



South Sudan PRMS Transformation Update

November 2024

- In November 2024, the Protection Cluster South Sudan (PC SSD) conducted two online training on the usage of PRMS tools for 65 participants and initiated the Protection Risk Assessment (PRA) at the sub-national level for Q4 2024 assessment.
- Furthermore, CP SSD held talks with UNHCR to agree on modalities for 2025 further support for the PRMS (including through ECHO engagement) and agreed on the need for further support the overall functionality of the system and further upgrades:
 - Creation of a harmonized KOBO-based tool for sub-national cluster coordination weekly reporting aligned with the GPC-developed reporting template aligned with PAF needs (currently operational in MS Word format)
 - The gradual inclusion of the Refugee population in PRMS for increased reach through cluster capacities.
 - Development and deployment of a household-level protection profiling tool for situations of mass displacements aligned with PAF and inter-agency coordination needs
 - Development and deployment of an individual-level protection assessment for the in-camp/site environment aligned with PAF and inter-agency coordination needs
 - Realignment of the two UNHCR returnee monitoring tools with PRMS and the PAF to serve as contributors to risk assessment and risk mitigation advocacy processes,
 - Establish a sub-framework for data and information analysis of returnees that is compatible with the needs for evidence and programmatic data by other actors such as development actors and
 - Ensure buy-in and capacitate Protecting Cluster partners to widen the network of data and information collection across the country and other populations (IDPs, Refugees) while UNHCR will continue to invest in current coverages.
- Also in November 2024, PC SSD hosted a technical mission from the UNHCR Global Data Service (GDS)/Information Management Section and the Global Protection Cluster. The mission team was tasked to support the PC in SSD to finalize the final step of the PRMS transformation agenda for 2024 i.e.:
 - review current PRMS pilot tools against feedback accrued during two months of partner usage.
 - the development of a framework and methodology for quantitative scoring of results accrued from PRMS tools
 - concept/task for a developer to create a qualitative data (raw and analyzed data) repository with access permission and data sharing conditions and a visualization dashboard with Power BI interactive capacities.
 - concept/task for a developer to create a tagged quantitative data repository with access permission and data sharing conditions.

The development of a framework and methodology for quantitative scoring of results accrued from PRMS tools

During the GDS/GPC mission, in discussion with PC SSD, the PRMS Severity Rule Book (ANNEX 1) was developed. This rule book serves as a guide for calculating severity in the final Power BI dashboard using four distinct data collection tools: Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Observation, and Expert Tools (CP, GBV, and HLP).

These tools each play a vital role in gathering information on various risks and their associated impacts within communities, ultimately aiding in accurate and consistent severity assessments.

Furthermore, the methodology further looks at the importance of four key areas (prevalence, cause, affected population, and coping strategy) in each of the tool questions and is assigned specific weights, reflecting their importance in the final calculation.

The tool priority weight is another critical factor in determining the significance of data collected by each tool as it links to key Protection Information Management principles and association of credibility of tools to assess risk as well as to local context (adaptable to other contexts).

Concept/task for a developer to create a qualitative data (raw and analyzed data) repository with access permission and data sharing conditions and a visualization dashboard with Power BI interactive capacities.

During the GDS/GPC mission, in discussion with PC SSD, it was assessed and agreed to develop an MS Fabric-based data repository that would collect data from: (1) KOBO upon validation by an admin user, (2) MS Share-Point (such as from 5W or PRA) and (3) other validated data sources (such as from NAWG, Access WG, MAIMS, etc.).

The MS Fabric-based repository will have an overarching tagged data search dashboard enabling authorized secondary users to access (downloads, data feeds, etc.) data for authorized use or linkages with other systems (GPC Dashboard, DRR, PROMO contributing organization-level systems, etc.). Data packages will be grouped by selected tags such as risks, sub-risk sets, geography, timeframe, population groups, contributing organization, tool/source, etc.

A Power BI tool will be created and linked to the repository enabling (1) risk analysis in line with rules set by the framework and methodology for quantitative scoring of results accrued from PRMS tools and (2) enabling interactive visual representation of protection risk severities, trends, associated risk details (prevalence, cause, affected population, effects/coping mechanisms) as stipulated by the Protection Analytical Framework. Timeframe: Q1 2025

Concept/task for a developer to create a tagged quantitative data repository with access permission and data sharing conditions.

During the GDS/GPC mission, in discussion with PC SSD, it was assessed and agreed to develop an MS Fabric-based data repository that would collect qualitative data from: (1) KOBO upon validation by an admin user, (2) GPC developed template weekly Protection Reports shared by sub-nation coordination mechanisms.

The MS Fabric-based repository will have an overarching tagged data search dashboard enabling authorized users to access tagged elements of FGDs and Weekly reports. Data packages will be grouped by selected tags such as risks, geography, AoRs, timeframe, contributing factors, etc., and downloadable (for example for

further analysis and drafting of cumulative reports and assessments such as the PAU and Spotlight!)
Timeframe: Q2 2025

Following the successful implementation of the Protection Monitoring System in South Sudan in 2022 and concurrent global efforts by the GPC and AoRs to streamline the Protection Analytical Framework across all aspects of cluster work—including risk assessment, needs assessment, advocacy, programming, coordination, and overall harmonization, the Protection Cluster and AoRs in South Sudan initiated a transformation process in January 2024 through its PROMO working group. This transformation process, undertaken in close collaboration with the GPC and global AoRs, and supported by UNHCR/ECHO, DRC, and USAID (MELS), aims to achieve the following objectives and actions by Q2 2025.

