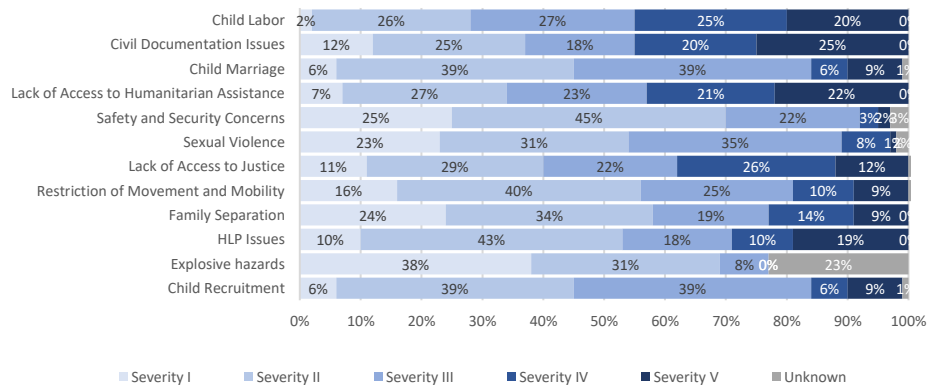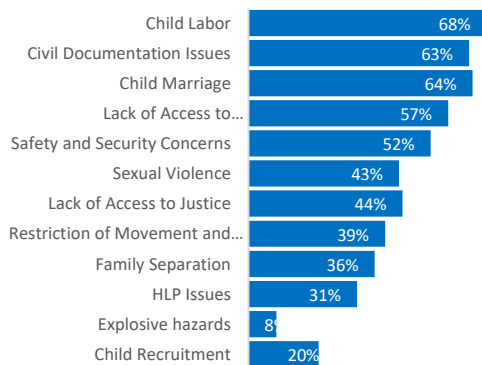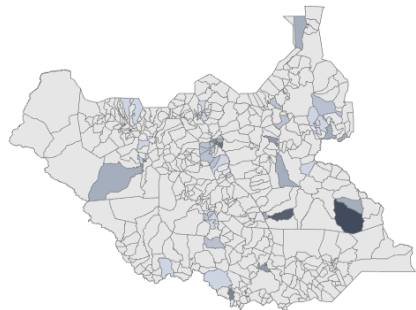Protection Cluster
South Sudan

IDPs in Pibor County. Women and Girls continue to be at risk during displacement and in need of emergency support.

The **Protection Monitoring System (PMS)** of the Protection Cluster (PC) in South Sudan was rolled out as pilot in October 2022. The below information reflects the **6th round of data collection** based on harmonized and agreed upon methods and tools. The PMS relies on contributions by PC member organizations to collect data via a Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire at payam-level across twelve thematic areas thereby monitoring the occurrence of protection violations, their scale and impact on communities over time. Key informants are selected to represent a variety of backgrounds and profiles in a community. At country-level, the PMS is coordinated through the Cluster's Protection Monitoring (PROMO) working group. The roll out of the PMS is generously supported by UNHCR and ECHO.

In March 2023, protection monitors conducted 169 key informant interviews covering 68 payams in 29 counties in eight states of South Sudan. The below graph shows the overall percentages of reported occurrence of protection violations:

The below graph shows the reported severity of protection violations in the payams covered by protection monitoring in February 2023:

Violation	%
Child Labor	68%
Civil Documentation Issues	63%
Child Marriage	64%
Lack of Access to…	57%
Safety and Security Concerns	52%
Sexual Violence	43%
Lack of Access to Justice	44%
Restriction of Movement and…	39%
Family Separation	36%
HLP Issues	31%
Explosive hazards	8%
Child Recruitment	20%

	Severity I	Severity II	Severity III	Severity IV	Severity V	Unknown
Child Labor	2%	26%	27%	25%	20%	0
Civil Documentation Issues	12%	25%	18%	20%	25%	0
Child Marriage	6%	39%	39%	6%	9%	1%
Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance	7%	27%	23%	21%	22%	0
Safety and Security Concerns	25%	45%	22%	3%	2%	3%
Sexual Violence	23%	31%	35%	8%	1%	
Lack of Access to Justice	11%	29%	22%	26%	12%	
Restriction of Movement and Mobility	16%	40%	25%	10%	9%	
Family Separation	24%	34%	19%	14%	9%	0
HLP Issues	10%	43%	18%	10%	19%	0
Explosive hazards	38%	31%	8%	0%	23%	
Child Recruitment	6%	39%	39%	6%	9%	1%

