

Overview

- The Protection Cluster and The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued the Human Rights and Protection Considerations for Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 in South Sudan in March 2020 to ensure that human rights and protection are central to the preparedness and response. An e-flyer on the same was also produced. Please find the paper [here](#) and the e-flyer [here](#). The Protection Cluster and OHCHR continue to monitor protection risks emerging during this period.
- Incidents of cattle raiding and inter-communal violence have increased in the first quarter of this year compared to last year with a total of 204 incidences reported since January 2020 to March 2020. Affected communities face multiple protection issues including GBV. Many communities are still recovering from the aftermaths of recent floods, previous inter-communal violence and cattle raids incidences, limited resources and access to services, protracted cases of displacements and associated protection concerns. The restrictions of movement due to COVID-19 has hampered the humanitarian response including for mobile protection teams. Partners with static presence in affected areas are being relied upon to assess and respond to the situation.
- The Protection Cluster Roving team is closely monitoring the general protection situation of IDPs in settlements in Juba.
- Prioritization of Activities for protection cluster partner on critical activities and related modalities that should be undertaken to ensure continuity during COVID- 19 was shared with all partners. The guide recommends necessary adjustments to protection activities as a result of COVID-19. Please find [here](#) the prioritization of activities.
- The Protection Cluster continues to participate in varied task forces of the COVID-19 response, including the National Steering Committee on COVID-19 and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement technical working group, ensuring the centrality of protection in the COVID-19 response.



Coalition for Humanity staff demonstrating hand washing at Mangateen displacement site in Juba during COVID-19 awareness raising outreach.



Nonviolent Peaceforce, together with its Women and Youth Protection Teams, raising awareness on Covid-19 to prevent stigmatization and control misinformation/South Sudan/2020/NP

Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster

International Women's Day celebrations

There were countrywide celebrations of the International Women's Day at the National Level and state levels. At National levels the GBV SC supported radio talk shows on the theme “**Each for Equal: Implement 35% Affirmative Action for Peace and Development**”



Women and girls from Leer TPA begin their celebration march to Leer town.



AYA staff on City FM discussing about Women Leadership and relevance of 35% Affirmative Action to empower women and girls

Child Protection Sub Cluster

Child Protection training for the national Security forces

In March 2020, at the invitation of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC), the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative (DI) directly trained 4,713 national security forces as part of the unification training. Training aimed at raising awareness among the newly unified forces on their role in preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Forces were trained on what constitutes a child soldier (including girl child soldiers), why child soldiers are a concern for the security sector, and operational and tactical planning to prevent recruitment of children. Training was conducted at the organized forces training site in Masna Bira (Wau), the NCO Academy in Mapel (Wau), and the Dakum Training Centre (Wau). A total of 3,430 men and 1,283 women Forces from the military, police, fire brigade, corrections, and wildlife services were trained.

Child protection services

Child Protection sub cluster partners reached a total of 37,776 people including 23,545 children (10,685 girls & 12860 boys) with child protection services. CPSC Partners resorted to organizing their PSS sessions in smaller groups and in shifts wherever it was possible. A total of 23,545 children (10,685 girls & 12860 boys) participated in Psychosocial Support activities. Furthermore 260 vulnerable and at risks children (167 girls, 93 boys) were identified and supported through comprehensive case management and 31 UASC (13 boys and 18 girls) were identified and, provided with family tracing and reunification services.

Mine Action Sub Cluster

Explosive remnant of war (ERW)-related incidents and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)

There was a verified ERW-related accident during the month of March. In Rubkona, Unity State, two boys aged five and nine sustained injuries from an explosion of a 14.5 mm cartridge. The older boy picked up the item from a trench line, and out of his curiosity, set fire on it, causing the detonation. The detonation caused a blast injury to the boy and a minor fragmentation injury to his younger brother. UNMAS investigated the incident and conducted explosive ordnance risk education in the area.

In addition, UNMAS received a report of an uncontrolled explosion in Manyo, Upper Nile, that reportedly killed one female and injured another female. The cause of the incident is unknown. UNMAS will further investigate the incident and conduct EORE in the area once the COVID-19 situation improves and allows to conduct the investigation.

Until mid-March, the Mine Action sub-cluster (MASC) partners continued to survey and clear mines and explosive hazards across the country and deliver EORE to ensure that people can recognize and report explosive hazards.

A total of 38,567 people (11,269 boys, 10,633 girls, 8,534 men, and 8,131 women) received risk EORE by mine action partners in March 2020.

Mine Action Sub Cluster Case Study – the case of Mary Achol

In Twic East County, Jonglei State, a mother of two boys, Mary Achol, had long been sympathized with persons who lost their legs due to landmines/ERW-related accidents, and paid extra-cautions to unknown objects. She attended three EORE awareness sessions with her children.

One day in Summer she encountered a pile of rusty metals after two scoops of soil, when she was looking for good mud to repair her tukul. Having attended several EORE sessions, Mary remembered an advice to be extra careful and do not be afraid to report any suspicious objects. Mary called one of the MASC partners, Mobile Theater Team (MTT) camped nearby. Thanks to the further coordination, the items were identified to be free-from-explosives by another mine action partner.

MTT encouraged Mary’s good practice and emphasized the community members to be afraid of suspicious items and report to mine action partners, instead of being courageous to touch or move.



EORE session conducted to the villagers in Twic East County (Photo: MTT) – conducted before the COVID-19 measures were implemented

To report a suspicious object, please contact UNMAS at its 24-hour hotline: 092 000 1055 or via email at report@unmas.org