these reports highlighted areas of Child Protection in Emergencies as they relate to how children have been affected by conflict in South Sudan as follows:

1. Family Tracing and Reunification: Unaccompanied and separated children cases continued to be recorded and were usually triggered by mass displacement of populations
2. Psycho-Social Support: Perception surveys have reported numbers of children exhibiting significant signs of stress, including bed wetting and not playing with other children. Response to PSS needs have included community-based, school-based, and center-based activities
3. Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups: Release and reintegration activities continue with two releases in Yambio so far in 2019, as well as continued case management for reintegration in Pibor and Bentiu from the 2017 and 2018 caseload
4. Justice for Children: Focusing on the detention of children, it was found that child-friendly judicial processes were not in place. For example, children in all areas of focus during the reporting period shared cell with adults. Other judicial processes, such as delayed sentencing, have also been reported and covered under SRM
5. Child Labor: Data collected through perception surveys indicated that children were mostly subjected to child labor as a result of poverty in order to supplement household resources

The information gathered through the SRM has been integrated by the CP AoR in its strategy to guide CP actors for improving coordination and response for 2019.

### 2018 Highlights of the Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) Working Group

In 2018, 28 active Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) partners supported in the implementation of FTR activities across the 10 former states in South Sudan and, as a result, 1,871 UASC (girls 805, boys 1066) were newly identified and supported. Out of the total, 546 (girls 253, boys 293) were successfully reunified with their families and reintegrated into family and community structures. Cumulatively, over 18,000 UASC have been supported since the crisis with over 6,000 children reunified with their families.

Twenty-four FTR partners benefitted from CP trainings, capacity building, and field support through coaching and mentorship of case workers. This is part of coordinated support and technical support to

partners, which helped to improve the quality of case management and FTR interventions to UASC and other vulnerable children with protection concerns. Cumulatively, 202 staff members (147 males, 55 female) from UASC partners were trained and their capacity strengthened.

In addition to these trainings, partners were provided timely technical support through:

- Installation of CPIMS (child protection information management system)
- Customization of the CPIMS systems as preparatory activities for migration to CPIMS+ in 2019
- Weekly and monthly analysis of UASC data and generation of reports
- Technical support in resolving complex FTR and case management cases
- Trainings on case management, FTR, and information management
- Coordination of FTR referrals across the 10 former states

Over 33,000 community members were reached with awareness messages to prevent family separation, maintaining family unity, and the identification of UASC and other vulnerable children

### **Housing, Land, and Property Technical Working Group**

The HLP TWG held a meeting on 23rd January 2019 which focused on discussions around HLP tools and HLP interventions during large-scale returns. The focus of the presentation was on HLP tools and the methodologies, guidelines and strategies based on lessons learnt gathered by UNMISS RoL Department between 2017 and 2018. Since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement between SSPDF and the SPLA iO, there have been discussions around returns and HLP needs are paramount to this discussion as it is likely that gaps in HLP might be a deterrent to potential returns. The session highlighted that HLP must be mainstreamed in humanitarian response planning and peace building initiatives both at National and State levels. HLP concerns remain one the key priorities of intervention in 2019 and the HLP TWG will provide technical guidance as to how these are rolled out. It is envisaged that HLP assessments will cover the main cross cutting issues that include: women rights, conflict sensitive approaches incorporated in due diligence and risk assessments, community involvement and ownership, and strengthening legal frameworks.

With regard to large-scale voluntary returns, HLP issues such as secondary and illegal occupation of land and property are likely to be a prominent feature of the trends. There have been initiatives from the Solutions Working Groups in Bor and Malakal that have organized 'Go and See' visits by the community leaders which ensure that Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) measures are observed. HLP partners were advised to factor this in their overall scope of interventions.

In the current SSHF SA1 for 2019, the Protection Cluster has taken steps to ensure that partners implementing projects factor in consultations with the communities primarily on shelter design and feedback mechanisms on HLP complaints lodged by the beneficiaries. Furthermore, Protection Cluster HRP partners are also encouraged to initiate HLP development projects for both host and returnee communities to strengthen peaceful co-existence.

