

South Sudan

Child Protection
Sectoral and OR+ (*Thematic*) Report

January - December 2016



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1. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAAFAG	Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups
C4D	Communication for Development
CBO	Community-based Organization
CBPSS	Community-based Psychosocial Support
CM	Case Management
CPIE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CPSC	Child Protection Sub-cluster
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
PSS	Psychosocial Support
SSDP	South Sudan Development Plan

2. Executive Summary

The people of South Sudan, and previously Southern Sudan, have been affected by conflicts for over half a century. It was hoped that after the country attained independence in 2011, the people would enjoy peace and embark on improving their well-being and developing the country. However, poor governance, widespread insecurity, disease outbreaks, persistent natural disasters, particularly drought and famine, and the lack of economic opportunities for the people of South Sudan have created the chronic humanitarian situation now facing the country.

Clashes between factions in the army, between the army and other armed groups and militias, and inter-communal clashes are the common causes of insecurity and displacements in the Republic of South Sudan. As an example, the factional fighting within the Sudan People's National Army (SPLA), the national army, which flared up in December 2013 continue up to date. Over 10,000 people have died as a result of the conflict, while abductions, rape, torture and recruitment and use of children is rampant. The number of internally displaced persons in South Sudan increased from 180,000 in December 2013 to 1,616,026 as of June 2016, while over 721,000 people fled as refugees into neighbouring countries.¹ These figures do not include the number of people killed or displaced in the recent fighting in Wau Town and Juba City in which over 300 people were killed and at least 100,000 civilians were displaced. As UNICEF and partners are still responding to the effects of the conflict, there are concerns that more fighting may erupt anytime in the country.

Renewed insecurity has placed more children in imminent risk of violence and abuse. It is estimated that over 876,000 children are experiencing some form of psychosocial distress². A further 37,000 South Sudanese children have been separated from their families across the region, including over 12,920 who have been registered as separated, unaccompanied or missing within the country and over 17,000 have been recruited and/or used by armed actors in the country. If these children are not returned to safe, family-based caring environments, they face increasing risks of child recruitment, child marriage, exploitation and other forms of violence.

The thematic contribution supported the implementation of child protection activities in the two-year joint work plan of UNICEF and the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) as guided by UNICEF's 2016-2018 Country Office Programme and is in line with the 2011-2013 South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) and the 2012-2013 UN Development Assistance Framework for South Sudan. The overall objective of the Country Plan is to lay the foundation and system to rapidly accelerate delivery of essential social services, giving focus to women, children and elderly.

Implementation of this joint work plan was, however, met with huge operational challenges such as widespread insecurity; massive shortages in human resources in all sectors; dilapidated and non-functioning institutions; knowledge gaps, financial and geographic barriers on the side of claim holders to access and to utilize services; poor road networks and communication facilities; increased inaccessibility during the rainy season; and continued austerity measures by the government.

Against all odds, the UNICEF Country Office continued to support the government's systems-building initiatives through upstream and downstream advocacy work, policy, strategy and technical tools development. The Country Office also supported capacity-building initiatives geared towards

¹ Source: <http://www.unocha.org/south-sudan>

² Refer to *Protection Trends South Sudan, May 2016*, National Protection Cluster.

strengthening government systems at all levels to be able to deliver sustainable service delivery especially to the most vulnerable groups: children and women.

The key partnerships for carrying out the child protection interventions through this current funding and other complementary funding sources included: National and State Ministries of Social Development and over 27 NGOs (national and international), and community based organizations. UNICEF is also the lead agency for the national Child Protection Sub-Cluster, the Upper Nile State GBV Working Group, and co-chairs the Family Tracing and Reunification and CAAFAG Working Groups, through which it provides technical support to over 45 child protection and GBV actors.

3. Strategic Context of 2016

The ongoing conflict has displaced over 1.6 million South Sudanese within the country and across borders into Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda (including around 1 million children). Persistent conflict coupled with worsening food insecurity and grave child rights violations has continued to stretch communities' capacities to keep children safe from violence, abuse and exploitation.

There have been a number of commitments made to end the recruitment and use of children by both parties to the conflict. Despite these commitments, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), which monitors grave child rights violations, suggests that over 17,000 children have been recruited and used by the armed forces and armed groups, and the conflict has increased the risk of children becoming victims of killing, rape, and abduction. In 2016, 1,025 incidents of grave child rights violations, affecting 23,489 children, were documented through the MRM, slightly fewer than in 2015 when 1,086 incidents were documented. Over a third of all incidents were documented in the Equatorias, which is more than double the number of incidents documented in the same region in 2015. Over three-quarters of the incidents in the Equatorias were documented after July 2016, when conflict first erupted in Juba.

