

Supporting front-line women and men to create a safe and dignified environment for communities in Unity State, South Sudan



CBPN members attend a training session on key protection messages to share within their community.

In **Unity State in South Sudan**, communities are sparsely dispersed in rural areas, with limited access to services. Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN) are thereby key service providers of ensuring safety, space for open dialogue, monitoring protection risks and referring those at risk to the right services. Women and men who make up the CBPNs are **front-line workers**, ensuring a safe and dignified environment within their community.

Protection begins with me

Members of the networks are realizing their potential and role they can play within their community.

“I used to think we have to wait for our government leaders or a humanitarian organization to do all the things for us but with the training I have received I know that protection begins with me and everyone in the community is a key player in peaceful co-existence in our community.”

- male member of Dingding CBPN in Unity Sate.

With support from USAID, the Danish Refugee Council is working with men and women volunteers in several communities to drive dialogue on self-protection, community protection and speaking out against all forms of violence.

Community Based Protection Networks work side by side with members of their community and other stakeholders to provide information on rights, access and referrals to services, such as medical assistance, as—**information is power**. DRC supports the networks by conducting capacity building sessions, mentorship sessions and being present with volunteers when they identify vulnerable individuals for assistance.

Members are learning how to harness information and turn it into action.

“Being a member of the CBPN has helped me to learn how to speak among men and report on issues affecting women and girls in my village, most times we don’t get the platform to do so.”

- female member of Tong CBPN.