

South Sudan Child Protection Sub-Cluster: Secondary Data Review: 25 May 2017

This document collates and primarily analyzes available information on key child protection issues from a compilation of reports. It covers the period between July 2016 and May 2017 and includes in-emergency information about the following child protection vulnerabilities in South Sudan since renewed conflict in July 2016: Abduction, Child Labor, Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups, Danger and Injuries, Justice for Children, Physical Violence and other Harmful Practices, Psychosocial Distress and Mental Disorder, Sexual Violence and exploitation, Unaccompanied and Separated Children. It also captures other areas including Overall Protection, Overall Child Protection, other areas including security, and Other Child Protection issues. The document also provides a section on information gaps, an overview of the legal framework and a list of documents used to create this report.

Overall Protection

National

- The UN verified 182 incidents (of grave violations of children's rights) affecting 2,005 children. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*

Regional with neighbouring countries.

- Hundreds of thousands of people have fled South Sudan to neighbouring countries, with more than 320,000 people leaving since 8 July, the majority of whom are women and children. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*

Central Equatoria

- Fighting in Juba, South Sudan's capital, from 7 to 11 July left hundreds of people dead or injured and tens of thousands displaced. Estimates by humanitarian partners indicate that more than 36,000 people were displaced at the height of the fighting and sought shelter in various locations throughout Juba, including the UNMISS base in Tongping, UN House in Jebel, WFP compound, ADRA compound, and churches and schools across the city. Most of the displaced were women and children. *OCHA: Humanitarian Bulletin, South Sudan | Issue 10 | 22 July 2016*
- Four days into the tenuous ceasefire in Juba, many people have returned to their homes. Humanitarians estimate that, as of 15 July, around 8,000 people remain displaced, including around 4,300 in the UNMISS sites and some 3,700 outside. *OCHA South Sudan - Flash Update No.5: Situation in Juba (15 July 2016)*
- However, many people remain displaced at various locations in the city. As of 12 July, estimates indicated that at least 42,000 people were displaced at the height of the fighting in Juba. The displaced people were reported to be sheltering at various locations throughout the city, including the UNMISS base in Tongping, UN House in Jebel, WFP compound in Jebel, ADRA compound, St. Joseph's Parish Church, All Saints Anglican Cathedral (Juba), St. Theresa's Catholic Cathedral (Kator) and Gumbo Sherikat area. About 4,000 IDPs were reported at UNMISS sites, while the rest (some 38,000) were reported in the other locations. Most of the affected people are women and children. *OCHA South Sudan - Flash Update No.2: Situation in Juba (12 July 2016)*
- OCHA reports that 15,061 people remain displaced by the insecurity in Juba. Of these, 10,838 people are sheltering in the UN Tong Ping and UN House bases. An estimated 4,223 IDPs are staying in three collective centres. *CCCM:South Sudan CCCM Update #10, 23 July 2016*
- Tension remains high in Juba, despite the continued ceasefire. It is estimated that 15,061 people remain displaced as a result of the violence which erupted on 7 July. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #7 – 20 July 2016*

- While many of those internally displaced by the fighting have returned to their homes, after few days of decrease in IDPs, on 18 July there has been an increase in the number of arrivals at UN Tomping and Don Bosco displacement sites, with approximately 14,945 remain displaced. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #6 – 18 July 2016*
- Up to 12,500 people remain displaced in Juba as a result of the recent violence; over 70,000 have fled to Uganda since the start of July. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #91: 28 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2016*
- Yei is also host to a high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) – approximately 57,000 – and thousands others displaced in various locations across the three states. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #101: 1 - 16 JANUARY 2017*
- In Central Equatoria, the number of displaced people more than doubled from July (71,000) to October (143,000), following insecurity and sporadic fighting in multiple locations. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*
- Throughout the Equatoria region, a number of hospitals and health clinics have shut down, were looted or attacked or health personnel have fled or no longer fully function due to lack of public funds. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- FGDs reported that primarily women and children are leaving the POC. *UNHCR, Assessment on departures from POC Sites in Juba, December 2016*
- Reports of abductions, sexual violence, forced recruitment and mistreatment by armed groups. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Yei, Central Equatoria, September 2016*
- Women, children and men reported fear of revenge attacks at night and prevalence of gunshots at night. Panga attacks were reported. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Yei, Central Equatoria, September 2016*
- Protection concerns continue to be reported. Parents have said they are afraid of sending their children to schools / organized activities as they fear they could be targeted or separated in case of renewed fighting. *OCHA South Sudan - Flash Update No.5: Situation in Juba (15 July 2016)*

