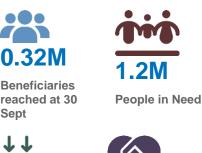


PROTECTION CLUSTER NWSW MONTHLY UPDATE

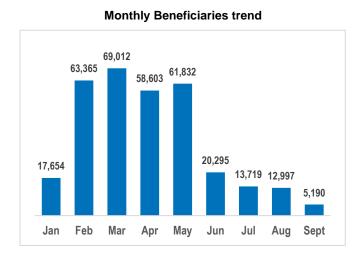
September 2024

Key Figures











Response Overview

Target population

In September 2024, the Protection Cluster and its AoRs reached 5,190 persons in the North-West and South-West regions with protection services ranging from protection monitoring, MHPSS, facilitation of access to civil documentation, sensitization of communities on HLP related issues, to holistic support to GBV survivors, child-sensitive case management, and MHPSS to children and their caregivers.

The NSAG-imposed lockdowns greatly hindered the protection response, causing several partners to resort to remote monitoring and provision of services.

Key Highlights

In September, a significant increase in protection and security incidents was reported. This could be attributed to the increase in NSAG presence in almost all communities in the NWSW in a bid to enforce the lockdown and a corresponding increase in SSF activities to curb NSAG activities.

About eight different NSAGs and activists declared different lockdown periods aimed at drawing the attention of the UN General Assembly to the situation in the NWSW regions, and to disrupt the resumption of schools for the 2024/2025 academic year in the two regions.

Civilians faced reprisals from both NSAGs and SSFs for either refusing to adhere to the lockdown or respecting the lockdown, and attacks against education continued to be reported across the two regions in September, as both teachers and school children were attacked and abducted by NSAGs in a bid to enforce the lockdowns.

Child Protection

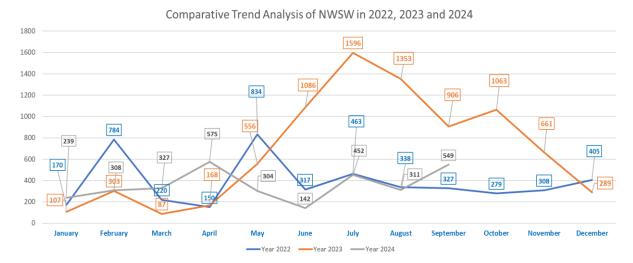
The CP AoR maximized the lockdown period to strengthen the capacity of its partners in key CP areas - Case management (CAAFAG, child survivors of SGBV, UASC), MHPSS, Child Protection minimum standards/CPiE and Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC).

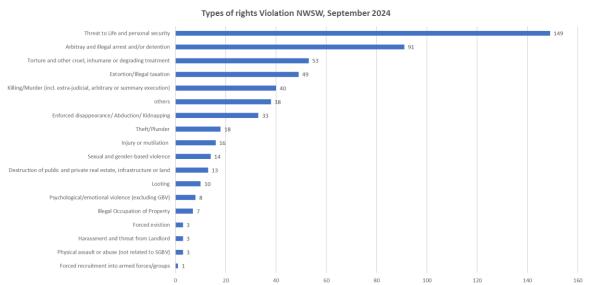
The training sessions were conducted online, and faced several challenges including internet connectivity, however, some positive outcomes were the identification of local resources within the AoR to facilitate trainings on Child Protection and improved interactions and coordination between members of the AoR.

Housing, Land & Property

The destruction of property continues to be reported across both regions. While the need for HLP counselling and legal assistance continues to grow, access restrictions especially in the NW region and limited partner presence makes it increasingly difficult to meet the needs of the affected populations.

Protection Monitoring





549 human rights violations (as against 311 in August) were recorded in the northwest and southwest regions. Threats to Life and personal security (149 Victims), Arbitrary arrests and detentions (91 victims), and Torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment (53 Victims) made up the top three reported violations. Men and boys remain the most affected.

Protection actors have observed that it is particularly difficult to **engage men and boys** during humanitarian activities, and they are **less likely to seek protection assistance**. Women are more likely to attend the sensitization and awareness-raising sessions and so know where to seek support when they need it.

Key Challenges

- Low funding for protection activities continues to limit the ability of protection actors to respond to protection needs including for individuals who have suffered human rights violations.
- Access restrictions especially in the NW region continue to hinder the protection and humanitarian response.
- The coming elections have begun to disrupt protection activities linked to registration and civil documentation, as protection actors are increasingly being accused by NSAGs of supporting the Government's efforts to register people for the elections.
- There is need for advocacy to all parties to the conflict for the respect of IHL and IHRL.