



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

26 JUNE, 2014

UNMISS “PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS” (PoC) SITES ¹

- As of 25 June, the estimated number of civilians seeking safety in ten Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites located on UNMISS bases is **101,333**, including **45,769** in Bentiu, **31,840** in Juba (Tomping and UN House), 18,003 in Malakal, 4,123 in Bor, 558 in Wau, 984 in Melut, 27 in Nasser, and 29 in Rumbek.
- It is the first time that UNMISS is providing protection on its bases to over 100,000 civilians, with a clear increase of displaced persons in Bentiu which has gone from a few thousands 2 months ago to over 45,000 with a steady stream of individuals still arriving on a daily basis. Bentiu repeatedly changed hands during the past months, leading to severe insecurity for the population.

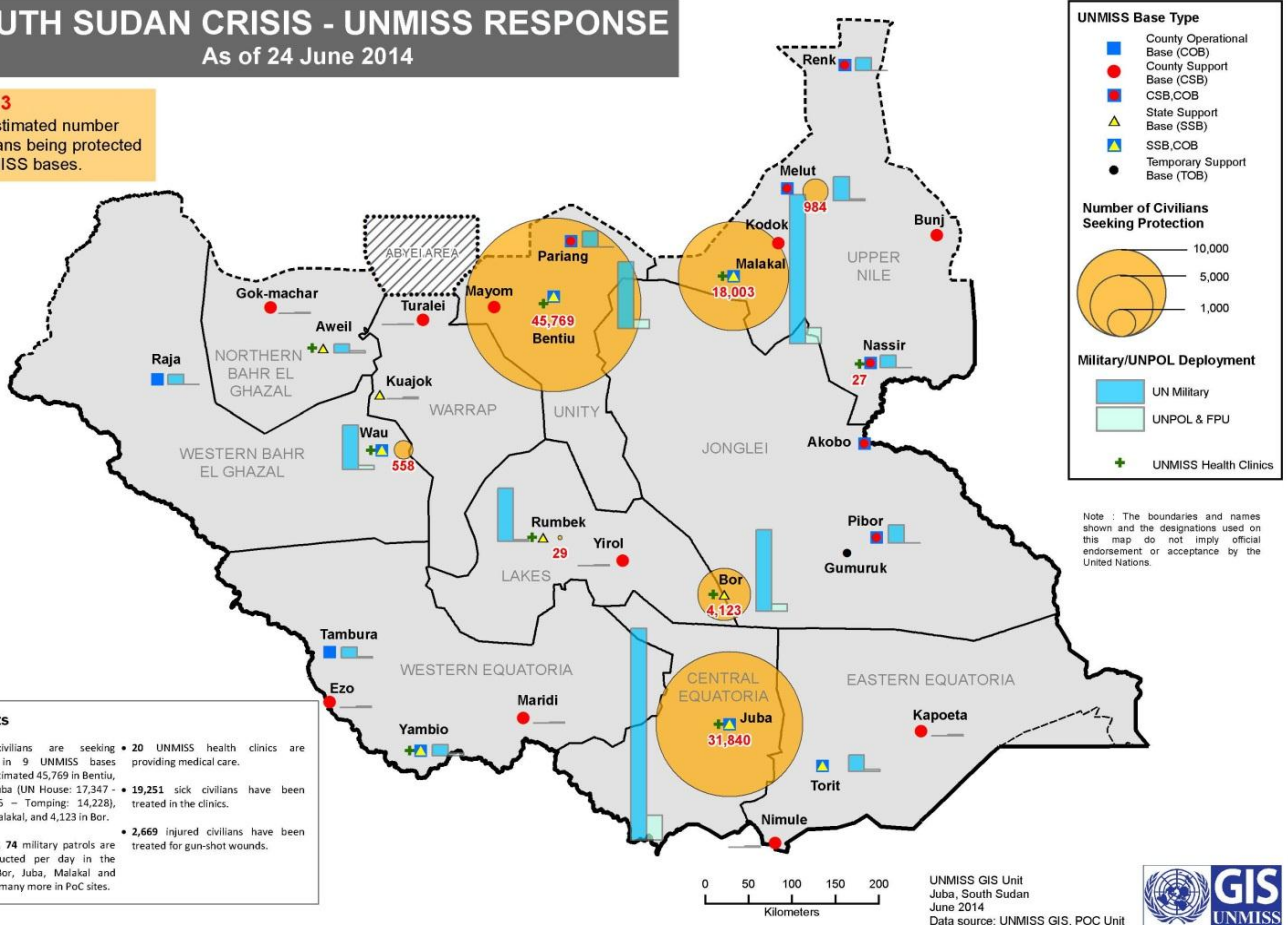
“People are voting with their feet. Many do not feel safe” SRSG Hilde F. Johnson stated when visiting Bentiu on 24 June 2014. “But this is also reflecting a terrible consequence of the fighting, which is food insecurity. People are hungry, there is severe malnutrition and civilians are also coming to the UNMISS base for food,” the Head of UNMISS also added, acknowledging the dire living conditions in the protection sites. (see press release below for full report on SRSG visit to Bentiu)