Eastern Equatoria

- Internal displacement in Eastern Equatoria has risen more than threefold - from about 46,000 in August to about 158,000 in October – following insecurity and clashes in Budi, Ikotos, Kapoeta South, Lafon, Magwi and Torit counties. In June 2016, there were only around 7,800 people internally displaced in Eastern Equatoria. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*
- The Otese Boma Chief stated that the community is currently hosting 140 IDPs, only 8 of whom are men. This was consistent with a general belief among respondents in all locations that women and children were/are the most adversely affected by recent violence and represent a significant majority of IDPs. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

Unity

- Growing insecurity in Unity has caused thousands of civilians to flee their homes in search of safety in recent weeks, with clashes reported in Leer County – including in Adok, Pilleny and Thonyor – and Rubkona County – including in Nhialdiu. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*
- In Leer County, about 700 displaced people remain at the UNMISS base in Leer town, while thousands of others have fled further into the swamps following attacks in recent weeks. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*

Upper Nile

- Intense fighting along the west bank of the Nile in Upper Nile has been persistent through the first two weeks of February, resulting in the displacement of the entire population of Wau Shilluk, some 30,000 people. Currently, 16,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in Renk, en route to crossing the border into Sudan. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #103: 1 - 15 FEBRUARY 2017*
- An estimated 15,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) arrived in Aburoc after fleeing fighting in Wau Shilluk in late January and early February. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 5, 28 March 2017*
- There was a significant movement of women and children moving out of the POC (in Malakal town) across the river to Wau Shilluk, mainly for reasons of family reunification with family members in Wau Shilluk and in Khartoum and some seeking asylum in Sudan. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- IDPs from the POC site faced arrest, abductions, sexual violence, and some killed. As a result of these threats, children are unable to reunite with their caregivers due to the risks associated with the journey.
- *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2017*

Western Equatoria

- Following military activity in villages surrounding Yambio, Western Equatoria in early January, there was a mass displacement of over 4,000 people, who took shelter in a primary school in Yambio town
- *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #101: 1 - 16 JANUARY 2017*
- In Western Equatoria, the number of displaced people doubled from about 66,000 in August to more than 124,000 in October. Most recently, fighting in Li-rangu, Yambio County, on 10 and 19 November has triggered displacement of hundreds of people
- *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016*

Greater Equatoria

- According to OCHA, more than 250,00 people have been displaced within Greater Equatoria since July 2016. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #101: 1 - 16 JANUARY 2017*
- Meanwhile, violence and looting continues to spread across Greater Equatoria, with approximately 52,000 people having fled to neighbouring Uganda in January alone. Tens of thousands of displaced persons are also seeking shelter in the towns, with many more hiding in bushes and swamps in remote areas. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #103: 1 - 15 FEBRUARY 2017*

Overall Child Protection

National

- During the first two weeks of September, grave violations affecting more than 300 children were recorded through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. The majority of recorded incidents documented have been of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, however incidents of maiming of children, attacks on and military use of schools, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children have also been documented. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #94: 9 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2016*
- About 1.9 million people in South Sudan are displaced; half of them are children. *World Vision, South Sudan: Conflict, hunger, and the threats to children, February 2017*
- During the fourth quarter of 2016, 208 incidents (of grave violations of children's rights) affecting 3,049 children were reported through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*

- During the first quarter of 2016, 240 incidents of grave violations of children's rights were reported through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), affecting approximately 5,004 children. The UN verified 185 incidents of these incidents. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*

Central Equatoria

- There is not enough care for unaccompanied children, widows and elderly people, and there is need for children and youth centres to support those traumatised as well people are not getting emotional support from other people in the community. Unaccompanied and separated children have been reported however not system in place to assist them. The IDPs reported that they are unable to return home because the security situation does not allow it. Children are not in school, no education and recreational activities. *Impact Health Organization (IHO): Rapid Assessment, Rajaf and Northern Bari Payam, Juba County Jubek State [14-15 July 2016]*
- There are concerns of boys involved in robberies and fights. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2016*

