



JOINT PARTNERS' CHILD PROTECTION RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 2020

JONGLEI STATE - SOUTH SUDAN

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ACRONMY

UASC	-	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
ICV	-	Intercommunal Violence
KII	-	Key Informant Interviews
FGDs	-	Focus Group Discussion
GPAA	-	Greater Pibor Administrative Area
FTR	-	Family Tracing and reunifications
CAFAAG-		Children associated with armed forces and groups
HTP	-	Harmful Traditional Practices
IRNA	-	Initial Rapid Needs Assessment
CPWG	-	Child Protection Working Group
CPSC	-	Child Protection Sub-Cluster

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child Protection needs assessment was carried by the state level CPWG in the greater Jonglei and Pibor administration areas, the purpose for conducting this assessment was to assess and identify key child protection needs in administrative areas. Greater Jonglei and Pibor Administration areas have experienced recurrent inter-communal conflicts which displaced many communities each year and causes immense suffering; the area is also flood prone locations and experience flooding which further exacerbates an already fragile humanitarian situation.

Children and their families living floods and ICV affected locations have experienced displacement, destruction of family assets, family separation, sexual and gender base violence incidents, lack of basic services among many other challenges.

Save the Children South Sudan Country Office in coordination with Jonglei CPWG and partners. The design and data collection of the joint assessment was carried out by Jonglei CPWG with the direct support of Save the Children.

The primary objective of this need assessment was to identify the child protection concerns/issues impacting on children and as well as generate context and practical programmatic and operational recommendation to those identified issues.

Key child needs identified through the needs assessment:

- Existing of high caseload of UASC in the region and the need to urgently provide holistic support in terms of FTRs.
- Psychosocial distress for the ICV and Floods affected population is very high and there is need to support PSS services for children and adults. Existing PSS services are limited and will need to bolster with additional resources.
- Weak capacity of the Community based child Protection structures /system in the communities and the need to re-activate /establish community-based child protection system.
- Child Protection gaps in services were identified in key areas locations of the greater Jonglei and Pibor; due limited resource many national partners have either downsized and fully withdrawn

The assessment hinted to the fact that community based child protection mechanisms were weakened by the emergencies in Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative area that led to subsequent displacements. Nevertheless, the assessment identified some child protection structures/mechanisms available within the community regardless of their strength; Child protection committees, awareness raising activities, NFI support by some CP agencies were reported be ongoing by respondents during FGD. However, FGDs in most of the IDP sites such as Malek SS, Agorbaar, Bor POC, Suk Zero and Bor B reported that there no child protection structures/mechanisms in these IDP sites.

Recommended actions:

The following programmatic and operational recommendations are meant to address all the key issues highlighted in this need assessment:

1. There is need to consider providing critical social services to UASC as they wait for the reunification, vital services of education, health, food and shelters /NFI remain a big gap for many UASC waiting for FTR services.
2. Promote community based alternative care for USAC in the communities by explaining the merits/benefits of the family setting care arrangement for children, CP partner to minimize the use institutional care and use it as last resort option,

3. Strengthening the capacity of the community-based child protection structures and members of the community in the identification, reporting and providing first line child protection response is critical and urgently needs specially for the displaced communities where such structures don't exist.
4. Increased incidents of beating of girls and boys by their parents as form of disciplining has been identified as too common within the communities, Child Protection partners need to consider and initiate positive parenting program to address the scourge of physical violence against children.
5. An increased incidents of sexual violence against children and women reported in Boma county and responds to SGBV cases in the areas has been limited, CPSC to work along with GBV SC in address the service gaps in Boma County, a scale-up of SGBV programming focusing on both prevention and responsive programming will be critical urgently.
6. Facilitate GBV Safety Audits exercise in all IDP sites in Jonglei and greater Pibor Administration areas.
7. Advocate for more resources allocation to Child Protection and GBV Sectors in Jonglei and greater Pibor Administration area, in order to address the unmet humanitarian needs specially protection needs of the disaster affected populations.
8. CP and GBV partners should continuously work and share information by developing joint assessments, response mission, and coverages in terms of service delivery.
9. CPWG to regularly do service gap analysis and engage with the national CPSC for more resource's allocation in order to response CP needs on the ground.
10. Engage with the PSS WG to identify creative and innovative designs for CFS constructions that can withstand during flooding,
11. Map out environmental hazards such as Open pits, where necessary fence or fill it or request the support of local authorities' interventions;

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE CHILD PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains critical with an estimated 7.3 million people of whom 54% are children in need of humanitarian assistance, including protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and violations of their human rights (HNO, 2020). The 2020 Humanitarian Need Overview projects 4.8 million women, girls, men, and boys in the country as facing protection risks and other violations. Vulnerable people such as; women, children, elderly, youth and persons with disabilities are among the most at risk groups in the affected communities. People who are less privilege to access essential services are vulnerable to various forms of violence, including child abuses SGBV, human rights violations, displacement and erosion of coping mechanisms and social cohesion.

According to the 2020 HNO, grave violations against children's rights remain a critical concern in South Sudan. Boys and girls continue to endure multiple protection risks and rights violations, including family separation, widespread recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, psychosocial distress, GBV and exploitation.

Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative area continue to experience some of the worst violence in South Sudan in the recent past. These areas are also affected by cyclical inter-communal violence between different communities motivated by cattle raiding, revenge killings and abduction of women and children as well as severe destructive seasonal floods affecting large swaths of land for almost half of the year. Levels of inter-communal violence have reached unprecedented levels in 2020 as a result, the president declared a three-month state of emergency in Jonglei effective from 12th August 2020. Conflict between youth from the Lou Nuer, Dinka, and Murle communities is concentrated in Pibor, Uror, Duk, Twic East, and Bor South. Based on assessments conducted by South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, violence affected about 400,000 residents in these five counties as well as Akobo and Pochalla since April 2020. Of highest concern is Greater Pibor, where over 60,000 people are displaced to distant areas in the bush.

Since the beginning of 2020, intercommunal violence and associated insecurity have displaced thousands of people and resulted in hundreds of casualties across Jonglei state. REACH assessment report, which was conducted in Jonglei state from January to March 2020 indicated that the death of a civilian increased sharply from 21% to 58% in Uror County, and from 13% to 46% in Nyirol County as results of the conflict.

Harmful tradition practices like early marriage remained the main protection concern for girls. REACH 2020, reported that there were large increases of early marriage in the assessment target settlements reporting that in Duk County (80% to 93%), Twic East County (33% to 65%) and Bor South County (44% to 56%). Assessed settlements across Jonglei State continued to report domestic violence as the main protection concern for women.

This CP assessment is planned to identify and document the impact of recurrent crisis as well as frequent flooding emergencies on the target communities in general and vulnerable groups in particular in Jonglei State. The finding of this assessment will be used to inform project design and implementation strategy as well as to mobilize resource so as to alleviate suffering of the children and their families.

Objective of the Assessment

The overall objective of this rapid assessment was to identify protection needs of children in Jonglei and Greater Pibor administrative Area, causes, existing capacities/services and use these to guide future child protection programming for Save the Children, participating child protection agencies and other humanitarian actors.

Specific Objectives

1. To assess and identify the negative consequences of recurring intercommunal violence (ICV), Flood and other manmade and natural disasters on children in Jonglei State.

2. To identify strategies on how to prevent and respond to identified protection risks and improve the overall situation of children.
3. To generate evidence based data on vulnerability, needs and risk level in the target geographic locations.

Output of the Assessment

The output of this Child Protection assessment is a quantitative and qualitative data and information on Child Protection Situation in Jonglei and Pibor, including risk factors, existing capacities/services, causes of risks to children (girls and boys), strategies to address the risks and key recommendations.

