

In September–December 2024, protection monitors conducted **473 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**, **35 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**, and **33 Observations** covering **68** payams of South Sudan. Furthermore, with the support of the Protection Cluster state-level coordination structures, **Protection Risk Assessments** were conducted nationally in December 2024.

The five risks below continue to present the highest prevalence and will be analysed in depth in the upcoming Protection Analysis Update (PAU):

- **Gender-Based Violence**
- **Theft, Extortion, Forced Eviction or Destruction of Personal Property**
- **Child, Early or Forced Marriage and Family Separations**
- **Discrimination and Stigmatization, Denial of Resources, Opportunities, Services and/or Humanitarian Access**
- **Attacks on Civilians and Other Unlawful Killings, and Attacks on Civilian Objects.**

While the above-mentioned protection risks continue to be the most prevalent over the last quarter of 2024, PROMO partners recorded a rising trend in the risks associated with:

- **Lack of safety and security** (from 36% of informants flagging the issue in September to **38%** in November)
- **Lack of access to humanitarian assistance** (from 38% of informants flagging the issue in September to **47%** in November)



Between 27 and 28 December, inter-agency response partners in Renk conducted a rapid intention survey at the Joda border among populations settled along the road. Preliminary results indicate that 58 percent of new arrivals intend to stay at the border. While many arrivals are refugees who will seek safety in designated sites in the country, tens of thousands of South Sudanese returnees are currently seeking (re)integration opportunities and protection.



The [Humanitarian Needs Response Plan 2025](#) identifies a primary focus on humanitarian response in the priority 1 to 3 counties with the highest inter-sectorial severity of needs.

This issue of the PROMO Spotlight will provide in-depth information on the linkages between the 2025 HNRP geographical inter-sectorial prioritization (informed, among other sources, by Protection Risk Monitoring data compiled by PROMO members) and the most urgent needs for mitigation of protection risks in those areas to inform programming, advocacy, and donor engagement of protection partners in South Sudan.

Top 5 Protection Risks Severities in Prioritized Counties by HNRP 2025

Central Equatoria State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Juba	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Lainya	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Morobo	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)
Terekeka	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Overstretched humanitarian resources and insufficient government engagement to provide and support to the most vulnerable civilians remained a major challenge in the last quarter of 2024. Poverty, adversity and hardship combined with limited access to educational/vocational training opportunities in CES, resulted into increased numbers of **child labor** as well as of **street children** and idle youth, including separated and unaccompanied refugee and returnee children who recently arrived from Sudan. Negative and maladaptive coping mechanisms are frequently adopted for survival with lingering mental and psychosocial effects in the lives of both adults and children.

The most common **GBV** incidents reported against women and girls ¹, include **child and forced marriage** as well as high levels of **domestic/physical violence, often fatal**. Male children in particular adolescents and youth, can be easily lured to **organized criminal activities** - where they find purpose, reclaim their identity, feeling of belonging and money - joining the various fractions of **gangs in Juba city**. The negative psychosocial implications of being involved or exposed to gang-related incidents and other traumatic situations affect daily functioning and could result in perpetuating cycles of violence and/or self-harm, often for a lifetime.

Propelled by the ongoing economic crisis in the country and the lowering water levels following the seasonal floods, marked a sharp **increase in criminality** including **extortion, theft, and road ambushes** to rob commercial vehicles and goods. The **lack of access to services** and **fighting over the limited resources** resulted in **indiscriminate armed violence** in Amadi, Bil-Nyang, Hai-Jebel Dinka, Hai-Referendum Referendum, and Mapau in Juba and the surrounding areas. Reports inform that in Lainya Morobo and Terekeka, **criminal activity targeted mostly IDPs and Returnees** who due to their vulnerable conditions became easier prey.

In November 22 people were reportedly **killed**, in a **cattle-raiding incident** in Mogiri village, along the Juba-Bor Road, Juba County. The herders were youth from Greater Pibor Administrative Area, who brought their cattle to Juba for sale and were attacked by suspected armed youths from Jonglei, leading to casualties on both sides and the theft of 500 cattle. This attack followed a similar one in October, as well as a **rise in robberies and ambushes** in the area. While the attack was condemned by the authorities little was offered to bring justice to the victims and their families. Further, 15 incidents were recorded, mostly involving **Housing Land and Property disputes** between IDPs and Returnees with the host community in Juba, resulting in the **loss of human lives** and serious injuries sustained by the victims. On September 4, unknown armed groups in Yei, **targeted humanitarian workers for kidnapping and ransom** while traveling along the Yei-Maridi Road on September 20, an international organization was attacked upon returning to Yei town and two staff members were kidnapped, and their personal belongings were stolen.

