



## STRATEGY

To respond to the overarching Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP) objectives for the humanitarian actors in 2024, the Protection Cluster in South Sudan developed the Protection Cluster Objectives, based on which Cluster partners further organized in Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) defined concrete activities, Population in Need (PiN) and Targets.

- Ensure mobile or static provision of critical protection assistance and services, including specialized response services, tailored to the specific needs, considering age, gender, and disability, presence/missions to field and deep field locations.
- Ensuring that human rights are upheld and promoted for persons of concern by strengthening coordination, advancing centrality of protection among humanitarian actors to reduce protection risks, and addressing coordination gaps/issues through close dialogue with partners and effective protection monitoring to inform programming, advocacy, and response.
- Promoting nexus to development and solutions as the transition between the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance, systems building and the provision of long-term development assistance to meet peoples' needs, and mitigate risks and vulnerabilities exacerbated by systemic and socially reinforced exclusion of women and girls and persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, based on 2023 5W analysis, internal consultations with PC partners and further consultation with donors and affected population, the PC agreed on the following strategic guidelines in designing the target activities and priorities for 2024:

- Limit the scale of awareness raising activities to those that have a higher individual outreach with most necessary and lifesaving impact.
- Strengthen levels of activities that are individual and lifesaving, including those that are specialized protection services.

- Consider new returns from Sudan as priority for safe and dignified (re)integration activities as well as ensure vulnerable IDPs in settlements and camps are supported with specialized protection services.
- Wherever possible, emphasize mobile response.
- Embed cash-based assistances in individual responses also as a preferred method, where applicable.
- Maintain those activities linked to nexus and centrality of protection at the levels of previous year with special emphases on HLP activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Overall	PiN 5.53M	TARGET 2.2M	PC REQUIREMENT USD 121.35M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the HRP strategic objective <i>vulnerable crises affected people have reduced morbidity and mortality through equitable and dignified access to life-saving assistance to meet their needs</i>, the Protection Cluster plans to reach 1.784M people with life-saving and specialized protection services under 13 target indicators. At the same time, the PC plans to improve 79 GBV referral pathways and release (Mine Action) 4.8M square meters of land, especially in return areas, in close coordination with HLP actors. Total need in support of this objective is 89.8 M USD.</li> <li>Under the HRP strategic objective <i>vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarians uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by communities' priorities</i>, the Protection Cluster plans to reach 288K people with activities targeting centrality of protection including HLP relevant actions. Furthermore, the PC plan includes 13K Key Informant Interviews as part of the Protection Monitoring System, establishment or strengthening of 87 HLP dispute resolution mechanisms and training of local institution staff to operate within these mechanisms. Total need in support of this objective is 14.3M USD.</li> <li>Under the HRP strategic objective <i>vulnerable people's capacity to withstand the impact of shock is increased, and nexus opportunities are optimized</i>, the Protection Cluster plans to reach 10K community members and staff and provide GBV and child protection relevant trainings for long-term effects. It also plans to strengthen 250 community-based mechanisms and support their work in providing relevant activities for PSEA, peacebuilding and resilience. It also plans to strengthen child protection referral pathways in 79 counties. Total need in support of this objective is 960K M USD.</li> <li>Furthermore, based on a projected new arrival of some 420,000 South Sudanese returnees from Sudan, and provision of life-saving protection services to these people before they reach their intended destinations, the current PC projection of financial needs is an additional amount of 16.3M USD.</li> </ul>			

See below detailed financial ask disaggregation:

	GP	HLP	MA	CP	GBV	TOTAL PC
Regular HRP	\$25,466,298	\$4,803,530	\$9,881,727	\$33,574,217	\$31,317,634	\$105,043,406
Emergency	\$4,785,265	\$0	\$400,000	\$5,989,631	\$5,130,628	\$16,305,524
TOTAL	\$30,251,563	\$4,803,530	\$10,281,727	\$39,563,848	\$36,448,262	\$121,348,930

From the perspective of population type, and PiN and Target the below are results of the HRP assessment and targeting plan:

	IDPs	Residents	Returnees
Overall PC PiN	26%	59%	15%
Overall PC Target	35%	30%	35%

The strategic orientation of the PC to provide lifesaving and immediate (re)integration support to returnees from Sudan and Ethiopia in particular, at prioritized locations of destination is well reflected in the percentage ratio of the target population type.

