



Security Council

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Situation in Abyei

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 35 of Security Council resolution [2760 \(2024\)](#), in which the Council requested to be informed of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). It covers the period since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General ([S/2025/269](#)), from 16 April 2025 to 1 October 2025. The report provides updates on, inter alia, political and security developments, women and young people, peace and security, human rights and the humanitarian situation, as well as on the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. It also highlights how the ongoing conflict in the Sudan has affected both Abyei and UNISFA operations.

II. Abyei

Political developments

2. Amid the war in the Sudan and political uncertainty in South Sudan, progress remained stalled in the political process between the Sudan and South Sudan on the final status of Abyei and border issues. No meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee were held during the reporting period. In this environment, UNISFA increased its efforts to engage both countries, stressing the need for Abyei to remain a priority.

3. Between June and September, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNISFA made five visits to Juba, South Sudan, and one visit to Port Sudan, the Sudan, and met with senior officials to discuss the evolving security challenges in Abyei and the area of operations of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. He urged the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to resume discussions on Abyei and border issues, offering support for the reactivation of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. He also highlighted the fact that the presence of State and non-State forces in Abyei violates the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, signed in 2011, and hampers mission operations. UNISFA also raised the issues of arms proliferation and rising crime, emphasizing the urgent need for the deployment of the three Security Council-authorized formed police units and of remaining international police officers to support the rule of law.



4. In his meetings in Juba and Port Sudan, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander further addressed ongoing challenges affecting the mission's resupply efforts and discussed plans to reduce the footprint of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli, the Sudan, emphasizing the need for support to ensure the safety of UNISFA air operations. In Juba, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander also urged the Government of South Sudan to deploy national monitors at Abu Qussa/Wunkur to support the execution of mandated activities.

Conflict dynamics and the security situation

5. The security situation in Abyei remained generally stable but unpredictable. A total of 127 security incidents were reported, compared with 91 in the previous reporting period. The increase is due largely to the greater presence of the Rapid Support Forces in northern Abyei, whose elements were associated with 41 incidents in Sector North during the period. In addition, there were 16 incidents of intercommunal or intracommunal violence, 59 incidents related to criminal activities and 11 miscellaneous incidents. A total of 34 people were killed in these incidents, which is an increase from the 22 people killed in the previous reporting period.

6. The ongoing conflict in the Sudan remained a destabilizing factor in Abyei, particularly in Sector North with the increased presence of the Rapid Support Forces. Rapid Support Forces elements were often sighted in Amiet market and along the road between Amiet and Diffra, where the group operates checkpoints, despite UNISFA engagement to ensure that they are dismantled. On 15 May, the authorities of West Kordofan State, an area controlled by the Rapid Support Forces, appointed a "peacekeeping coordinator" for the northern area of Abyei to oversee existing peace committees and maintain security. On 26 and 27 May, the Rapid Support Forces took control of the community protection committee office in Dari, in northern Abyei, and intermittently co-located with joint community peace committee members collecting tolls north of Amiet market. Members of the Rapid Support Forces have sought to strengthen their relationship with Misseriya traditional authorities and have claimed to UNISFA to have a mandate from the Misseriya community to control crime in northern Abyei as justification for their presence and carrying of weapons.

