



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

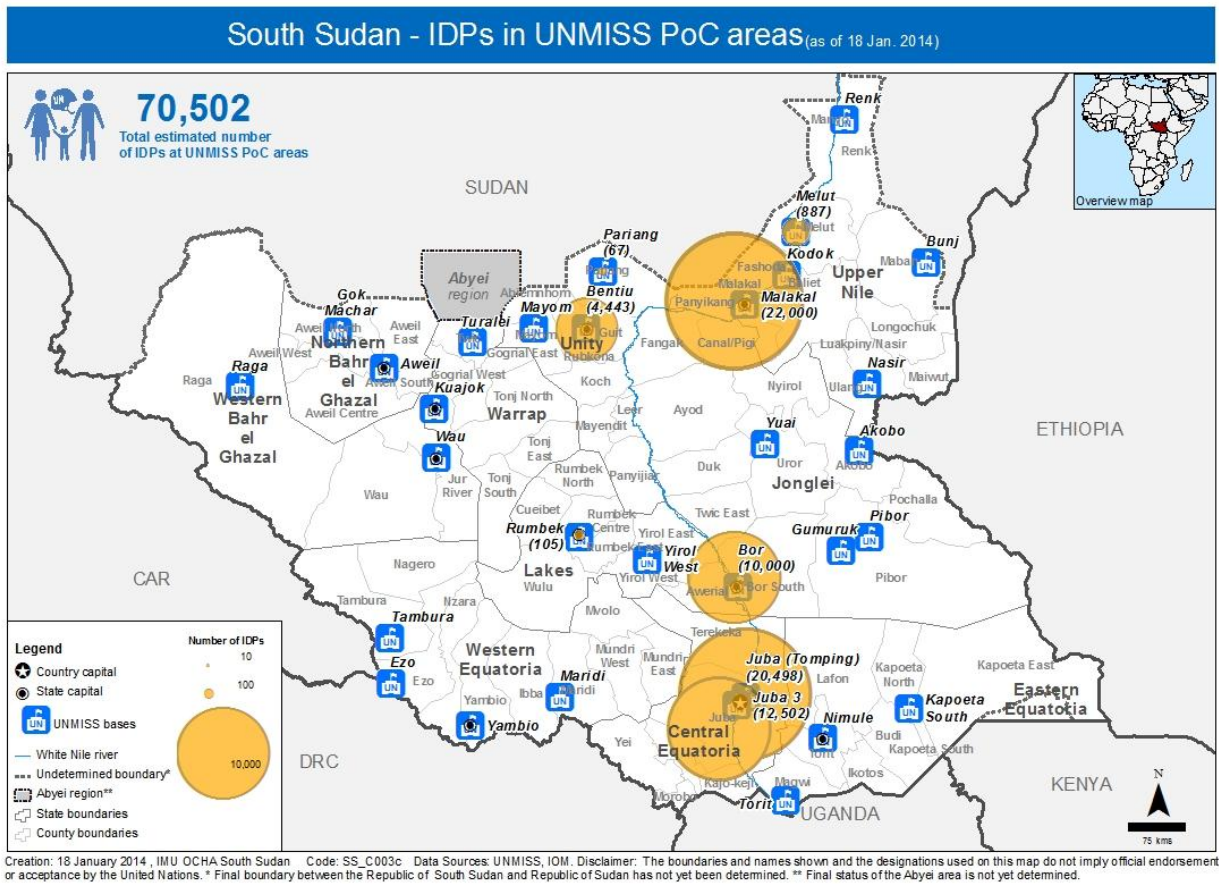
Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

20 January 2014

UNMISS "PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS" (POC) SITES¹

As of 20 January: 70,363 civilians are seeking protection on 8 UNMISS protection sites, including Bentiu (4,443), Juba (33,000), Bor (10,000) and Malakal (22,000).



➤ Malakal

- A significant influx of civilians has sought safety on UNMISS protection sites in the last days. Although numbers cannot be verified, it is estimated 22,000 are currently on UNMISS protection site. This includes 218 patients currently treated at the UNMISS hospital.



