Supporting Humanitarian Access
Humanitarian Access

- Humanitarians’ ability to reach people affected by crisis
- Affected people’s ability to access assistance and services
What is a humanitarian access incident?

- Any restriction on your ability to deliver assistance freely and safely
- Interference in operations / assets / supplies / compounds
- Restrictions on communities’ access to assistance

*Perpetrated by any actor*

*Includes any incident which you have managed to resolve*
Main access challenges in South Sudan

- **Violence** against humanitarians
- Damage/looting of **assets, premises**
- Operational **interference**
- **Restrictions** of movement
- **Bureaucratic/administrative** impediments
- Active armed conflict / **insecurity**
Examples of access incidents

- Restrictions on movement within country
- Active hostilities and insecurity which affect operations
- Violence against humanitarian personnel
- Detention of humanitarian staff
- Looting/theft/commandeering of relief supplies and humanitarian assets
- Aid diversion
- Robbery or occupation of humanitarian premises
- Interference in humanitarian activities
- Bureaucratic or administrative impediments
- Restriction or obstruction of population’s access to humanitarian assistance
How does OCHA support access?

1. Coordinate/lead **inter-agency missions** to priority/hard-to-reach locations
2. **Coordinate access approaches** and strategies in specific areas
3. **Unblock challenges** with local authorities
4. Support agency-specific **access negotiations**
5. Coordinate security **relocations**
6. Support release of **detained staff**
7. **Analyze** access environment/context
8. **Advocate** with ICWG, HCT, donors, authorities, etc.
9. **Sensitize/train partners** and authorities on IHL and humanitarian principles
10. Lead on **Civil Military Coordination** (MCDA)
Reporting access incidents
Why don’t partners report access incidents?

1. Don’t know how / whom to report
2. Resolve incident and don’t think it’s worth reporting
3. Have a high threshold for impediments and don’t realize they are incidents/important
4. Concerns around confidentiality
Why should partners report access incidents?

1. To **obtain the support** needed to resolve the challenge
2. To **notify relevant partners** of types/ severity/ frequency
3. To **support analysis and understanding** of major challenges, trends, worsening impediments
4. To inform **reporting and provide evidence base for advocacy** to help unblock issues

*Reports will always be held and treated in strict confidence*
What to include in an incident report

- **Location** (state, county, payam /specific location)
- **Date** of incident (and if it’s ongoing or not)
- Incident **type**
- **Description** of incident and humanitarian impact (*e.g.* If looting – *quantity? If staff relocated - for how long?*)
- **Perpetrator** type (if known/confirmed)
- Number of **staff affected** / injured / killed / relocated / detained
- **Organisation** type (UN, INGO, NNGO, Other)
- **Sector** affected
- **Any request** for assistance (with your contact details)
How partners can report access incidents to OCHA

1. Notify any OCHA sub-office

2. Send email to accessreporting@un.org

3. Submit online form

https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/#yZSFi8yV