

In October 2022, the Protection Cluster initiated a pilot trial of the [Protection Monitoring System \(PMS\)](#) in South Sudan. After a comprehensive testing phase consisting of six rounds of data collection and analysis, a modified PMS questionnaire was deployed by the PROMO in April 2023. In July, the PROMO conducted a technical and thematic mid-year review and issued a [report](#).

The PMS relies on contributions from PC member organisations to collect data via a Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire at Payam level across [eleven thematic areas](#), monitoring the occurrence of [protection violations, their scale, and their impact on communities over time](#). At the country level, the PMS is coordinated through the Cluster’s Protection Monitoring (PROMO) working group.

**August to October 2023, protection monitors conducted 1,418 Key Informant Interviews covering 126 Payams in 33 Counties in 7 States.**

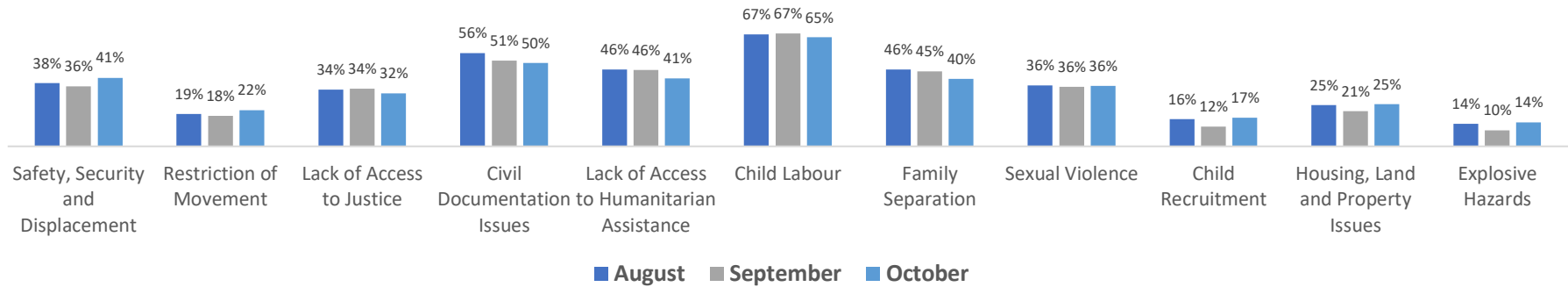
The below high-level protection snapshots are the [top 5 reported protection issues](#):



Bentiu, South Sudan © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Child Labour	Civil Documentation Issues	Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance	Family Separation	Safety, Security and Displacement
<b>37%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<p><b>68%</b> of interviewed KIIs who flagged Child Labour, reported a <b>lack of work opportunities for those who are heads of households</b> as the largest contributing factor to child labour.</p> <p><b>60%</b> of those KIIs reported that <b>school drop-out</b> is the most common effect on children.</p> <p><b>46%</b> of KIIs note <b>exploitation and abuse</b> to be common.</p> <p><b>Increased incidents of violence (37%) and psychosocial impacts (36%)</b> were also reported.</p>	<p><b>52%</b> of interviewed KIIs who flagged Civil Documentation Issues reported <b>lack of understanding of the processes</b> as a major barrier to obtain documentation, while <b>42%</b> flag that <b>registrars are unreachable</b> (incl. too far away).</p> <p><b>National Identity Cards (67%) and Passports Travel Documents (65%)</b> and were reported as the types of documents hardest to obtain.</p> <p><b>Barrier to employment (57%)</b>, is the most common consequence of the lack of access to documentation, with the second being <b>inability to register SIM cards (42%)</b>.</p>	<p><b>48%</b> of interviewed KIIs who flagged Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance, reported the <b>elderly</b> as the more affected. <b>37%</b> mentioned <b>women and children</b>, and <b>37%</b> <b>people with disabilities</b>.</p> <p>According to <b>50%</b> of KIIs, the main reason for unequal access is <b>lack of registration and food distribution cards</b>.</p> <p><b>Food distribution (62%), education services (42%) and health services (39%)</b> are sectors with most challenges to be accessed.</p> <p><b>Early marriage (55%), child labour (49%) and alcohol and/or drug abuse, (39%)</b> are the most common negative coping mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>44%</b> of interviewed KIIs flagged Family Separation as particularly affecting <b>children</b>, while <b>40%</b> point to <b>women and girls</b> and <b>34%</b> to the <b>elderly</b> as particularly affected.</p> <p>Most common contributing factors to separations were <b>disagreement or violence within the family (49%)</b> and <b>security and safety (41%)</b>.</p>	<p><b>60%</b> of KIIs report observing <b>significant displacement</b>.</p> <p><b>33%</b> reported people returning to their community from <b>other countries</b>, and <b>29%</b> returning from <b>other areas in South Sudan</b>.</p> <p>The main reasons for movement were returnees finding the <b>situation in their areas of refugee or displacement worsening (57%)</b> and people <b>seeking better socio-economic security (49%)</b>.</p>

## Protection Risks Reported August - October 2023



### Emerging Protection Risk Trends

The top emergency protection issues showing noticeable **increase in severity** during the reporting period are:

#### ! Safety, Security and Displacement

From August to October, KIs reporting safety, security and displacement risks as occurring **often or very often** rose from **12% to 16%**.

#### ! Civil Documentation Issues

From August to October, KIs reporting civil documentation issues as happening **often or very often** rose from **38% to 41%**.

#### ! Child Labour

From August to October, KIs reporting child labour as happening **most or all children or many children** rose from **30% to 38%**.

#### ! Sexual Violence

From August to October, KIs reporting sexual violence as happening **most or all people or many people** rose from **15% to 22%**.

**Organizations contributing to the PMS in the reporting period:** Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Agency for Women and Children Development, Alliance for Action Aid, Community Action Organization, Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, Community Empowerments against Poverty, Danish Refugee Council, Hope Restoration South Sudan, Humanitarian & Development Consortium, Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International, Humanity and Development Consortium, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR/ACROSS, UNHCR/Adventist Development and Relief Agency, UNHCR/Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, UNHCR/Danish Refugee Council, UNHCR/Hope Restoration South Sudan, UNHCR/Humanitarian & Development Consortium, UNHCR/International Rescue Committee, UNHCR/INTEROS, UNHCR/Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan, UNHCR/World Vision International. **Thank you to all the member organizations for their contributions!**