Reported incidents of abduction, killing, mine-related injuries, rape and other forms of sexual violence more than doubled in 2016 from 2014, yet these figures are likely to be an underestimate of the true number of grave violations against children in 2016. Additionally, over the course of 2015, the number of registered unaccompanied, separated and missing children climbed from 6,800 to 14,000. The UN estimates that over two and a half million children affected by the conflict are in need of comprehensive services, with over 876,000 children estimated to be in psychosocial distress and in need of psychosocial support. As a result, there has been an ongoing need for UNICEF to maintain its focus on humanitarian action.

4. Results in the Outcome Area

Funding from the thematic grant ensured the availability of technical expertise for critical quality oversight and supervision to the protection program.

Child protection in emergencies (CPiE) services, including family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, release and reintegration, mine-risk education and other prevention messaging, were delivered to 693,067 children. This number includes 14,628 unaccompanied, separated, and missing children who received family tracing services, of which 9,046 cases remain active and require continued services. Of the total number of registered children, 4,572 have been reunited with their families in 2016. UNICEF and MRE partners have integrated and are rolling out mine-risk education (MRE) in schools, temporary learning spaces, and child friendly spaces. In 2016, MRE was delivered to over 280,229 people (120,458 boys, 102,701 girls, 29,524 men and 27,546

women) through school and community-based programming in emergency-affected states, including Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile.

The UN documented 1,025 incidents of grave child rights violations in South Sudan through the MRM; 848 of the incidents were verified and 177 unverified affecting 23,489 children (12,169 boys; 11,026; 294 sex unknown). Nearly a third of all incidents, 336, were documented in the Equatorias, which is more than double the number of incidents documented in 2015. Over three-quarters of the incidents in the Equatorias were documented after July 2016.

The UN verified 17 incidents of attacks on schools and 30 attacks on health facilities and medical workers. These incidents included attacks on schools and health clinics in the POC site in Malakal and in Pibor during armed clashes. Medical facilities were also looted as armed forces and armed groups passed through and engaged in fighting in several villages in the Equatorias.

In 2016, the UN verified 169 incidents of recruitment and use of children affecting 1,122 children (1,109 boys; 13 girls). In many documented incidents, boys have been observed to be used as bodyguards to military and armed group commanders, as escorts to county commissioners, as controllers at main checkpoints, or carrying out other support activities. Girls were observed carrying weapons, and UN also documented incidents of girls used for sexual purposes.

In Pibor, UNICEF supported the release and reintegration of 145 boys that were released by the Cobra Faction in October 2016 as the armed group continued its integration into the SPLA. Additionally, 34 boys were released in Unity State by the SPLA and other government security forces. UNICEF provided the support throughout the release process and reunified the children with their families and caregivers.

Funding from this grant also supported the purchasing of child protection supplies. UNICEF expanded the delivery of supplies to other partners beyond the geographic scope of the original proposal. All targets were met in the targeted locations. Where there are no child protection partners, UNICEF undertakes direct implementation, including in difficult-to-access areas, to support IDPs and affected host communities through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). During the RRM missions, UNICEF deploys experienced Child Protection in Emergencies personnel to deliver child protection services such as FTR, PSS, monitoring and reporting of grave violations, and MRE.

Intensive UNICEF technical support, supported through these funds, has led to key strategic programmatic shifts, including 70% of UASC receiving at least one follow-up visit: a more than 40% increase in the number of FTR follow-up visits and the transition to community-based psychosocial support from centre-based psychosocial support. UNICEF deployed child protection specialists and officers throughout seven of the ten states to provide onsite coaching, training, and oversight for national and international partners to improve programme quality. Programmatic field visits to partner locations by Juba-based technical specialists were conducted in addition to routine monitoring provided by state-level child protection specialists. In 2017, UNICEF will continue to invest in playing a leading technical role, as partners more systematically monitor and respond to recent quality assessments and improve child participation and accountability to children.

Monitoring and evaluation

Progress was monitored using the Integrated Results and Resources Framework, the ICF results matrix and the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. Monitoring tools included UNICEF's Monitoring Results for Equity System, joint UNICEF and partners' mid-year and annual reviews, UNICEF and ICF mid-term reviews and cluster coordination monitoring mechanisms. Independent evaluations have been co-managed with relevant Government institutions following UN evaluation

norms and standards. Child protection monitoring systems in the section have ensured that findings from programme assurance activities are utilised and have contributed to the ongoing effectiveness and efficiency of programme management. Child Protection works with other sectors in UNICEF and UN agencies to strengthen the capacity of national institutions in monitoring progress toward national and international goals and in tracking inequities.