Eastern Equatoria

- Out of 12 educational facilities in Lafon county, only three were functional at the time of the IRNA, and the primary school in Lafon town was looted heavily in the mid-August incident. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*
- Protection partners cited reports of mistreatment by armed groups, forced displacement, abduction, forced recruitment and sexual violence. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*
- There were also reports of increased child labour and early marriage, including due to lack of secondary education, and separated and orphaned children were a critical protection concern. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*
- Increased child labour and early marriage, including due to lack of secondary schools. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*
- Negative coping mechanisms were reported across all surveyed communities with a disproportionate impact on the protection of women and children. Child marriage and child labour are reported to have increased, as a means of supplementing household income, and correspond with reports of reduced school attendance as parents are reluctant to separate from their children for fear of more conflict. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Children indicated an awareness of grave risks to their safety and wellbeing that had not been experienced prior to the fighting, including harassment at checkpoints, sexual violence and child labour. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

Greater Upper Nile

- Most of the incidents (of grave violations of children's rights) , 46 per cent, were documented in the Greater Equatoria region. The Greater Upper Nile region accounted for 31 per cent of documented incidents and the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region for 23 per cent. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- The majority of verified incidents (70%) have continued to take place in the Greater Upper Nile — Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*

Unity

- Due to recent violence in Leer, Buaw, and Koch, which resulted in looting of three child protection partner offices and injuries to civilian and NGO staff, Child Protection in Emergencies and GBV

activities have been temporarily suspended in most locations throughout these counties, affecting thousands of women and children. This includes 425 registered separated and unaccompanied children who do not currently have access to family tracing and interim care case management services. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #91: 28 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2016*

- Incidents of attacks on and military use of schools have been recorded throughout South Sudan, particularly in Unity and Central Equatoria. Since the start of the conflict, schools have been used as barracks, living quarters for soldiers and their families, and even as recruitment centres for children. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*

Upper Nile

- The first attack on 2 January (in Nasir County) reportedly happened during the morning hours as people were going about their daily chores. During the fighting, homes were reportedly looted and burned, ten people, including six children, were reportedly killed, more than 20 children were reported as missing or separated, and cases of sexual violence were reported. The majority of people displaced by the fighting were women, children and the elderly, including persons with specific needs. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Jikmir, Upper Nile, January 2017*

Abduction

- IDPs reported to members of an IRNA mission that they experienced attacks by a helicopter gunship and as many as 20 children are missing including four children abducted by cattle herders in the area. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- In December, some 1,021 households (5,524 individuals) were reported to have been displaced, following cattle raids in Jalle Payam, Bor County and to the other payams in Bor County. Some 19 people were killed, three girls were abducted, and 12,500 cattle were taken. Cattle raids and child abduction despite a peace agreement concluded on 4 December between Jonglei and Boma State, as well as other criminal activity continues to persist. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2017*
- As in previous quarters, they include rapes, other forms of sexual violence, abductions and possible sexual slavery, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2017*
- The increase in documented violations in 2015 are mostly attributable to the prolonged fighting in Unity, which targeted and displaced civilians from villages throughout the state into the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Witnesses and survivors of attacks on villages recounted incidents of killing, maiming, raping, and abduction of children. According to multiple testimonies, children were not only victims of the attacks but also perpetrators as child soldiers. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Serious protection concerns were reported by the community, including cases of gender-based violence against women and girls in transit, abduction of boys and men, cattle raids. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2016*
- There are reports of abduction of boys, forced recruitment, child labour and girls engaging in survival sex/ sex work. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2016*

Child Labour

- There are reports of abduction of boys, forced recruitment, child labour and girls engaging in survival sex/ sex work. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2018*
- Teachers reported a substantial (>50 per cent) drop in attendance and the head teacher at the primary school reported that many students were not attending classes due to the hunger season and needing to help their families collect wild foods, fish and hunt. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*

Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups

- Grave child rights violations continue to be a major concern, with 334 incidents already verified this year and, including over 69 children killed, and 413 children recruited by armed actors. In the context of growing insecurity across the country, the prevention of gender based violence remains a priority; over 80,000 people have been reached this year with prevention and response programmes. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #89: 17 JUNE - 14 JULY 2016*
- In addition to the incidences of sexual violence, reports of grave child rights violations are also being received, including children who had been killed and injured when they were caught in crossfire during the fighting in Juba. Reports of forced recruitment of young men – and possibly boys – have also been received, but remain unverified. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #8 – 25 July 2016*
- During the first two weeks of September, grave violations affecting more than 300 children were recorded through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. The majority of recorded incidents documented have been of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, however incidents of maiming of children, attacks on and military use of schools, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children have also been documented. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #94: 9 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2016*
- The U.N. children's agency estimates that 15,000 to 16,000 children have been recruited as child soldiers in the conflict. *World Vision, South Sudan: Conflict, hunger, and the threats to children, February 2017*
- Both government and opposition forces have used child soldiers since the beginning of the conflict. In April, the UN secretary-general's report on children and armed conflict noted a sharp increase in the number of incidents of child recruitment, with more than 2,500 children recruited or used, mostly by government forces. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- Forces aligned with the opposition also continued to recruit and use children. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- The UN also reported that hundreds of children were forcibly recruited in August by government affiliated politicians in Unity state. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- Child soldiers were also reportedly used by opposition fighters in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- Soldiers or armed actors often use schools as homes, preventing children from accessing the premises and attending classes. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- Over 17,000 children are estimated to have been recruited by armed actors in South Sudan
- *OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017: South Sudan, February 2017*
- Fewer incidents of recruitment and use were documented during the fourth quarter than in previous 2016 quarters; however, during the last quarter, the UN documented a new trend in which boys were

recruited and transported from their home areas to various parts of country for redeployment or to take part in military trainings. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*

- Children were also observed by UN monitors acting as bodyguards and carrying other support roles. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- At the end of the year 2016, the UN verified the military use of 55 schools throughout the country. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- Armed youths and criminal gangs inside the POC are another significant threat. The crowded shelter conditions that lack privacy was cited as a key factor in domestic violence. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- Protection partners also continue to be worried about the projected 16,000 children who are believed to be associated with armed forces or armed groups. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Incidents of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups were the second most reported accounting for 29 per cent of all incidents reported. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Sixty-one incidents were documented during the reporting period, slightly higher than the average quarterly incidents documented in 2015, which was 50. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Of the 61 incidents, 46 were documented in the Greater Upper Nile region. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- The increase in documented violations in 2015 are mostly attributable to the prolonged fighting in Unity, which targeted and displaced civilians from villages throughout the state into the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Witnesses and survivors of attacks on villages recounted incidents of killing, maiming, raping, and abduction of children. According to multiple testimonies, children were not only victims of the attacks but also perpetrators as child soldiers. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2017*
- There are reports of abduction of boys, forced recruitment, child labour and girls engaging in survival sex/ sex work. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2017*
- During focus group discussions, children indicated that recruitment into armed groups represented a threat to children within their communities but did not provide an account of this having occurred. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

Danger and Injuries

- Grave child rights violations continue to be a major concern, with 334 incidents already verified this year and, including over 69 children killed, and 413 children recruited by armed actors. In the context of growing insecurity across the country, the prevention of gender based violence remains a priority; over 80,000 people have been reached this year with prevention and response programmes. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #89: 17 JUNE - 14 JULY 2016*
- In addition to the incidences of sexual violence, reports of grave child rights violations are also being received, including children who had been killed and injured when they were caught in crossfire during the fighting in Juba. Reports of forced recruitment of young men – and possibly boys – have also been received, but remain unverified. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #8 – 25 July 2016*