The below **high-level protection snapshots of the 12 thematic areas** monitored, are, for the most part, based on multiple choice answers, and percentages reflect the number of times a key informant (KI) chose one of the response options. Trend vs. January 2023:   ↓ **% decrease** ↑ **% increase** no change

Child Labour - 18% ⇩	Lack of Access to Humanitarian Assistance - 10% ⇩	Lack of Access to Justice - 39% ⇩	Civil Documentation Issues - 9% ⇩	Child Marriage - 17% ⇩	Safety and Security Concerns - 22% ⇩
KIs reported, adolescent boys (33%) and adolescent girls (36%), are the most affected by child labour. 85% of reported child labour involves domestic work outside the home, and 73% involves lifting heavy objects. 72% of KIs reported child-headed households as the main contributing factor. School drop-out (75%) and exploitation and abuse (68%) are reported as the most common effects of child labour.	75% of KIs reported all groups were affected by lack of humanitarian assistance. Corruption (64%) and lack of awareness on how to access humanitarian assistance (57%) are the most cited reasons for lack of access to assistance, of which Food, Health, Shelter and NFI (62-69%) are the most frequently denied assistance cited.	77% of KIs reported all groups were equally affected by lack of access to justice. Physical violence (80%), family disputes (73%) as well as GBV (71%) are the issues for which justice is sought most frequently. Corruption (74%) is the most cited barriers to accessing justice as reported by KIs. Customary law is the preferred method of achieving justice in the community, according to 88% of KIs.	58% of KIs reported the issuance of birth certificates as rare in their communities, while IDs can reportedly not be obtained by the community according to 81% of KI. Ability to gain employment (75%) and access SIM cards (71%), are the most common repercussions of lack of documentation. Unaffordable fees (69%) and transport costs (62%) are most cited barrier to accessing documentation.	15% of KIs reported child marriage occurring very often in their respective communities, and 97 % reported adolescent girls to be the most affected by child marriage in their respective communities.	Physical violence or assault or abuse (66%), conflict-related sexual violence/harassment (58%) and violence against children (47%) are the most reported violations affecting the safety and security of monitored communities.

Family Separation - 44% ⇩	Sexual Violence - 35% ⇩	Restriction of Movement - 30% ⇩	HLP Issues - 38% ⇩	Explosive Hazards – 0% ▬	Child Recruitment - 10% ⇩
53% of KIs reported that family separations have equally affected all age groups. Early marriage (49%), domestic violence (47%) and death of caregiver (42%) are among the most cited reasons for family separations.	According to KIs, other community members (49%), local authorities (34%) and traditional leaders (34%) cited as dividers. Overall, 69% of KIs said fear of stigma is main barrier that prevent survivors from reporting.	Within the communities, KIs cite fear of death or injury (58%) and fear of GBV (58%) as most common factors resulting in mobility reduction or constraints. Such movement restrictions negatively impacted proliferation of access to income (66%), lack of access to life saving services (63%) and GBV (55%).	75% of KIs reported persons with disabilities as the most affected by difficulties related to their housing, land, and property rights. Main factors increasing the threat of HLP issues are the local authorities (59%), armed actors (47%) and land brokers (39%). Homelessness (78%), increased violence (67%) and loss of income (65%) are top impacts on the communities. As response to HLP issues, according to KIs, community members resort to complains to humanitarian actors (37%), take no action (37%) or request support from authorities (22%).	15 % of KIs reported the presence of explosive hazards hindering access to livelihoods. Reportedly, 39% of explosive hazard incidents happened to community members while stepping on them.	82% of KI reported boys being the most likely victims of child recruitment. According to KI reports, as a prevention strategy, 48% community members engage in negotiations and 37% pay ransom.

At any given time, protection monitors reported the following payams as inaccessible: Mading, Kiech Kuon, Tharjiath and Nyathor	132 of monitored payams are in predominantly rural areas.	Protection monitors requested 43 urgent follow-ups regarding reported instances of child marriage, safety and security and child labour.