



UNMISS NEWS

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

More than 70,000 IDPs seeking safety in Bentiu



UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Photo: UNMISS/Zenebe Desta

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The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking protection at the UNMISS Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Unity State has risen to more than 70,000, according to a recently released mission report.

Some 19,735 people have entered the camp since the end of April, pushing the total number sheltering there up from 52,908 to 72,643 as of 5 June, when a head-count was conducted. The increase is due to an escalation in military activities in the state.

People are mainly coming to the base from southern counties of the State due to worsening conditions there, according to the UNMISS report.

The report further notes that food distribution in May covered more than 86,000 displaced persons in the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, including non-PoC residents from Bentiu and Rubkona towns.

Ongoing relocation of IDPs to the newly extended site is progressing, with more than 8,000 relocated to higher ground.

The process is expected to be completed by the first week of July, the report indicates.

Extension work at the PoC site and IDP relocation mainly addresses flooding and related diseases during the rainy season, which occur due to its congested nature.

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Juba: Community Watch Group trained to keep IDPs safe

In keeping internally displaced persons (IDPs) at UNMISS Juba protection sites secure, UN Police and partners completed a fourth training programme for Community Watch Groups.

On 5 June, some 49 participants from three Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites completed the four-day course, which focused on gender and child protection, rights of women and children, problem solving and patrol techniques.

The training also included other vital areas such as local justice, camp ground rules, fire safety, working with partners (UN Police and non-governmental organizations) and HIV awareness.



Displaced persons attending Community Watch Group training at UNMISS PoC site in Juba. Photo: UNMISS/JC McIlwaine

Police Adviser Jackie Gold, creator and coordinator of the course, said, "You are leaders in your community, you are role models and you provide safety and security."

She noted that Community Watch Group members had a difficult job to do. "The first thing is you must keep yourself safe. Please do not walk into danger unnecessarily. Because if you get hurt, you can't protect no one". "Think before you act."

The training was conducted in coordination with the International Rescue Committee, Acted, PACT and UNMISS HIV/AIDS Unit.

Malakal displaced women get baking tools



Displaced women in Malakal PoC site attending training in baking skills. Photo: UNMISS/Nyang Touch

UNMISS handed over bakery equipment on 11 June to 38 displaced women at the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Malakal, Upper Nile State.

The equipment, funded by an UNMISS Quick Impact Project (QIP), was borne out of discussions among displaced women to stop brewing alcohol, which fuels violence in the PoC.

Before the equipment handover, the women attended a two-day training on bakery skills conducted by the local non-government organization Sobat Community for Peace and Development (SCPD).

"We have learned how to bake bread and maandazi (local donut)," said recipient Nyakech Othong Apiek. "I will use the skills I have acquired here to improve my economic status."

Wau holds "Children Not Soldiers" campaign

South Sudanese children have the right to continue their education without being recruited into the army, a senior UNMISS official said in Wau, Western Bahr El-Ghazal.

"Today, seven national security forces are listed for recruitment and use of children in the annual report of the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, including South Sudan," said UNMISS State Coordinator Winnie Babihuga.

SPLA Division 5 Chief of Moral Orientation Major Mangong Anyigong Dut said the military had "shown its commitment in putting an end to child recruitment".

He called on the UN to acknowledge and certify such efforts by de-listing the SPLA from the global "list of shame".

Anne Daniel, Director General of Gender and Social Welfare, said the government was working closely with the UN and other partners to ensure the well-being of children .



Western Equatoria launches “Back to Learning” campaign



Targeting 40,000 children in need of schooling, Western Equatoria State kicked off the national “Back to Learning” campaign on 3 June in the capital Yambio.

Launching the activity, Governor Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro said it encouraged parents in conflict-affected as well as unaffected states to send their children to school.

“I am urging the parents to send their children to school because it is key to a good life,” Mr. Bakosoro said. “Everybody must go back to learn because educated societies promote peace and development, not killing.”

The governor noted that children could not attend school if conflict erupted in Western Equatoria, currently considered a “green” or peaceful state. He condemned insecurity elsewhere, stating that he would keep the state peaceful or resign.

“It is better for me to resign to save lives if ... I could not maintain peace,” he said. “I don’t want to be Governor of dead or ignorant people. All must go to school to be educated and know how to live in peace not war”.

