



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

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UNMISS ASSISTANCE TO WIDESPREAD FLOODS IN SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is assisting local authorities in areas affected by widespread flooding and recent torrential rains. Floods and heavy rainfalls have caused extensive damage to infrastructure in South Sudan especially roads and bridges.

In Bor, Jonglei state, thirty-five engineers from UNMISS Korean Engineering Company have built dikes along the river Nile. Engineers, equipped with excavators and oil pressure cranes, have also fortified the banks of the Nile to deter further floods and contain rising waters. Recent rainfalls in Bor have caused Jonglei Caretaker Governor to publicly appeal for support.

In addition to flood response, the Korean Engineering Company also provided assistance to the municipality of Bor by helping extinguishing a fire in Marol market. Since their deployment in Bor, Korean engineers have been actively engaged in rehabilitating infrastructure in the town, including the main road, the airstrip and sewage facilities

In Bentiu, Unity state, UNMISS Mongolian Engineering Company has just completed the construction of a six-meter pedestrian bridge to allow passage over an area currently under water in the center of town. Mongolian engineers started assisting local authorities as early as June, when the Governor of Unity requested the support of Mongolian engineers to address the damage caused by seasonal heavy rains. The engineers leveled and built drainage along Bentiu's main road, and also drained and rehabilitated the public sports complex of Bentiu so it could host the independence celebrations.

In Maiwut county, Upper Nile state, UNMISS provided a helicopter to allow a health assessment flight over an area where heavy floods could result in disease outbreaks. Besides UNMISS personnel, the assessment team included representatives of the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) as well as other UN and aid agencies.

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states, UNMISS provided helicopters flights for states' local authorities and ministries to carry out their own needs assessments over portions of the main Aweil-Gok Macher highway washed away by heavy rainfalls. UNMISS and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) is currently looking at

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ways to release excavators for local authorities to carry out repairs with adequate equipment.

In Juba, Central Equatoria, thirty engineers from UNMISS Bangladesh Engineering Company, using excavators and other heavy duty equipment, have just completed the rehabilitation of the road between Customs and the UN House in Jebel area. This main artery which has suffered major damage following repeated rainfalls sustains daily heavy traffic between Ngongi Street and Juba bypass.

Transport is key to stabilization and peace-building in South Sudan and operational infrastructure will help establish the conditions for development benefiting all the people of South Sudan.

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