



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

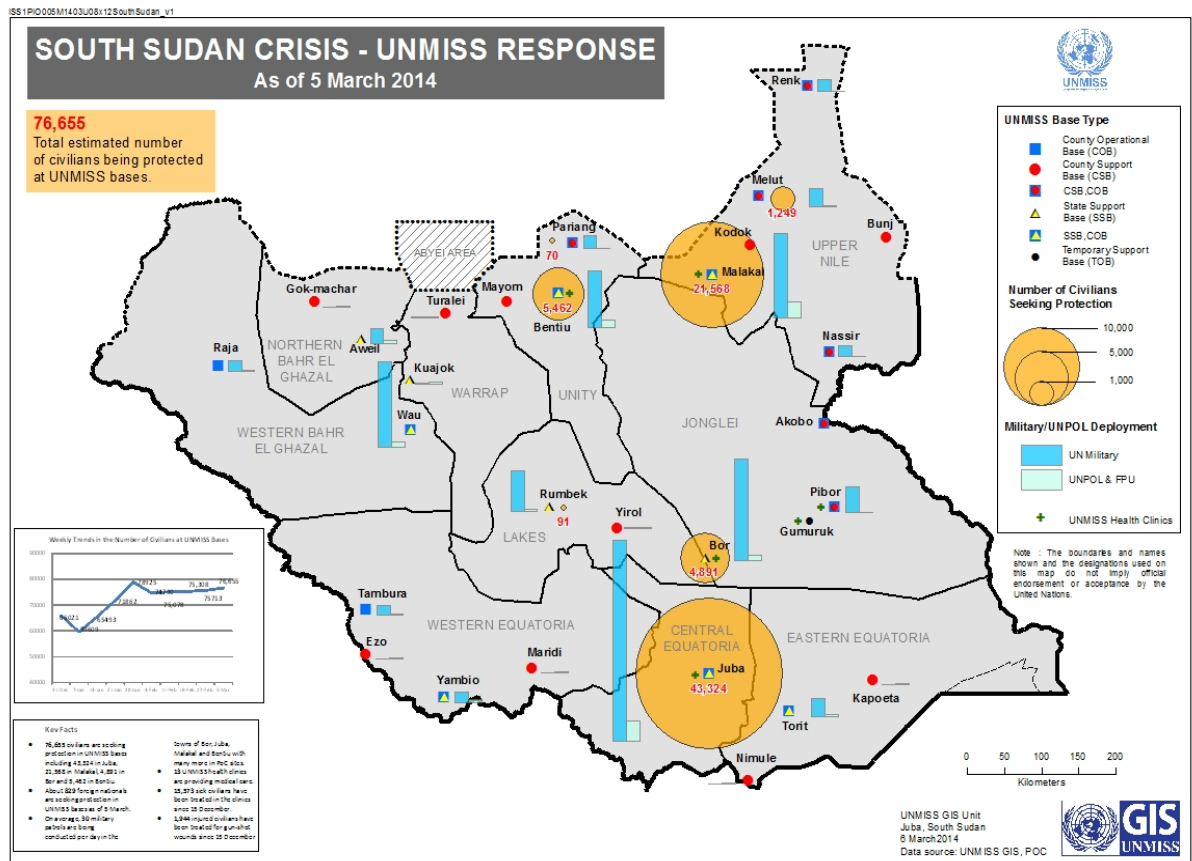
Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

10 MARCH, 2014

UNMISS "PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS" (POC) SITES ¹

- As of 5 March, the estimated number of civilians seeking safety in 8 Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites located on UNMISS bases is 76,655. Numbers of registered civilians seeking protection in UNMISS PoC sites are: 43,324 in Juba (Tompson and UN House), 21,568 in Malakal, 4,891 in Bor, 5,462 in Bentiu.



STATE	LOCATION	Number of civilians seeking protection
Central Equatoria, Juba	Tomping	27,580
	UN House	15,744
Jonglei	Bor	4,891
Lakes	Rumbek	91
Upper Nile	Malakal	21,568
	Melut	1,249
Unity	Pariang	70
	Bentiu	5,462
TOTAL		76,655

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

- On March 8, South Sudan commemorated its 3rd International Women's Day celebration since independence under the theme: **"Women call for peace and security to enhance development"**. While being displaced, the pivotal **role of women in maintaining the family structure** is further increased, e.g. re-establishing the home and child care; or trying to survive in the bush (finding food and water/child care).
- During crisis such as currently occurring in South Sudan, displaced women remain among the most vulnerable groups. They are the ones **looking for food and other necessities**, such as shelter or cooking. They face **harassment, threats and sexual violence** during these activities, on roads leading to and from the Protection sites or on checkpoints, in markets, and wherever there is a presence of armed actors.
- **Rape and sexual violence** are common when violence erupts, especially if **alcohol and drugs** are smuggled and consumed in sites or camps. Women are sexually harassed with what they simply call, "black snakes" in the latrines and bathing spaces. **It is humiliating and it erodes their dignity and privacy.**
- To mark International Women's Day, the Gender Unit of UNMISS is assisting the Ministry of Gender, Child, Social Welfare, Humanitarian and Disaster Management, in :
 - Providing technical support to the national Ministry
 - Organizing a women leader's conference scheduled to place last week of March in Juba