Scope of the assessment

This is a child protection focused rapid assessment designed to understand the protection needs of children in Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area in order to inform programming for child protection actors. The assessment was both quantitative and qualitative. It covered a range of child protection topics including; unaccompanied and separated children, children associated with armed forces and groups, sexual violence against children, psychosocial distress, physical violence and harmful traditional practices, and child labour. The assessment was conducted in Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area; covering 9 counties in Jonglei and 2 in Greater Pibor Administrative area. Counties in covered Jonglei State included; Bor South, Akobo, Ayod, Nyirol/Lankien, Fangak, Uror, Pigi, Pochal, Twich. Counties covered in Greater Pibor Administrative area included Boma and Pibor. Save the Children in Collaboration with Jonglei State CP/GBV Sub Cluster Coordination Forum and partners designed the data collection modality in each target location. Within the target locations: IDP sites, host communities and Protection of Civilian camps (POC) were targeted. Accordingly, member partners, which are operational in the targeted assessment locations; were volunteered to lead the data collection processes. The table below depicts participation of Sub Cluster Members and their respective locations;

Zonal Sub Cluster Partners who participated in the Rapid Assessment

Locations	Participating Partners
Bor South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Save the Children ▪ CINA, ▪ CIDO, ▪ TOCH, ▪ GREDO, ▪ WCH, ▪ ACDNF, ▪ CHIEF, ▪ AIRD, ▪ UNHCR, ▪ HLSS, ▪ IMA, ▪ MDM, ▪ Narrative HUB and ▪ UNHCR
Twic/Duk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CINA, ▪ HDC, ▪ Care international, ▪ HLSS,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIDO, ▪ CHIEF
Akobo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SCI, ▪ INTERSOS, ▪ CIDO and ▪ Nile Hope
Ayod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ADA and ▪ INTERSOS
Nyirol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INTERSOS, ▪ SCI
Fangak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HTCO, ▪ CHIEF, ▪ Nile Hope and ▪ ADA
Uror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CHIEF and ▪ Nile Hope
Pigi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nile Hope
Pibor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nile Hope ▪ CIDO, ▪ PLAN international, ▪ VOP and

	▪ UNHCR		▪ Nile Hope and
Boma	▪ VSF-Suisse		▪ UNHCR
Pochala	▪ HTCO,		

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Assessment methodology included key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs) and review of secondary data. Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guideline were developed and administered to collection primary data from the target respondents. SCI and participating agencies selected and trained data collectors mainly from among their protection staffs on the assessment tools. The KII tool was a structured questionnaire was developed adapted from the Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit to fit the assessment needs for this assessment. The FGD tool was aligned to the KII tool and intended to dig deeper to identify causes, seek explanations and recommended actions to address identified issues. A total of 349 KIIs (250 males and 99 female) were conducted using a KII tool in annex 1 covering all the 11 selected counties where the assessment was conducted. While a total of 40 Focus group discussions were held with separate groups of adolescent girls and boys, women and men in 6 counties (Akobo, Ayod, Boma, Bor, Nyirol and Pibor). In general, 570 (161 males, 172 females, 106 boys and 131 girls) participated in FGDs.

Data Collection Procedures

Save the Children and the Jonglei CP/GBV sub cluster organized four online forums where all CP partners in Jonglei were invited and participated. SCI presented the roadmap, objective, timeframe of the assessment in the first round of the meeting. All partner agencies showed strong interest to be part of the assessment and set action points for Save the Children to share the data collection tools to partners for review.

In the second round of online meeting; Jonglei Sub cluster coordinator presented Partner Mapping Matrix with names of agencies and their operational locations within Jonglei State and GPAA. The online forum participants suggested that all agencies should refill and share the matrix with update on lead agencies, focal points and contact detail for their respective locations.

SCI presented both KII and FGD data collection tools in the third round of the coordination forum. Technical team members took the participants through the tools and guidelines to familiarize the assessment team members and to collect feedback. Following strong discussion on the tools, the team endorsed the KII with minor amendment and suggested to change the FGD checklist for it was lengthy and complicated. The FGD checklist that was suggested to be changed had some close-ended items and probing points which the assessment team members were not happy about. As results, new FGD checklist developed and shared. In that round of the meeting, focal points from each agency agreed to organize a training for data enumerators in each location.

Based on the availabilities of resources, the team decided to use a mix of data collection approaches. First, the trained data collectors were used tablets. The second approach that was applied for data collection was using paper to collect the KII data and then after to enter the paper based data on a computer and tablet into the kobo link which was created for the purpose.

Desk Review/Secondary Data

Based on the Child Protection Minimum Standards, the assessment team reviewed available and relevant assessment reports conducted before and after the flooding. These limited number of assessment were however for only some counties, and had a broader focus on the general humanitarian situation. Findings from Initial Rapid Need Assessments (IRNA) conducted in July and August in the affected areas such as; Bor, Twich, Pochala and Ayod are summarized as

follows. As indicated above, most of the assessments were on general humanitarian crisis but not specific for child protection sector.

IRNA Floods Report, August 2020, estimated that; more than 25,700 people in Bor town are affected by flood. The report added that; most of the affected IDPs residents between 70-80% were women and children and elderly, currently accommodated in schools, churches and other government and private structures on high grounds within Bor town and their humanitarian situation dire in terms of health, WASH, NFIs and food.

The table below shows the breakdown of population affected by Flood: Source; IRNA, Bor Town, August; 2020

Location	HH	Individuals	Number of Houses submerged
Jarweng	530	3,411	511
Akong Bany	701	4320	622
Lekyak	482	3230	400
Hia Panjak A & B	623	3941	532
Langbar	840	5390	561
Nigel	263	1679	141
Panapet	150	942	143
Thonbuor	130	786	102
Moldoor	210	1272	161
Thonawai	130	782	112
Total	4059	25753	3285

Under protection section, IRNA depicted that majority of the affected population are sheltering in the markets and schools while some are scattered within Bor town. They are living in poor condition/ in congested classrooms. The IDPs lack information of COVID-19 and poor hygiene and sanitation is their current living characteristic as all the latrines are full. Rising cases of malaria are another risk and threat the IDP population are facing.

Likewise, another IRNA was conducted in Twic East County in July 2020 to assess the situation of communities affected by intercommunal conflict and flooding.

The finding shows that flood has affected all the five payams of Twic East and the worst affected areas are Pakeer (Patiou, Nyany, Akooy, Marial, Pareu), Ajuong (Mayom, Ngawaai, Wutliir, Pagok), Lith (Dong, Wernyol), Nyuak (Aliet, Kuacthoor, Athil, Wutkoro, Ageer, Lual-ajokbil, Baping, Wangulei) and Kongor (Pakuor, Piom Awan, Pajomba, Pacol, Mission, Pamot, Piom Bior and Pawel). On the other hand, this county has hosted incidences of attacks in some parts of the such as; Panyagor, Patiou and Makiir cattle camps.

According to IRNA, conflicts coupled with flooding have displaced 8,395 households with 42,886 individuals in Twic East. However, the data was not disaggregated by sex, age and other status. The Initial Rapid Need Assessment recommended that;

- Safety and physical protection should be prioritized
- Delivery of quick humanitarian assistance to the affected population is required
- Identification, registration and support to vulnerable persons
- Identification, registration and documentation of separated, unaccompanied children should be initiated
- Family tracing and reunification for the separated children and other vulnerable children
- Advocacy on child rights and child protection
- Timely provision of psychosocial support to the affected children
- Awareness campaigns on child protection issues

- Provision of case management support to the affected children

In August 2020, Humanitarian partners conducted another IRNA in Ayod county to identify the damage and catastrophic situation caused by the floods and its impacts on the affected population in terms of property loss, destruction of homes, Health, Nutrition, WASH, food security, shelter/ NFIs and Protection concerns of the affected families.

According to IRNA’s finding the prolonged heavy rains and burst of Nile River banks forced IDPs to move to the higher grounds while some settled in Eastern Canal (Ayod Town and surroundings). The floods swept away thousands of homes and leaving many already severely vulnerable communities displaced. Consequently, the population in Ayod county is exposed to waterborne diseases, hunger, food shortages and snakes following the onset of flooding.

IRNA, August 2020; Ayod reported that Buot, Mhaar, Gorwai, Nyanepal, Wai, Padek, Kharmun, Jiech, Kandak, Mogok, Ayod Town, Kuachdeng, Kotdalok, Wechdeng, Wechdieng, Pagil, Normanyang, Haat, Wan-Machar, Menime, Keer and Nyawit) are villages that are badly hit by the floods. The report estimated that; 26,125 HHs with 156,750 individuals are affected whereby over 65% are women population. It is reported that the flooding emergency have aggravated the protection risks to children and other vulnerable community groups.

Flood Assessment that was conducted in Pochala County, in August 2020 reported that; people are displaced, farms are submerged and risk of waterborne diseases and malaria outbreak, food shortage are observed.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS).

