

Annex 1.

Protection Monitoring (PROMO) Working Group Terms of Reference & Working Document

June 2022

1. Operational Context

In 2022, the humanitarian community in South Sudan estimates that more than two-thirds of South Sudan's population, 8.9 million people, need humanitarian assistance, an increase of 600,000 since 2021. Continued conflict and instability in the country combined with flooding have resulted in large-scale internal and cross-border displacement.

Climatic, conflict & economic shocks exacerbated by household-level stressors have continued to compound the humanitarian environment with access to essential services, including health care, education, water, and sanitation, as well as protection and legal services, remaining a key protection challenge. Ranked as 185 out of 189 in the Human Development Index, the protection environment in South Sudan is characterized by high poverty levels with an estimated 4 out of 5 persons living in poverty, low life expectancy and high child mortality rates.

Whereas the Revitalized Agreement for Reduction of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) executed in 2018 and the subsequent agreement to re-join the Sant' Egidio process has been credited with a notable de-escalation of hostilities, the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement's key components – such as the Transitional Security Arrangements, including both the formation of the Unified Forces and establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan – has been stalled. Consequently, sub-national violence, albeit with a direct nexus to national dynamics, as well as sporadic national infractions continue to occur – leading to new displacements and further complicating the prospects for return for the more than 2 million internally displaced people.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan continues to evolve within the context of localized violence. The lack of peace constitutes the major impediment

to development and any reduction in the reliance on humanitarian assistance. Local-level conflict, much of which is linked to national politics, harms civilians, increases displacement, impedes return, and disrupts humanitarian assistance activities and has led to the shrinking of the humanitarian space in conflict affected areas. Whereas humanitarian needs in South Sudan remain extremely high, the operation continues to lack a coherent and joint monitoring & analysis of the context/protection concerns. As currently constituted, individual humanitarian, peace and development actors continue to act in silos with little sharing of agency-or cluster specific analysis contributing to distrust rather than shared understanding and common responses.

2. Rationale & Guiding Principles

Cognizant of the multi-faceted nature of the operation, a harmonized and broadly inclusive platform for the systematic and regular collection, verification, and subsequent analysis of protection-related information to identify violations of rights and protection risks to inform effective response and advocacy is needed..

Within the organizational framework of the Protection Cluster South Sudan, and rooted in its strategic objectives, the PROMO is tasked to support the cluster coordination mechanism to seek holistic ways to ensure that protection monitoring, at the national and field level, results in sound analysis and timely response outcomes. This will not only aid the protection, other clusters as well as the entire humanitarian team in shaping effective responses but also support evidence-based interventions by humanitarian actors facing growing unmet needs as they reinforce State and non-state actors as the primary duty bearers in South Sudan.

It is envisaged that the Working Group PROMO will foster broad-based inclusivity among its rank and file

and will be open to all protection cluster members to meaningfully participate in its work. In addition, it will seek to identify areas of complementarity [and work alongside] with existing structures and mandate-holders to ensure that protection monitoring, at the national and field level, results in sound

The Working Group ROMO will oversee the PMS Protection Monitoring System on behalf of the Protection Cluster, promote common understanding and approach to protection monitoring in general, support, develop and issue guidance and standards for protection monitoring by local actors, undertake robust analysis and use of protection monitoring data and information for evidence-based decision-making at the national and state level in South Sudan.

The Working Group will collaborate with and be supported by the Protection Cluster's Information Management WG (IMWG) in the development, management, maintenance, and deployment of data and information collection as well as analysis and distribution/publishing. PROMO will engage with IMWG also in delivery of relevant trainings and policies, especially PIM..

In its undertakings as a technical group, the Promo PROMO WG will incorporate the PIM Conceptual Framework to promote the analysis and use of protection monitoring findings, by providing a shared structure and approach for protection monitoring. In accordance with the 2008 PIM Outcome document on Protection Monitoring, the PROMO Working Group's typology will adopt a human rights-based approach and ensure linkages to international human rights frameworks.

This approach will afford the Working Group Protection Cluster an opportunity for a stronger and more visible drive to ensure that: (i) Human rights defenders and actors use the protection cluster space to advance human rights work as per country-specific context and (ii) Protection Cluster members use strategic human right systems and mechanisms to address protection issues. This approach is consistent with the IASC guiding definition of protection - which places human rights at its core: "all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law".

The Working Group will as far as practically possible, take steps suo motu or otherwise in collaboration with others, to ensure the monitoring, analyzing and reporting with respect to affected persons' rights in the

South Sudan humanitarian crisis, including the root causes of rights violations,

The objectives of the Protection Monitoring System shall be to:

- Trigger provision of required assistance through referrals or adjustment of ongoing humanitarian response (beyond protection services)
- Provide protection actors with an evidence base for advocacy on protection risks.
- Identify further information needs on specific protection issues and address them through focused protection assessments

To ensure the full utilization of monitoring outputs, partners will individually and collectively advocate and communicate the purpose and use of protection monitoring findings with relevant departments (communication, advocacy, management, and sectoral colleagues and departments

3. Composition

- The Working Group shall be coordinated by the Protection Cluster Coordination Team's members with the supervision, support, and guidance of the Protection Cluster Coordinators.
- A representative from the IMWG will be permanent member of the PROMO to provide information management relevant expertise and support.
- A nominated representative from each Protection Cluster South Sudan AoR or TWG.
- A representative of each PC member participating in the PMS

To streamline its primary function and goals, PROMO will engage with relevant actors from protection-related forums and areas of responsibility and endeavor to include in its work representatives from: The Working Group at the national level will draw participation from protection-related forums and areas of responsibility - in addition to the institutional membership. These include but are not limited to:

- Representatives of Protection Cluster Coordination Team (incl. AoRs)
- Representatives of the Protection Cluster IM Working Group
- Representatives of Protection Cluster SAG member partners
- Representatives from each PMS partner organisation
- Any other representation that the working group in its discretion and support from the cluster coordination may require for its proper functioning

4. Responsibilities & Outputs

The Protection Monitoring Working Group shall:

1. Call regularly scheduled meetings to monitor progress toward common targets and share summary action points with all partners.
2. Share and or Publish information about protection situations and trends, analysis to promote a common understanding by all partners.
3. Monitor policy and legislative developments likely to affect or be of concern to protection actors and ensure the timely dissemination of their analysis to protection actors.
4. Promote the development and utilisation of common protection monitoring tools and ensure timely and accurate reporting by all partners.
5. Provide technical support and guidance to protection monitoring partners, including training and supporting the capacity development of national and local actors involved in protection monitoring and analysis.
6. Development, roll out and maintenance of the South Sudan Protection Monitoring System.
7. Provide input on trends, adhoc and such other periodic reports and analysis for use by the humanitarian teams
8. Participate in inter-sectoral & inter-agency meetings and other relevant inter-agency processes to ensure that appropriate linkages are made with other sectors' and promote the common analysis and monitoring of trends and needs.
9. Maintain the relationship with relevant duty bearers, and other relevant humanitarian and development actors.
10. Identify and support common advocacy messages on core legal and physical protection concerns, especially for groups with specific needs. and ensure that they are informing discussions in inter-sector meetings, the RRP6 Steering Committee, and the HCT.
11. Undertake, with the support of field actors, general or community level monitoring within states, regions or communities and gather/verify/analyze information about specific incidents and affected individuals, map trends and patterns in order to inform and improve programming and project implementation by partners and stakeholders.
12. Draft and disseminate periodic, situational, or ad hoc reports providing situational analysis, progress or shape policy and programmatic interventions by partners and stakeholders.

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