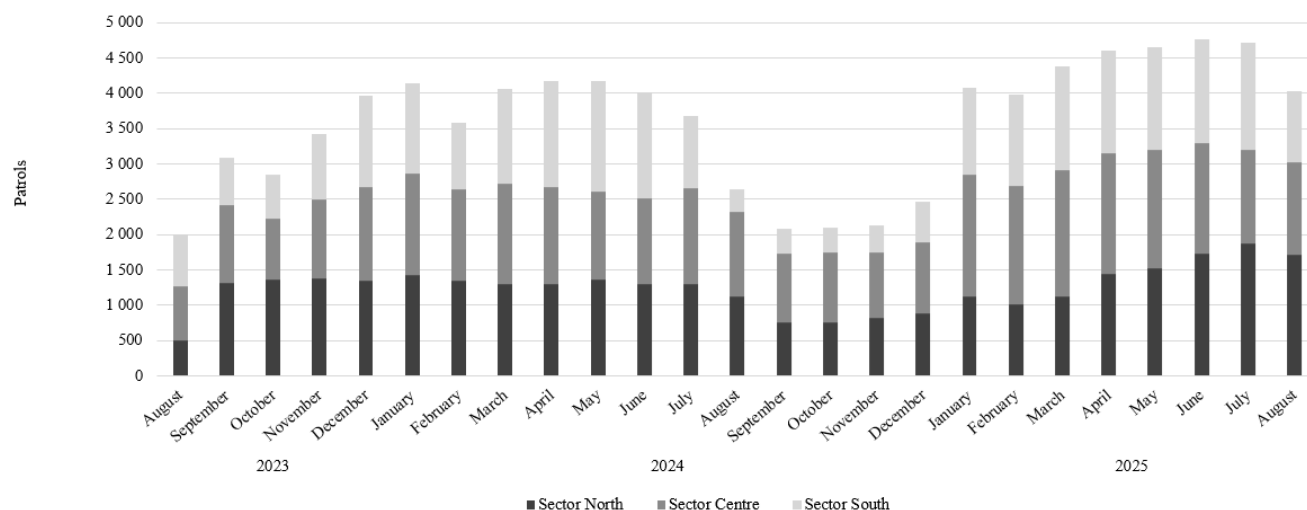
7. There were three incidents of intercommunal clashes during the reporting period, down from nine in the previous period. A significant confrontation occurred between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities in the area of Amiet market on 12 June, emanating from unresolved issues related to cattle that had allegedly been stolen by members of the Ngok Dinka community. While the Ngok Dinka community returned some of the stolen animals, disputes among Misseriya community members emerged over how to fairly distribute the cattle among the rightful owners. Meanwhile, the situation intensified when a group of Misseriya men attacked an individual from the Ngok Dinka community, resulting in the deaths of two Ngok Dinka members and causing severe injuries to others. In response, Ngok Dinka youth launched a reprisal, which led to the deaths of three Misseriya individuals. The risk of further escalation was high, but the situation was quickly contained through the timely deployment of a UNISFA quick-reaction force, which helped to restore order and stabilize the area.

8. On 14 June, another clash occurred between Misseriya and Ngok Dinka community members at Amiet market. The conflict began when a group of Misseriya attacked a Ngok Dinka individual, resulting in the deaths of two Ngok Dinka and injuries to two others. This incident prompted a retaliatory attack against the Misseriya community, leading to the deaths of three Misseriya members and injuries to four others. UNISFA engaged with local leaders to facilitate dialogue, defuse tensions and deter further retaliations.

9. On 21 and 22 July, unidentified armed elements launched an attack on the joint protection committee at Amiet market in an apparent attempt to free detainees. The assault resulted in the deaths of two members of the Ngok Dinka community and left two others injured. The situation escalated into an exchange of gunfire, culminating in the deaths of five Misseriya individuals. Shots were also directed at a UNISFA armoured personnel carrier and a nearby observation post. In response to the incident, UNISFA intensified its patrols and engaged community stakeholders to de-escalate the situation and restore stability.

10. Reports of sporadic gunfire, including near UNISFA facilities, increased from 8 during the previous reporting period to 40 incidents in the period between 16 April and 15 September. On 2 July, a stray bullet struck the ceiling of a dining facility inside the missions' Highway camp, but did not cause injuries. On 7 September, celebratory gunfire at Amiet market during the lunar eclipse injured a civilian, who received treatment from UNISFA and was later discharged. The rise in the number of such incidents underscores the continued proliferation of small arms and light weapons observed in Abyei during the reporting period.

Force ground patrols by sector



Source: UNISFA and Joint Operations Centre.

Status-of-forces agreement violations and incidents

11. The presence of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and South Sudan National Police Service personnel, including checkpoints at Athony junction and Kilo 27 in southern Abyei, limited UNISFA patrols and logistics movement, obstructing the establishment of a temporary base at Athony junction. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces have also continued to occupy civilian structures in southern Abyei, including the Agok detention centre and school facilities, which hindered United Nations police operations and denied children access to education. On 19 May, UNISFA sent a note verbale to the Government of South Sudan requesting the withdrawal of these uniformed forces in line with the demilitarized and weapons-free status of Abyei as under the terms of the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area. UNISFA has not received a reply and the forces did not withdraw.