¹ Findings shared by Focus Group Discussion with female IDPs and Returnees in Lainya County - *Mission to Alleviate Suffering in South Sudan*.

Eastern Equatoria State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Kapoeta East	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Kapoeta North	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)
Lafon	2	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Road ambushes and **armed robberies** continued along Juba-Nimule highway, the Kapoeta-Torit highway, Camp15-Budi, Ngauro-Kapoeta and Kapoeta South – Narus highways cost lives (8 people killed) with considerable amounts of goods and personal property of travelers stolen. On September 24, a public bus carrying 60 passengers from Juba to Kampala was ambushed along the Juba-Nimule highway shortly after leaving Juba. One passenger was **killed, eight others were injured, and 20 people were abducted**. By September 26, 12 of the abducted passengers had been released. A survivor reported that belongings were looted, and those who became too exhausted to continue foot were shot—though it remains unclear whether they were killed. A spokesperson for the South Sudan army accused NAS rebels of carrying out the attack, calling them a regional threat. The army also claimed they had intelligence about NAS movements in the area prior to the ambush.

With disputes and justice continuing to be resolved through traditional practices, inter-communal violence remained a risk to communities in EES disrupting among other, **humanitarian access**. Tensions between the Logurony and Hiyala communities intensified over the **killing** of a Logurony woman by a Hiyala youth while cattle raiding between Haforere and Hiyala communities resulted in one person confirmed **dead**. Police and SSPDF deployed personnel to Hiyala to prevent further escalation. **Gang altercation** in High Lotuko over personal disputes resulted in two girls sustaining machete injuries. **Gender Based Violence (GBV) in mining areas** in Lafon County and in Kapoeta South according to the subnational PC coordination team with high numbers of sexual violence (rape) against women and girls working in the mines. investigations are ongoing, arresting perpetrators, some currently in police custody. In Namuronyang, Ngauro, Naknak, Lotyen, collapsed mines claimed the death of 4 women and a child. **Looting of property and fighting against women and girls** working in the mines is also common. Similarly, in Budi Homiri payam women and children of the Didinga community involved in mining activities have been exposed to similar protection risks.

Jonglei State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Akobo	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)
Ayod	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Bor South	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Canal/Pigi	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Duk	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Fangak	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Nyirol	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Pibor	1	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)
Pochalla	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Twic East	2	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Uror	1	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Female separated **IDP and Returnee children** are exposed to heightened **risks of GBV²** due to displacement, poverty and absence of family support. Current economic crisis limited educational and livelihood opportunities, the overall stretched humanitarian assistance, including **limited GBV services for survivors**, combined with the persisting harmful traditional beliefs and practices against women and girls result in grave human rights violations against women and girls in an endless cycle of violence where local authorities and the government continue to struggle to subdue.

Incidents related to **revenge killing, cattle raiding, road ambushes, women and child abduction** remained among the major security and protection concerns in Jonglei State. The proliferation of arms combined with harmful traditional practices and criminal activities accounted for **15 deaths of revenge killing** during the reporting period, including conflict between Chie Nyuak and Chie Luom, and incidents in Motot Payam of Uror County, in Akobo West, and in Lankien Town.

12 people lost their lives in cattle raiding incidents in Uror County. **Road ambushes** against travellers between Akobo East and Akobo West resulted in one person killed and many injured by unknown gunmen suspected to be from armed Murle groups from GPAA. Similarly, armed attacks along the road from Ulang County of Upper Nile State against a group of traders who were travelling to Akobo West County of Jonglei State resulted in one person being injured, and the goods were taken by the unknown criminals. A group of locals was **ambushed** while fishing in Nyandit Payam, Akobo East, resulting in **one death**. An **INGO vehicle** was **robbed** in Pibor County while a **boat capsized**, resulting in the **loss of goods** but no human casualties.

In addition, **8 people were killed** during fire exchange in Duk County, in Likuangole, in Pibor County, Niwniw Area, Walgak Payam, and in Akobo West while in Dilule Boma, Bilkey Payam, Akobo East, a shooting incident during celebrations resulted in **2 deaths**.

