

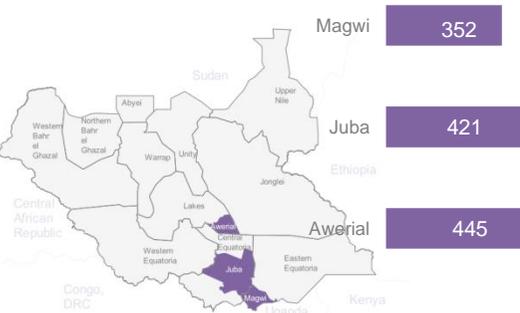
South Sudan - Child Protection Sub-cluster Snapshot of Child Protection Needs and Risks – February 2014



This snapshot has been developed based on secondary data review completed by the Child Protection Sub-cluster in South Sudan up to the end of February, 2014. While some data are available for domains such as CAAFAG (3 NGOs), dangers and injuries (2 NGOs), and child labour (1 NGO), this first snapshot focuses on CPIE domains that are central to the on-going response such as unaccompanied and separated children (13 NGOs), psychosocial distress and mental disorders (17 NGOs) as well as sexual (8 NGOs) and physical violence (1 NGO).

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Thousands of children are likely to have been separated from their families as a result of the latest violence in South Sudan. The main identified causes of separation are death of parents, evacuation of children, disorganized movement of population, etc. To date, 851 UASC (389 girls and 462 boys) and 367 missing children (153 girls and 214 boys) were identified and are undergoing family tracing and reunification. The following map shows the number of UASC identified locations inside the country while others have fled reached neighboring countries.



As of early January 2014, a total of 2,858 unaccompanied children and 9,534 separated children from South Sudan had been registered in Kakuma camp in Kenya with an increase of 444 UASC since the recent influx. There are concerns about growing reports of children being moved across national borders with risk being trafficked or recruited into armed forces.

Psychosocial Distress and Mental Disorders

While information on the situation of children living in zones under attack is hardly available, several signs of psychological distress have been reported of children living in IDPs camps: **difficulty engaging in daily life, getting into fights over very minor issues, anxious, clinging on their mothers, have nightmares, are reacting on unexpected and loud sounds, etc.**

Although Child Friendly Spaces have now been established in some areas of displacement, in mid-January 2014, several reports about the PoC in UNMISS bases have shown that **neither formal nor informal education and psychosocial activities were taking place** mostly due to lack of space.

Parents from villages only bring small babies into town or market and leave children back in the villages, more for convenience than for security concerns but **children are afraid to be left alone**. In this regard, it is difficult for mothers to search for food and water.

Children continue to **rely on communities for care and psychosocial activities**.

Sexual Violence

Sexual and gender-based violence have been reported in **locations with active hostilities, during displacement, in host communities and in IDP sites (both in government and opposition areas)**.

- A lot of violated children and women, beaten up, shot at and raped during the fighting and while escaping.
- Women and girls felt very insecure when they had to flee their homes and sleep in the bush under trees where they were easy target for sexual violence. Key informants confirmed that women and girls were raped and some died.

Moreover, increased economic pressure also leads to protection risks, including **sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence**.

Physical Violence

In various states, the crisis has been marked by wide-spread violence and abuses against civilians, including women and children, committed by all parties to the conflict. Thousands of people – both civilians and combatants – are feared to have been killed, either in cross-fire or targeted violence. There are **reports of killings and harassment in several locations**, including credible reports of civilians being targeted and attacked based on ethnic identity. In Bor, More than 40 corpses of children have been collected so far.

Furthermore, families who have been unable to shelter in UN bases and who are isolated from other displaced communities have distinct physical protection needs.

There is also an increased tension among displaced communities with increased outbreaks of violence. Sporadic **Issues of violence against IDP children in host communities have been reported**. It is engaging with all actors to find constructive solutions to de-escalate tensions.