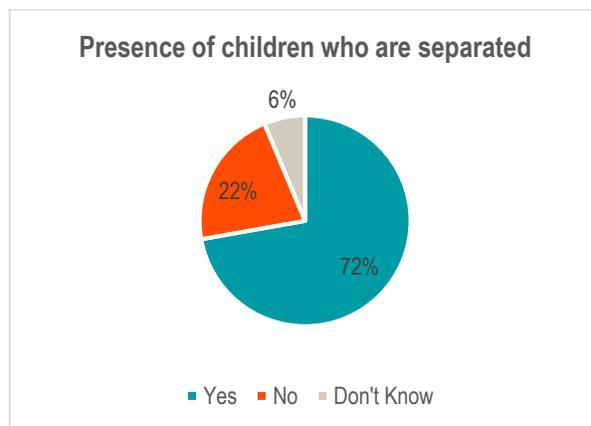
Key Child Protection Risks in Jonglei

The Child Protection Assessment finding revealed that family separation, forced/early marriage and domestic violence are the top three concerns in Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area. According to the KII analysis; child abduction and child labour are other critical protection concerns in the assessment locations.

Out of the 40 FGDs conducted in 6 counties, 32 FGDs conducted in five counties confirm findings of KIIs on common child protection risks in the target assessment sites. However, there were few FGDs that identified different protection concerns in the assessment locations. For instance, sexual violence was identified as one of the most critical protection concerns by FGDs in Akobo, Ayod, and Nyirol. Below is a presentation of findings under each of key themes of the child protection assessment.

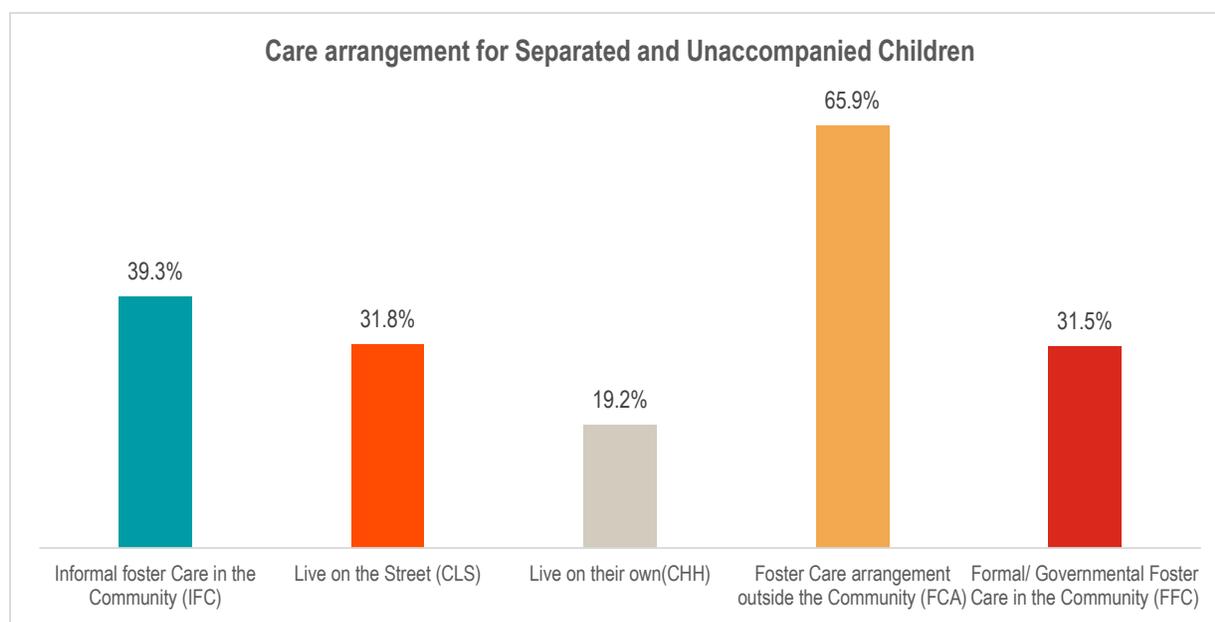
Unaccompanied and Separated Children

The assessment findings confirmed that separated and unaccompanied children do exist in these counties. 72% of the respondents reported that they are aware of children without adult care in their communities. Only 22% of key informants said there are no separated children while 6% of respondents reported that they do not know whether UASC are in their communities or not. The KII finding on family separation confirms the FGD findings which puts family separation among the top three child protection risks in Jonglei and Great Pibor Administration Area(GPAA).



In addition to the presence of unaccompanied and separated children, the KII and FGD revealed that, there are also parents who do not know the whereabouts of their children. Sixty-nine respondents (20%) confirmed the presence of parents whose children are missing. The assessment identified the following factors causing family separation and forcing children to remain without adult care; conflict (disappearance of children/caregivers in the immediate aftermath of the conflict), abduction of children, losing caregivers/children during relocation were underlined by the key informants. Intercommunal violence in Jonglei and Pibor has been characterized by abduction of women and children. According to the KII, disappearance of children/caregiver, abduction and lose of caregiver/children were cited by 44.8%, 37.5% and 33% of key informants respectively as the main causes of family separation. Likewise, significant number of parents/caregivers are sending their children voluntarily to extended families/friends far from home villages at the expense of their health and childhood life. Unaccompanied and separated children are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation including recruitment into armed forces and groups.

The assessment shows that boys are more vulnerable for family separation than girls are. Age wise, children in all age groups except infants are susceptible for the family separation.



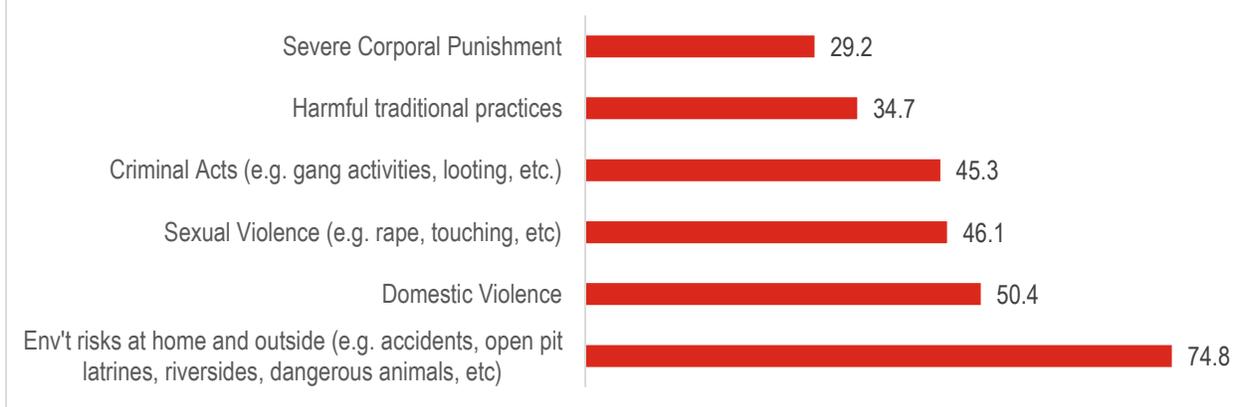
Despite the fact that there is remarkable number of UASC reported through the FGDs and KIIs in the assessment sites, there is no appropriate alternative care system. Informal foster care, children living on the street and children living on their own (child headed household) are the common care arrangements reported through KII. This implies that there is a strong need for formal care arrangements where UASC can be monitored and supervised to protect them against possible abuse and exploitation.

During and aftermath of conflicts and disaster child protection actors should pay a lot of attention to identification, registration, care and support and FTR for UASC.

Dangers and Injuries; Physical Violence and Other Harmful Practice

Physical violence and harmful traditional practices, which may cause injuries and death to children in the assessment locations were inquired into. Assessment results indicate that there are environmental hazards and harmful traditional practices in Jonglei and Pibor. Upto 256 respondents (74%) attributed the physical injuries and death of children to environmental hazards such as; accidents, open pit latrines, riversides/drown in water...

Existing Harmful Risks to the Children in the Community (Multiple Response)



- Domestic violence, criminal acts and sexual violence against children are other forms of risk factors that elicit injuries and death to children in the assessment locations. On the other hand, early and forced marriage interlinked with the consequence of physical abuses and HTP were also cited by respondents. Boys remain the most vulnerable group to physical injuries while the assessment identified children in 6-14 years age range as most affected.
- Residential areas like camp (56%), market places (55%), home (46%) and ways to school (30%) found to be hotspots for physical violence. Average of 23 cases of serious injuries and deaths were estimated by KII in each assessment site. 70% of respondents indicated own observation (personal observation) as the source of data or estimation indicated above.