From the perspective of Age-Gender Diversity and Target the below are results of the HRP:

Boys	Girls	Men	Women
19%	23%	23%	34%

Equally important strategic direction of the cluster to support the most vulnerable including children at risk and women at risk or survivors of GBV is also well reflected in the percentage of children as well women targeted for assistance. Overall, the number of adults is somewhat high, mostly due to a strong strategic orientation of the cluster also to support heads of households in mitigating their HLP rights.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

Protection (GP)	Pin 3.85M	TARGET 571K	REQUIREMENT USD 30.25M
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To assess the Population in Need of General Protection support in South Sudan, the Protection Cluster identified a set of analytical indicators to be assessed against available sets of data and expert knowledge. It is important to note that the assessment also considers as affected population those people that are very likely to return in 2024 from Sudan, and partially also from Ethiopia and will be subject to current protection risks. The below are the results of this assessment:

- **Civilian population killed or injured by violence, conflict, or natural hazards** - Some 2M people in South Sudan are estimated to be living in areas stressed (severity 2) by the risk of injury, violence, or natural hazard, mostly in selected counties of Central Equatoria, Lakes, Unity, and Upper Nile. 35% of those people belong to already stressed communities of IDPs and Returnees.
- **Movement restrictions** - Approximately 2.5M people are estimated to experience movement restrictions in the three-month preceding the assessment, with three areas of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile being affected to an extreme level (severity 4), while 28 counties experienced restrictions to a severe degree (severity 3). 37% of people affected by restriction of movement are IDPs and Returnees.
- **Inability to access justice mechanisms or redress** – It is estimated that some 3.4M people are unable to access justice or redress mechanisms in South Sudan. The lack of access to courts or traditional redress mechanism is extreme in 22 counties of Central Equatoria, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Western Bahr El Ghazal and, particularly in Western Equatoria. On average, Returnees are 13% of the affected population, but according to the Protection Monitoring System, together with elderly persons, face most challenging obstacles.
- **Lack or denial of civil documentation** – 3.4M people are also estimated to need support to obtain basic civil documentation. A substantial part of those, some 40%, are displaced people. Majority of extreme situation of lack of access to documentation (severity 4) occur in Central and Western Equatoria as well as Lakes, Unity, and Upper Nile.
- **Protection issues when accessing humanitarian assistance in the last three months** - Based on data collected in 2023, 2.3M people face issues when accessing humanitarian assistance, in the three-month preceding the assessment. Over a third are displaced people. The situation is severe or extreme in 22 counties of South Sudan, mainly in Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, Lakes and Central Equatoria.
- **Displacement due to floods or conflict** – It is estimated that some 2.8M people in South Sudan have been affected by displacement, including those that have arrived from Sudan and Ethiopia. This number also contains predictions of further returns from Sudan and Ethiopia in 2024.

To respond to the needs for General Protection services in South Sudan, the Protection Cluster established a set of target indicators under the three Cluster Objectives and formulated targets based on activity, geographical and population type priorities agreed within the cluster and confirmed by wider humanitarian community and other stakeholders, including donors.

- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises affected people have reduced morbidity and mortality through equitable and dignified access to life-saving assistance to meet their needs*, General Protection plans to reach 571K people with life-saving and specialized protection services under three target indicators. Total need in support of this objective for GP is 24.5M USD.
- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarians uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by*

communities' priorities, GP plans to conduct some 13K key informant interviews (KIIs) as part of its Protection Monitoring System. Total need in support of this objective is 422K USD.

- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable people's capacity to withstand the impact of shock is increased, and nexus opportunities are optimized*, the Protection Cluster plans to establish or strengthen 138 community-based mechanisms and enable them to conduct 4148 peacebuilding, PSEA, PSS and activities targeting age, gender, and disability particular populations in the country. Total need in support of this objective is 0.5M USD.
- Furthermore, based on a projected new arrival of some 420,000 South Sudanese returnees from Sudan, and provision of life-saving general protection services to people before they reach their intended destinations, the current GP projection of financial needs is an additional amount of 4.8M USD.



