

Key Figures



0.07M

Beneficiaries reached at 31 Mar



0.95M

People in Need



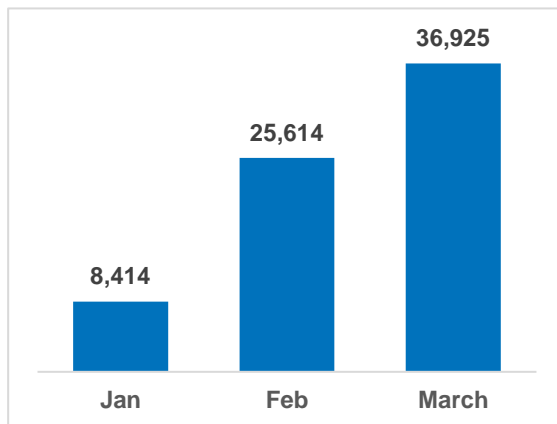
0.31M

Target population



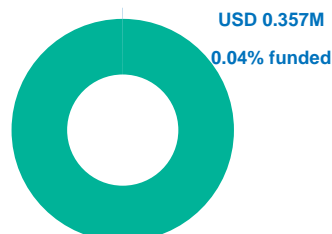
42 Partners

Monthly Beneficiaries trend



Funding Status

2025 Requirement: **USD 10M**



USD 9.6M
99.96% funding gap

Response Overview

In March 2025, the Protection Cluster and its AoRs reached **36,925 individuals** in the North-West and South-West regions with protection services ranging from **MHPSS**, and **targeted protection assistance**, to **holistic support to GBV survivors**, and **sensitization of communities on HLP related issues**.

- **19,704 children and caregivers** accessed mental health or psychosocial support
- **12,430 individuals** were reached during GBV sensitization activities at the community level
- **2,784 displaced or crisis-affected persons** were sensitized on peace building, social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between IDPs, returnees and host communities
- **322 GBV survivors** received mental health or psychosocial support
- **215 individuals** were sensitized on HLP rights and responsibilities

Key Highlights

In March, protection actors continued to feel the impact of the global suspension of US funding for humanitarian activities.

Protection activities in the NWSW regions in March centered around sensitization and awareness-raising, as the funding freeze has led to a reduction or suspension of protection services such as case management, individual protection assistance, multi-purpose cash, legal assistance, and the provision of holistic GBV and CP services to vulnerable populations.

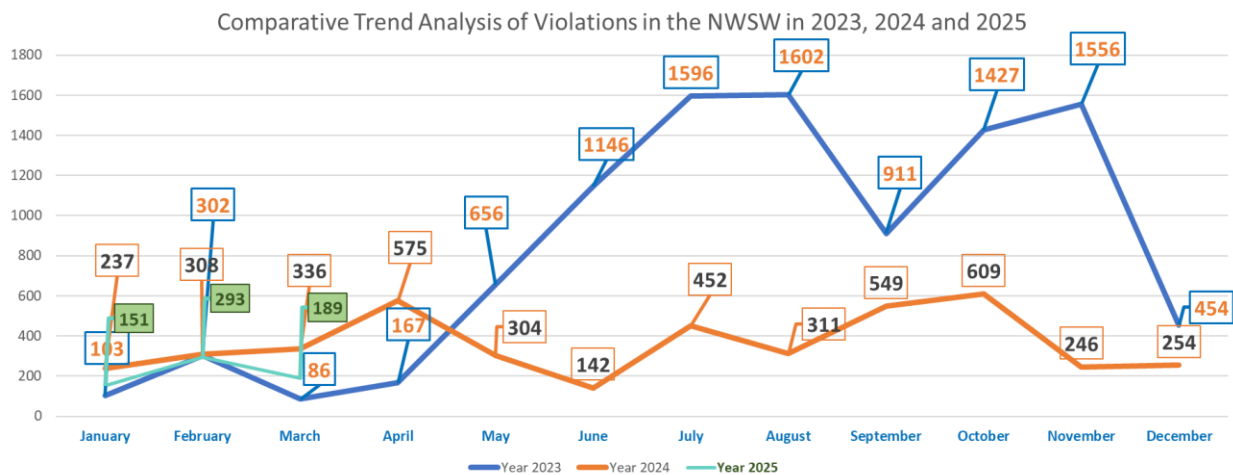
These sensitization sessions serve as important tools for protection risk mitigation – including CP and GBV, strengthening of community-based protection structures, as well as promoting and enhancing peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. They are regularly conducted by local organizations who apply their in-depth knowledge of the NWSW regions to deliver these key messages, sometimes at personal risk to themselves and their organizations.