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- Facilitating the gathering of up to 400 displaced women in the Tomping and UN House PoC sites in the course of this week.
 - Events have been planned with women’s organizations present in the two protection sites in Juba, UN agencies and a variety of NGOs.
 - UNPOL Gender Unit and military women from the Rwandese and Nepalese Battalion will participate
 - Displaced women will read poetry and perform traditional music and dance.
- In addition, since the crisis started, UNMISS Gender Unit has also been increasingly supporting women by:
 - Advocating for and with women to participate in the protection sites’ management, and ensure that protection in the camp includes gender related issues.
 - Organizing advocacy sessions on Gender Based Violence, encouraging women to report to humanitarian actors, so the high incidents of domestic violence not reported because cultural traditions and barriers can be reduced.
- UNPOL's Gender Unit also visits Protection sites in Juba twice a week to speak to women's groups and answer their questions, especially on topics such as Domestic and Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS. So far, UNPOL has made 3 visits in Tomping and 4 at UN House protection site.

PROTECT THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF SOUTH SUDAN UNMISS SRSG JOHNSON STATEMENT

As we commemorate International Women's Day, 8 March, the women and girls of South Sudan need to be at the centre of our attention. The crisis that has engulfed large parts of the country is hitting women and children the hardest. They are suffering from horrendous acts of violence and rape, forcing them to flee for their lives.

Not only are women and children caught in the cross-fire, they have often been targeted. Incidents of sexual violence have affected far too many girls and women. These acts have reportedly been perpetrated by both sides of the conflict. Information received and published in United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)’ Interim Human Rights Report suggests that sexual violence has been a consistent characteristic of the crisis in all the affected areas.

“This is unacceptable. Women and girls should not face the double burden of fleeing for their lives, and face a second threat of being subject to sexual violence. The women and girls of South Sudan deserve to be

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protected and to be safe,” says Hilde F. Johnson, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to South Sudan.

Rape, forced abortion, sexual harassment and abduction have occurred at a far higher rate during the conflict than during times of peace. Vulnerability increases when women and girls collect water or firewood, live in camps or areas of internal displacement, or, worst, in areas overrun by fighting. The women and children that are making up the majority of the more than the 700 000 displaced in South Sudan, of whom more than 70 000 in UNMISS-bases, are facing these challenges.

UNMISS has a team of Women Protection Advisors dedicated to investigate allegations, enhancing assistance and responding. Within our Protection areas, where women and girls also face such threats, UNMISS is working to prevent sexual violence and offer immediate response to survivors. It is our obligation to do our utmost to protect the women and girls of South Sudan.

WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN, STATISTICS (SOURCE: OXFAM)

Summary Table: South Sudan	
Formal Institutional Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (2011) formally recognizes women’s rights and guarantees gender equality. - The Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare, and Religious Affairs is responsible for promoting gender equality.
Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Transitional Constitution requires that at least 25% of seats in the national parliament be allocated to women. - Women currently hold 26.5% (88 out of 332) of seats.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16% of women over the age of 15 are literate, compared to 40% of men. - Primary school completion rates are low for both sexes (6% for girls, 14% for boys). - Since 2005, primary school enrollments have grown by 20% per year on average.
Labour Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12% of women and 11% of men within the active population formally employed. - At all levels of income, women earn lower wages than men.
Agriculture and Land Tenure	The Transitional Constitution recognizes women’s right to own property and inherit their husbands’ estates. In practice, this right is limited by patriarchal customary laws.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Transitional Constitution prohibits forced marriage, and the Child Act of 2008 criminalizes early marriage. - 7% of girls are married before the age of 15, and 45% get married between the ages of 16 and 18. - Customary law continues to perpetuate practices such as male

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	polygamy and bride pricing.
Poverty, income inequality & food security	Female-headed households have a poverty incidence that is 9% higher than male-headed households (57% vs. 48%).
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, at 2,054 deaths per 100,000 births. 90% of women give birth without the assistance of a skilled professional. - The fertility rate is 4 births per woman. - Prevalence of female genital mutilation is significantly lower than in neighbouring countries, at 1.3%. - The HIV prevalence rate is 3%; it is higher among women than men (59% vs. 41%).

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- UNIFEED: South Sudan Toby Lanzer Update
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2014/03/un-south-sudan-toby-lanzer-update/index.html>
- Indian Battalion in Bor awarded for performance
<http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3465&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=3279834&language=en-US>

¹ Update on UNMISS figures in PoC areas are produced once a week