

In July-August 2024, protection monitors conducted **136** Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) covering **40** payams in **16** Counties in **5** States (Western Bahr El-Ghazal, Unity, Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria).

EMERGING PROTECTION RISKS

Family Separation - 42% of Key Informants (KIs) who noted the risk of family separation, see children as mostly negatively affected. While 50% explain it as a result from the lack of general security and safety, 47% of them explain the occurrence as linked to education, 34% flag death or illness of a caregiver, and 20% abduction of a child as main contributors.

Sexual Violence - Among key informants (KIs), 42% identify armed actors as the primary alleged perpetrators to sexual violence, while 28% point to business owners, another 28% to community members, and 24% to non-state armed actors. Additionally, 67% of KIs report that fear of stigma is a significant barrier to reporting GBV, and 43% cite fear of retaliation and lack of knowledge about rights as major barriers to reporting GBV in their communities.



Juer at school in Northern Bahr El-Ghazal, a South Sudanese returnee girl dreaming of becoming a doctor so she can take care of her community. Gender-equitable education systems allow both girls and boys to develop life skills that help young people succeed and break the cycle of poverty and exploitation. Education empowers girls to know and fight for their rights and protects them from harmful traditional gender practices.

PROMO ACHIEVEMENTS



On Tuesday, 24 September, the Protection Cluster held a workshop to launch the new **Protection Risk Monitoring System (PRMS)** tools and strengthen the capacity of the participants and their respective organizations in protection risk assessments, advocacy, and evidence-based programming. A series of trainings has been initiated and a manual issued (available [HERE](#)).

PRMS - NEXT STEPS

- PROMO members are encouraged to start using the new PRMS tools (KII, Observation, FGD) for their operational use and PRMS data collection.
- The 2022-2024 PMS system will be archived as of the 1st of November 2024, and key informant interviews using the “old” form will stop on that date.
- The Protection Cluster and AoRs will continuously provide training and support for the use of the new system.

Usage of the abovementioned tools will be embedded in the 2025 HNRP thus PROMO members are encouraged to reflect their work in the HRP project proposals and subsequent advocacy for funding.

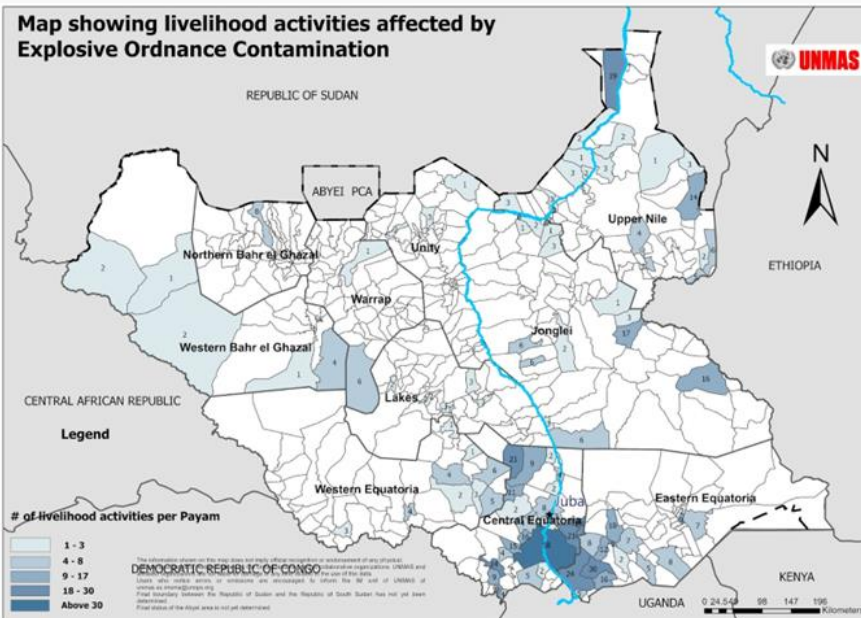
IN FOCUS

Effect of the presence of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance on Safety, Participation in Activities, and Access to Essential Services in South Sudan

Currently, **22,723,898 m²** of land in South Sudan is known to be contaminated with explosive ordnance. Based on data collected in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), the presence of this explosive ordnance contamination is affecting **661 lands associated with livelihood activities** (roads, market areas, and agricultural land) and **884 essential services** (medical facilities, schools, water points, houses and buildings and other infrastructure). Hazardous areas have been identified in **125 (25%)** of South Sudan’s payams exposing an **estimated 2.5 M people** to the protection risk associated with the presence of landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive ordnance.