There is need however, to also respond to protection incidents and human rights violations which occur in both regions, and the Protection Cluster NWSW is appealing to donors to fill the current funding gap that has been left by the US.

Critical protection activities such as protection monitoring, GBV safety audits and risk assessments, which inform effective interventions, advocacy and decision-making, have either been suspended or reduced, significantly hindering the Protection Cluster NWSW's ability to monitor and respond to human rights violations in the NWSW regions.

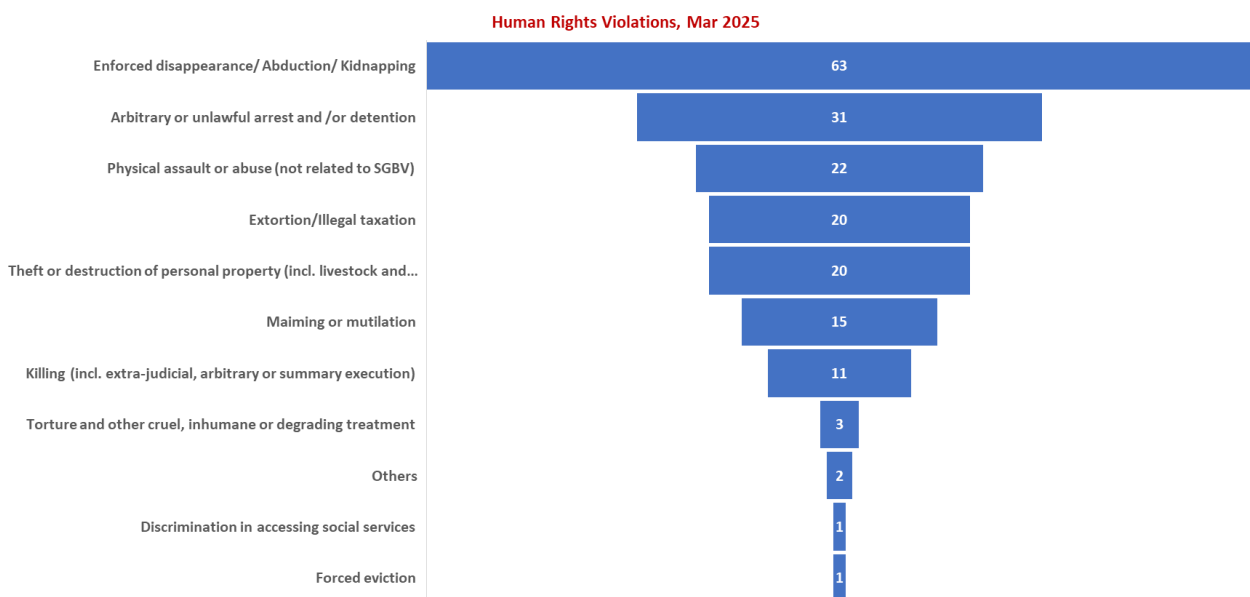
This development greatly undermines the work of the Protection Cluster and its AoRs, placing vulnerable populations including women and children, at increased risk.

Protection Monitoring



In March, the protection environment in the NWSW regions remained unfavorable for the enjoyment of human rights. **189 human rights violations** affecting **140 individuals** were recorded in March (some individuals suffered multiple human rights violations), as opposed to 293 violations recorded in February.

Civilian resistance to NSAGs continues to be reported. In Mezam, NWR, three NSAG fighters were apprehended by an angry mob and killed. More of such incidents are expected to be reported in coming months as civilians continue to resist continued extortion by NSAGs under the guise of “liberation tax”.



Incidents of **abductions for ransom (63 victims)** continued to rise and, **Arbitrary arrests and detentions (31 victims)** and **Physical assault or abuse (not related to SGBV) (22 victims)** made up the top three violations reported in March. The highest number of violations were reported in **Mezam** in the NW region (132 victims).

The reduction in human rights violations in March should not be considered the result of an improved protection environment but is rather due to the underreporting of human rights violations - a major impact of the current funding crisis, as key protection actors have been forced to either suspend or reduce protection monitoring activities.

Key Challenge

The on-going global cut in humanitarian funding has negatively impacted protection programming in the NWSW regions, limiting protection actors' ability to identify, monitor, prevent and mitigate protection risks and incidents in the NWSW regions.

This update is published by the Protection Cluster NWSW and its AoRs. Kindly direct enquiries to: cmrbmpc@unhcr.org