STATE	LOCATION	Number of civilians seeking protection
Central Equatoria, Juba	Tomping	14,228
	UN House	17,612
Jonglei	Bor	4,123
Lakes	Rumbek	29
Upper Nile	Malakal	18,003
	Melut	984
	Nasser	27
Unity	Bentiu	45,769
Western Bahr El Ghazal	Wau	558
TOTAL		101,333

SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS - UNMISS RESPONSE

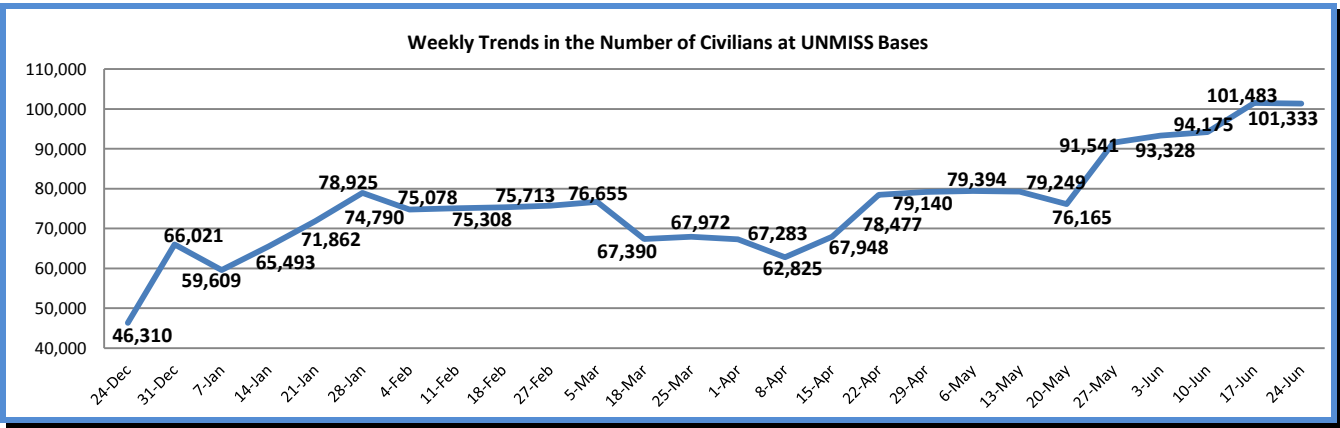
As of 24 June 2014

101,333
Total estimated number of civilians being protected at UNMISS bases.