Child Protection has employed a range of approaches and tools to measure programme progress and ensure continuous data-driven management to improve performance. The contribution from UNICEF's Monitoring and Evaluation section has supported child protection staff members throughout the project implementation, including in their field visits to monitor the progress on the ground and by providing technical support to counterparts when needed. The team at the field level has played a critical role in conducting rapid assessments, coordinating child protection interventions, responding immediately to protection issues, and monitoring project implementation and progress to ensure quality of services. However, considering the volatile security situation in some parts of South Sudan, especially in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states, monitoring implementation of the child protection activities has been particularly challenging, hence the use of third-party monitoring has been used as an alternate measure when necessary. In accessible areas, UNICEF, through its field staff, has directly monitored the implementation of programme activities.

Challenges and lessons learned

The key challenges faced during programme implementation were the following:

Conflict-related disruptions to service delivery: The conflict has contributed to temporary (and at times, longer-term) access constraints; the frequent movement of communities escaping conflict also poses challenges in reaching community members on a regular basis.

Limited availability of child protection and GBV services: Even before the conflict, there were few agencies with the technical and institutional capacity to deliver high quality child protection and GBV services. The conflict has contributed to the destruction of agency assets and to the loss of staff that have fled as a result of the conflict; it has also prevented stronger national NGOs from being able to take their services to scale. This has resulted in a heavy reliance on UNICEF and other international actors to provide intensive technical support and, in some cases, to directly implement child protection services. Even where services exist, survivors of violence are often reluctant to access them because of fear of stigmatization. Over the course of 2014 and early 2015, UNICEF has strengthened its field presence to better predict and respond to implementation barriers, and it has adapted its strategy to include direct service delivery where necessary.

Continuation of grave child rights violations: While children were released from the Cobra Faction, an armed group in Jonglei, UNICEF has continued to document the recruitment and use of children throughout the country. Likewise, schools continue being used for military purposes and children continue being killed, maimed, and sexually assaulted by the armed forces and armed groups in areas affected by conflict.

The reintegration of the released children remains a fragile opportunity: There are very few basic social services in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, which has required a multi-sectoral and multi-year investment in education, WASH and health to complement the socio-economic reintegration services that are being provided to the released and vulnerable children in the community. UNICEF contracted an international reintegration expert to develop an appropriate community-based reintegration program in the communities and is currently being rolled this out.

Similar large-scale investments, coupled with swift action will also be required in other locations if more children are released in 2017.

Against this backdrop, UNICEF has sought to further strengthen its field presence to better predict and respond to implementation barriers and it has adapted its strategy to include direct service delivery where necessary. A new staffing structure has been agreed for the child protection section during the country program strategy for 2016-2018. Whilst short-term surge staffing was used in the first half of 2016, it is apparent that continued, intensive levels of technical support is needed to support partners to respond. Consequently, additional technical specialists have been recruited at the national and state levels to ensure that UNICEF is ready to provide this support.

Key strategic shifts have also been initiated in each of the CPiE programmes in response to evidence generated from UNICEF supported and independent assessments. For example, the FTR network is now investing in strengthening the follow-up system for the most vulnerable separated and unaccompanied children while partners that provide PSS services are in the process of shifting from centre-based to community-based PSS models. As the country moves into a more protracted conflict context, UNICEF is strengthening the use of MRM data to better inform advocacy and programmatic response through the launch and implementation of the *Children Not Soldiers* campaign and greater engagement with the state and non-state actors to the conflict.

5. [Financial Analysis](#)

Table 1: Planned budget by Outcome Area

Outputs (Intermediate Results)	Planned Budget 2016 (USD)			
	Other Resource Emergency	Other Regular Resources	Regular Resources	Total
4040/A0/02/005/001 System Building	-	1,515,000	250,000	1,515,000
4040/A0/02/005/002 Emergency CP Service Delivery	14,081,826	2,326,855	-	16,408,681
4040/A0/02/005/003 Technical Support	718,174	1,496,145	400,000	2,214,319
Total	14,800,000	5,338,000	650,000	20,138,000

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 216

Donor	Grant	Contribution amount	Programmable amount
Canadian UNICEF National Committee	SC149901	11,838	11,093

Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area

Outputs (Intermediate Results)	Expenditures 2016 (USD)			
	Other Resource Emergency	Other Regular Resources	Regular Resources	Total
4040/A0/02/005/001 System Building	10,437	347,883	24,953	383,273
4040/A0/02/005/002 Emergency CP Service Delivery	9,999,601	2,154,012	104,255	12,257,868
4040/A0/02/005/003 Technical Support	2,881,402	542,492	338,939	3,762,832
Total	12,891,440	3,044,386	468,146	16,403,972

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area

Programme Area	Other Resource Emergency	Other Regular Resources	Regular Resources	Total
06-01 Data and Child Protection	68,832	40,167	6,253	115,253
06-02 Child Protection systems	10,437	604	50	11,092
06-04 Justice for children			15,146	15,146
06-05 Birth registration		347,883	9,756	357,639
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	9,999,601	2,154,012	104,255	12,257,868
06-08 Child Protection # General	2,812,570	502,324	332,686	3,647,579
Grand Total	12,891,440	3,044,990	468,146	16,404,577

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Specific Intervention Codes (SIC)	Expenditure
06-02-01 Child Protection systems strengthening	10,487
06-02-02 Child Protection # mapping and assessment	604
06-04-02 Diversion programmes and other alternatives to detention of children	15,146
06-05-01 Birth and civil registration	357,639
06-06-01 Prevent and address violence, exploitation and abuse of children in humanitarian action	2,376,139
06-06-02 Prevent and address gender based violence of girls and women in humanitarian action	9,854
06-06-03 Psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces	9,395,874
06-06-05 Child Protection # sub-cluster coordination in humanitarian action [for GBV, MHPSS and mine/ERW Risk Education (MRE)]	2,313

06-06-06 Prevent and address child recruitment in armed forces and combat groups	421,118
06-06-07 Prevent and address impact of use of landmines and other explosive remnants of war and weapons	15,989
06-06-08 Child Protection monitoring and reporting in armed conflict(SCR 1612 1882, 1888 and 1960)	18,781
06-08-01 Child Protection # general	2,611,013
06-08-02 Child Protection -technical assistance to regional and country offices	518,971
06-08-03 Child Protection -support to achieving global and regional goals	3,557
4072 Psycho-social support to children and families including family based care in humanitarian action	17,800
4091 Child protection and violations data collection, analysis, reports and use	115,253
4901 Staff costs (includes specialists, managers, TAs and consultancies) for multiple OTs within FA4	514,038
Total	16,404,577

6. Future Work Plans

Building upon existing achievements and lessons learned, discuss the priority actions in 2017 and 2018 to ensure the goals of the Strategic Plan are met. This should ideally include an estimate of the budget required, the projected impact of funding shortfalls on the achievement of planned targets, and how the work plan will overcome constraints, including insufficiently flexible resources.

The child protection programme will continue to focus on and prioritise the most vulnerable children by promoting policy, strengthening systems and delivering critical services that have an equity focus. Much of the current programming focus will be maintained, with the most significant shift being a stronger focus on CAAFAG programming. To build resilience and promote sustainable child protection responses, UNICEF will focus on supporting the government to expand and strengthen its birth registration and justice systems. Emergency services will focus on the most urgent and life-saving opportunities, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, family tracing, psychosocial support, release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups and mine-risk education. This will also include dedicated support to the child protection sub-cluster and partners to make key strategic shifts towards greater quality assurance and accountability to affected children. Advocacy will remain an additional priority through the collection, analysis and use of MRM-related information, situation monitoring and periodic assessments of programme implementation to increasing allocations of national resources and scaling up high impact interventions.

System building – birth registration and justice for children

Children without birth certificates are vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation. Proof of age in the form of a birth certificate protects children under 12 from arrest and detention by police (criminal age of responsibility is 12 years), protects children from under-age recruitment into the armed forces, protects girls from child marriage and will make family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children easier. Prior to independence in July 2011, birth registration was available and birth certificates issued, but only in three regional teaching hospitals. According to the 2010 SSHS, 35 per cent of births of children under-five years were registered with civil authorities across the country. Registration was reportedly lower in rural areas and varied across states, as well as with both mothers' education and wealth quintile (UNICEF South Sudan, 2014b). UNICEF will strengthen the regular and routine system of issuing birth notifications to all new-borns at health facilities in targeted counties in 2017. This involves training health workers and revitalizing Boma Health Communities. Mobilization of support, the advocacy and lobbying done to bring the

important ministries together for the development of the civil registration systems has been recognized.

