



Case Study: Mobile Protection Response in Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

Humanitarian access in South Sudan continues to be adversely affected by sub-national and intercommunal violence, bureaucratic impediments, and physical constraints due to unprecedented flooding, combined with poor road conditions. The Protection Cluster has re-established a Mobile Protection Working Group to mitigate access challenges and coordinate the delivery of timely protection services in the most hard-to-reach areas. Through thorough context analysis and stakeholder mapping and recruitment of local staff from the community, protection partners negotiate sustained access with local authorities or parties to the conflict. As an example, in 2018, during active hostilities in Unity State, protection actors were able to secure “longer” access gains through community connections, allowing NGOs to conduct six to eight weeks missions where actors were able to talk about protection, engage with communities, build relationships and gain trust. Through this approach, full protection programming was established and maintained in those locations. The Protection Cluster also actively participates in the Access Working Group, led by OCHA, where it strives to bring a narrative in access negotiation with protection at its core - leveraging protection frontliners to engage with communities and conducting comprehensive protection risk analysis. The protection monitoring system which aims to cover 95% of South Sudan is also utilized to inform where advocacy, programming and access efforts should be reinforced.