12. On 23 July, a convoy of three UNISFA-contracted vehicles was stopped by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Malual Aleu and subsequently seized by the Juba-appointed administration of Abyei. South Sudan People's Defence Forces

personnel searched the vehicles, even though prior clearance had been obtained from the Government of South Sudan. The vehicles were eventually released following intervention from UNISFA leadership. Separately, the mission has encountered delays with regard to the Government of South Sudan approving tax exemption requests for imports.

13. On 3 July, members of the Sudanese National Police set up a static deployment outside the UNISFA base in Kadugli with the stated intention of preventing potential looting by local residents in the event of the withdrawal of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Between 3 and 17 August, they occasionally demanded searches of United Nations vehicles entering and exiting the base. The police forces withdrew on 17 August.

14. On 5 July, national monitors of the Sudan and South Sudan blocked a medical evacuation flight for a UNISFA peacekeeper in Kadugli due to grievances surrounding the relocation of Kadugli-based personnel to Abyei as part of the temporary reduction of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism presence there. On 8 July, following engagement by UNISFA, the national monitors committed not to obstruct future flights, but due to the complicated security and logistical environment, the medical evacuation was conducted only on 17 July. The Mechanism also faced obstruction by local authorities in Heglig, near the team site in Tishwin, and Murta village, near Kadugli, who continued to deny the Mechanism access to key water points.

15. On 15 July, Sudanese officials confiscated a United Nations vehicle in Port Sudan, claiming it was not properly licensed under Sudanese law, a matter which the United Nations has disputed through notes verbales sent to the Government of the Sudan on 17 July and 19 August. Despite multiple attempts to retrieve the vehicle, the vehicle has not been returned.

Intercommunal dialogue

16. Intercommunal reconciliation efforts in Abyei were affected by the heightened presence of individuals affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces in Sector North. Despite the presence of these individuals, both Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities worked collaboratively to address security incidents and sustain dialogue, mainly through the joint community peace committee.

17. During the reporting period, the joint community peace committee held 14 regular and three ad hoc meetings in Todach and Amiet market. Discussions addressed key issues, including intercommunal coexistence, compensation for losses, security challenges related to the presence of the Rapid Support Forces and the management of Amiet market.

18. On 8 May, representatives of the Rapid Support Forces attended a meeting chaired by the Juba-appointed Chief Administrator of Abyei, where they claimed that the Rapid Support Forces were the legitimate power in the area and requested the expulsion of Sudanese national monitors from UNISFA bases.

19. On 20 May, UNISFA facilitated a meeting between the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and Misseriya Deputy Paramount Chief in Todach, with each delegation comprising 20 members, all men, including other traditional leaders, and representatives of youth and the joint community peace committee. They committed to peaceful coexistence, agreed on measures to de-escalate tensions and tasked the joint community peace committee with ensuring the successful completion of efforts to issue monetary compensation for cases outstanding since February 2025. A working group was also established to review the process.

20. From 30 May to 2 June, UNISFA, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), staff of the Office of the Resident Coordinators in Abyei and Concordis International Trust, organized a post-migration conference in Todach. The event brought together 165 delegates from the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, including leaders from migration corridors, members of the joint community peace committee, women, young people and cattle camp leaders. Notably, women comprised 41 per cent of the attendees, an increase from the 36 per cent at the pre-migration conference held in December 2024. Both young people and women played a key role in leading group discussions, presentations and the drafting process. The conference concluded with the signing of a post-migration agreement between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, outlining the procedures for reverse migration.

21. On 26 July, UNISFA facilitated a joint traditional leaders' dialogue in Todach with 42 participants, including the Deputy Paramount Chief of the Misseriya and the Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka, as well as other traditional leaders, three women (one Misseriya and two Ngok Dinka), young people and members of the joint community peace committee. The participants condemned the violence that had occurred in Amiet market following the attack on the joint protection committee station on 21 and 22 July. They pledged to cooperate in the apprehension of suspects, halt any revenge attacks and improve market security. In addition, they agreed to establish regular follow-up meetings and share early warning information with UNISFA.

Rule of law

22. There was no progress achieved in establishing the Abyei Police Service, as detailed in the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area.

23. During the reporting period, a total of 1,405 criminal offences were recorded, leading to the apprehension of 937 suspects, including 108 women, by the community protection committees and joint protection committee. There was a notable rise in crime, especially around Amiet market, driven by the ongoing influx of displaced populations, which continued to put pressure on local resources. This situation has also caused overcrowding in the detention facilities managed by the community protection committees. Throughout this period, UNISFA continued to offer support and guidance to these committees in their investigations of reported crimes.