KII participants indicated they know of children in the community who engage in violence acts. About 205 respondents, (60% of the KII participants) responded “yes” to the questioner item... “*Are there any children in this area who have been or are committing acts of violence?*”. Gang activities, looting and sexual assault are examples of the most rated violence acts reported to be committed by children.

Psychosocial Distress and Community Support Mechanisms

Significant number of respondents reported that they have noticed psychological or behavioral problems in children. Violence against younger children, more aggressive behavior, disrespectful behavior in the family, less willingness to help caregivers and siblings and substance abuse are some of the behavioral changes observed by the key informants.

Recurrent attacks (intercommunal conflict), child abduction, sexual violence, extra hard work, losing their belongings and separation from family members are the factors causing psychosocial distress and trauma on the children.

Family members such as; parents, relatives, as well as community members including community volunteers, leaders and religious leaders were identified as the groups the support the children when they are stressed.

The KII reported that the psychosocial distress is not limited children alone but there are parents and caregivers affected due to challenges brought by insecurity, natural disasters, displacement, poor access to basic services and high levels of deprivation. As a result, children are not getting adequate social support from their caregivers and parents. Caregivers and parents are manifesting behavioral consequences such as;

- Paying less attention to children
- Becoming more aggressive against children
- Spend less time with children
- Encourage children to go married and

- Send children away from home

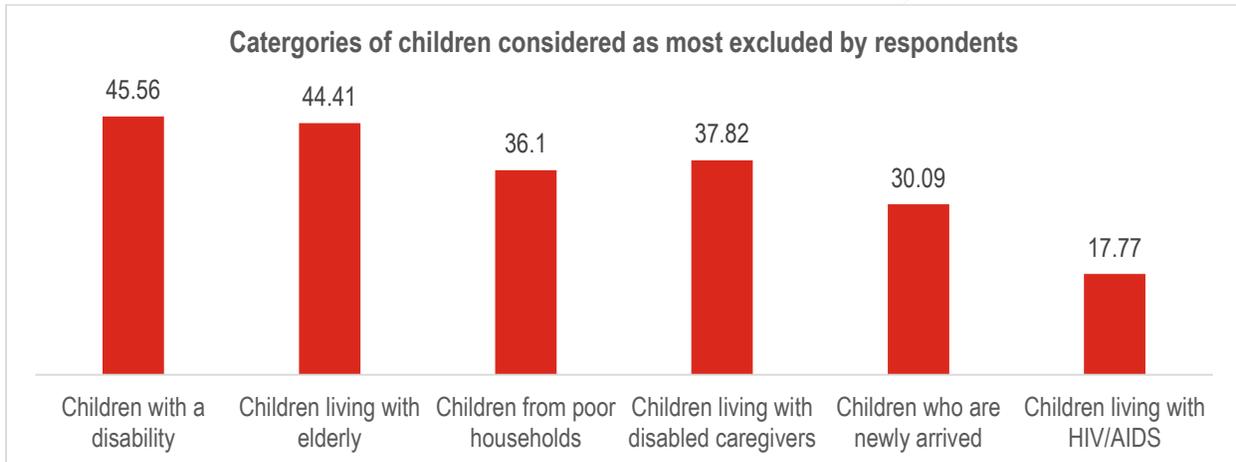
According to this assessment the main sources of stress for caregivers are

- Ongoing conflict
- Lack of food
- Lack of shelter
- Loss of properties
- Violence within the community...

Community structures and family members remain source of supports where parents and caregivers seek supports when they are psychologically affected.

Access to Services and Excluded Children

The assessment identified groups of children with less access to humanitarian services. Children with disabilities, children living with elderly, children living with people with disabilities are some of the groups who have less access to services. As in the case with the FGDs; some community members have no interest to send children with disabilities to schools. Service provision sites are also not friendly to these groups of children.



In regards to access to key messages and information; radio, community leaders and religious leader were listed by KII as the top three sources of information in the target communities.

Child Labour

Key informants were asked on the situation of child labour including hazardous forms of child labour in Jonglei State and GPAA. Accordingly, 72% of respondents indicated awareness on the existence of child labour and exploitation by responding 'yes' to the question "Are there any children in this community who are involved in types of work that are harsh and/or dangerous for them?".

Some forms of child labour, which were reported in this assessment are,

- Domestic labour
- Farm works
- Fishing
- Grazing animals
- Transporting people and goods

- Joining forces of fighting groups

An average estimation of KII shows about 164 children are engaging in the worst forms of child labour in each IDP/camp sites. The KII coupled with physical observation indicates that there are prevailing new forms of child labour observed as results of recent flooding. These are:

- Engaging children in dyke building,
- Children giving services in assisting people to cross water by pooling/pushing small boats (canoe) across the water in the towns and roads (Bor South),
- Stagnant water points are increasing and will lead to disease outbreak like malaria,

There are also other forms of works increasing in different assessment areas. In addition to the aforementioned worst form of works, the KII analysis shows that producing and selling charcoal, substance abuse and sell, engaging in gang/violent acts, engaging in fighting at the rise.

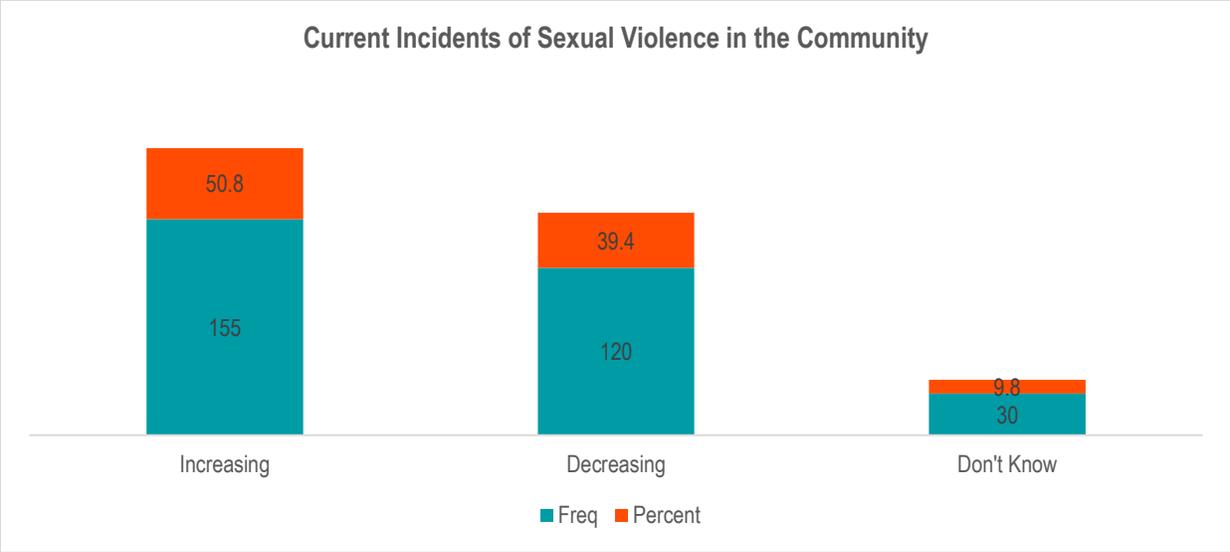
Children associated with armed forces and armed groups

The assessment inquired into recruitment and use of children by armed forces and group (CAAFAG). 174 (49.86%), 138 (39.54%), 37(10.6%) key informants responded no, yes, and do not know respectively for the question *“Do you know of children working with or being used by armed forces or groups around this area/IDP site/camp/village? E.g. children with guns, operating checkpoints, cooking or cleaning for military, etc.”*. However, a group of key informants who replied yes for the above question were able to estimate number of children associated with armed force/group in their locations. About 17% of key informants estimated that between 11 to 20 (at least 11 at most 20) children from their communities were known to be associated with armed forces/groups in one way or another; while 15 respondents estimated that 6 to 10 children are engaged in the above. According to the KII respondents’ boys are the group of children who mostly engage in CAAFAG.

A group of KII also indicated a rise in the number of children associated with armed forces/groups. The key informants were reporting that they were seeing more children working with armed forces and groups in the last one-year period. Likewise, they reported witnessing many children disappearing from the communities. Reasons given by key informants for children joining or being associated with listed number armed force/group can be summarized into three main categories: economic crisis/poverty, revenge killing and self-motivation to protect their community.

Sexual Violence

More than 50% of key informants interviewed indicated that they believe sexual violence incidents are on the increase. Below is a table of the results on the question whether incidences of sexual violence are on the increase or not.



