



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

UPDATE

26 MARCH, 2014

UNMISS “PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS” (PoC) SITES ¹

As of 26 March, the estimated number of civilians seeking safety in 8 Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites located on UNMISS bases is 68,000. Registered civilians seeking protection in UNMISS PoC sites are 32,000 in Juba (Tompson and UN House), 21,500 in Malakal, 5,694 in Bor and 7,407 in Bentiu.

STATE	LOCATION	Number of civilians seeking protection
Central Equatoria, Juba	Tompson	21,000
	UN House	11,000
Jonglei	Bor	5,694
Lakes	Rumbek	91
Upper Nile	Malakal	21,500
	Melut	1,300
Unity	Pariang	8
	Bentiu	7,407
TOTAL		68,000

DECONGESTION OF PROTECTION SITES REMAINS A PRIORITY

With the rainy season and its devastating effects on protection sites located on UNMISS compounds, issues of congestion, drainage, water and sanitation could result in a sharp increase of water-borne diseases. These challenges are currently addressed as a matter of emergency while the decongestion of sites remains a priority.

→ *Juba, Tomping PoC site (21,000)*

The Tomping protection site is not suitable for long-term occupation due to its low-lying location, and associated flooding and health risks during the rainy season. It will be closed in May.

In the meantime:

- Emergency operations to improve hygiene (latrine and water sanitation) are ongoing.
- Operations to move civilians from UNMISS Tomping to UN House continue and will be significantly scaled up in the coming weeks.
- There will be 3000 civilians initially moved to the UN House protection site where space has been made available. The remainder will follow upon the opening of a new adjacent site, currently under construction, beginning of April.
- People in the protection sites are free to move to wherever they feel safe, however UNMISS will NOT facilitate the movement of people either to other locations in South Sudan or to third countries.
- Sensitization campaigns with community leaders and civilians are ongoing in Tomping. The objective is to inform and encourage displaced persons to voluntarily move to UN House protection site where they will enjoy the same level of security, however improved basic and health services. Campaigns include:
 - ⇒ Household visits with outreach workers to areas targeted for initial move
 - ⇒ Daily "Go-See" bus trips with Tomping civilians to UN House
 - ⇒ Meetings and focus groups with key audiences (community leaders, women, business owners)
 - ⇒ Humanitarian information service broadcast with the support of Internews

→ *Malakal, (21,500)*

- UNMISS and partners are addressing the decongestion of the overcrowded protection site as a priority ahead of the rainy season.
- A team of 50 engineers has been deployed to build a new site, where to move civilians.
- UNMISS is working with a committee of elders to inform and manage the site.
- UNMISS is planning a new count of the civilian population in the protection site. Numbers have been fluctuating due to heavy fighting and the change of hands of the town (estimated 21,500).

For further information or media enquiries,

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OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN PROTECTION SITES

→ *Bor*

- The construction of 2 boreholes has been completed. The boreholes are now fully operational and provide additional water supply to the protection site.
- The Indian battalion is helping with the medical caseload at Bor hospital by providing medical support to the hospital. On the first day of extending their services, the Indian medical personnel examined 46 patients. Indians will continue to operate daily from 9:00am to 11:00am.
- Personal hygiene kits have been distributed to 1050 women along a one-day training on gender based violence. A three day community child protection training has also been completed.

→ *Juba*

- The Indian battalion is erecting additional protective fencing around the protection site in Juba, measuring 70 x 70 meters.
- UNMISS Japanese Engineering contingent have completed installation of a berm around perimeters of the protection site at UN house, totalling a stretch of 3.570 metres.

→ *Bentiu*

- UNMISS Mongolian Battalion provided protection to 11 food trucks traveling 300 kms from Mayom to Abiemnom (Unity) and back.

→ *Malakal*

- UNMISS garbage trucks are conducting daily runs to assist with garbage disposal.

→ *Melut (Upper Nile)*

- A mobile veterinary clinic has been established by the Indian Battalion. The clinic provides services for cattle belonging to civilians displaced in Melut including on UNMISS protection site. Over 5,000 animals have received treatment such as deworming and distribution of free medicine as well as food supplements.
- Melut County Commissioner and displaced communities have expressed their gratitude for UNMISS' contribution. Since the crisis erupted in December, the availability of veterinarian services in Melut had been stopped, causing serious consequences to livestock and the livelihood of the displaced community

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Indian troops providing treatment to cattle in Melu/ UNMISS/Photo courtesy of INBATT

SECURITY AND PATROLS

- Over the past week, UNPOL conducted 335 patrols countrywide, deploying in all UNMISS protection of civilians site. In continued efforts to improve safety conditions in the protection sites, illegal weapons including AK47 rifles, ammunition, knives, machetes, and spears were seized. Additional illegal items included counterfeit money and alcohol.

USAID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NANCY LINDBORG VISITS SOUTH SUDAN

- The United States will provide nearly \$83 million in additional assistance Nancy Lindborg, the USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance announced during her visit in South Sudan.
- Additional funds will help provide urgently needed food, medical supplies, hygiene kits and shelter to hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, including civilians who have sought refuge in UNMISS protection sites.

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- "Some 70,000 people (...) are huddled in UNMISS compounds, seeking safety -- many of whom are in very, very overcrowded conditions," Nancy Lindborg said. "It will be critical to address the needs of these people, especially since many of these compounds are literally in swamp areas and as the rains come these compounds will be unhealthy and unable to accommodate these people," she said.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- Refugees, locals fighting over resources in Upper Nile
<http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3465&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=3430789&language=en-US>
- Born in the midst of crisis
<http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3465&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=3401566&language=en-US>

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