

## PROTECTION MONITORING SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The objective of the joint protection monitoring is to provide timely information about the trends and dynamics of protection risks in South Sudan to:

- Trigger provision of required assistance or adjustment of ongoing humanitarian response (beyond protection services) to ensure all efforts are rights-based and contribute to protection outcomes in line with centrality of protection commitments.
- Provide protection actors with an evidence base for advocacy on upholding rights of persons under the jurisdiction of the South Sudan authorities regardless of their status.
- Identify specific further information needs on specific protection issues and address them through focused protection assessments.

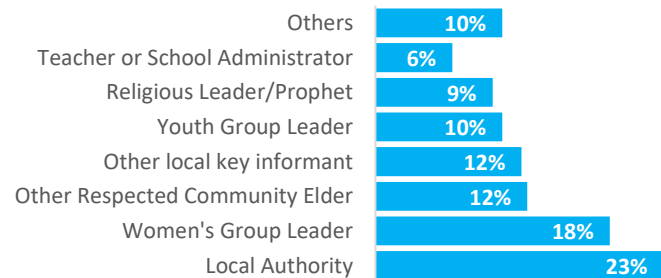


## Why Protection Monitoring System

There are several well-established protection information management systems in South Sudan, such as the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), GBVIMS, and CPIMS+. However, given the sensitivity of this data, its use is strictly limited. Thus, there is a need for a non-incident-based protection monitoring system that would provide information about patterns and trends of protection concerns and rights violations over an extended period. The PMS relies on contributions by PC member organizations to collect data via a Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire at Payam level across nine thematic areas, thereby monitoring the occurrence of protection violations, their scale, and their impact on communities over time.

## Key Informants profile

Every month, the system captures area-based protection trends using a range of Key Informant (KI) community representatives using a standardized questionnaire. The anonymity of KIs is an essential safety measure in the system. From January to June 2023, protection monitors conducted 1,313 Key Informant Interviews (KII), covering approximately 25% of the country in all ten states of South Sudan. Local authority staff members, women group leaders, other respected community elders, and youth group leaders are among the most represented types of KIs interviewed by cluster partners engaged in the PMS. At least 90 KIs interviewed by monitors were people living with disabilities.



Female KIs were represented in 40% of the total number of interviews, while youth and adolescent KIs were represented in 31%, and elderly people were represented in 9% of the conducted interviews. 78% of interviews

were conducted in predominantly rural areas of South Sudan, while areas predominantly inhabited by Internally Displaced People and Returnees represented 60%. 4% of monitored payams were not accessible during the first half of 2023.

During the first half of 2023, the Protection Monitoring Work Group (PROMO) held six data and information review workshops and published five monthly statistical updates, five monthly "In the Spotlight!" protection analyses, and recommendations papers. The Online Protection Monitoring dashboards (internal and external) were refreshed and updated six times.

### PROTECTION MONITORING SYSTEM REVIEW

Currently (January–June 2023), the system is not robust enough to cover the entirety of the country, but it is gradually improving its coverage. It is important to note that coverage is reflective of Protection Cluster partners presence, access, capacity, and willingness to engage with the system; thus, in practice, most of the hot spots are reasonably covered (including with information on payams that are not accessible at any given time). Nevertheless, with the shrinking protection space, agencies engaged in the provision of protection services (and by default engaged in protection monitoring) are lessening their footprint and presence in communities in need due to a lack of or limited funds to conduct or ensure continuity of protection services.



### SWOT ANALYSIS

During the PROMO meeting, the partners did a quick SWOT analysis to see what the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were. Below are the key summaries from the discussion.

#### Strengths

- **Establishment of the Protection Monitoring WG (PROMO):** Partners highlighted that the WG has enabled them to raise concerns they have because the meeting is not only used to analyse data but also to troubleshoot any challenges that are identified.
- **Partners highlighted PMS as a positive move towards harmonisation of systems of protection monitoring and joint analysis;** a collective agreement was reached on joint data collection methodologies and a joint system into which many organisations submit data, collaborate in doing the analysis, and publish monthly reports and snapshots.
- **Collective advocacy and feeding into the existing structures** - The Protection Monitoring System enables harmonised advocacy based on the findings, and the data is also used to inform the analysis done at the Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG) level. The findings of the PMS are also shared with the Access Working Group and Civil Military Working Group to flag protection risks and trends that are being reported by the KIs.