- The outbreak of conflict in Juba has led to widespread displacement. Several children have already been confirmed to have been killed. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #89: 17 JUNE - 14 JULY 2016*
- More recently in the Equatoria region, a common threat has been road ambushes between Juba and cities to the south and the border, during which individuals from certain ethnic groups are identified and killed. In one such incident on 9 October along Yei Road, according to media reports, 21 Dinka individuals (including women and children) were killed. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- The increase in documented violations in 2015 are mostly attributable to the prolonged fighting in Unity, which targeted and displaced civilians from villages throughout the state into the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Witnesses and survivors of attacks on villages recounted incidents of killing, maiming, raping, and abduction of children. According to multiple testimonies, children were not only victims of the attacks but also perpetrators as child soldiers. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2018*
- On 25 August, an attack by 10 armed individuals on a house in Komuoi village, killed a mother and a 3-year-old child, and left a baby and three men injured. This increased the civilians' fears that they are at risks of attacks. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Yei, Central Equatoria, September 2016*
None of the three schools in the locations where IDPs were staying were functional and most children - who constitute the majority of IDPs - have not attended school since September 2016. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2016*
- There is no secondary school in the county and children who used to travel to Torit to attend it have stopped since the clashes. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016*

Physical Violence and other Harmful Practices

- In December, some 1,021 households (5,524 individuals) were reported to have been displaced, following cattle raids in Jalle Payam, Bor County and to the other payams in Bor County. Some 19 people were killed, three girls were abducted, and 12,500 cattle were taken. Cattle raids and child abduction despite a peace agreement concluded on 4 December between Jonglei and Boma State, as well as other criminal activity continues to persist. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- As in previous quarters, they include rapes, other forms of sexual violence, abductions and possible sexual slavery, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2018*
- In a disturbing new trend, incidents of harmful traditional practices exponentially increased from previous months in July 2016, with 72 incidents reported. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Forced marriages doubled in number in July, with 41 reported incidents. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- The increased incidence of gender-based violence outside communities is coupled with the increased prevalence of family violence within communities, presenting a particularly high threat to women and children. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

- The traditional practice of the forced marriage of girls is reported to have increased over the past two months as a coping mechanism for the economic revival of families in crisis. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- A more prominent threat for children was the increased prevalence of violence within homes and the community. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Children described beatings being uncommon in schools, where corporal punishment was said to be rebuked by the school administration, but having increased within homes, possibly as the result of increased stress within families. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Children described the impact of violence on their homes and communities through their possessions being looted, and their families forced to move away to stay in overcrowded, under-resourced households. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

Psychosocial Distress and Mental Disorder

- Children in Juba are suffering from high levels of psychosocial distress following several days of terrifying conflict; over 2,300 children have now participated in psychosocial support activities. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #7 – 20 July 2016*
- Children in need of both family tracing and reunification and psychosocial support services, however, continue to rise, particularly in Wau and Juba, where recent fighting took place in June and July. Thousands of children continue to show signs of psychosocial distress. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #91: 28 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2016*
- Over 1 million children are believed to be in need of psychosocial support. *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017: South Sudan, December 2016*
- Long stay in the POC sites have deteriorated the psychosocial conditions of inhabitants, increased dependency and provide an environment that enables youth to organize to the detriment of their own community. A newly identified phenomena in recent months is incidents of suicide and attempted suicide by children in the Malakal POC site. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- While the total psychological impact is currently unknown, it is estimated that more than 907,000 children are experiencing some form of psychosocial distress, up from 876,000 at the end of the third quarter in 2015. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- An initial wave of displacement, thought to have uprooted a large proportion of the peri-urban community to both urban centres and rural villages, is placing additional pressure on already resource constrained households and increasing psychosocial distress among whole communities. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Children's experience of the violence both directly and indirectly is observed as having left many experiencing psychosocial distress – many have moved away from their usual support networks or had others move away from them, many are grieving the loss of possessions and routines, and others continue to experience the threat of harassment while moving within and outside their communities. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*