Realignment of information needs with the Protection Analytical Framework (PAF).	The Protection Cluster and AoRs conducted training on data and information management, aligning with risk information needs and embedding PAF concepts such as Root Causes, Threats, Effects, and Capacities into tools and templates. A workshop was also held to reinforce these practices.	Q2 2024
Realignment of Protection Monitoring System with 15 GPC Risks.	The GPC mission to South Sudan helped create data-gathering tools (KII, Observation, Expert, FDG, and Reporting templates). These tools are finalized and launched, and ToTs are trained.	Q2 2024
Alignment of Protection Risk Monitoring outputs with the new GPC and AoR's Population at Risk (PaR) and Population in Need (PiN) concepts and methods of calculation.	PC and AoRs IMO's have been trained in the new concepts. AoRs are currently identifying methods for PaR and PiN calculations and selecting analytical indicators based on the three pillars: Safety and access to public spaces, Access to essential services and justice, and Participation in safe practices and activities of choice.	Q3 2024
Creation of analytical back-end system including dashboard	Review of tools after two months of usage, creation of the analytical and scoring framework, task for developer for creation of data sharing dashboard.	Q2 2025
Outputs (Spotlight, PAU, GPU, HNO, etc.)	Products adhere to the PAF, using hybrid models of information gathering, including area-based expert judgment and community-based information-gathering tools.	Q2 2024
Development of HH-level assessment-risk monitoring tools	Development and deployment of a household-level protection profiling tool for situations of mass displacements and individual-level protection assessment for the in-camp/site environment aligned with PAF and inter-agency coordination needs	Q2 2025
Realignment of Returnee monitoring tools with PRMS	Realignment of the two UNHCR returnee monitoring tools with PRMS and the PAF to serve as contributors to risk assessment and risk mitigation advocacy processes	Q2 2025
Analytical framework update and linkages with development actors information needs	Establish a sub-framework for data and information analysis of returnees that is compatible with the needs for evidence and programmatic data by other actors such as development actors	Q3 2025

ANNEX1

PRMS Severity Rule Book - Implementation in Calculations

This rule book serves as a guide for calculating severity in the final Power BI dashboard using four distinct data collection tools: Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Observation, and Expert Tools (CP, GBV and HLP). These tools each play a vital role in gathering information on various risks and their associated impacts within communities, ultimately aiding in accurate and consistent severity assessments.

Data Collection Tools

- Key Informant Interviews (KII): This tool primarily gathers individual insights on community-level risks, often prioritized with a weight of 3 (the highest).
- Focus Group Discussions (FGD): This tool collects collective perspectives from group discussions. The priority weight for FGDs is typically 2, although, for some questions, it is assigned a weight of 3.
- Observation Tool: This tool involves direct observation of community conditions and is assigned the lowest priority weight of 1.
- Expert Tools: This is further subdivided into specific areas:
 - Child Protection (CP) Expert Tool: Assigned the highest priority weight of 3.
 - Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Expert Tool: Assigned a weight of 2.
 - Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Expert Tool: Assigned the lowest priority weight of 1.

These priority weights reflect the relative importance of each tool's data in the overall severity calculations. Severity Rules (0 to 5)

The severity scale ranges from 0 to 5 and is determined based on predefined responses to questions. Each severity level represents the intensity or frequency of a specific risk:

- Severity 0: Represents no occurrence of the risk (e.g., if the response is "It did not happen").
- Severity 1: Indicates a rare occurrence of the risk (e.g., if the response is "It happens rarely").
- Severity 2: Reflects occasional occurrences (e.g., if the response is "It sometimes happens").
- Severity 3: Represents frequent occurrences or uncertainty (e.g., if the response is "It happens often" or "I do not know/I do not wish to answer").
- Severity 4: Indicates a very frequent occurrence of the risk (e.g., if the response is "It happens very often").
- Severity 5: Reflects the most severe scenario, typically involving significant factors such as armed actors (e.g., responses like "Inter-communal armed actors," "Non-state armed actors," or "State armed actors").

The severity rules are consistently applied across all tools to ensure standardized scoring. These rules are displayed in the column labeled "Severity Rules" in the rule book.

Weighting of Areas

To ensure a comprehensive assessment of severity, four key areas are assigned specific weights, reflecting their importance in the final calculation:

- Prevalence (30%): Indicates the frequency or occurrence of a risk within the community.
- Cause (20%): Represents the underlying factors contributing to the risk.
- Affected Population (30%): Captures the number or population group (such as IDPs, Returnees etc) of people impacted by the risk.
- Coping Strategy (20%): Assesses the community's ability to cope with or mitigate the risk.

- These weights are integrated into the calculation to provide a balanced and holistic view of risk severity.

Tool Priority Weight

The tool priority weight is another critical factor in determining the significance of data collected by each tool. For example:

- The KII tool often has the highest priority weight of 3, emphasizing its importance in the analysis.
- The FGD tool has a standard weight of 2 but may be adjusted to 3 for certain questions.
- Observation data is weighted at 1, reflecting its supplementary role.
- Expert tools have variable weights, with CP at 3, GBV at 2, and HLP at 1.

By combining severity rules, area weightings, and tool priority weights, the rule book enables a robust and systematic approach to calculating severity scores. These calculations will feed directly into the Power BI dashboard, ensuring clarity, consistency, and accuracy in the final outputs.

This structured methodology ensures that all tools and data points contribute meaningfully to assessing and visualizing community risks, aiding stakeholders in decision-making and prioritizing interventions effectively.