### Opportunities

- **Need to move beyond Key Informant Interviews over time** to ensure the sustainability, reliability, and accuracy of the system. Deep-dive approaches will limit the pressure on KIs and enable partners to consult and provide feedback directly to communities.
- Considering the longer term and its relation to data credibility as well as capturing a diverse voice, the Protection Monitoring System **should identify existing community-based approaches that the system can complement**. It is essential that the community act on the trends identified for any collaboration to be successful.
- **Increased awareness and advocacy with partners and donors to increase coverage**. The partners highlighted the need for the cluster to bring in more partners to join the PMS, on the basis that the more who join, the better the analysis that is obtained.
- **Present action-oriented protection monitoring reports quarterly** to the HCT as a central advocacy tool for meeting its responsibilities under the HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy.



### Weakness

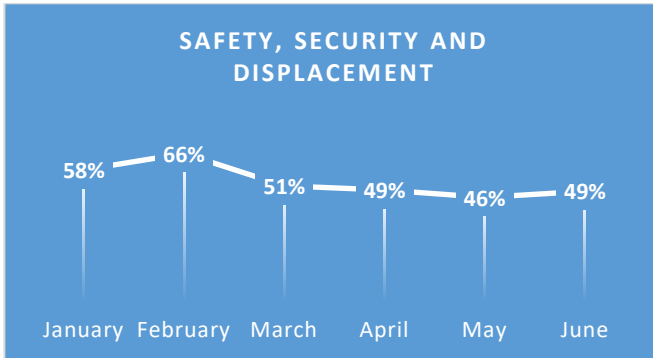
- **Lack of community consultation:** While KIs interviews are giving us the information we need, the partners highlighted the importance of getting back to the community in some of the findings and having a dialogue with them.
- **Lack of internet in most deep field areas:** This is a challenge since most of the local partners do not have good connections at some of the field locations. In turn, this affects the timely submission of the collected data.
- **Lack of consistency in engagement:** the main reason was due to a lack of dedicated funds for the monitoring exercises or because the partner is implementing short-term programming.

### Threats

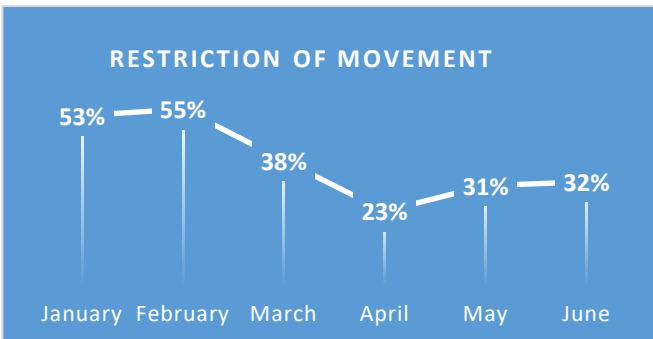
- **Lack of access** in certain locations during certain seasons and/or conflict (insecurity)
- **Interview fatigue:** Partners raised concerns about KI fatigue and the lack of response by authorities and humanitarian actors to their needs.
- **Protection monitors are exposed to possible dangers**, especially in places with insecurities or out of areas of regular engagement.

**CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

During the first half of 2023, the PROMO analysed and reviewed the piloted questionnaire and deployed it as of April 1, 2023. Since the questionnaire structure changed, overview-level data are comparable across the months. However, the deep-dive data at the thematic level represented below refers only to the period April to June 2023.

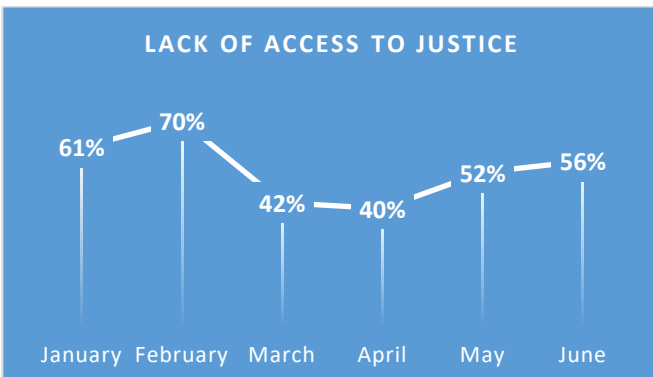


On average, 17% of Key Informants report that safety and security issues affect members of the community often or very often. 25% of KIs note returns as the main observed movement, of which 51% observed displacement movements in their communities, mostly due to returns from within the country and from abroad. Upper Nile (39%), Unity (31%), Central Equatoria (24%), and Jonglei (20%) are states where most returns are flagged by KIs.