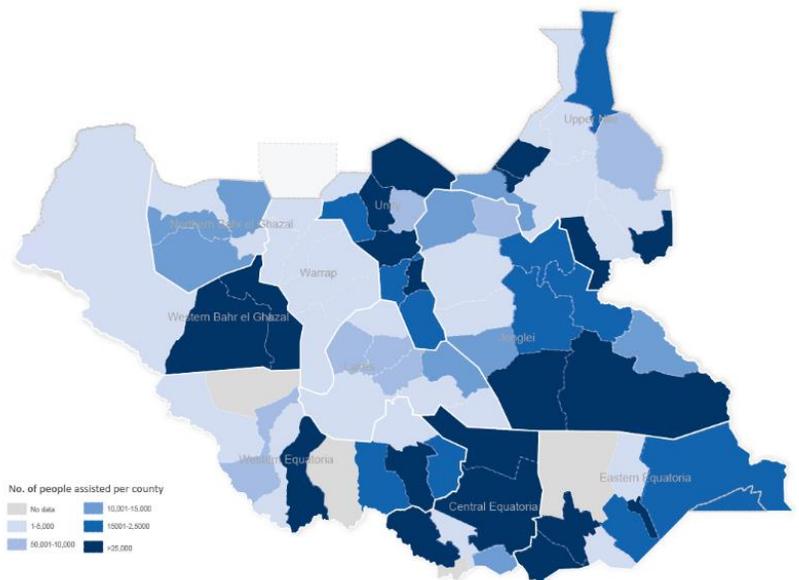
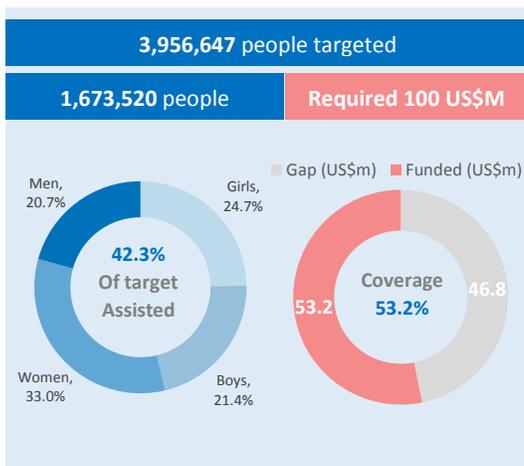
Legal awareness is also a key component of HLP advocacy addressing root causes of conflict and providing durable solutions as PoC sites provide an opportunity to disseminate information as the community is settled in a structured manner and use of digital platforms will increase coverage of legal information. With regard to access to justice primarily related to settling of land disputes, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and use of statutory court systems are effective in resolving disputes. However, mediation is the most preferred method and promotes social cohesion as it is less expensive and a faster way of solving land ownership disputes between parties.

The HLP TWG shall in the next quarter work on collating existing laws and legal frameworks at State and National levels to inform advocacy on legal amendments proposed for inclusion in the Land Policy that is yet to be ratified by parliament.

## Displacement and Durable Solutions

In January, a variety of intentions surveys, protection assessments, and protection monitoring exercises across the country have revealed various intentions, needs, and patterns of return as displaced persons make choices based on their own needs and perceptions of the evolving peace deal. IOM recently published the results of its Wau POC Intentions-Perceptions Survey, which demonstrated both an intent to return to areas of origin amongst the POC community who were surveyed, while simultaneously highlighting the key inhibitors for return including security, lack of HLP rights, and access to services. DRC produced a series of reports based on protection assessments in several areas of Upper Nile and Jonglei States demonstrating mixed patterns of return flows. In response to these changing dynamics, several Solutions Working Groups (SWGs) have been active across the country, with full participation of the Protection Cluster and its members, to design appropriate solutions strategies and interventions. The Central Equatoria Solutions WG (CESWG) will be holding a Retreat in mid-February 2019, and the Solutions WG in Malakal is in the final stages of drafting its Strategy for Solutions. UNHCR supported the work of the Bor SWG by conducting a population profiling in December 2018 for the Bor POC; data cleaning and analysis were on-going through January with findings to be disseminated. Furthermore, members of the Protection Cluster coordination team participated in the inter-agency 2019 Returns Scenario Planning Exercise called for by the HCT+ and hosted by UNOCHA. Pulling together data, contextual knowledge, and expertise from across agencies, the joint analysis exercise produced both a summary of the present returns situation across the country, as well as provided a projection for what may be expected in the coming months. Taken altogether, these initiatives are essential components in strategically planning for and operationally supporting the intentions of displaced persons across South Sudan as the country moves into the post-conflict phase.

### 5W Reporting for 2018



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