24. The mission continued to promote community-based protection mechanisms by supporting 52 community protection committees across Abyei and one joint protection committee in Amiet market. A total of 1,223 community protection committee members, including 194 women, and 63 joint protection committee members, including 5 women, served as volunteers to enhance the protective environment.

25. In order to promote transparency and accountability, UNISFA, in close coordination with traditional authorities, vetted and issued uniforms and identity cards to 124 community protection committee members. Furthermore, to strengthen the operational capacity of the community protection committees and the joint protection committee, UNISFA conducted 38 training sessions for 1,035 participants, including 299 women, on early warning systems, criminal investigation techniques, crime prevention and detection, community-oriented policing, detention administration and traffic management.

26. The mission continued to work with the United Nations country teams of the Sudan and South Sudan to implement the rule of law support strategy for Abyei, with a focus on strengthening community-based mechanisms to address rule of law-related challenges. On 15 May, in partnership with the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) in South Sudan, UNISFA supported a training course to enhance the understanding of grass-roots legal aid mechanisms, non-custodial measures and the protection of the rights of the accused. The training benefited 59 Ngok Dinka community members, including 32 women and 5 community protection committee members, and led to the establishment of a community-based paralegal aid network in Abyei.

27. Coordination efforts continued to focus on promoting a unified approach to capacity-building and infrastructure support, including initiatives to support traditional justice actors and strengthen community-based protection mechanisms in Abyei. On 28 June, UNISFA handed over a detention facility and a building for the joint traditional court at Amiet market that were constructed by the mission for the joint protection committee.

28. To address the overcrowding issue in the community protection committee-managed detention facilities in Abyei town, UNISFA consulted with the Juba-appointed administration of Abyei, following which the Chief Administrator established a committee that included key local administration officials and the acting chief of the community protection committee. The committee acknowledged systemic issues, such as inadequate infrastructure and prolonged detentions, and agreed to work with UNISFA to review detention practices within its jurisdiction.

29. On 18 and 19 August, UNISFA, in partnership with UNDP, facilitated a workshop on conflict resolution, law and order and countering hate speech in Amiet market for 25 participants from both communities, including 8 women, as well as joint protection committee members.

30. Between 16 April and 30 August, UNISFA conducted 220 visits to detention facilities across Abyei to mentor the community protection committees and the joint protection committee on detention administration. In addition, the United Nations police continued to co-locate with community protection committees at both the main Abyei and Amiet detention centres. Furthermore, UNISFA conducted 177 awareness-raising sessions with community members to enhance their engagement in addressing security challenges and supporting protection efforts.

31. From June to September, UNISFA organized eight training sessions on the mission-specific standard operating procedure on the handling of detention for 321 military and civilian personnel, including 46 women.

Human rights situation

32. During the reporting period, nine human rights violations were documented, including seven rape cases involving minors (six girls and one boy), one attempted rape of an adult woman and one case of child trafficking. Two of the seven rape incidents and the trafficking case resulted in convictions in the traditional courts. In the attempted rape case, the alleged perpetrator died before charges could be brought. As at 30 August, two of the nine documented violations were awaiting court proceedings and one was under further investigation. In one alleged gang rape case, five suspects were released after a traditional settlement and in another rape case, the court released the suspect for a traditional resolution and settlement.

33. In northern Abyei, UNISFA monitored reports that Rapid Support Forces elements engaged in the arbitrary arrest of local officials appointed by Khartoum and their transportation to undisclosed locations outside of Abyei. Notably, on 12 May, the Khartoum-appointed Executive Secretary of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee was reportedly arrested, and on 16 May, the former Khartoum-appointed Chief Administrator for Abyei and his administrative officer were reportedly detained. Their whereabouts remain unknown to UNISFA.

34. During the reporting period, there were unconfirmed reports of at least 32 individuals being arrested in Abyei and transported to the Sudan, where they were imprisoned without justification in detention centres operated by the Rapid Support Forces throughout the Sudan. Other reported incidents included the alleged beating of a 49-year-old Sudanese national by Rapid Support Forces elements in civilian clothing in Diffra on 21 April, purportedly due to his perceived allegiance to the Sudanese Armed Forces.