Key Facts

- 101,333 civilians are seeking protection in 9 UNMISS bases including estimated 45,769 in Bentiu, 31,840 in Juba (UN House: 17,347 - PoC 3: 265 - Tomping: 14,228), 18,003 in Malakal, and 4,123 in Bor.
- 20 UNMISS health clinics are providing medical care.
- 19,251 sick civilians have been treated in the clinics.
- 2,669 injured civilians have been treated for gun-shot wounds.
- On average, 74 military patrols are being conducted per day in the towns of Bor, Juba, Malakal and Bentiu with many more in PoC sites.



For further information or media enquiries,
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ACTIVITIES IN PROTECTION SITES

Juba, UN House and Tomping sites

Tomping

- The Indian Battalion have prepared a new site for general food distribution.
- IDPs start move to new Juba site, <http://bit.ly/1icuds2>

UN House

- Drainage work is ongoing at protection of civilian's site one.

Malakal

- Relocation is ongoing with over 7,000 civilians having moved to the new site

Bor

- UNMISS engineers building river bank to protect Bor residents, <http://bit.ly/1loN7eV>

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PRESS RELEASES

HEAD OF UNMISS, SRSG JOHNSON VISITS BENTIU

Juba, 25 June 2014

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Ms. Hilde F. Johnson traveled yesterday to Bentiu.

During her visit, she went to UNMISS protection of civilians' sites where she met some of the displaced persons. UNMISS protection sites in Bentiu are currently hosting close to 45,000 civilians with a steady stream of individuals still arriving on a daily basis. Bentiu repeatedly changed hands during the past months, leading to severe insecurity for the population.

"People are voting with their feet. Many do not feel safe" the SRSG stated. "But this is also reflecting a terrible consequence of the fighting, which is food insecurity. People are hungry, there is severe malnutrition and civilians are also coming to the UNMISS base for food," the Head of UNMISS added, acknowledging the dire living conditions in the protection sites.

SRSG Johnson also met with the Deputy-Governor of Unity state to discuss the ongoing crisis, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation, as well as UN staff to thank them for their dedication and service as they continue to protect thousands of civilians on the Mission's compound and work to improve their living conditions.

UNMISS opened its gates to all unarmed civilians facing an imminent threat of physical violence when the crisis in South Sudan erupted in December 2013. Close to 100,000 civilians are currently protected by UNMISS in ten of the Mission's sites nationwide, the largest number of displaced persons being in Bentiu.

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SRSG Johnson visits Bentiu PoC sites, including medical facilities

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Government of South Sudan Recommits to Action Plan to End Recruitment and Use of Children

Juba, South Sudan, 24 June, 2014 – In a ceremony at the headquarters of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) in Juba this morning, the Government of South Sudan formally renewed its commitment to the Action Plan signed in 2012 with the United Nations to end the recruitment and use of children in Government armed forces and other grave violations against children.

“Children do not belong in our army and I personally commit, on behalf of my Government, to fully implement all provisions of the Action Plan,” declared Kuol Manyang Juuk, South Sudan’s Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

Today’s agreement recalls the measures agreed to in the 2012 Action Plan and includes: releasing all children associated with government security forces, providing services for their family reunification and reintegration; investigating grave violations against children and holding perpetrators accountable. The Government is also committing to ending all grave violations committed against children.

“I am very pleased that the Government of South Sudan has now recommitted to the Action Plan, which is an important first step towards restoring the rights of children in this country and averting the loss of another generation” said Toby Lanzer, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, who signed the agreement on behalf of the United Nations.

Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF Representative in South Sudan, witnessed the agreement.

“The promise of the Action Plan is that children will be protected from recruitment and use and other grave violations at all times, including during periods of instability or conflict”, said Leila Zerrougui. “Accountability is key. If those who recruit, kill, maim and rape boys and girls, attack schools and hospitals never face justice, no lasting peace will be possible.”

The Action Plan, originally signed in 2009 and renewed in 2012, resulted in the release of more than one thousand children, command orders banning child recruitment and use, as well as the creation of a SPLA unit dedicated to the protection of children.