Abductions targeting women and girls continued during the reporting period. Two girls of 13 and 14 years were **abducted** on their way to Ulang, Upper Nile State allegedly by the armed groups from GPAA. 3 girls were abducted in Walgak, Akobo West, 2 children were abducted in Wechuak village, Nyandit Payam, Akobo East. 1 woman and her child were **abducted** in Lony village, Walgak Payam.

▶ Lakes State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Awerial	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 1 (Very Low)
Cueibet	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Rumbek Centre	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)
Rumbek East	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)
Rumbek North	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)
Yirol East	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)
Yirol West	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)

High numbers of **child abuse and neglect of children with disabilities** (particularly boys) reported by Women Aid Vision child protection experts working in Rumbek Centre. In addition, harmful traditional practices and perceptions on children results in high numbers of **child/early marriage** and **other forms of GBV including rape**, across all the communities.

² Reports received by GBV experts working in Fangak Women Advancement Organization.

Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Aweil Centre	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)
Aweil East	1	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Aweil North	1	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Aweil South	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)
Aweil West	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

The Mawoudit Foundation reports on bad road conditions in Aweil Center that exacerbate the already dire situation related to **access to humanitarian assistance** for all population groups. Limited funding and overall hardship conditions combined with harmful traditional practices and negative coping mechanisms lead to the increasing of cases of **early/child marriages** cases, as Child Protection actors report. The Mawoudit Foundation experts also highlight concerns related to **girls with disabilities who are being neglected and abused**, since according to traditional believes girls serve as a means of income for the whole family. Rising incidents **Gender Based Violence including sexual**, in Aweil due to the pressure on the services by the returning population from Sudan. **Rape cases** are linked to denial of resources, opportunities, and services.

544 children were taken to Juba, by Pastor AD of Stone International Church for education purposes. Most children (**343** children) were taken from Aweil North while the rest were taken from 3 other counties of Aweil Centre **27**, Aweil East **99**, and Aweil West **75** children. The other counties were less involved in the process making it difficult to get the list from counties. Child Protection actors as well as CP AoR continue to engage with the local authorities to provide the list of children, in order to verify and understand the circumstances both for the parents' knowledge and consent when their children were taken to Juba for studies. The CP AoR engaged with the ministry for follow up.

Cattle Raiding in Aweil Centre County, in the Mathiang residential area for UNSMS locally recruited personnel. The GoSS security forces responded, arresting two suspects, and recovering four cattle. During the incident, officials fired four rounds of gunshots, but no injuries were reported.

Unity State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Abiemnhom	3	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Guit	1	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Koch	3	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Leer	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)
Mayendit	1	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Mayom	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Panyijiar	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Pariang	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Rubkona	1	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

The overall security situation remained tense in Unity State. Continued **cycles of violence, lawlessness** deeply rooted in harmful traditional practices and beliefs, proliferation of arms and economic depression exacerbates incidents of GBV, revenge killings, armed robberies, impacting both civilians and humanitarian operations.

GBV remained a significant concern across all counties of Unity state, with high rates of physical abuse, forced marriages, emotional abuse, denial of resources and opportunities including ownership. These issues were further exacerbated by the ongoing conflict, displacement and limited access to protection services. In Guit county, the IRNA team reported ongoing **GBV incidents** where women and girls faced sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault and physical violence when collecting cooking fuel (firewood) in the bush. Some of the survivors stated they walked from Guit to Bentiu MSF to seek GBV services while fear of stigma to report due to cultural norms.

Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings resulted from the cycle of intercommunal revenge killings and cattle raiding reported in Mayom, Koch, Leer, Panyinjar and Rubkona counties often affecting humanitarian actors’ activities that go on hold. Samaritan Purse vehicles were attacked and robbed between Mayom town and Pibor Boma without casualties to personnel in Mayom county, while National NGO contractors were attacked at their base in Rotriak, Rubkona County and robbed.

A clash between two rival groups in Koch County led to the alleged **killing of two**. Civilians exchanged gunfire with security personnel, Payinjar County resulting in fatalities and damage to civilian properties. Humanitarian activities were suspended temporarily due to tensions. **Revenge killings and attacks on civilians** continued due to **cattle raiding**, contributing to rising insecurity in Mayom county. Rival group clashes contributed to robberies as part of the violent acts, although the direct theft was not as explicitly detailed.

