



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

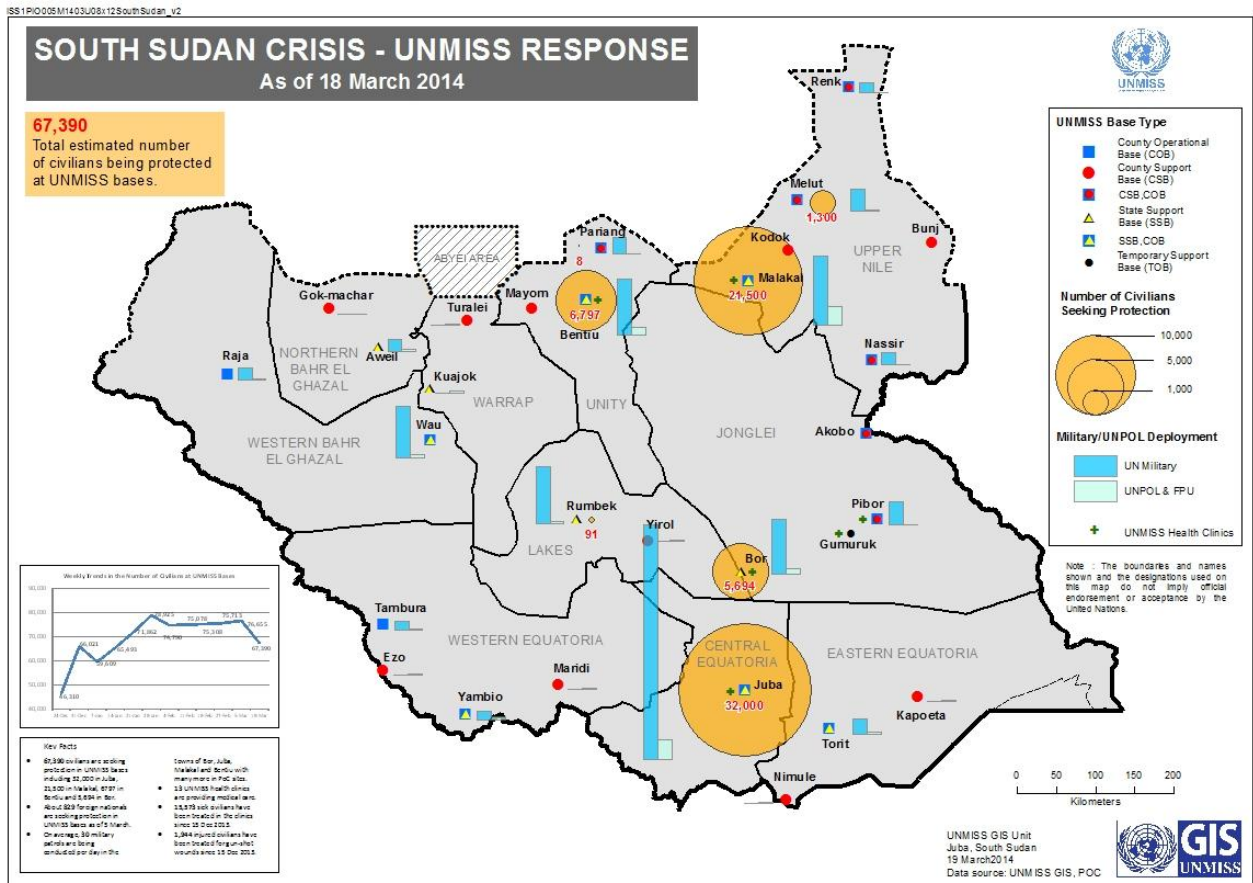
Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

19 MARCH, 2014

UNMISS “PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS” (PoC) SITES I

- As of 18 March, the estimated number of civilians seeking safety in 8 Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites located on UNMISS bases is **67,390**, including 32,000 in Juba (Tompson and UN House), 21,500 in Malakal, 5,694 in Bor and 6.797 in Bentiu.
- With the resumption of fighting in Malakal, the number of civilians protected by UNMISS remain uncertain and rather on the increase.



STATE	LOCATION	Number of civilians seeking protection
Central Equatoria, Juba	Tomping	21,000
	UN House	11,000
Jonglei	Bor	4,891
Lakes	Rumbek	91
Upper Nile	Malakal	21,500
	Melut	1,300
Unity	Pariang	8
	Bentiu	6,234
TOTAL		67,390

IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN TOMPING PROTECTION SITE IN JUBA

- With the first rains, drainage work has become critical to prevent and control potential devastating floods within the sites. Since 4 February 2014, the UNMISS Japanese Engineering Contingent has completed 1,800 meters of drainage work, as well as clearing ditches and levelling terrain on the UNMISS Tomping base, within the civilian site, and in and around the remaining UNMISS compound to ensure that the water stream continues to flow without flooding the site. Draining is important before the rainy season settles in also to help prevent the spread of malaria and other water borne diseases.