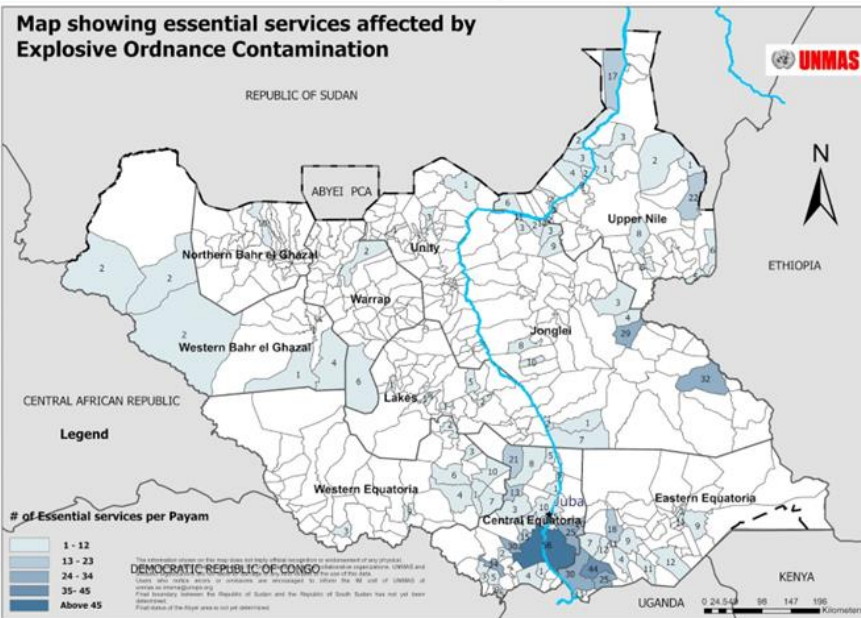
In 2024, Mine Action partners identified **42 new areas** of **3,607,500 m²** in total, and **cleared/released 8,536,958 m²** of contaminated areas. By the end of August 2024, Mine Action partners have provided Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to approximately 240K people in the country including 155 K (65%) children who are deemed most at risk.

Map showing livelihood activities affected by Explosive Ordnance Contamination



From the perspective of exposure and negative effects on livelihood, there are 120 payams on an average of high-risk severity in South Sudan

Map showing essential services affected by Explosive Ordnance Contamination



From the perspective of exposure and negative effects on access to essential services, there are 123 payams on an average of high-risk severity in South Sudan

Major Protection incidents in September

► Cattle-raiding clashes in Warrap State result in unlawful killings

According to September weekly reports by the sub-national protection cluster coordination mechanism in Warrap State, inter-community clashes over resources such as grazing land intensified in Tonj East and Tonj North. They resulted in unlawful and extrajudicial killings and attacks on civilians and their property.

One of the most devastating incidents took place on September 9th, when armed youth from Akok village attempted a cattle raid, killing seven people, including three children and two women. On September 18th, the Thiik clan retaliated, killing over 45 individuals, including women and children (exact number unverified).

Warrap State's economy is heavily dependent on cattle and the competition for grazing land fuels the ongoing violence. The situation is further exacerbated by The Green Book Law which was enacted by the former governor and commands penalties like firing squads for crimes such as cattle raiding, revenge killings, forced marriages, and rape, fostering dire violations of human rights.

Furthermore, according to media reports, recurring conflicts are also believed to be fuelled by local interests who allegedly arm their supporters, especially the youth, to protect livestock from cattle raiders which, in turn, are also used for retaliation attacks.

► Sexual Violence in Eastern Equatoria State Gold Mines

According to reports received in September by the protection partners in Eastern Equatoria's Kapoeta South County, women, and children are being subjected to sexual violence at Namuronyang gold mines.

Mining for gold is the primary source of income in Kapoeta, often carried out by women and children, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. While the state government has made arrests and is investigating the situation, the actual number of survivors is believed by protection partners to be significantly higher than reported.