“So much of the progress made by the Government in the past years has been reversed in the current conflict,” said Jonathan Veitch. “This public recommitment is a major step in the right direction and UNICEF will be sure to hold the Government to the terms of this agreement.”

Using children in conflict has a devastating impact on their lives and their protection is essential to build the future of their country.

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Note to editors: The UN Security Council's resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011) on Children and Armed Conflict established measures and tools to end grave violations against children, through the creation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism, and the development of action plans to end violations by parties listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report for children and armed conflict.

South Sudan is one of eight countries involved in the campaign Children, not Soldiers, launched in March 2014 by the Special Representative and UNICEF. The campaign aims to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by Government security forces listed by the Secretary-General in his annual report on children and armed conflict.

For additional information, please contact:

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- Doune Porter, Chief, Strategic Communication, UNICEF South Sudan, Tel: +211 (0)952 819 302 Email: dporter@unicef.org

On 22 June, SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui visited the UN House protection of civilian site and spoke with children attending class in the learning space.



SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui speaking to children attending class in the learning space at the UN House protection site

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ADDITIONAL LINKS ON SRSG LEILA ZERROUGUI FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

- High-level UN delegation visits South Sudan
<http://bit.ly/1miMHqr>

- South Sudan recommits to Action Plan against child soldiers
<http://bit.ly/Tv5MdL>

- Video Footage On South Sudan / Child Recruitment
UNESCO's head Irina Bokova, Leila Zerrougui the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador, actor Forest Whitaker met in with President Salva Kiir in Juba, capital of South Sudan to reaffirm the country's action plan to end recruitment and use of children in armed forces and to discuss the rights of children, education and freedom of the press. UNMISS

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/2014/06/south-sudan-child-recruitment/>

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One family torn apart by war in Central Africa is too many

*Message of the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and for Central Africa, on **World Refugee Day**.*

Bangui / Bujumbura / Juba / Kinshasa / Libreville – 20 June 2014 – On World Refugee Day 2014, we, the five Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in Central Africa, appeal to end violence in the region and encourage the Governments to tackle the root causes of conflict and displacement.

The global refugee population is at its highest level since World War II. The UN High Commissioner for Refugee's annual Global Trends report shows 51.2 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013. Major new displacement was seen in Africa, especially in the Central African Republic and in South Sudan.

The outbreak of violence in the Central African Republic led to the new internal displacement of more than 800,000 persons, as well as outflows of more than 88,000 into surrounding countries. In South Sudan the situation is also of grave concern, with more than 300,000 people having fled to neighbouring countries, and more than 1,3 million internally displaced, including close to 100,000 civilians within the bases of UNMISS. Around half a million DRC refugees are living in neighbouring countries and some three million persons are internally displaced. Burundi has successfully integrated more than 500,000 former refugees since 2002, while hosting more than 50,000 DRC refugees, and having some 80,000 Burundians living in displacement within their own country.

Today also marks the 40th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity's Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa which has allowed millions of people who fled violence and conflict to find safety in neighbouring countries in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa hosts one-quarter of all refugees in the world.

United as One UN, we act for every refugee in Central Africa. In order to allow displaced people to return home, we need to join forces today, across the region. Together with the UNHCR and the whole UN family, our partners in Government and civil society can create durable peace and stability, with a safe home for everyone, for "One family torn apart by war is too many". We call on all governments and parties in conflict in the region to cease all fighting and enable all refugees and displaced to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Representative and Head of the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

Babacar Gaye, Special Representative and Head of the UN Multidimensional Integrated

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Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

Martin Kobler, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Hilde Johnson, Special Representative and Head of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative and Head of the UN Office in Burundi (BNUB)

South Sudan commemorates refugee day

<http://bit.ly/1me27aU>

Refugee day celebrated in South Sudanese states

<http://bit.ly/1ww71bh>

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