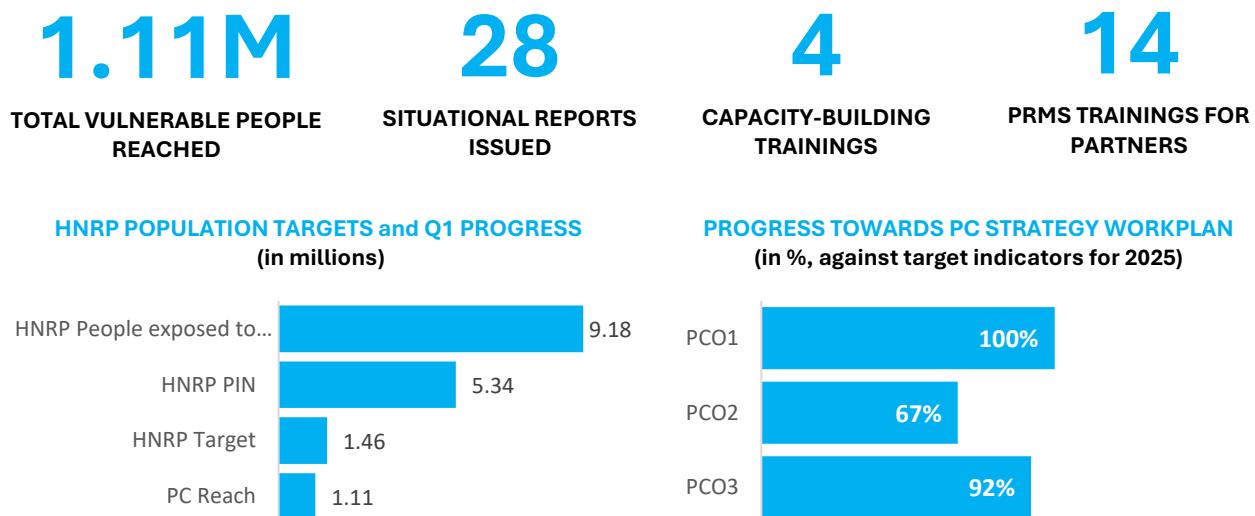


CONTEXT IN BRIEF: In 2025 South Sudan has continued to experience shocks including insecurity, sub-national conflict, flooding, economic decay, social infrastructure deterioration, cholera outbreaks, and high influxes of refugees and returnees fleeing conflict in Sudan. Additionally, humanitarian service availability has been significantly diminished due to funding cuts.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025:



Planning and implementing cluster strategies

The Protection Cluster developed and contributed to a number of endorsed strategic frameworks in 2025 to strengthen linkages across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including: the Protection Cluster Strategy 2025-2026; Cooperation Framework with CCCM Cluster 2025; Cooperation Framework with Development Actors 2025; and Cooperation Framework with UNMISS-PTR 2025. All the core documents (Strategies and Frameworks) are based on the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Protection Response Framework and trackable through measurable indicators.

South Sudan Protection Cluster has taken a proactive role and took up the leadership in Humanitarian Reset process at the operations level through engagement with AoRs, ICCG, HCT on the review process and prepared the proposal addressed to the CLAs to be considered and discussed with HCT members on the new simplified and more efficient coordination architecture of Protection Cluster.

In collaboration with the GPC and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs), the Protection Cluster contributed to and applied a transitional “hyper-prioritization” methodology for assessing needs and targets for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). This methodology examines: severity of protection risks; specific workstream requirements, particularly those concerning the urgent needs of women, children, and individuals with disabilities; geographical presence and capacity of members to absorb these needs; and geographical severity of protection requirements. Implemented during the development of the South Sudan HNRP 2026, this methodology ascertained that of 10.6M people in South Sudan are exposed to the main protection risks, and 4.87M were classified as people in need of urgent protection support. Ultimately, 1.45M people in 49 prioritized counties were prioritized for protection services, with 71M USD needed to provide life-saving assistance those most at-risk in 2026.

The Protection Cluster has significantly contributed to the development of country-wide analytical frameworks and data management through an updated Protection Risk Monitoring System (PRMS) dashboard for 2025, based on the GPC Protection Analytical Framework (PAF). This included a new

structure and options to filter trends of specific and composite protection risks over time. The dashboard analyses data of all 15 protection risks, with analytics available at national, state, and county levels.

In partnership with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and UNHCR, the Protection Cluster supported the development of the vulnerability screening tool that feeds into the Protection Analytical Framework.

In cooperation with UNHCR, the Protection Cluster developed and published the DataViz story that presented a visual storytelling briefing on protection risk dynamics in South Sudan.

