The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) welcomes the temporary deployment of a British Royal Air Force C-130 aircraft to South Sudan.

The aircraft, which has arrived on 28 March in Juba, will conduct daily flights to Malakal, Upper Nile to enable the delivery of vital loads of food, water and building supplies to the UNMISS base and its Protection of Civilians’ site. The operation is expected to last until mid-April. The use of such aircraft will temporarily double the C-130 air-lift capacity of UNMISS to Malakal.

With the impending rainy season, 60% of the roads in South Sudan will be impassable and Malakal mostly reachable by river barges; the timing of the air operation is crucial to re-supply the UN base during the dry season.

This is the first deployment of a United Kingdom C-130 as part of the UN’s Air Transport Fleet to the United Nations in Africa. The operation is supported by a small British military team based in Entebbe, Uganda with forward elements deployed to Juba and Malakal.
Wau Municipality received school building from UNMISS (Western Bahr El Ghazal State)

As part of the Quick Impact Projects UNMISS has been undertaking in Western Bahr El Ghazal State, the municipality of Wau received a school building on 31 March. The school building worth USD 46,000 is an expansion of the Pian Tok Co-Education Primary School, and includes classrooms and administration offices. UNMISS representative, Mr. Mustapha Tejan-Kella handed over the school to the officials of the ministry of Education of the Wau County and added that UNMISS will continue supporting the state administration development endeavors. “Education shapes citizens and a nation as a whole”, he continued “teachers had no proper office to deal with their students”. Mr. Tejan-Kella expressed his belief that the new school building will contribute a lot in solving their problems. The Director of Education of Wau County, Mr. Gabriel Goly said the new school building will ensure access and quality education. During the ceremony, the Kenyan Battalion donated four tables for the teacher offices.

Two new classrooms for Warrap State

“I went to school under trees then I travelled to East Africa and the USA”. “Now, I am back to contribute to develop and build my state”.

The hand-over of two new classrooms to Warrap State government by UNMISS was a major breakthrough. The Director General of the State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Mr. Adriano Kiir Ayuel said the goodwill gesture from UNMISS and other partners who construct schools and promote peace in the country would be useless unless the South Sudanese people made use of the facilities. “I went to school under trees then; I travelled to East Africa and the USA,” he said. “Now I am back to contribute to develop and build my state; I will do this because of the education I acquired”. UNMISS Acting State Coordinator Mr. Isaac Lappia stressed that the future of South Sudan lies in developing the youth, especially through girl education.

New police post and water project handed over to Jur River County authorities (Western Bahr El-Ghazal State)

In a continuing effort to support peace-building in Western Bahr El-Ghazal State, UNMISS handed over a police post and potable water project to authorities in Jur River County. The police post and potable water project were built using funds from the mission’s Quick Impact Projects worth US$50,000 and US$90,000 respectively.

The clean water project was implemented by UN Habitat and is expected to benefit over 1000 people in the community. UNMISS Kenyan Battalion constructed the police post, which has five offices and three detention cells.

During the hand-over ceremony of the projects, UNMISS State Coordinator Ms. Winnie Babihuga said “These two projects signify the importance of building peace and maintaining peace within the community”. She continued “when there is peace, development projects move forward”. On 12 March, a similar police post worth US$50,000 was handed over to Wau authorities to promote peace and security in Wau County.
This year’s International Mines Action Day is celebrated under the theme “More than Mines”. DSRSG, Humanitarian Coordinator, Toby Lanzer visited Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria in advance of the International Mines Action Day, 4th April to see the work of the United Nations Mines Action Services (UNMAS) in collaboration with some of its key partners, like the Development Initiative and other organizations which have been working on behalf of the communities to clear mines. During the DSRSG/HC visit, he said “I heard one story today not in this particular County but in another part of South Sudan where a group of four or five children were playing with something they found and thought it was interesting and they were rattling it. When it exploded, they all lost their lives”. UNMAS has cleared and destroyed 85 anti-personnel mines, 111 anti-tank mines and 273 unexploded ordnance within 608,142 square meter of land since November 2014 in Ayii, Magwi County; allowing safe fields for the local community and farmers.

UNMISS upgrade Kuajok Hospital (Warrap State)

Aiming to improve health conditions in Warrap State, UNMISS through its Quick Impact Project (QIP) funds constructed a US$90,000 water point and a pit latrine for Kuajok hospital. UNMISS also provided universal anesthesia machine with one vaporizer including one oxygen concentrator, one vaporizer-halothane oxygen monitoring and alarm system. The State Minister of Health Nyanawaut Mayen commended the mission for its support and said the upgrade had made the facility “a proper hospital”. UNMISS Warrap State Coordinator Leda Liman called on South Sudanese to embrace peace for growth and development. “The current UNMISS mandate doesn’t have capacity building but still Warrap State is one of the three states to get extra funds under UNMISS QIP funds which were used to upgrade Kuajok Hospital successfully”.

UNMISS team visits five secondary schools in Kajokeji County (Central Equatoria State)

UNMISS Public Information Outreach Unit together with the Human Rights Division and the Child Protection Unit visited five secondary schools in Kajokeji County of Central Equatoria State, and conducted an awareness campaign on the role of UNMISS new mandate. The topics discussed centered on protection of civilians, human rights, providing conditions for the access of humanitarian assistance and support to the peace process which are the four pillars of the mission’s new mandate. Emphasis was also placed on the basis principles of human rights including the right to life, freedom from torture, freedom of expression and education and religion rights among others. Many issues were discussed pertaining to children’s rights, with core value attached to the best interest of a child, first when making decisions about children’s welfare and many more. Traditional Kuku dance, poems, riddles and songs were performed during the events. A two days workshop was also organized for 23 customary courts from five Payams in Central Equatoria State.
Demining activities, UNMAS in Ayii, Magwi County — Eastern Equatoria
UNMISS Photo / Isaac Billy

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VIDEO
https://vimeo.com/122956351

The story of James, child soldier at age 13, follows the narrative of James’ abduction into the South Sudan military to his eventual freedom and subsequent commitment as a child protection officer for the United Nations to ensure the practice of recruiting children in the armed forces ceases to exist.

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