Armed groups targeted civilians on roads Mayom county, with abductions remaining a serious threat during the frequent cattle raiding activities. Shops in Rotriak, Rubkona county were also looted, theft, extortion, and destruction of personal property continued while military checkpoints were set up in response to the rising incidents.

Loss of housing, properties, forced evictions and denied access to land, taking place for over 6 months resulting from land survey activities waged by the local government

Upper Nile State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Baliet	2	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Fashoda	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Longochuk	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)
Luakpiny/Nasir	1	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)
Maban	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Maiwut	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Malakal	1	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)
Manyo	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Melut	3	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Panyikang	2	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)
Renk	1	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Ulang	2	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Restorers Hope Organization, a protection actor in Luakpiny, Nuerenge-Ke payam, Nasir reports on the extremely poor living standards and the lack of a conducive environment for recovery including mental/psychological recovery. The majority of the 600 IDPs and Returnees are women and children who are exposed to various protection risks with GBV, family separations, theft and exposure to attacks at heightened occurrence. Luakpiny/Nasir County is one of the counties in Upper Nile State with the highest occurrence of attacks on civilians and their properties. **Clashes between the SSPDF** and the

local armed youth in Nasir result in ongoing **displacement** hindering any hopes for peace and stability that could lead to development. Despite efforts by the national and the Upper Nile State authorities to de-escalate tensions, the clashes continue.

The Humanitarian and Development Consortium reports from the rural location of Adhidoi Manyo County which hosts IDP women and children. Health support is adequate, but no other basic services are accessible.

Since the outbreak of the war in Sudan in April 2023, South Sudan has been witnessing a continuous influx of returnees and refugees, with over 850,000 individuals arriving in the country. In December the security developments in Sudan forced people to seek refuge in Upper Nile, averaging approximately to 1,400 individuals daily. The already limited resources and stretched humanitarian services struggle to meet the population's growing needs. Healthcare services together with WASH and nutrition remained critically overstretched, while protection response indicated significant gaps in child protection and GBV services.

On Oct. 28, the Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak. By mid-December, Malakal County accounted for 51% of all cases, followed by Renk for 19% due to the influx from Sudan. Measures were put in place to contain the spreading and respond to cases, however, onward movement of the population combined with the end of the rainy season, stagnant waters and poor hygiene standards resulted in cases spread in 30 counties, across 7 states and 1 Abyei. By the end of the year, Rubkona accounted for 51%, followed by Juba 11%, Aweil West 8%, and Malakal 7%.

Warrap State

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Gogrial East	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)
Gogrial West	3	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)
Tonj East	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Tonj North	2	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 3 (Medium)
Tonj South	3	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 2 (Low)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 4 (High)
Twic	1	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 5 (Very High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings occurred in greater Tonj where communities continue fighting resulting in massive loss of lives and properties. Between September and December 2024, intensified inter-communal conflict linked to cattle raiding, revenge killing, land, and border disputes, and armed retaliation attacks between the Dinka sub-sections of Luacjang, Akok, Thiik communities of Tonj east affected border communities of Tonj south and north. The ongoing violence caused displacement as RRC reported 96 households of 694 individuals (267 M 427 F) displaced from Tonj east to Thiet and Tonj town in Tonj South County with very limited access to basic services due to insecurity and bad road conditions. Humanitarian actors were unable to reach Tonj East due to insecurity and bad road conditions. This cycle of revenge killings is allegedly incited by political forces.

Child and forced recruitment, and association with armed groups remained a common trend in Greater Tonj Counties due to the ongoing inter-communal conflict linked to the cattle raiding. Child-related protection incidents also include child abduction, killing, injuries, school dropout, and child labor.

In Twic County, two SSPDF soldiers were shot by an unknown gunman in Rumkooor village near Majak-Kol Barracks in November. The aim was to acquire guns from the soldiers.

Armed youth from Tonj South traveled to Cueibet County of Lakes State and raided 36 cattle bringing them back to Tonj. The County Government for Tonj South County was immediately informed by his counterpart from Cueibet County. In response, the perpetrators were apprehended and the cattle returned to their owners.

A permanent justice system is absent in the Tonj East, North, and South, with occasional mobile courts operating in Tonj North and South. The rule of law and its enforcement remains a challenging and appealing problem to civilians who remain the targets for unlawful attacks by military groups and criminal gangs.