PiN 1.68M    TARGET 216K    REQUIREMENT USD 4.8M

To assess the Population in Need of Housing, Land and Property support in South Sudan, the Protection Cluster's HLP AoR identified a set of analytical indicators to be assessed against available sets of data and expert knowledge.

- Access to housing/shelter with security of tenure – It has been estimated that some 2.6M affected people in South Sudan, among them 1.7M adults, have no access to housing/shelter with security of tenure. 45% of those are IDPs and Returnees.
- Access to land or resources for livelihoods – According to cluster estimations, 2.4M affected people in the country cannot access land or resources for livelihoods, of which 1.6M are adults.

Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarians uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by communities' priorities* the HLP AoR plans to reach:

- 216K people with awareness raising activities and individualized legal counselling and aid.
- The HLP also plans to establish or strengthen 87 dispute resolution mechanisms and train 435 local authorities and relevant institution's staff for them to be enabled to meaningfully participate in said mechanisms.
- HLP AoR plans to reach 97,367 returnee adults.



PiN 2.55M    TARGET 507K    REQUIREMENT USD 10.3M

The Protection Cluster's MA AoR identified a set of analytical indicators that have been assessed based on expert knowledge and sets of data to carry out this analysis to assess the population in need. The outcome of the assessment is as below:

- In South Sudan, 17M m2 of land is suspected of being contaminated with landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and still more unknown hazards continue to be discovered. The Greater Equatoria region makes up 61% of the contaminated area, with a further 10% spanning to Upper Nile, Northern Bhar El Ghazal, Western Bhar El Ghazal, Unity and Warrap State, which are the entry routes for Refugees and Returnees into South Sudan because of the Sudan security situation.
- An estimated 2.5M people across the country are affected by the known hazardous areas' contamination. According to a severity analysis, 16% of the 78 counties in South Sudan have the highest severity with levels 4 and 5, comprising of 33% of the affected population, 19% have the severity level 3, comprising of 22% of the affected population, and 20% have a severity level of 2. The remaining 43% make up the severity level 1. 43% of the affected population fall under the counties with severity level 1 and 2.

Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarian uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by communities' priorities*, the MA AoR plans to reach:

- **EORE and decontamination** - 507K people received EORE education and the release 4,806,033 m2 of contaminated areas. Total need in support of this objective is 9.9M USD.
- Furthermore, based on a projected new arrival of some 420,000 South Sudanese returnees from Sudan, and provision of life-saving mine action services to people before they reach their intended destinations, the current GP projection of financial needs is an additional amount of 400K USD.



**Pin 3.15M      TARGET 332K      REQUIREMENT USD 39.5M**

The Protection Cluster's CP AoR identified a set of analytical indicators that have been assessed based on expert knowledge and sets of data to carry out this analysis to assess the population in need. The outcome of the assessment is as below:

- **Access to / availability of core CP services per area** - In South Sudan, an estimated 1.9M children and their caregivers face limited or no access to essential child protection services in their respective areas. Approximately 44 counties in states such as Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Unity, and Upper Nile are classified as severity 3, 4, or 5. Among the affected population, 42.3% are from communities of IDPs and returnees who are already facing significant challenges.
- **Impact of child early and force marriage (CEFM)** - The analysis focused on the percentage of girls affected by child early and forced marriage in South Sudan. It revealed that approximately 1.6M children in the country are at risk of experiencing child early and forced marriage. This risk is prevalent across all states of South Sudan, with 66 counties classified as severity 3, 4, or 5. Among the 1.6 million children at risk, 31.6% are IDPs and returnees.
- **Family separation** - Approximately 0.89M children in South Sudan have experienced family separation. This separation has occurred in 26 counties classified as severity 3, located in states such as Abyei, Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr El Ghazal, and Western Equatoria. Among these affected children, 55.6% are IDPs and returnees.
- **People affected with mental distress (MHPSS)** - In South Sudan, 1.7M people have experienced various forms of psychological and emotional abuse, as well as distress caused by torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, and unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement. These factors have had a profound impact on their mental health. The distress is particularly prevalent in 9 counties located in Jonglei, Lakes, Upper Nile, Warrap, and Western Equatoria, which are classified as Severity 4. Additionally, there are 41 counties classified as Severity 3 where mental distress is also observed. Among the affected population, approximately 39% are IDPs and returnees.

Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises affected people have reduced morbidity and mortality through equitable and dignified access to life-saving assistance to meet their needs*, the CP AoR plans to reach 71K children with life-saving and specialized child protection services, using the following indicators:

- # of children who have received case management services (also through cash-based initiatives) and # of unaccompanied and separated children who have received family tracing and reunification services (these services are only for children). 253K children and caregivers are planned to be reached with community-based mental health and psychosocial support. Furthermore, the CP AoR will carry out 5200 awareness raising sessions in the Payams. Total need in support of this objective is 33.2M USD.
- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable people's capacity to withstand the impact of shock is increased, and nexus opportunities are optimized*, the CP AoR plans to reach to 7.2K community leaders, humanitarian, and Government staff to be trained on child protection in emergencies. It also plans to strengthen child protection referral pathways in 79 counties. Total need in support of this objective is 0.4M USD.

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- Among the children in need, the CP AoR plans to reach 15% for case management support, 35% for family tracing and reunification services, and 10% for community mental health and psychosocial support for both children and their caregivers.
- Furthermore, based on a projected new arrival of some 420,000 South Sudanese returnees from Sudan, and provision of life-saving child protection services to people before they reach their intended destinations, the current GP projection of financial needs is an additional amount of 5.99M USD.



PiN 2.7M    TARGET 546K    REQUIREMENT USD 36.45M

The Protection Cluster's GBV AoR identified a set of analytical indicators to determine the severity of needs and people in need of GBV prevention and response services in South Sudan. The analysis was used data from several sources including ISNA, GBV AoR assessments, service mapping, Violence against Women survey and expert knowledge. The findings from the analysis of needs include the following:

- **GBV risk** - This composite indicator assesses the risk of gender-based violence based on food insecurity (IPC), percentage of female-headed households, proportion of displaced population due to conflict or national disaster, and distance to fetch water (percentages of women and girls that travel more than 30 minutes to fetch water). The analysis revealed that an estimated 2.3M women, girls, men and boys are at risk of experiencing GBV due to their vulnerabilities related to food insecurity, displacement, households headed by females and girls, and exposure to sexual violence while traveling longer distances.
- **Availability of core GBV services per area** - An estimated 1.5M women and girls lack access to one or more of the core GBV response services, such as case management, health, psychosocial and legal services. 49 counties in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Lakes, Unity, and Upper Nile are classified as severity 3 or 4, indicating lack of one or more of the core GBV response services.
- **Number of locations avoided by women and girls because they feel unsafe** - The analysis of number of areas avoided by women and girls because of lack of safety indicates the risks of GBV in those areas. Women and girls reported feeling unsafe while travelling to collect firewood, fetch water, latrines and bathing facilities, markets and distribution points. Approximately 600K women and girls avoid these areas due to feeling of lack of safety.
- **Awareness on available GBV services** - The ISNA data revealed that only 33% of the respondents are aware of the available GBV services in the community. The analysis indicates that some 2M people lack awareness on the available GBV services and GBV prevention information.

Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises affected people have reduced morbidity and mortality through equitable and dignified access to life-saving assistance to meet their needs*, and under the specific objective *women, men, girls and boys, people with disabilities and older persons facing life threatening risks of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, injury, and severe distress have access to specialized life-saving health care, including MHPSS, child protection and GBV services*, the GBV AoR plans to reach 437K people with life-saving and specialized protection services under three target indicators and strengthen GBV referral pathways through conducting GBV service mapping and establishing / updating GBV SoPs. Total need in support of this objective is 22.2M USD.

- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarians uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by communities' priorities*, the GBV AoR plans to reach close to 60,000 people with preventive activities and 5,031 with awareness raising and outreach actions. Total need in support of this objective is 9M USD.
- Under the HRP strategic objective *vulnerable people's capacity to withstand the impact of shock is increased, and nexus opportunities are optimized*, the GBV AoR plans to train non-GBV humanitarian workers on GBV integration in their sectoral response. Total need in support of this objective is 60K USD.
- Furthermore, based on a projected new arrival of some 430,000 South Sudanese returnees from Sudan, and provision of lifesaving GBV services to people before they reach their intended destinations, the current GP projection of financial needs is an additional amount of 5.1M USD.

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