UNICEF Country Director in South Sudan Jonathan Veitch noted that South Sudan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child -- the most widely adopted international treaty in history. He said it was vital for the government to implement it, providing equal opportunities for girls and boys to attend school.

Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan Masahiko Kiya said South Sudanese could only fulfill their potential and build a peaceful, stable future for all through education.

The ambassador said Japan had donated over nine million dollars to UNICEF for school materials and facilities in South Sudan.

Minister of Education Pia Philip said the campaign WAS vital in sending 40,000 children back to school. But training for education managers, school materials and motivated teachers were needed for its success.

The occasion at Yambio Freedom Square was attended by over 40 primary and secondary schools around Yambio.



Sports for peace at UNMISS PoC in Juba



Thousands of young people took part in “Sports for Peace” activities at an UNMISS Juba Protection of Civilians site hosting about 34,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

“Peace is ... harmony,” said IDP Deng Nyal Chol, who organized the event. “It is ... coming together so you trust each other. There is trust among you and among the rest of the community members. That is peace for me.”

He noted that people were traumatized and depressed due to the situation in South Sudan.

“So today is a day for peace and sports, and the title of the games is “Sports for Peace”.

Niakuma Peter, another IDP, said people must work hard to achieve peace, which was a precious gift. “Sports for Peace” will help us live in harmony and peace among people here in the PoC camps and in South Sudan in general.”

Sports activities included basketball, football and volleyball. Also during the event, the UNMISS Chinese contingent performed Kung Fu in traditional dress.

UNMISS Troop Contributing Countries (TCC)
*Figures cited as of May 2015

TCC	TCC Acronym	Troop Strength
India	INDBATT 1/2	2267
Nepal	NEPBATT 1/2	1576
Rwanda	RWANBATT 1/2	1841
Ethiopia	ETHBATT 1/2	1265
Kenya	KENBATT	735
Mongolia	MONBATT	862
Ghana	GHANBATT	312
China	CHINBATT	512
Bangladesh		279
Cambodia		149
Japan		272
Korea		273
Sri Lanka		673
Total		10485
Military Liaison Officers		187
Staff Officers		312
GRAND TOTAL		10984

UNMISS Police
*Figures cited as of May 2015

POLICE	Strength
UNPOL	560
Formed Police Unit (FPU)	470
Total	1030

Photos of the week



"Back to Learning" campaign in Yambio, Western Equatoria State.
Photos UNMISS/JC McIlwaine

CLICK THE LINKS

PHOTO

South Sudan National Police Service officers complete sensitization workshop

UN Photo – links to individual photos:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633618.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633617.html>

Launch of Back to Learning campaign for Western Equatoria in Yambio

UNMISS Flickr album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/sets/72157653931217686>

UNMISS Facebook album:

UN Photo – links to individual photos:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633417.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633416.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633415.html>

Sport tournament day in Protection of Civilians site in Juba

UNMISS Flickr album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/sets/72157651729707634>

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UN Photo – links to individual photos:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633588.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633587.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633585.html>

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/633/0633584.html>

VIDEO

SOUTH SUDAN / BACK TO LEARNING

In an attempt to reverse a massive downward trend in school attendance and return 400,000 children back to their education, UNICEF kicked off a "back to learning" campaign Thursday in collaboration with the state. UNMISS <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/06/south-sudan-back-to-learning-2/>

South SUDAN / SPORT FOR PEACE

Thousands of young people living in UN Protection of Civilians area today participated in "Sports for Peace" activities. UNMISS <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2015/06/s-sudan-sport-for-peace/>

WEBSITE

People seeking safety in Bentiu reaches more than 70,000

<http://bit.ly/1KQcAK6>

Wau holds two-day "Children Not Soldiers" campaign

<http://bit.ly/1TIHcXB>

Terekeka youth learn to identify and handle conflict

<http://bit.ly/1cUmzQX>

UNMISS Malakal IDPs call for more protection

<http://bit.ly/1FgXVAE>

Malakal displaced women get bakery equipment

<http://bit.ly/1GExyTM>

Malakal displaced women organize prayer for peace

<http://bit.ly/1JREioY>

UNMISS conducts mandate and conflict workshop in Jur River

<http://bit.ly/1G4T8m7>

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