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United Nations Mission in South Sudan – Communications & Public Information Office

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UNMISS is getting very close to its maximum capacity to be able to welcome more civilians on its protection site, which has already spontaneously expanded beyond its initial boundaries.

- UNMISS and partners have held meetings with community leaders to discuss issues related to water, food and non-food as well as security, with special focus on the protection of children and women. The forum has now agreed to meet once a week under the leadership of UNMISS Civil Affairs. In addition, a specific meeting on security is planned for Tuesday 21 January.
- **Juba:** nearly half of the displaced civilians seeking safety at UNMISS protection sites are sheltered in 2 sites in Juba. With the Tomping site overcrowded, new arrivals are now being moved to UN House site
- **Bor:** due to the unfolding security situation, estimates have risen to 10,000 civilians in the UNMISS PoC site
- **Bentiu:** numbers have significantly decreased and the latest figures indicate 4,319 civilians sheltering on the UNMISS PoC site
- **Pibor:** No more civilians in UNMISS protection sites where they were only overnighting

<i>STATE</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>Protected civilians</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>Central Equatoria</i>	<i>Tomping</i>	20,498	New arrivals moved to UN House site
	<i>UN House</i>	12,502	
<i>Jonglei</i>	<i>Bor</i>	10,000	
<i>Lakes</i>	<i>Rumbek</i>	105	UNMISS provides water and 2 big tents
<i>Upper Nile</i>	<i>Malakal</i>	22,000	Registration underway
	<i>Melut</i>	872	UNMISS sending food and supplies
<i>Unity</i>	<i>Pariang</i>	67	Documentation is ongoing, impossible to state numbers with any accuracy
	<i>Bentiu</i>	4,319	No accurate numbers - Watertrucks provided by Mongolian Battalion
<i>TOTAL</i>		70,363	

Primary schools exams

Four hundred and sixty students currently in UNMISS protection sites in Juba have successfully completed their primary school leaving certificate. The series of exams took place for 5 consecutive days from 13 to 17 January at both UNMISS protection of civilians sites, in Tomping and UN house where UNMISS had provided space for them. The exams took place with the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other key partners.

Women and children

Almost eighty percent of the civilians in UNMISS protection site on UNMISS compounds in Juba are women and children.

Child protection

- UNMISS Child Protection Unit is currently holding an advocacy program in Juba UN House protection site to raise awareness on the issue of recruitment of children, child protection and reporting mechanism. The three-day seminar, which starts on Monday 20 January, will be held in collaboration with community leaders.
- UNMISS is also supporting advocacy efforts to engage the SPLA on the importance of adhering to the prevention of recruitment of children, particularly in view of mass mobilization.
- Allegations of mobilization and recruitment of youths by government security forces and anti-government forces in the country are rife, but verification is difficult. A number of children associated with anti-government forces in Malakal was reported, but figures cannot be ascertained yet.
- UNICEF has also expressed its deep concern about the use of children as combatants in the ongoing armed conflict in South Sudan. UNICEF is part of the UN Security Council mandated Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on children affected by armed conflict in South Sudan. Despite challenges due to access and security, UNICEF is working with UNMISS and other partners to ensure ongoing reporting of violations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović said on Friday the fighting had "now reached the threshold of an internal armed conflict", a status that could lead to prosecutions for war crimes where deemed appropriate.

"Accountability is key. An independent and impartial fact-finding commission should be established as quickly as possible. Those who committed these terrible crimes, who ordered them or those who did nothing to prevent them while they were in a position to do so, all these people should be held accountable without delay," Šimonović added. "I made this very clear to military leaders on both sides." Šimonović, speaking after a four-day visit to South Sudan including Juba, Bor and Bentiu, said "mass atrocities" had been committed by both sides.

For further information or media enquiries,
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ⁱ UNMISS will be providing and update on figures and the Mission's activities on its PoC sites twice a week