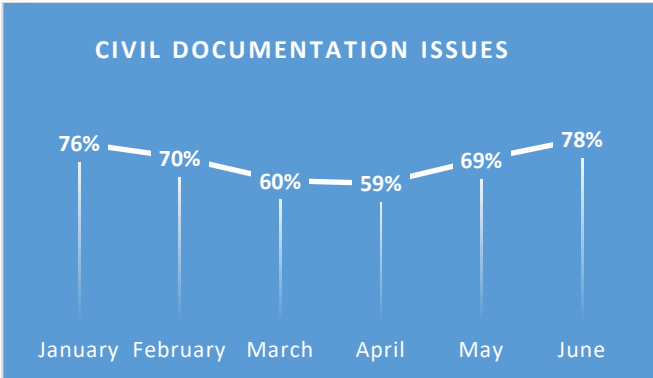


On average, 31% of Key Informants report that restriction of movement affects members of the community often or very often. When restriction of movement occurs, according to 40% of KIs interviewed during the period, all groups are equally affected, while 40% note women and girls being particularly affected. According to 55% of KIs, access to livelihood opportunities and lack of access to life-saving services are the most common impacts of restriction of movement in monitored sites in South Sudan.

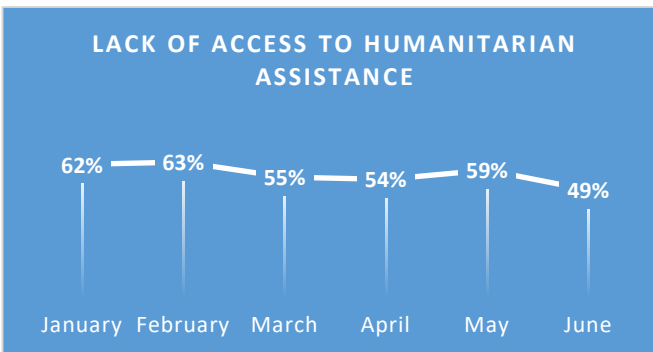
**PROTECTION VIOLATIONS, CHALLENGES AND TRENDS**



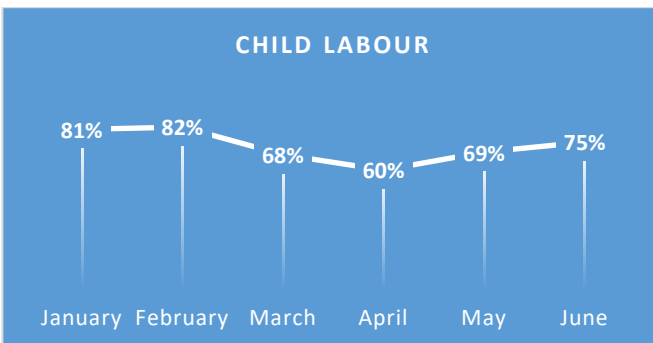
On average, 48% of Key Informants report that lack of access to justice affects members of the community often or very often. 51% of interviewed KIs reported all groups being affected, with women and girls being particularly affected, according to 30% of KIs. 56% of KIs flag corruption as the main obstacle to accessing justice. 68% of KIs note Customary Law as the most used justice mechanism in the monitored payams, while, according to 55–65% of KIs, family disputes and GBV issues are the most common reasons for seeking justice by community members.



On average, 51% of Key Informants report that civil documentation issues affect members of the community often or very often. 53% of interviewed KIs who flagged civil documentation issues reported a lack of understanding of the processes and unavailable registrars as major barriers to accessing documentation. 41% of KIs report that birth certificates are not issued or are issued to a very small number of children, while, at the same time, only 20% claim birth certificates are regularly issued to all children in their communities. 43% of KIs report a lack of employment opportunities as the major consequence of this protection issue.