Sexual Violence and exploitation

- In addition to the incidences of sexual violence, reports of grave child rights violations are also being received, including children who had been killed and injured when they were caught in crossfire during the fighting in Juba. Reports of forced recruitment of young men – and possibly boys – have also been received, but remain unverified. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #8 – 25 July 2016*
- Women and adolescent girls, who bear the burden of collecting and providing food for the family, are at increased risk of rape and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) when going out to look for food, firewood, and other daily living supplies. Incidents of rape of women and children have been reported in Juba since the violence began. UNICEF is working to ensure that all programming across sectors is implemented in a manner that reduces risk of GBV, for example by ensuring that latrines are constructed in areas that are safe to access. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #6 – 18 July 2016*
- Attacks by armed actors' on women and girls immediately outside the POC sites has been consistently reported in Malakal and Bentiu over the past two and a half years. The number of such attacks has increased as more women are forced to venture outside the POC sites to look for food and firewood. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #90: 15 - 28 JULY 2016*
- UNICEF and partners continue to respond to the urgent sexual and gender-based (SGBV) violence situation in Juba, with UNICEF's partner IsraAid leading the coordination efforts for urban Juba. There are still major concerns around the low number of survivors accessing services, particularly medical care. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #14 – 19 August 2016*
- There are still gaps in the medical response, with some clinics struggling to obtain the necessary supplies to provide clinical management of rape (CMR) treatment. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #15 – 23 August 2016*
- On July 11, shortly before the ceasefire that followed Riek Machar's retreat from the capital, government soldiers attacked a residential compound in Juba hosting expatriate and national staff of humanitarian organizations, executed a prominent Nuer journalist, beat staff members and raped or gang raped several women. In the days following the ceasefire, soldiers raped hundreds of mostly Nuer displaced women near the main UN base in Juba. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- In other parts of the country, government soldiers reportedly continued to rape women and girls selected as targets based on their ethnicity. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- While some (SGBV) survivors were able to access basic physical and mental healthcare, many did not due to insecurity and limited availability of services. No SPLA soldiers were prosecuted for the sexual violence crimes committed in July. *Human Rights Watch, World Report 2017: South Sudan*
- Gender-based violence remains a concern, with partners reporting cases of rape among women fleeing fighting in Yuai. *OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 5, 28 March 2017*
- Women and children continued to face SGBV when venturing out of the POC site from either SPLA (reports of clear identification of their uniform) or armed men in civilian clothes. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- From October to December 2016, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBV-IMS), used by humanitarian service providers and managed by UNFPA, recorded 575 incidents of GBV, with 96 of those incidents against children. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*

- As in previous quarters, they include rapes, other forms of sexual violence, abductions and possible sexual slavery, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- The highest number of reports involved incidents of intimate partner violence. Incidents of all the forms of GBV occurred both inside and outside of POC sites. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- During this quarter, there were frequently reported attacks of women and girls, particularly when they left POC sites to gather firewood or food, in Malakal, Juba, Wau, Bentiu and in new areas of displacement. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- They also faced attacks as they traveled roads and rivers to find refuge in another country, a POC site, a collective displacement site, or a more stable community that is less affected by the conflict. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- In assessments conducted in refugee areas in Uganda in September and in Juba displacement sites in December 2016, women reported fleeing the country and sites in Juba because of threats of sexual violence. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- All parties to conflict allegedly committed acts of GBV, including sexual violence. Community leaders, police, security guards and UN/ NGO staff were other alleged perpetrators of different types of gender-based violence. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- Gender-based violence in POC sites remains a serious concern. A safety audit conducted in the Bentiu POC in November 2016 revealed women face GBV when traveling from food distribution sites, in shower and latrine areas, on the road to one of the main health clinics at night. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- Overall, reports of GBV during 2016 increased by a staggering 61 % compared to 2015. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- The increase in documented violations in 2015 are mostly attributable to the prolonged fighting in Unity, which targeted and displaced civilians from villages throughout the state into the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Witnesses and survivors of attacks on villages recounted incidents of killing, maiming, raping, and abduction of children. According to multiple testimonies, children were not only victims of the attacks but also perpetrators as child soldiers. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Intimate partner violence comprised the largest percentage of reported incidents in all months. Different forms of sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, forced and early marriage and possible sexual slavery) were the second most reported types of incidents. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Incidents of possible sexual slavery more than tripled during July, with 25 incidents reported. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- UNMISS reportedly documented 217 incidents of conflict related sexual violence in July 2016 alone. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- Since July, service providers have received multiple reports of GBV, including sexual violence, occurring in the context of the conflict in Yei, Mundri, Eastern Equatoria and Southern Unity. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the Violation of the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict (MRM) recorded 37 incidents of sexual violence affecting 137 girls from January to September 2016. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*