Capacity Building Initiatives

- On 18th September, the Housing, Land and Property AoR in South Sudan officially validated the technical guidance material presenting the opportunity for HLP AoR actors and partners including the government, to deliberate on HLP issues at all levels. The South Sudan HLP AoR, developed with the support of the Global HLP AoR, tailored technical material to enhance the capacity and provide technical guidance to humanitarian actors to address the HLP challenges, enabling participants to form a deeper understanding of the content, use and applicability of each technical product and ultimately, guide them in HLP Programming towards sustainable solutions through efficient and effective coordination.
- Capacity Building in Pibor** - A Protection Coordination workshop was conducted in Pibor by the PC field staff, for 25 participants from 15 Protection Cluster member organizations to strengthen the capacities of the sub-national mechanisms in Jonglei State.
- CPIMS+ Training** - In September, 25 child protection staff from 13 CP AoR partners participated in a five-day training in Juba to strengthen protection information management skills and case management procedures.
- SOP, service mapping and referral pathway workshop in Bor:** The GBV AoR facilitated a 3-day service mapping, SOP, and referral pathway workshop in Bor, Jonglei state. Overall, 51 (20F, 31M) partners staff from all nine counties of Jonglei state participated in the workshop. The updated documents will be instrumental in ensuring comprehensive, timely and age-appropriate services for various clients.
- Capacity Building for State level Field Coordinators and County Focal persons.** The GBV AoR conducted an online training for its State level Field coordinators and County focal person on the 5Ws kobo reporting tool and the protection risk monitoring tool. This training will subsequently enhance reporting on GBV services and key gaps/needs including recommendations that will be vital to improve programming and advocacy for GBV interventions across the States.



Other Protection Updates

- The **Global Protection Cluster and the Areas of Responsibility Annual Donor Meeting** provided an opportunity for reflection and exchange on the latest protection trends, collaborative actions to address priority risks, and strategies to strengthen the protection of crisis-affected communities. An accompanying [briefing note](#) covers the first half of 2024 and trends observed in 2023, with a shared analysis of the current state of protection, highlighting the key drivers of the most severe protection risks affecting communities across the Protection Cluster operations. South Sudan is among the countries that face significant protection challenges, particularly in areas such as displacement, civilian targeting, and socioeconomic vulnerability. While governance and institutional structures show some signs of stability, they are insufficient to address the pervasive risks faced by the population. Despite a surface-level sense of order, there is a persistent undercurrent of violations and instability, especially for those displaced or marginalized.
- **ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work.** This document considers the changes that have occurred in the environment that protection actors work in and proposes standards and guidelines for addressing the challenges that have arisen since the 3rd edition published in 2018. Available [here](#) and e-learning is available [here](#).

PROMO Working Group - Protection Cluster South Sudan

Key Findings and Messages/Recommendations:

- More inter-sectoral approaches with humanitarian and development actors are required to address, in a collaborative way, the prioritized removal of risks (clearance of contaminated areas) and rehabilitation of high-impact livelihood and essential services areas.
- Diversification and higher investments in long-term reliability of food sources in cattle-dependant areas such as Warrap State would mitigate negative coping mechanisms such as cattle raiding thus bringing a higher level of security to the area.
- Government and Peace actors should intensify their efforts in mitigating extra-judicial killings and cultural and political frameworks that enable impunity.
- Humanitarian actors should increase their support to civilian victims of clashes in Warrap State as well as across the country, and advocate for alternative programs that would engage youth towards positive coping mechanisms.
- Strong advocacy with gold mining companies, the government and local communities is urgently required to ensure the safety standards of women and men working in the industry, as well as safeguard the non-occurrence of hazardous child labour and exploitation. At the same time, GBV risk mitigation and reporting pathways need to be established including strong engagement of the authorities to ensure safety.
- Improve infrastructure such as water and health facilities in Kapoeta South, and above all education systems that could potentially allow younger generations break the cycle and escape from the (exploitative) work in the mines.

The Protection Monitoring System (PMS) in South Sudan is managed by the Protection Cluster and it relies on contributions by 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. In September 2024, contributors to the PMS were: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Mission Community Development Agency, Humanitarian and Development Consortium, Survivor Aid and INTERSOS.

Thank you to all the PROMO member organizations for their contributions!

