



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

24 January 2014

UNMISS "PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS" (POC) SITES¹

- As of 24 January 2014, a total of 75,584 civilians have been seeking protection in 8 UNMISS sites including 34,792 in Juba; 27,000 in Malakal; 10,238 in Bor and 2,400 in Bentiu.
- In Juba, the latest International Organization for Migration (IOM) registration figures indicate that there are 20,498 civilians registered in the UNMISS protection site of Tomping compound and 14,294 in the UNMISS protection site of "UN House" compound.
- In Malakal, 27,000 civilians are estimated to be staying in the UNMISS protection site. IOM registration process is still underway, with already 18,958 civilians registered.
- In Bentiu, the number of civilians seeking protection has significantly dropped from 4,606 to 2,400 following daily departures of civilians outside the camp. This number is expected to drop in the coming days.

<i>STATE</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>Number of civilians seeking protection</i>
<i>Central Equatoria, Juba</i>	<i>Tomping</i>	20,498
	<i>UN House</i>	14,924
<i>Jonglei</i>	<i>Bor</i>	10,238
<i>Lakes</i>	<i>Rumbek</i>	105
<i>Upper Nile</i>	<i>Malakal</i>	27,000
	<i>Melut</i>	982
<i>Unity</i>	<i>Pariang</i>	67
	<i>Bentiu</i>	2,400
TOTAL		75,584



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BOR

- UNMISS is working with members of the Ministry of Education who are currently staying in the protection of civilians site of UNMISS in Bor, to set up a school to be located in the UNMISS protection site. Some 300 primary school students have been selected as well as 6 teachers who will give classes in maths, science, English, social studies and religion. The Child Protection Unit of UNMISS, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other education stakeholders support the proposal, and UNICEF is planning to send school supplies next week.

MALAKAL

- The human rights teams of UNMISS will try to verify the accuracy of reports of serious human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law that might have been committed by all sides in Malakal throughout the last weeks of conflict. The Mission stresses however that verification, at this stage, has been extremely difficult because of the fighting and the subsequent lack of access.
- The Former Governor of Warrap State, Ustaz Lewis Anei Kuendit, has coordinated the transport of 850 students from Upper Nile University who were stranded in Malakal earlier this month to Juba. Most of the students, coming from all the 10 states, had sought safety in UNMISS protection site. "It was inspiring to see that they supported each other and stood together despite their different backgrounds" says Deborah Schein, the UNMISS State Coordinator in Upper Nile. The Mission in Malakal arranged to put students on UNMISS flights bound to Juba on a "space available" basis. Students were very supportive, and even helped in loading and off-loading planes. They also organized emergency water points, security and distribution to the ever growing numbers of civilians who were seeking safety in UNMISS protection site at the time. Some of the students have now taken their exams in Juba.

JUBA

- UNICEF and other health stakeholders are currently conducting a second vaccination campaign against measles in UNMISS protection of civilians site in Tomping. The campaign is meant to respond to an outbreak of measles among children living in the site. Some 4,500 children had been immunized at the UNMISS Tomping protection site during the first campaign in December. The new campaign is targeting an additional 6,900 children.

BENTIU

- The Mongolian Battalion of UNMISS has lent to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) 4 trucks during 48 hours to move food from the WFP warehouse to the better-protected UNMISS compound. In addition, since 18 January the Mongolian battalion has been supporting WFP with 2 convoys a day (morning and evening) to transport food from WFP warehouse to UNMISS compound. The operation is expected to continue until 25 January.

WFP estimates that it may have lost more than 3,700 tons of food in looting in South Sudan, enough to feed 220,000 people for a month, Elisabeth Byrs, a WFP spokeswoman said on 24 January in Geneva. Also WFP's warehouses in Malakal have been almost entirely emptied, she added, stressing that the agency was working to recover lost stocks wherever possible and trying to protect remaining stocks.

CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

- In a statement issued on 24 January, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in South Sudan and Head of UNMISS Ms. Hilde F. Johnson has **welcomed the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement** as a first step towards a lasting and durable peace in South Sudan. She has called on all the parties for a full and immediate implementation of the agreement and the beginning of a political dialogue. The SRSG has also welcomed the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in achieving the signature of the agreement.

PEACE MESSAGE

- In a video message released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), **Forest Whitaker** - UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation - **appealed to the youth of South Sudan to "choose to trust each other together, choose to put the past behind you and shape the future together (...)** I appeal to you specifically, the young, the boys and girls, the women and men of South Sudan" he added "because you have the courage of your youth and because you have your future to gain".

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ⁱ UNMISS will be providing and update on figures and the Mission's activities on its PoC sites twice a week