Emergency child protection and gender based violence services for children

In response to this ongoing, and in many cases increased vulnerability, UNICEF will continue to focus primarily on child protection and GBV response in emergency-related service delivery, including release and reintegration services for children associated with armed forces or groups, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support and efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations and mitigating the renewed risks of injury from mines and unexploded ordnances. UNICEF will support partners to expand their services where possible, to increase coverage in the most affected areas. UNICEF has also supported the Sub-cluster to develop a framework for measuring and monitoring the quality of services and the application, and trialling of this framework will be a priority for the next two years.

Large scale displacement affects up to 1,000,000 children and coupled with violence, food insecurity and a series of disease outbreaks has left many children separated from their families, in psychosocial distress and vulnerable to further violence, abuse and exploitation. Up to 17,000 children are also believed to have been recruited and used by armed actors and only 1,900 have been formally released since the outbreak of conflict in December 2013. As a result of ongoing conflict in 2016, the number of registered separated or unaccompanied children continues to rise, with many of these children living in areas where partners are not safe to work and placing these children at risk of secondary separation, delayed reunification and considerable psychosocial distress. Ongoing conflict has also led to large numbers of grave child rights violations, increased psychosocial distress in displaced and host communities and new risks of mine related injuries. Gender-based violence, which was already unacceptably high before the conflict, continues to be exacerbated by conflict, by a lack of access to timely and quality care and support services and by pervasive traditional and social norms that promote or accept the use of violence.

7. Expression of Thanks

Recognizing contributions from resource partners is very important to ensure crucial support and commitment. Highlight the flexibility of thematic support (OR+) that have contributed to the results against the programme area targets.

On behalf of the children and women throughout South Sudan who have been reached with your assistance, UNICEF would like to express its sincere appreciation to its funding partners who continue to provide thematic resources to meet the critical child protection needs in South Sudan.

8. Annexes: Human Interest Stories and Donor Feedback Form

Human Interest Story

Supporting children distressed by fighting in South Sudan



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Noor Angelo, 13, says he doesn't feel it's safe enough to return home. Many children like Noor were separated from their families when fighting broke out, and are seeking safety at local schools and shelters.

Children who experienced violent clashes in Juba, South Sudan earlier this month are anxious and afraid. Many require psychological support to help reduce the risk of further distress and disruptions to their well-being.

JUBA, South Sudan, 21 July 2016 – In the battle-scarred capital of South Sudan, children who should be playing are instead worrying about the future and asking when it will be safe to go home again.

Two weeks after heavy fighting erupted in Juba, thousands remain displaced. And though a ceasefire has held since 11 July, many are afraid the conflict could resume.



© UNICEF South Sudan/2016

: Children who live in the centre run by Confident Children out of Conflict have been deeply affected by last week's violence.

"They're not themselves," says Lisette Suarez, a psychologist at Confident Children out of Conflict, a UNICEF partner that provides support and shelter to vulnerable children. "It's hard to get them to concentrate. They keep asking if the fighting is going to start again."

The organization is normally home to nearly 50 children, but another 15 arrived during the worst of the fighting this month. The children were seeking safety after losing track of their parents when their families fled their homes.

"We tried to keep everyone calm. We prayed, we played some cartoons for them. We tried to make life here as normal as possible, but the children would ask if the soldiers were coming after them," says Tinate Zebedayo, the group's acting director.

"Our first priority is to find and reunite children who are separated from their families because of the fighting," says Anthony Nolan, a UNICEF child protection specialist. "But we also have to provide long-term psychological support so that children can recover from these traumatic events. Children should be playing football, not dodging bullets and mortars."



© UNICEF South Sudan/2016

Children displaced by fighting in South Sudan play in a classroom in a school.

At the nearby St. Joseph's school, dozens of orphans and their carers continue to sleep in empty classrooms, too frightened to return. Some of the most intense battles took place near their

children's centre, and children and staff walked for hours, some barefoot, to reach the church complex where the school sits.

UNICEF volunteers have turned classrooms into play areas with toys and games for children. The younger children race about, tossing balls and bumping into one another. The older children are more thoughtful. Noor Angelo, 13, says he would rather stay at the school than return home. "That place is dangerous now," he says. "Here is better."

UNICEF and partners have registered more than 13,000 children who have been separated from their families since the conflict began in South Sudan. 4,137 have been reunited with their families. Family tracing efforts are underway for those who are still alone or being cared for by neighbours or relatives.

Report Feedback Form

Project title: Thematic report Outcome 6: Child Protection 2016

Grant number: SC149906

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:

Name: Nadia Ben Mohamed

Email: nbenmohamed@unicef.org

**SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”**

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5

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3

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1

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If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

Thank you for filling this form!