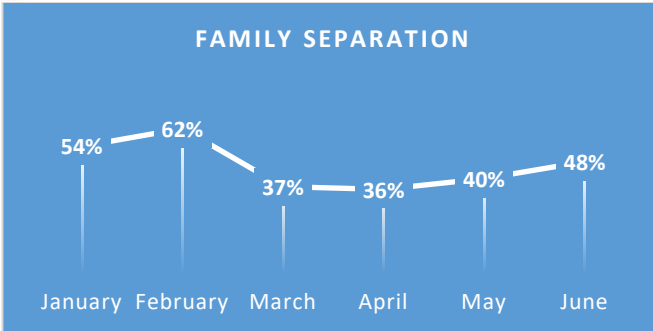


On average, 47% of Key Informants report that a lack of access to humanitarian assistance affects members of the community often or very often. 30–33% of interviewed KIs who flagged a lack of access to humanitarian assistance reported that women and girls, people living with disabilities, and the elderly are the most affected. According to 53% of KIs, the main reasons for unequal access are corruption and bribery. Food (48%), Education (47%), and Health (45%) are the sectors with the most challenges in accessing assistance, while early marriage (61%), the most common negative coping mechanism.

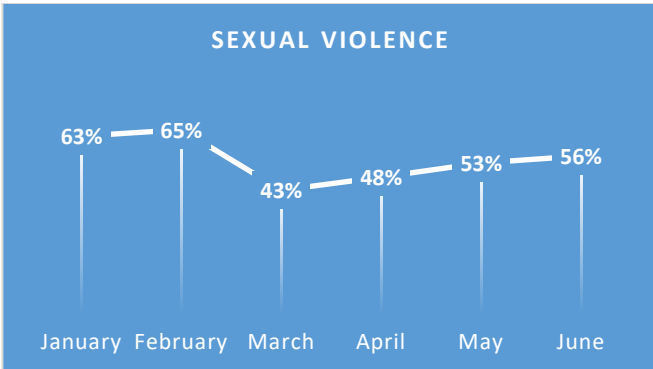


On average, 51% of Key Informants report that child labour affects many or most children in the community. 63% of interviewed KIs who flagged child labour reported child-headed households as the largest contributing factor. 42% of those KIs reported that exploitation and abuse are the most common effects, followed by an increase in incidents of violence (29%) and loss of life (24%).

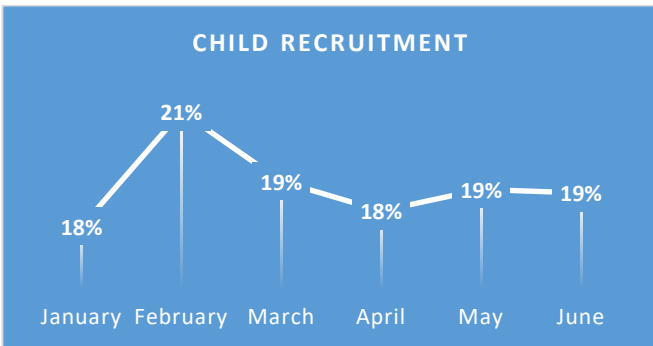




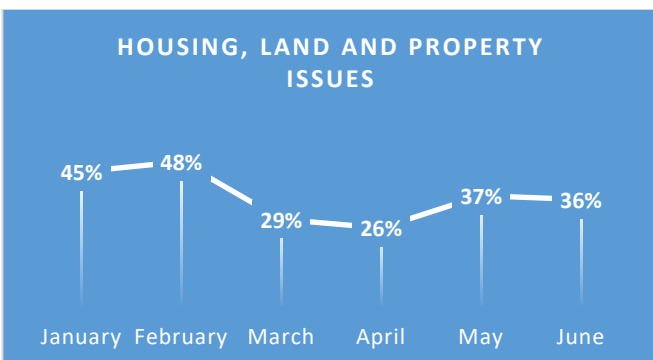
On average, 23% of Key Informants report that family separations affect many or most families in the community. 47% of interviewed KIs flagged family separation as affecting entire communities, while 26% pointed to women and girls being particularly affected, followed by children in general (25%) and the elderly (19%). 43% of KIs note the death or illness of the child's caregiver as contributing factors to separations.