- There have been cases of SGBV reported, including cases of girls going missing when they went back to check on the homes they were displaced from. There is a risk of further SGBV cases. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Jikmir, Upper Nile, January 2017*
- There are reports of abduction of boys, forced recruitment, child labour and girls engaging in survival sex/ sex work. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2019*
- Women have been at particular risk of sexual violence, especially while venturing outside of their communities to look for food and firewood. It was reported that women were being sent out to seek items in the bush with a known risk of rape, rather than men going and risking being killed. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Risks to the safety of women and girls were described as occurring both within the house, where socioeconomic stress emanating from increased food insecurity has created a spike in the frequency and severity of intimate-partner violence, and outside the home, where women are exposed to harassment and assault while collecting firewood, food and straw, or moving along market supply routes. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Children did not detail specific incidents of sexual violence against children, but the threat to girls and boys moving outside their communities to collect firewood and food is considered very high. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Violence against girls and women remains a major concern and whilst information on incidents remains limited, there have been several credible reports of sexual violence, perpetrated by men in uniform. UNICEF is working closely with the Protection Cluster and UNICEF to advocate for increased patrolling and other preventative measures. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #7 – 20 July 2016*

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

- During this time, there have been 264 children reported as unaccompanied, separated or missing across Juba, 34 of whom have been reunified. Additional attention is now being turned to supporting families who are congregating in Gumbo, to ensure that separated and unaccompanied children are identified and supported before these communities begin the journey to Uganda. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #7 – 20 July 2016*
- Family tracing and reunification (FTR) efforts continue. In UN House, six missing and three unaccompanied children were registered in POC3. In Tongping, four additional separated children were identified, one of whom was reunited with the family with support from partners NP and CRO. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #3 – 14 July 2016*
- Following the first outbreak of conflict on 8 July, 41 separated and unaccompanied boys and girls have been identified and provided with FTR services. During the multi-sectoral assessment conducted on 13 July, UNICEF was able to trace the family of an injured child seeking treatment in one of the clinics in UN House. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #1 – 14 July 2016*
- Over 100 unaccompanied, separated, and missing children have been registered so far. Following two days of relative calm, partners are now operating across multiple sites in Juba, providing both family tracing and PSS services. The number of children benefiting from these services are still being compiled. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #89: 17 JUNE - 14 JULY 2016*

- The total caseload of separated, unaccompanied and missing children is now 273, including nine new children registered. Thirty-seven children have been reunified and agencies of family tracing and reunification continue to follow up the registered children and tracing of their families. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #8 – 25 July 2016*
- The total caseload of separated, unaccompanied and missing children is now 273, including nine new children registered. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #8 – 25 July 2016*
- Sixty new unaccompanied, separated or missing children were identified over the last two days, bringing the number to a total of 333. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #9 – 28 July 2016*
- A total of 274 unaccompanied, separated and missing children (UASC, 66 per cent boys and 34 per cent girls) are receiving FTR services, of which 19 children have been reunified with their parents. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #90: 15 - 28 JULY 2016*
- Since the outbreak of conflict in Juba, 264 children are reported as UASC across the city, of which 34 children have been reunified. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #90: 15 - 28 JULY 2016*
- Nationally, 13,156 children have been registered, with 8,842 cases remaining active and open (67 per cent). *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #90: 15 - 28 JULY 2016*
- The number of registered separated, unaccompanied, and missing children is currently at approximately 260 cases, with 89 children reunified to date. *UNICEF South Sudan Juba Crisis Situational Update #12 – 9 August 2016*
- Nationally, 13,329 missing, unaccompanied, and separated children cases have been identified, with 8,971 cases remaining active and open with an additional 400 cases identified in Juba and Wau. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #91: 28 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2016*
- So far in 2016, 13,574 unaccompanied and separated (UASC) and missing children cases have been identified across the country, with 8,919 cases remaining active and open. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #93: 26 AUGUST - 8 SEPTEMBER 2016*
- The total number of registered, conflict-affected unaccompanied, separated and missing children across South Sudan is 14,374. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #99: 1 - 15 DECEMBER 2016*
- UNICEF is working in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Gender and the Department of Child Welfare in Yambio to assess protection needs of 52 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), including 45 from surrounding areas of Yambio as well as 7 UASC and 3 missing children in Rimenze. *UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #102: 17 - 31 JANUARY 2017*
- At the end of December 2016, separated children comprised just under 60.21% of the total caseload, followed by children registered as missing and unaccompanied children, at 25.14% and 14.65% respectively. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- The overwhelming majority of the total FTR caseload is concentrated across Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity States, comprising the conflict-affected Greater Upper Nile Region of South Sudan. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016*
- IDPs from the POC site faced arrest, abductions, sexual violence, and some killed. As a result of these threats, children are unable to reunite with their caregivers due to the risks associated with the journey. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*
- By the end of September 2016, 13,937 children across South Sudan had been registered as unaccompanied, separated or missing, an increase of 3,596 since the same time last year, or 300 new cases a month. *Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016*