Devastating floods caused the loss of property, homes, and livestock and massive displacement of people.

Western Bahr el Ghazal

COUNTY/ AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Jur River	3	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 2 (Low)
Raja	3	Phase 1 (Very Low)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 4 (High)	Phase 2 (Low)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Female children constitute the majority of GBV - including sexual violence - cases. Cultural norms and harmful traditional practices against women and girls include early marriages, rape, and the domestic violence incidents are often fatal. During the reporting period at least 8 cases of SGBV came to light calling for further engagement of the government for law enforcement, humanitarian and development actors' support for behavioral change programs.

Western Equatoria State

COUNTY / AREA	HNRP PRIORITY	ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	CHILD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEPARATION	DISCRIMINATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES/SERVICES	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION
Tambura	3	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 3 (Medium)	Phase 5 (Very High)	Phase 5 (Very High)

September - December 2024, major protection incidents extracted from field weekly updates

Tambura, Western Equatorial State, had been a hot spot for **attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings** resulting from the intercommunal violence between the two dominant tribes in the county. The security situation in the area remains volatile with the resumption of attacks on civilians, abductions and other unlawful killings on a regular basis. Conflict-related sexual violence has been reported in Tambura during the last quarter while heavy floods have led to increased displacement, further exposing people to high risk of gender-based violence.

As per initial interagency assessment and feedback from the host communities, part of the IDPs from Tambura town have settled within the 6 existing IDP camps in Tambura County (Gamanakpa, St Marys, Hayat, Complex, Barracks and the TOB (Temporary Operation Bass controlled by the UNMISS) and 5 additional unofficial sites, while UNMISS continues to conduct regular patrolling of the surrounding areas across all IDP locations.

Save Lives Initiative Child Protection experts highlight the risk of family and child separation as well as early marriage due to the ongoing inter-communal fights in Tambura.

In December 2024, 19 more violent incidents occurred in Tambura. Over five civilians killed and one SSPDF soldier, while around 20,000 people sought refuge in **Ezo County**, in three sites, with some hosted by local communities. A group of IDPs traveling to Ezo was attacked near Rii-Aboro, leading to five deaths and injuries to eight others, including children. Displacement has stretched Ezo County's resources, impacting healthcare, education, and access to clean water. Vulnerable groups face severe risks, including sexual violence and family separation. Reports indicate five rapes of children in IDP sites, with no tracking for UASC and orphans, leaving them without necessary support.



PROMO Working Group Protection Cluster South Sudan

Key Findings and Messages/Recommendations:

- Pursuant to the humanitarian principles of first-line emergency response and lifesaving assistance, **attention** should be also given to the non-prioritized areas as per HNRP 2025. This include areas with minimum or non-existent humanitarian support structures that due to erupting crises, civilian populations are being displaced, in particular the most vulnerable groups of women, children and the elderly. This is in line with HNRP 2025 provisions of *rapid response mechanisms (RRMs) to address the impact of new shocks in deprioritized areas. The RRMs will be strengthened to deliver life-saving assistance to people affected by sudden-onset shocks through timely, coordinated and multisector first-line emergency response within 14 days from the date of alert.*
- The top 5 Protection Risks severities identified by PROMO (1. Gender-Based Violence, 2. Child, Early or Forced Marriage and Family Separation, 3. Discrimination and Stigmatization, Denial of Resources, Opportunities, Services and/or Humanitarian Access, 4. Attacks on Civilians and Other Unlawful Killings, and Attacks on Civilian Objects, 5. Theft, Extortion, Forced Eviction or Destruction of Personal Property) are reoccurring and interlinked at multiple levels. They require a **coordinated response** that integrates **humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding** efforts. These issues are deeply interconnected and addressing them entails a multifaceted approach that goes beyond short-term relief. Central to this approach, is the **commitment of the South Sudanese government** to enforce the rule of law, protect its citizens, and work toward inclusive, sustainable development. A holistic approach, supported by both local and international actors, and the government's commitment, will be the key to addressing these risks and beyond, achieving lasting peace, justice, and stability for the people of South Sudan.

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 the Protection Risk Monitoring System, including KIIs, Observation tools, and FGDs across fifteen thematic areas thereby monitoring the occurrence of protection violations, their scale and impact on communities over time. **Thank you to all the PROMO member organizations for their contributions!**