Key informants indicated that sexual violence occurs in several situations. The majority of the situations described happens to be environments where children live, play and engage in different forms of activities in the context of South Sudan. This raises the question of safety and protection of children in these situations/contexts.

- While collecting firewood,
- During armed attacks,
- While collecting water,
- During population movement,
- While playing around the camps,
- On the way to and from schools are the situations in which the children encounter sexual violence.

Respondents indicated that girls are more vulnerable to sexual violence. In terms of age, the key informants indicated that younger children under 14 years of age are more vulnerable.

About 43% of respondents indicated that children seek help when r sexual abused. According to the KII analysis and summary of FGD from some locations, girls seek help from mother (42%), health workers (23%), social workers (15%). Likewise, boys turn to their father (41%), health workers (18%), chief (15%) and friends (14%).

Case Study 1: A girl with Disability in Suk Zero IDP Site

Kuot (Not real name), 8 years old girl, was sheltered in Panapet village, South of Bor Town after she and her elder sister (the only family she has) ran away from the intercommunal conflict early this year in Maar-Twic East County. She is living with disability on one of her legs since birth. Ever since schools closed due to COVID-19, she has not had any opportunity to study.

Nyanachiek and her elder sister who is taking care of her have been forced to be displaced for the second time by flooding from Panapet. They are currently living at Thuk Zero, a raised area where very many families are sheltered under a small market shade. Her the needs are dire, as there is shortage of food, clothing, beddings and basic services in terms of hygiene & sanitation, shelter, clean water, health services among others. In her own words Nyanachiek, explained she feels;

“I am not sleeping well at night, thinking that attacks can burst here again anytime. In this place, I am struggling to cope with new environment, new people and I am finding it difficult to play, socialize and stay with friends. For many months now, I have not been able to go to church and school because they tell us Corona will affect us if go there.”

Nyanachiek, was recently identified during this assessment on the situation of child Protection as informed by the series of intercommunal violence between communities of Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative area and other emergencies of flooding and COVID-19.

She is currently under comprehensive case management and is receiving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions. Comprehensive assessment is underway to gauge all needed support to help her cope with the situation.

She added that, “my sister and I lived in Maar before gunmen stormed our village, burnt houses, killed people and raided cattle. We ran away and came here (Panapet) and stayed with distant relatives. Floods came and destroyed this village and that is why people came to this place (Thuk Zero). In this place, I am struggling to cope with new environment, new people and I am finding it difficult to play, socialize and stay with friends. I am not sleeping well at night thinking that attacks can burst here again anytime. For many months now, I have not been able to go to church and school because they tell me that Corona will affect you if go there.

We have not received any support from anyone since we came here. We sleep in that place (referring to a market shade). Many other people sleep there as well as you can see many people in there. When I am sick, my sister buy medicine-sometime she has nothing to buy them. There are no latrines here, people go to the bush and I am afraid”.

As she is one of the separated children in this site, she is facing a lot of challenges including, but not limited to shortage of food, clothes, medical services due to the fact that there are no health services in the site. Lack of WASH, shelter, protection and education are the common challenges that were observed by the assessment team.

Case study 2: A mother who delivered a baby in SUK ZERO IDP Site

Nyanthich (Not real name), 36, is one of the many mothers who delivered in IDP site. She has been displaced with her 7 children (6 boys and 1 girl) from Jarwuong after their house submerged in water. She delivered early Sep 2020 at SUK ZERO IDP site near the military barrack. This assessment team met her relative (name withheld) to check her current condition and challenges she is facing in this IDP site.

According to the relative (names withheld), Nyanthich (not real name) was displaced by flooding early July from Jarwuong village close to the River Nile. This happened when she was pregnant. He added that she was in poor living conditions as a lactating mother. There is shortage of facilities in terms of hygiene & sanitation, shelter, clean water and health facility. All resources and properties including food, utensil and other household materials were swept away by flood waters. Due poor living conditions at this IDP and vulnerable situation as a mother with young baby, we helped her to evacuate to Military Barrack. We have not received any support except seeing humanitarian vehicle carrying staffs and looking for head of chiefs.

SUMMARY OF FGD FINDINGS FOR BOR SOUTH

Ten FGDs were conducted in Malek, Agorbaar, Suk Zero and Bor B IDP sites, Bor POC and Yaradau village. Thirty-three girls in four groups, 16 boys in two groups, 17 women in two groups and 14 men in two groups were participated focus group discussions. In total 80 people (33 girls, 16 boys, 17 women and 14 men) participated in FGDs.

The groups identified early/forced child marriage, family separation and child abduction as the top three child protection concerns/issues in Bor South. Other protection risks identified by the groups included; child labour, psychosocial distress, physical and emotional abuse. Lack of playgrounds for children was also raised as an issue of concern.

In the FGDs with girls and women groups concerns on WASH and dignity kits were commonly raised. They mentioned that there is shortage or lack of sanitary materials (pads, pants and soap), latrines and boreholes. Almost all groups of girls and women directly/indirectly indicated high need of dignity kits in the IDP sites. In addition to CP concerns, adult

FGD groups highlighted key drives such as shortage of food, shelter and diseases and lack of basic subsistence (NFI) as areas of need for children and adults.

Sexual Violence against Children

Majority of FGD groups indicated that there is no direct risk of sexual violence against children in Bor South. However, one FGD group mentioned the risk of sexual violence. The group indicated that there are sexual practices against girls in the form of sexual assault and incest by close male relatives. Early marriage, child abduction and child labor mentioned above have direct consequence of sexual violence against children. As mainly abducted girls and girls working away from home quite often experience sexual violence.

There are certain causes and drives for sexual violence identified by FGD participants. Lack of rule of law, low level awareness of the law and rights of children and weak protection systems are factors contributing to sexual violence against children. According to the participants, economic crises, recurring communal conflicts and displacements are exacerbating child abuses in general and sexual violence in particular.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC):

Adult and child representatives who participated in the FGDs recommended the following resolution for unaccompanied and separated children.

- Family tracing and reunifications
- Alternative community-based care arrangements and.
- Institutional care (as last resort option)

FGDs suggested that communities should be trained on child protection concerns including issues related to UASC and how to identify the child protections cases and issues, Community members should also be trained on psychological first as they are first line respondent to child protection cases. According to the FGDs UASC should be provided with education, medical care and psychosocial support services while the process of family tracing and reunification (FTR) is on progress.

Physical Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP)

Physical violence is being inflicted on children in various forms. Caning, beating, engaging in child labour (compound cleaning, herding cattle...) beating and denial of food are forms of corporal and humiliating punishment, among others.

FGDs recommended the following measures should be taken by government, humanitarian agencies to tackle forced and child marriage.

- Advocacy
- Create awareness on early marriage
- Teaching community, the importance of girls' education
- Awareness on the negative impact of early marriage
- Awareness through medias
- Strengthening legal system, policy to ban early marriage
- Awareness on disadvantage of early marriage

All FGDs confirmed that communities in Bor South have positive attitude towards children with disabilities. Communities believe that children with disabilities are equally human beings. As results, respondents indicated that the community takes special care of these group of children and do not allow them to do heavy work. Other children also do welcoming them to play and stay with them. However, few number of FGD participants reported that there are limited numbers of community members who think that children with disabilities are burden to the parents. Bullying in school and lack of interest by some parents to send children with disabilities to school are some challenges these group of children are facing.

Psychosocial Distress and Community Supports

Participants were asked to describe what kinds of supports/help should be given to them to help children with psychosocial distress to recover/feel well again and live a normal life. The participants began the discussion with causes of stress in their community. Majority or more than 80% of the population is displaced by flooding which is caused by break of River Nile dyke. Consequently, having inappropriate shelter, WASH facilities, medical services are observed to be causes of stress among the community. The reopening of schools was not received as good news for households currently sheltered in schools and that is also causing stress among the displaced community. The groups recommended the following measures to address psychological distress among children and caregivers;

- Creation of recreation center like CFS in the community
- Provision of basic counseling for both children and parents/caregivers
- Technical support to community to help them handle psychosocial issues

In addition, there are proxy solutions suggested such as;

- Helping the displaced community with shelters, food aids (livelihood opportunity), provision of medical and WASH services are suggested as basic support that can reduce the level of stress at individual and community level.

It was clear that community-based child protection mechanisms are weakened by these emergencies that led to subsequent displacements. The FGDs were able to identify some child protection structures/mechanisms available within the community regardless of their strength; Child protection committees, awareness raising activities, NFI support by some CP agencies were reported by FGD participants. However, FGDs in most of the IDP sites such as Malek SS, Agorbaar, Bor POC, Suk Zero and Bor B reported that there are no child protection structures/mechanisms in these IDP sites.

Impacts of COVID – 19

In the FGDs the following COVID 19 impacts on children were identified:

- Children's right to play, education, movement and socialization are restricted as schools, CFSs and playgrounds remain closed
- COVID 19 is causing stress
- Family separation
- Forced children to play in risky areas for the CFSs are not functional
- Girls' pregnancy is increasing

SUMMARY OF FGD FINDINGS FOR AKOBO

Twelve (12) FGDs (3 with each groups of boys, girls, women and men) were conducted in Bilkey, Denjock and Gakdong Payams of Akobo East. A total of 60 (15 girls, 15 boys, 15 women and 15 men) individuals participated.

Top 3 Child Protection issues in Akobo

Child abduction, sexual violence and child labour and exploitation are the top three protection risks identified through focus group discussion in Akobo East. In addition, family separation is also identified by many FGDs as one of critical child protection concerns although it is not among the top three risks in the county. Intercommunal conflict, the dire economic, food shortage, school closure and revenge killings were identified as factors exacerbating risks to children.

FGD participants indicated that girls are experiencing sexual violence in the forms of rape and sexual harassment. Economic challenge is identified as the biggest drive factor, which is pushing children to town or market areas where they are susceptible to different forms abuses and maltreatment. FGD participants indicated that traders are employ children and, in the process, also sexually abuse them. Girls are offering themselves for sexual intercourse in the

exchange of money from traders. There are also youths who are sitting idle and becoming a threat for girls. Unemployment rate is increasing and young men rape girls in the bush when they are collecting firewood. Participants mentioned a traditional practice called “Noong” which exposes girls to sexual abuse. According to FGD participants, “Noong” is a cultural practice whereby girls accompany a bride to the bridegroom family for about two weeks. While there, they are exposed to other men and are exposed to rape, sexual harassment, pornography words and other forms of sexual exploitation.

As a result, girls are bearing various consequences including early pregnancy, STD and death in some cases. Poverty, unemployment, harmful traditional practices, shortage of basic services like education, health, and livelihood are among the main factors contributing to child abuse including sexual violence.

Unaccompanied and Separated

The FGD participants reported that they observe unaccompanied and separated children in town. However, there is no visible support given to this group of children. Going forward, the FGDs suggested some solutions to be considered going forward. Such as;

- Humanitarian agencies to work on basic supports to this group of children and their caregivers
- Establishment of PSS supports in the community
- Provide basic support like food and others to meet individual needs.

Physical Violence in Akobo

FGDs, in Akobo revealed that communities are practicing different forms of physical and humiliating punishment in the name of disciplining children. Corporal punishment such as beating children and denial of food are some of the methods used in disciplining children in Akobo.

Children with disabilities are the most excluded group in Akobo. Communities are not providing special attention and support to them. Parents and caregivers are blaming God for giving them these kind of children. They keep them in the house instead of sending to schools.

FGD participants mentioned that all the aforementioned sexual, physical and emotional violence coupled with economic challenges, conflict and other natural disasters are causing psychological distress against children and caregivers. Accordingly, the participants suggested key critical areas of intervention to mitigate psychosocial distress among children. Economic support, especially food security was mentioned in almost all FGDs conducted in Akobo. Likewise, the community believes that schools are a source of wellbeing for children and they strongly recommended school reopening. In the areas of child protection programming the FGDs recommended to design project interventions with psychosocial supports and awareness activities. Even though there were some child protection structures in areas where assessment was conducted, it was reported that these structures are no more functional after the Corona virus outbreak. Participants remembered having child friendly spaces, recreational sites and support of community facilitators before the outbreak. On the impacts of COVID-19 on children and their communities, participants indicated that school closure has contributed to increase in early marriage, sexual abuse, child labour.

Three focused groups with children, men and women were conducted in Ayod county. Accordingly, 96 (30 men, 35 women and 16 girls and 15 boys) were participated.

Family separation, sexual exploitation and forced marriage are the top three child protection risks identified by participants in Ayod. However, psychosocial distress and domestic violence are other types of concerns reported from the FGDs. The participants indicated that these risks have high impact on children including pregnancies, death and sexual transmitted infections including HIV.

The participants in Ayod hold robbers, armed groups and some adults in the community accountable for the above violence against children. Children are also experiencing physical violence in the forms of beating and denial of foods in the name of discipline. The groups also indicated that children are experiencing emotional problems and there are observed changes children's behavior. They believe conflicts, floods and loss of properties are the main factors for distress among children. According to the discussion, children with disabilities are well accepted and treated in the community.

Community sensitization and awareness initiatives recommended by the FGD to tackle sexual violence, early and forced marriage. Likewise, the participants suggested that strong justice system should be in place. It is also reported that there are CFS activities supported by INTERSOS in some payams.

FGDs recommended the following measures to address care and protection of children separated from their families:

- Materials supports and for unaccompanied and separated children to enhance their psychosocial wellbeing
- Strengthening alternative care in the community and capacity building support for foster caregivers
- supporting the families taking care of unaccompanied children
- inclusive child protection and humanitarian responses with attention to unaccompanied and separated children
- Create counseling services and life skill opportunities

SUMMARY OF FGD FINDINGS FOR NYIROL

In Nyirol, 4 separate FGDs for girls, boys, women and men were conducted. A total of 40 people participated in FGDs Lankien (10 girls, 10 boys, 10 women and 10 men) In the discussions, the FGDs identified forced and early marriage, child labor and sexual violence and exploitation critical child protection concerns in Nyirol. Separation of children from their families and child abduction are the other profound risks to children in Nyirol. According to the FGDs; lack of resources or poverty remains causes for child abuses including early marriage and sexual exploitation. They also indicated that youths are using drugs and alcohols and get motivated to abuse girls. Girls in the age range of 13 to 17 are the most at risk of sexual violence including rape. IDP camps and when girls go to fetch firewood are the hotspot sites where girls are the areas and circumstances where girls sexually abused.

Children with disabilities, unaccompanied minors and separated children were highlighted by the FGDs as the excluded groups of children. The participants reported that children with disabilities are not treated differently based on their limitation. There is no special attention to this group.

There was child protection by SCI in and before 2019. However, there is no CP programing currently in this location.

The FGDs were identified and strongly recommended actions and solutions to be taken to alleviate protection risks identified. The following are some of the key recommendation from the four FGD conducted in Lankien:

- Child protection intervention with awareness activities and PSS services for children at risk
- Support family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children. Supports to foster caregivers in terms of capacity building, material and counseling was also recommended.
- Actions not to allow children to work in the market areas where they are being exposing themselves for labor and sexual exploitations.
- Traders who are hiring children should be targeted for awareness.
- Advocacy should be conducted around child protection issues designed to improve the situation of children.
- Basic supports and access to services are critical as part of psychosocial support. Clothes and sleeping materials and child friendly space activities were also suggested

- schools should be re-opened

The FGDs' participants also suggested that special attention should be given to children with disabilities. Supportive or mobility materials are needed for children with especial needs based on the type of disabilities they have. Furthermore, conducive environments where they can realize their development should be created for children with disabilities. Awareness raising works need to be done at school and family level so that peer groups, family members and the society can treat and support this group of children with respect and dignity. In conclusion, participants asked the government, elders, women associations, local authorities, government and NGOs to support actions to bring about peace in the country and also to reopen schools.

SUMMARY OF FGD FINDINGS FOR PIBOR COUNTY GPAA

In Pibor County of Greater Pibor Administrative Area, 12 FGDs were conducted in Langachot IDP site, Hai Matar, Kondako, Muduria, Manyirany and Lenyeris. 30 boys participated in two FGDs and also 30 girls took part in two FGDs separately. About 60 children took part in the group discussions altogether. 74 adult females took part in 4 FGDs; 25, 19, 16 and 14 respectively in four different locations i.e. Langachot, Muduria, Pibor boys and Kondako.

Among the 12 FGDs conducted are 4 groups attended by adult males in which 54 members took part in the discussion in groups of 14, 11, 16 and 13. In all the 12 FGDs, the top three ranked protection concerns were;

- Forced/early marriages
- Child abduction/trafficking
- Domestic violence

Children, women and men's groups ranked the above as the most prevalent. three. However, the groups also discussed/mentioned additional protection concerns. In the groups of the children, corporal punishment was also cited as a concern in Pibor County.