- Women reported that some of the IDPs traveling via air have been harassed at the Juba airport. Additionally, they reported that the boarding process for GoSS flights was chaotic and had resulted in at least one incident of a child being separated from their parent. *UNHCR, Assessment on departures from POC Sites in Juba, December 2016*
- There were also concerns regarding unaccompanied and separated children, as many mothers indicated that they did not know where their children were. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2017*
- 7 cases of separated children were identified in Rubkona Town by UNICEF, between 2-12 years of age, most of them originally from Rubkona and Mayom counties. *Protection Cluster South Sudan, Protection Assessment on IDPs from Juba, Bentiu, December 2016*
- 7 additional cases were identified in Bentiu Town, between 9-16 years of age. Several cases are separated voluntarily. *Protection Cluster South Sudan, Protection Assessment on IDPs from Juba, Bentiu, December 2016*
- Fewer children are attending school than before the crisis, many reportedly because parents are fearful of permanent separation should any possible conflict or incident occur while their children are physically away from them. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Adults in some communities reported that children had become lost during the height of the crisis, detailing that two children were crushed in a stampede of community members fleeing to safety and others had drowned in heavy rains. *Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment: Imatong State - Phase 1 Report: Torit County, South Sudan, August 2016*
- Some reports were received of the presence of separated children. The majority of the respondents reported that families that moved to Uganda brought their children with them. The schools reported that children were collecting paperwork that would allow them to enrol in Uganda, indicating that children are not being left behind. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Yei, Central Equatoria, September 2016*
- There are cases of separated children. *OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2017*

Information Gaps

There are information gaps on:

- Child labor
- Danger and injuries
- Justice for Children
- Psychosocial Distress and Mental Disorder

Documents used in this report - For more information

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OCHA South Sudan - Flash Update No.4: Situation in Juba (14 July 2016)"

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<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/south-sudan>

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http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_2017_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf

Impact Health Organization (IHO): Rapid Assessment, Rajaf and Northern Bari Payam, Juba County Jubek State [14-15 July 2016]

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https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/08.16multi-sector_rapid_needs_assessment_report_-_torit_county_201608.pdf

OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan - Issue 18, November 2016

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/1601121_OCHA_SouthSudan_humanitarian_bulletin18.pdf

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/search?search=south%20sudan&page=3>

OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Jikmir, Upper Nile, January 2017

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/jikmir_irna_report.pdf

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OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, December 2017

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/170127_kajokeji_irna_report_0.pdf

OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Lafon, Eastern Equatoria, December 2016

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/170130_lafon_irna_report.pdf

OCHA, Inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment Report: Yei, Central Equatoria, September 2016

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/160923_yei_irna_report.pdf

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/assessments>

Protection Trends: South Sudan, April-September 2016

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Protection Trends: South Sudan, October-December 2016

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/south_sudan_protection_trends_paper_october_-_december_2016_09022017.pdf

UNHCR, Assessment on departures from POC Sites in Juba, December 2016

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https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_South_Sudan_Humanitarian_SitRep_8_Sept_2016.pdf

UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #94: 9 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

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World Vision, South Sudan: Conflict, hunger, and the threats to children, February 2017

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-response-news-stories/south-sudan-conflict-hunger-threats-children>

Legal Framework

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ILO Convention 138 on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- ILO Convention 182 on Minimum Age
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention against Trans-National Organized Crime.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict