

Development Actors and Protection Cluster Cooperation Framework

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Protection Cluster and development actors focus on ensuring a nexus approach linking humanitarian protection responses with long-term development efforts. This collaboration is essential to address the root causes of protection risks, strengthen national systems, and promote durable solutions for affected populations. Moreover, the HCT Protection Strategy for South Sudan¹, Protection Cluster Strategy for South Sudan², HNRP³ as well as clusters' cross-cutting strategic directions articulate the importance and triangulation of the Nexus approach, fostering the solutions and resilience of communities.

1. Strategic Alignment and Coordination

- Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus): Ensures that protection concerns are addressed in long-term development planning.
- Protection Cluster (PC) & UN Development Agencies (UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, FAO, etc.) collaborate to integrate protection into development programs and ensure detailed protection analytical frameworks (PAF-PRMS) are mainstreamed through the Centrality of Protection⁴ in humanitarian and development programs, and incorporated into development project proposals, where appropriate.

2. Key Areas of Engagement

PC will facilitate its efforts in supporting development actors in:

A. Prevention & Resilience Building

- Strengthening National Protection Systems: building legal and institutional frameworks conducive for protection.
- Social Protection Programs: Ensuring IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups have access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods.
- Addressing Root Causes: Tackling issues like poverty, inequality, and discrimination, which contribute to protection risks.

B. Durable Solutions & Peacebuilding

- Sustainable Return, Local Integration, or Resettlement: PC will support development actors in designing safe and dignified solutions for displaced populations (including but not limited to HLP, education, social infrastructure, social services systems, etc.).
- Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding: Addressing tensions between host and displaced communities through social cohesion programs and peaceful co-existence.
- Achieving Durable Solutions: PC will support humanitarian, peacebuilding and development actors through consulting on protection risks and strategies within the progress and efforts to achieve objectives of South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities⁵.
- PC with HLP AoR will provide an expert support for housing, land and property rights identification, documentation and foster the legal framework to support civilian rights as part of lasting solutions approach.

¹ South Sudan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Protection Strategy – 2023-2024 / [LINK](#)

² South Sudan Protection Cluster Strategy 2025-2026 / [LINK](#)

³ South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 / [LINK](#)

⁴ IASC / UNCHR-GPC Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action 2023 / [LINK](#)

⁵ South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities [LINK](#)

- With support of the Cluster-Lead Agency (CLA – UNHCR), HCT and HC contribute to the dialogue with state authorities on achieving sustainable and long-lasting solutions, contribute and strengthen civil society resilience and self-reliance.

3. Data Sharing and Advocacy

- Protection Monitoring & Data Collection: Using systems like the Protection Monitoring System (PMS)⁶ to inform the long-term policies.
- Integrate in-depth Protection Analysis through Protection Risk Monitoring System (PRMS)⁷ into assessments and measuring of the impact of development projects on displaced populations, returnees and hosting communities.
- Advocacy for Inclusive Development: Ensuring displaced populations and conflict-affected communities are included in the national development plans⁸, AAP framework⁹ and safeguard their meaningful participation in design and decision-making processes.

⁶ Protection Cluster – UNHCR Protection Monitoring Dashboard / [LINK](#)

⁷ South Sudan Protection Cluster – Protection Risk Monitoring System / [LINK](#)

⁸ South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration, and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024-2028 / [LINK](#)

⁹ Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Strategy for South Sudan / [LINK](#)