Sexual Violence against Children in all the FGDs, there was a general agreement that sexual violence is not very common in the area. During discussions, participants clearly indicated that, "we do not have this in our community." However, some participants indicated that, during attacks, armed men are always the perpetrators of sexual violence incidents. Participants also indicated that although these incidents of sexual violence are rare, they do sometimes happen due to poverty, conflict and bad cultural practices. Interestingly, although the same groups had just ranked early/forced marriage as one of the most prevalent forms of child protection concerns in their area, they were at same time indicating that they do not have sexual violence in their community. This is an indication that communities in this area have normalized early/forced child marriage and it's not viewed either by children, women or men as a protection issue or that children and women have been intimidated not to discuss it or view it as protection problem.

Participants in FGDs provided the following as mitigation measures to sexual violence against children;

- Local orders/by-laws should be passed to protect children from such acts.
- The national and state governments should stand tall in protecting the rights of children.
- Children should be kept home.
- Children should be encouraged to go school because at school they are safe.
- The community members have a responsibility to report any suspicion child abuse to the police.

Unaccompanied and Separated children in Pibor

To improve the support and care for Unaccompanied and separated children. The following recommendations were given by the groups;

- Establish of institutions that cater for such children.

- Support foster families with food, shelter, clothes and medical attention.
- Strengthen the capacity of the community based structures, and equip them with necessary resources and skills on how they can handle UASC cases in the community
- Training of women and men (foster care arrangements) to look and care for these children.
- Established and strengthen the family tracing and reunification process in terms of response timeline and quality of services.
- Strong need to liaise with the community and chiefs because most of these children are in deep villages.
- Awareness raising and information dissemination to be strengthened on prevention and response to family separation.

Recruitment and use of children in Pibor

While the respondent wasn't aware of the scale of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups, again they generally highlighted and indicated that it is a common problem in the state. Pibor has been the scenes of recurrent inter-communal conflict in the recent months and many children and youth participated as combatant in some of conflicts. They provided some recommendations as means to stop or discourage children from joining armed forces/groups.

- Children should be encouraged to take education as a first choice in life. The community and the governments need to work together to ensure that children are children and they should be in schools.
- Parents should discourage their children from joining armed groups.
- Government should come up with some policies that stop children from being used as soldiers.
- Awareness raising should be carried out to prevent children from joining armed groups.

Physical Violence and other harmful practices in Pibor.

In all the responses, serious beating has been reported as the only form of correcting children. If a child does not behave well or if a girl child refused to be married off, the punishment has always been beating. Many girls suffered because they refused to take suitors who are in most cases too old but have the bride price required by the girls' family. The result is always aggressive and hostile behavior towards the girls and tension in the family.

The solutions suggested for these practices include,

- Girls should be encouraged to go to school.
- Girls should be allowed to choose who to marry especially when they are grown up.
- The rights of children should be observed.
- Parents should make sure young girls are not forced to marry.
- Establishment of boarding schools to keep children in safety.

In all the discussions conducted, the responses indicated that children with disabilities are treated and cared for well and it is everyone's responsibility in the community to make sure every child with disability is attended to. Some responses said, disability is not a choice. Children with disabilities are supported and are encouraged to go to schools.

The responses also pointed out that the only child protection structures in the community are those supported by NGOs. Some of those structures include the CFS and WGFS constructed by the protection agencies. The Community based child protection networks. The poster caregivers trained for UASC cases and Children clubs.

SUMMARY FINDINGS OF FGDS IN BOMA COUNTY _ GPAA

A total of fourteen (14) FGDS were conducted with community members from Murle, Jie and Kachipo mainly from Boma town, Churi, Nyawepuru and Mewun Boma of Jebel Boma County of GPAA. The FGDS were attended by 27 girls in 4

groups, 20 boys in 3 groups, 21 women in three (3) groups and 38 men in four (4) groups. A total of 106 (27 girls, 20 boys, 21 women and 38 men) participants participated in the FGDs.

During the FGDs conducted with various groups of different age sets, the CP concerns identified included; abduction of children, child labor, children/family separation related to persistent conflicts, child marriage. Relatedly the issues of inadequate schools and playing spaces were also expressed.

The groups ranked the below child protection issues or concerns as the most critical in Boma;

- Child abduction
- Early or forced marriages or marriage arrangements.
- Family separations related to the persistent conflicts and migrations in search of safety and food.

The FGDs with the girls and women groups raised the concerns of personal health and hygiene, especially to the girls as they are mostly in need of the dignity kits, lack of latrines in the communities even at schools, if available not clean. Also the groups mentioned concerns of major protection risk drivers such as lack of adequate food, shelter, health services and other necessary needs among others.

Sexual Violence against Children in Boma County

Almost all the groups mentioned that there are risks of sexual violence against children and women in Jebel Boma County. The incidences of the sexual violence are mostly committed at home by a family friends and relatives at night or either by a community member during day time when children and women are on their ways to fetching water or collecting fire woods in forest or bushes nearby.

In addition, most of the FGD participants were in consensus that some of the main cause/factors behind sexual violence against children in this community of Boma include absence of rule of law, harmful traditional practices(e.g. girl to get a child out of wedlock prior marriage), economic distress in most families, frequent exposure to insecurity, communal conflicts, displacement, lack of proper parental care, substances abuse, lack of adequate capacity in Child Protection system/network and increase of persons with mental health disorders in the area.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) in Boma Country.

After explaining definitions/meaning of the two types of children by main facilitator to all FGD participants, the following recommendations and actions were recommended by the participants to be considered to improve care and support for unaccompanied and separated children in Jebel Boma:

- UASC identification/documentation
- Support their socio-economic and livelihood strategies e.g. provide them with basic needs
- Child rights awareness training for families and community at large
- Strengthen local community child protection structures/mechanism/ network
- Provision of recreational materials to allow them socialize with other children
- Alternative care arrangements e.g. foster care
- Family tracing and reunifications

However, while FTR process would still be ongoing, the FGD participants for adult females and adult males brought forth some additional recommendations that the hosting communities for UASC may need to be provided with some important services they are lacking like education, mental health/psychosocial support, and medical to enable them care well for the children.

Physical Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) in Boma County.

According to all the FGD participants, there are various types of physical violence and harmful traditional practices applied by caregivers/guardians or parents as forms of correcting children's behaviors in Jie, Murle and Kashipo communities of Jebel Boma county. Some of these forms include denying child a meal, beating, beating children fingers (girls only), putting fire on child's palm (boys only), chasing child away for few hours, double work, herding of livestock in danger zones of wild animal, slapping, and insulting among others. Despite the fact, some few individuals still argued that it is their culture and may not be changed easily, but majority admitted that those are wrong forms to be used in correcting children when they do not behave well in society.

During the discussion majority of participants suggested and recommended further actions to be taken by the community leaders, government and humanitarian agencies to prevent/stop all sorts of abuses and violence against children. The following recommendations made address issues of physical violence and harmful traditional practices against children expect;

- Training of communities on child rights, how report child abuses, and CP pathways
- Advocacy and lobby for children rights through campaigns and discussions forums
- Create awareness on child rights that addresses all sorts of abuses and violence against children.
- Create more awareness of children education, especially girls' educations.
- Strengthening legal system, policy to ban child rights especially the early or forced marriages.
- Establishment or strengthening of rule of law.

Generally, the FGDs conducted in Boma indicated a positive attitude toward children with disabilities and that they are given more care because of their situation. It was reported that when a disabled child asks for help, everyone do that quickly as community see them as source of blessings from God, they are given special care and treatment at family, in community and school. However, but few participants turned to look for the cause of the disabilities, others think they are related to bad acts committed by either parents of the disabled child. In addition, they said sometimes if a disabled child born in a family with limited resources, their education and care become big challenge due to resource scarcity but not related to luck of love from a parent to a child.

Psychosocial Distress and Community Supports in Boma County.