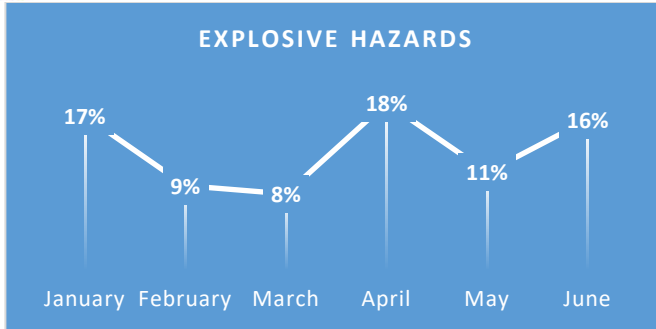
On average, 23% of Key Informants report that sexual violence affects many or most members of the community. The fear of stigma is the major barrier to reporting GBV, according to 61% of KIs. According to KIs, 56% of survivors are comfortable reporting to health centres and 42% to the police or other local authorities. 34% of KIs report that compensation and referral to humanitarian organisations are their most common responses.



On average, 6% of Key Informants report that child recruitment affects most children in the community, while an additional 12% of KIs claim it affects many children. 60% of interviewed KIs noted incidents of Child Recruitment, highlighting that boys are the most affected. 46% highlight negotiations with recruiters as the most common action taken to address the situation, followed by moving to another location (41%), and requesting help from authorities (39%).



On average, 6% of Key Informants report HLP issues affect most households in the community, while an additional 25% of KIs claim they affect many households. 29% of interviewed KIs flagged that HLP issues affect IDPs and Returnees. 55% of KIs note the absence of title deeds, 30% unlawful eviction, and 29% destruction from armed conflict as the most frequent reasons for land grabbing or destruction of property. For numerous KIs, Homelessness (62%) is the prevalent effect of unaddressed HLP issues in monitored communities.



On average, 7% of Key Informants report that explosive hazards affect most households in the community, while an additional 14% of KIs claim they affect many households.

36% of KIs interviewed flagged Explosive Hazards presence, stating all demographics are similarly impacted. 30% highlight IDPs and returnees as particularly affected.

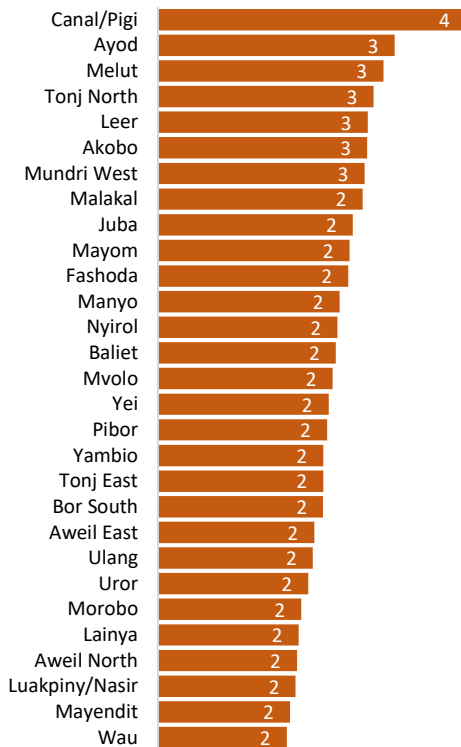
For 44% of KIs, land blockage due to explosive hazards hinders community livelihoods.

33% of KI stated accident investigations occur after incidents, and 27% claim there are regular surveys and clearances in place.

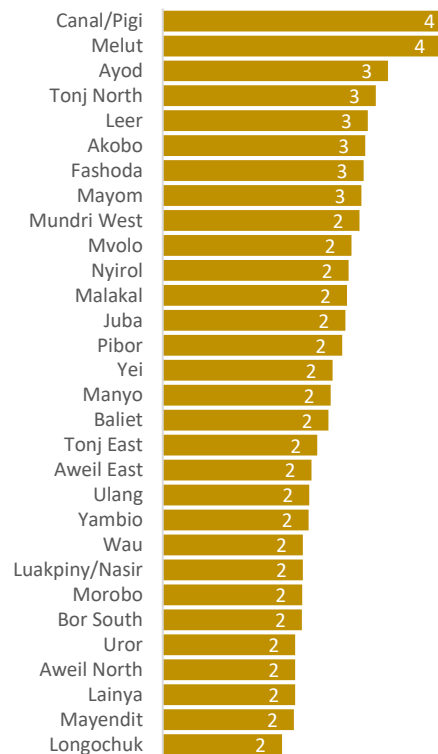
**SEVERITY INDEX PER MONITORED COUNTIES**