Performance monitoring and reporting

In accordance with the prioritized Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for 2025, 133 protection partners in South Sudan delivered essential protection services to around 1.11 million returnees, internally displaced individuals, and members of host communities. The total number of individuals assisted in 2025 reflects a 76% achievement rate of the HNRP goal of providing protection services to 1.46 million people. This achievement is particularly commendable given significant shortfalls in humanitarian financing in 2025. Financial Tracking System (FTS) data indicates that donor contributions to protection partners amounted to approximately 49.1 million USD, constituting just 59% of the total financial target required per the HNRP 2025. Discrepancy between financial assessment and achievement can be mainly attributed to activities performed in de-prioritized counties (0.38 M people reached) and FTS tracking of sectorial contributions, some of which directed towards refugee population and not targeted by the Protection Cluster.

Coordination of protection service delivery

The Protection Cluster enhanced the comprehensiveness of its 5W system by designing and implementing a service mapping system, launching a dashboard that illustrates relationships between sub-national protection risk trends and protection services for the purposes of impact assessment and coordination, and assisting in the reinstatement of sub-national coordination mechanisms after the closure of some UNHCR offices.

Informing HC/HCT strategic decision making

In 2025, the Protection Cluster formulated the HCT Protection Strategy with Centrality of Protection embedded and to be further revised to reflect contextual changes in South Sudan in the first quarter of 2026. Utilizing insights from the PRMS and the subsequent Protection Analysis Update (PAU), the Protection Cluster has consistently updated the HC/HCT regarding existing and emergent protection risks, their underlying causes, impacts on the population, and coping strategies deployed by community members to keep themselves safe. Furthermore, it has strengthened collaboration, coordination, and cooperation to enshrine the Centrality of Protection across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by advancing strategic thinking beyond humanitarian responses to support durable solutions, peace-building initiatives, and government engagement. Building upon these initiatives is a priority in 2026 to strengthen the protective environment through evidence-based analysis, advocacy, action, and collaboration.

Fundraising and advocacy

From January to June 2025, the Protection Cluster provided technical oversight to pooled fund allocations for Protection, including the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSH), totalling \$769,990 USD in reserve allocations and \$3,600,000 USD in standard allocations. Advocacy for critical funding to protection services enabled a \$1,600,000 allocation to protection through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

The Protection Cluster published 2 Protection Analysis Updates (PAUs), 2 Spotlight advocacy papers, 24 bi-weekly protection updates, and several guidance notes and strategic papers (see Annex).

The Protection Cluster contributed to the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) framework and fostered the reinstatement of the AAP Working Group (WG). It is an active member of the PSEA Taskforce, Access WG, Information Management WG, Needs Assessment WG, Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, and supports HCT coordination efforts.

National capacity building in preparedness and contingency planning

During 2025, the Protection Cluster conducted 14 training sessions on the usage of the PRMS system for over 300 members to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of submissions.

Protection Cluster relevant publications in 2025

- [South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026](#)
- [South Sudan Protection Cluster Strategy 2025-2026](#)
- [South Sudan Protection Analysis Update for December 2025](#)
- [South Sudan Floods & Protection Risks Analysis – Key Findings](#)
- [Protecting the Most Vulnerable in South Sudan - An Interactive Data Story](#)
- [South Sudan Development Actors and Protection Cluster Cooperation Framework](#)
- [South Sudan Mental Health and Psychosocial Support – Minimum Service Package \(MHPSS MSP\)](#)
- [South Sudan PRMS Transformation Update May 2025](#)
- [South Sudan Protection Analysis Update April 2025](#)
- [South Sudan PROMO Spotlight January March 2025](#)
- [South Sudan Guidance Note on Focus Group Discussion](#)
- [South Sudan PRMS Transformation Update September 2025](#)
- [South Sudan PROMO Spotlight December 2025](#)

KEY GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Rapid and compounding degradation of the protective environment exacerbates protection risks, exacerbates social tensions and competition for resources, and erodes perceptions of safety and well-being among civilians.
- Constrained access to locations impacted by climate- and conflict-related shocks
- Fragmentation of the protection service landscape, partner operational presence experiencing 29% reduction compared to 2024
- Diminished coordination capacity, with staff reduction of 31%

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You can visit the [PC SSD Contact Collection tool](#) to register as a cluster member focal point or register e-mail on the distribution list. Please visit [South Sudan | Global Protection Cluster](#) for updates, reports, and assessments. We would like you to please visit [Protection Cluster SSD Dashboard](#) for the latest data on the delivery of protection services in SSD. Please visit [SSD PRMS Dashboard](#) for the latest data and trends on the protection environment in SSD. Protection agencies interested in contributing to the Protection Risk Monitoring System (PRMS) please find guidance and training manual [HERE](#). For 5W information sharing purposes, please read guidance note [HERE](#).