Psychosocial distress and Community Supports was one of the main topics discussed during FGDs in Boma. These topics were first introduced for the sake of good understanding among participants, hence, the discussions were lively as most of the adults (men/Women) and children had life experiences to present and to describe what kinds of supports/help should be given to help children with psychosocial distress to recover/feel well again and live a normal life. All participants went into discussion and began highlighting causes of stress in their community. Conflict leading to displacement, separation of children from their caregivers, lack of shelter in middle of heavy rain falls, lack of WASH facilities, lack of medical services, lack of mental health services, and lack of basic commodities in local markets were mentioned as main sources of community stress. The heavy rain fall that destroyed crops in fields and destroyed schools and some houses was added as another new scaring things as community members still having anxiety and living in uncertainty not knowing whether this will repeat itself or not. However, participants recommended some ways they believe as best resolutions to help children and their caregivers in coping with the day-to-day stress. These include the following points:

- Provision of basic counseling to both children and caregivers
- Dialogue with children and parents to know exactly what cause sadness
- Establish recreation centers for children e.g. CFS
- Technical support to community to help them handle psychosocial issues
- Create some awareness sessions in community to prevent other sources of stress
- The above are considered as urgent interventions (short-terms) by the participants and they suggested below as future or long-term plans:

- Construct permanent schools in all Payams to enable children to study and help themselves alone later
- Introduce communal projects on conflict management/mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The FGDs revealed that community-based child protection networks and mechanisms are weakened by persistent conflicts and insecurity resulting in massive community displacements. So, the participants were able to identify the available child protection networks and mechanisms which are not limited to formation of child protection community committees, training of the CPCCs and awareness creation sessions among others.

Impact of COVID-19 in Boma County

Participants were able to identify challenges and impacts of the COVID -19 on the children. These are:

- Restriction of movement attributed to family separation.
- Closure of schools and playing ground resulted to limited activities for the children and causing stress to the children and family members.
- Pregnancy rates among girls are reported to be on rise.

MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

In general children in the assessed locations are facing complicated and multifaceted protection risks resulting from recurring conflicts, flooding, displacement, economic distress in majority of families, harmful traditional practices and low awareness level child rights and protection issues. Overall, the assessment identifies the following as key areas that require critical attention.

1. Family separation, forced/early marriage, child abduction, child labour, sexual violence and child labour are the protection concerns in Great Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administration Areas.
2. The assessment reaffirmed the presence of separated and unaccompanied children in the affected sites. 71.8% of the respondents reported that they are aware of children without adult care in their communities. There are also parents who do not know the whereabouts of their children. On average, 97 unaccompanied and separated children are living in each camp or IDP sites.
3. Conflict (disappearance of children/caregivers in the immediate aftermath of the conflict), abduction, losing caregivers/children during relocation are the main factors for family separation. Likewise, significant number of parents/caregivers are sending their children voluntarily to extended families/friends far from home villages at the expense of their health and childhood welfare.
4. Boys are more vulnerable for family separation than girls are. Except infants, children of all age groups are at risk of family separation.
5. The assessment result indicates that there are environmental hazards and harmful traditional practices in Jonglei and Pibor. Upto 74% (256) of respondents attributed the physical injuries and death of children to environmental hazards such as; accidents, open pit latrines, riversides/drown in water...
6. Domestic violence, criminal acts and sexual violence against children are other forms of risk factors that elicit injuries and death to children in the assessment locations. On the other hand, early and forced marriage interlinked with the consequence of physical abuses and HTP as well. Boys remain the most vulnerable groups to physical injuries while the assessment identified children in 6-14 years' age range are vulnerable as well.
7. Residential areas like camp (56%), market places (55%), home (46%) and ways to school (30%) are hotspots for physical violence. On average 23 cases of serious injuries and deaths in each assessment sites were estimated by key informants.
8. The assessment confirms that there are children in the community who are engaging themselves in violence acts. Gang activities, looting and sexual assault are examples of the most rated violence acts reported by key informants to be committed by children.

9. Significant number of respondents reported that they have noticed psychological or behavioral problems in children. Violence against younger children, more aggressive behavior, disrespectful behavior in the family, less willingness to help caregivers and siblings and substance abuse are some of the behavioral changes that the key informants observed on children. Recurrent attacks (intercommunal conflict), child abduction, sexual violence, extra hard work; losing their belongings and separations are the factors causing psychosocial distress and trauma on the children.
10. The assessment revealed that the psychosocial distress is not limited to children alone, but there are parents and caregivers affected attributable to the situation on the ground. Consequently, children are not getting due respect and support from their caregivers and parents.
11. An average estimation of about 164 children are engaging in the worst forms of child labour in each IDP/camp sites. The KII coupled with physical observation indicates that there are prevailing new forms of child labour observed as results of recent flooding. These new forms of child labour are; engaging children in dyke building, children assisting people to cross water by pooling/pushing small boats (canoe) across the water in the towns (Bor South), producing and selling charcoal, substance abuse, engaging in gang/violent acts, engaging in fighting
12. The risk of children associated with armed force/group is on rise. The key informants were reporting that they were seeing more children working with armed forces and groups in the last one-year period. Likewise, they reported witnessing many children were disappearing from the community. The key informants listed number of reasons they think of factors for this group of children to join the armed force/group.
13. More than 50% of key informants believe that sexual violence incidents are increasing. Situations in which children are being exposed to sexual exploitation are related to unsafe environments where they live, play and engage in different forms of works. Girls are more vulnerable to sexual violence. Age wise, the key informants believe that children under 14 years of age are more vulnerable. About 43% of respondents believe, children seek help when victimized for sexual violence.

In conclusion, the assessment hinted to the fact that community based child protection mechanisms were weakened by the emergencies in Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative area that led to subsequent displacements. Nevertheless, the assessment identified some child protection structures/mechanisms available within the community regardless of their strength; Child protection committees, awareness raising activities, NFI support by some CP agencies were reported be ongoing by respondents during FGD. However, FGDs in most of the IDP sites such as Malek SS, Agorbaar, Bor POC, Suk Zero and Bor B reported that there no child protection structures/mechanisms in these IDP sites.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following programmatic and operational recommendations are meant to address all the key issues highlighted in this need assessment:

- a. There is need to consider providing critical social services to UASC as they wait for the reunification, vital services of education, health, food and shelters /NFI remain a big gap for many UASC waiting for FTR services.
- b. Promote community based alternative care for USAC in the communities by explaining the merits/benefits of the family setting care arrangement for children, CP partner to minimize the use institutional care and use it as last resort option,
- c. Strengthening the capacity of the community-based child protection structures and members of the community in the identification, reporting and providing first line child protection response is critical and urgently needs specially for the displaced communities where such structures don't exist.

- d. Increased incidents of beating of girls and boys by their parents as form of disciplining has been identified as too common within the communities, Child Protection partners need to consider and initiate positive parenting program to address the scourge of physical violence against children.
- e. An increased incidents of sexual violence against children and women reported in Boma county and responds to SGBV cases in the areas has been limited, CPSC to work along with GBV SC in address the service gaps in Boma County, a scale-up of SGBV programming focusing on both prevention and responsive programming will be critical urgently.
- f. Facilitate GBV Safety Audits exercise in all IDP sites in Jonglei and greater Pibor Administration areas.
- g. Advocate for more resources allocation to Child Protection and GBV Sectors in Jonglei and greater Pibor Administration area, in order to address the unmet humanitarian needs specially protection needs of the disaster affected populations.
- h. CP and GBV partners should continuously work and share information by developing joint assessments, response mission, and coverages in terms of service delivery.
- i. CPWG to regularly do service gap analysis and engage with the national CPSC for more resource's allocation in order to response CP needs on the ground.
- j. Engage with the PSS WG to identify creative and innovative designs for CFS constructions that can withstand during flooding,
- k. Consider mapping out environmental hazards such as Open pits, where necessary fence or fill it or request the support of local authorities' interventions.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Assessment Work Plan

Activities	Timetable	Responsible	Remark
Develop Assessment tools including KII, FGD and guidance notes	August 25, 2020	SCI	Reviewed by Partners
Establish Working arrangement with Partners	2 nd Sept. 2020	SCI and Jonglei Sub cluster Coordinator	Online meeting
Decide data collection methods and sampling procedure	8 Sept. 2020	Jonglei CPGBV Sub cluster	Online meeting
Orientation on Data collection tools	8 Sept. 2020	SCI and Jonglei CPGBV Sub cluster	Online workshop
Orientation for data collectors	9 Sept. 2020	Lead Agencies per location	Online workshop
Create and Share data entry link	10 Sept. 2020	SCI	
Data collection	10 – 18, Sept 2020	Member Partners	
Meeting on data collection Progress	15 Sept 2020	All participating agencies	
Meeting on data collection achievement and challenges	21 Sept. 2020	All participating agencies	
Data analysis	Sept. 18 to 21	SCI MEAL and CP teams	
Report writing and desk review	Ongoing	SCI and Jonglei Sub cluster	
Submission of Final Report	Sept 25 2020	SCI and Jonglei Sub cluster	