Drainage project in Juba (Toming) protection site - UNMISS/ Shigeki Ueoka

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DECONGESTING SITES

- The congestion of protection sites is a major issue. With the rainy season drawing closer, it has become a critical challenge addressed by the Mission and partners who are currently relocating civilians from UNMISS Tomping protection site to UNMISS “UN House” protection site near Jebel. The initial “UN House” site has already been expanded in order to be able to receive an additional 3,000 civilians.
- Relocation is conducted on a voluntary basis and still needs to gain momentum. Since it started on 12 March and until 18 March, 400 civilians have agreed to be moved to UN House thanks to the support of the Non-Governmental Organization ACTED working in the sites, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) transporting them. In addition, UNMISS peacekeepers are providing “force protection” by escorting buses between both locations.
- The relocation process has been suspending on 19 March pending the completion of food distribution undertaken by the implementing partner ACTED.
- The challenge of sites’ congestion, compounded by coming rains, is critical throughout the country and in all UNMISS protection sites. UNMISS is currently expanding sites in Malakal, Bentiu, Bor and Juba. UNMISS is also creating new sites on land made available by the government in Juba and Bor. Both new sites should be ready within a few weeks.

SECURITY AND PATROLS

- Between 7 and 14 March, the UN Police has conducted 300 patrols country-wide, covering all protection of civilians sites and surrounding areas.
- On 14 March, UNMISS military escorted and provided force protection for a convoy of 53 civilians moving from UNMISS protection site in Pariang (Upper Nile) to UNMISS protection site in Bentiu (Upper Nile). The move was requested by the civilians themselves and UNMISS organized the convoy with the support of the Pariang County Commissioner who provided the trucks.

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UNMISS assists in relocation of IDPs in Unity State.
UNMISS/ Anna Adhikari

CHILD PROTECTION IN JUBA

- UNMISS Child Protection Unit is leading awareness campaigns in the protection sites in Juba on the prevention of child recruitment. The campaigns have been taking place every week since January. The Child Protection Unit is also conducting interviews to document ongoing violations of children's rights including abduction, forced recruitment, sexual exploitation, killing and maiming, as well as denial of assistance access. The information will be reported to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to allow further advocacy.

MEDICAL EVACUATION

- On 19 March, UNMISS assisted with the transport of 2 patients from Bor to Juba, a 3 year old child with a heart condition and a man (non-combatant) with a chest injury. Both patients have been respectively transported by the UNMISS Cambodian military medical unit to Juba Teaching Hospital and SPLA hospital for further treatment.

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UNMISS STAFF DONATES TO DISPLACED CIVILIANS

- The UNMISS Welfare Unit has collected items given by UNMISS staff for civilians in Juba protection sites. UNMISS welfare unit collected over 400 items including clothing, shoes, bed sheets, blankets, and suitcases. The Welfare Unit will hand over the donation to Non-Governmental Organizations to be further distributed.

UN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL HERVE LADSOUS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON SOUTH SUDAN - 18 MARCH 2014 - EXCERPTS

- “There has been a negative campaign against UNMISS and its leadership in South Sudan, which seems systematic and organized. There has been an unacceptable vilification of the United Nations by some local and national officials, with public demonstrations, media articles, and harassment of UN personnel, including to the point of putting their lives in danger. Under these conditions we will need to consider further drawing down our staff and limiting our activities to the absolute minimum related to protection, human rights monitoring and support to humanitarian Assistance”
- (...)“UN flights are being searched, convoys stopped and personnel harassed by South Sudan security across the country. Organized demonstrations against the Mission have increasingly begun to adopt a very aggressive tone. The Mission's freedom of movement has been severely restricted and despite repeated demarches, including from the Secretary-General to President Kiir. We hope that this situation changes soon as its continuation is not sustainable or acceptable. I would urge the Security Council and its members to intervene on behalf of UNMISS, condemn this campaign and request President Kiir to immediately condemn it himself and issue instructions to national and local authorities and SPLM cadres to stop it.”

TOBY LANZER, DSRSG AND HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR VISITED YIROL

- On 18 March, Toby Lanzer, the UNMISS Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) was in Yirol (Lakes State) to attend the formal hand-over ceremony of UNMISS County Support Base. The event was attended by UN staff involved in the project since its inception, along with the state authorities and the local community. The Yirol County Commissioner set the tone by celebrating the urban piped water “Quick Impact Project” (QIP) which provides access to safe drinking water; the representative from the Office of the Governor further praised the UN’s work in introducing fast, small-scale projects that immediately benefit communities. He vowed to pass on the positive feedback

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to his colleagues in other state governments, so they could visit Yirol to see the QIP's impact for themselves.

- Mr. Ateny spoke of his appreciation of a job well-done by UNMISS and by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and gave his thanks on behalf of the Office of the President and of President Kiir. He noted that both the County Support Base and the QIP served as strong signals of UNMISS' support to the country of South Sudan, thanking the UN for its efforts to improve access to clean water, health and education for communities throughout the country.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- UN South Sudan Rumbek convoy on UNIFEED:
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2014/03/un-south-sudan-weapons/index.html>
- Statement of UN Under-Secretary-General Herve Ladsous To The Security Council Briefing On South Sudan - 18 March 2014
<http://webtv.un.org/watch/sudan-and-south-sudan-security-council-7141st-meeting/3358169110001/>
- UN Peacekeeping chief urges South Sudan to respect ceasefire amid fresh clashes
<http://www.unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3465&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=3380734&language=en-US>
- Move of civilians starts in Juba:
- <http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3465&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=3288545&language=en-US>
- <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2014/03/south-sudan-idp-relocation/>

ⁱ Update on UNMISS figures in PoC sites are produced once a week