During the first half of 2023, the Protection Cluster engaged with the Needs Assessment Working Group to ensure that NAWG's monthly prioritization assessment was considered within the WG's data analysis methodology results and assessments compiled by the PROMO and the PMS. This action and advocacy resulted in much improved consideration of counties with high levels of protection concerns by the ICCG.

**List of monitored counties most affected by all 11 protection concerns, themes, and severity**



**List of monitored counties most affected by protection concerns considered by the NAWG and their severity.**



## PMS BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

**Protection Monitoring** entails the systematic, collection, verification, and analysis of the violation of rights and protection risks of affected communities over an extended period for the purpose of informing effective response.

**The output** of the system is the availability of quantitative data on the protection environment, protection trends, rights violations, and risks, threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities of the affected population and regular protection analysis across thematic, population and geographical areas.

**The rationale** behind the system is to ensure a common systematic approach among protection actors. The use of a shared methodology allows to ‘crowdfund’ a country-wide analysis which is resource efficient. Ability to compare severity and trends across areas and themes. Also, community-level, non-incident based, approach allows wider sharing and use of obtained information.

**The objectives** of the Protection Monitoring System (PMS) are to trigger provision of required assistance through referrals or adjustment of ongoing humanitarian response and to provide protection actors with an evidence base for advocacy and identification of further information needs on specific protection issues.

**The methodology** of the PMS in South Sudan relies on contributions by Protection Cluster member organizations to collect data via a Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire at payam level across eleven thematic areas thereby monitoring the occurrence of protection violations, their scale and impact on communities over time. Key informants are selected to represent a variety of backgrounds and profiles in a community. The violations and challenges’ scale follows the HNO Analytical Framework i.e., provide assessment (in percentages) across a scale of five distinct severities. It is important to note that the system does not provide household or individual-level needs assessment but rather informs about the state of play of a certain protection violation in a monitored community, over time.

**The coordination** of the PMS at the country-level is coordinated through the Protection Monitoring (PROMO) working group. **The regular products** of the PMS are the monthly statistical report that is, in turn, further discussed by PROMO members who subsequently issue key advocacy messages and recommendations to a wide audience of stakeholders. Data are further analyzed via a business intelligence software (Power BI) and an interactive external dashboard is deployed for further overall and in-depth analysis per thematic areas.

The analyzed data also serve other purposes and act as primary data for **inter-agency analysis**, such as for the Needs Assessment Working Group to better triangulate and prioritize counties in need.

With support from ECHO, technical and protection expertise from UNHCR and NRC, engagement of Protection Cluster’s (PC) Areas of Responsibility (GBV, Child Protection Housing, land and Property and Mine Action) and with, so far, participation of 35 cluster member agencies (UN agencies, INGOs and NNGOs), the PMS was deployed in South Sudan in October 2022. After a four-month piloting period and reassessment of the system features, mainly the questionnaire and the Power BI dashboard, the new and live system was deployed in April 2023 with the dashboard being externalized in June 2023.

Agencies engaged in PROMO so far are: ACROSS, Action Aid Interventions for Development Organization, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, African Community Agency for Development and Relief, Agency for Women and Children Development, Alight, Alliance for Action Aid, Christian Agency for Humanitarian Relief and Development, Community Action Organization, Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization, Community Care & Development Support, Community Empowerments Against Poverty, Community in Need



Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Dialogue and Research Institute, Hold the Child, Hope Restoration South Sudan, Humanitarian & Development Consortium, Humanity & Inclusion, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, Jesuit Refugee Service, Mission Community Development Agency, Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan, Mobile Humanitarian Agency, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Norwegian Refugee Council, Operation Save Innocent Lives, Road to Economic Development Organisation, Stewardwomen, Survivor Ai, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Voice of the Peace, Wider Aid & Development Agency - South Sudan, World Vision International. **Thank you all for your contribution!**

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