35. The mission continued to collaborate with human rights stakeholders. UNISFA facilitated two meetings on 26 May and 29 July with members of a group of human rights advocates in southern Abyei, known as the human rights society, and conducted an awareness-raising programme on 31 July for members of the joint community peace committee regarding the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

Humanitarian situation

36. Conflict in the Sudan continued to drive people to flee to Abyei, with over 12,147 displaced people documented by IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Amiet market during the reporting period. While some South Sudanese individuals integrated into host communities in Abyei, others continued south of the Abyei boundary. UNHCR facilitated the transportation of 5,116 refugees and asylum-seekers from Abyei to designated refugee settlements in South Sudan, following months of logistical challenges that had left many asylum-seekers stranded at the transit centre in Abyei town. As at 4 September, 1,881 asylum seekers were awaiting relocation to the designated refugee settlement areas.

37. On 11 June, the Juba-appointed administration of Abyei announced a cholera outbreak, with Amiet market and Abyei town identified as major hotspots. From June to August, there were 3,124 suspected cases and 29 reported deaths. The testing of water supplies revealed contamination, prompting humanitarian partners to establish three cholera treatment units, a treatment centre and 10 rehydration points, in addition to rehabilitating existing water sources. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supplied and worked with communities on risk communication and chlorination of water sources. In addition, humanitarian partners carried out regular medical consultations, nutritional screenings, antenatal care and routine vaccinations at the 17 health facilities in Abyei.

38. Abyei grappled with other health challenges, including high rates of malaria and acute watery diarrhoea, along with alarming levels of acute malnutrition among children. In response, some international non-governmental organizations implemented therapeutic feeding programmes that reached 7,892 malnourished children and introduced preventive nutrition strategies to address these issues.

39. In collaboration with a local non-governmental organization, FAO provided seeds, agricultural tools and fishing kits to 600 households in central and southern Abyei in June and July, a reduction from the usual support for 4,600 households due to funding cuts. Due to funding constraints, FAO operations in Abyei were forced to cease at the end of July, thereby hindering critical support for farmers and livestock vaccinations.

40. Between April and August, the World Food Programme conducted monthly food distributions that benefited a total of 79,422 people. In addition, 14,990 children participated in a school feeding programme, while 9,400 malnourished children, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers, received essential support.

41. The mission completed 11 quick-impact projects during the reporting period. Key projects included the construction of two water handpumps, a set of latrines and

a generator, a youth centre, a women's centre and solar charging stations at four community protection committee stations.

42. The mission continued to assist local populations through civil-military cooperation activities. The activities included the weekly delivery of nearly 1 million litres of clean water, the treatment of patients, donations of essential items, such as blankets and medicines, to the cholera isolation centre in Diffra on 5 August, and the provision of stationery and sports equipment to schools in Abyei throughout the reporting period.

Women and peace and security

43. To strengthen gender-responsive protection, between 16 April and 13 August, 108 awareness-raising sessions on preventing and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence were organized for 2,451 people, comprising 448 women, 479 men, 676 girls and 848 boys. The mission continued to provide support to local stakeholders in investigating cases of gender-related violence. Further, the mission continued to prioritize physical protection through patrols and presence, including female engagement teams, which comprised 13.6 per cent of the mission's activities.

44. In order to enhance women's civic engagement, UNISFA backed a conference for 450 Ngok Dinka women from 23 to 25 April, in order to address sexual and gender-based violence and call for greater women's representation in decision-making. A similar meeting was organized for Misseriya women in Todach on 17 and 18 June. On 22 June, UNISFA launched a tea-time talk programme in Abyei town to encourage women to share issues pertaining to women's participation in their respective communities. The launch was attended by around 100 women.

45. From 3 to 5 June, UNISFA organized a joint women's conference for Misseriya and Ngok Dinka women in Todach. The conference brought together 132 women to engage on topics such as women's participation in peace and security mechanisms and rule of law. A joint communiqué was issued and participants agreed to establish a joint women's committee.

46. On 26 and 27 June, UNISFA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) supported the organization of a civil society meeting that brought together 40 Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka women in Wau, South Sudan, as part of the ongoing reconciliation process between the two communities. The participants resolved to establish a joint women's peace committee.

Youth and peace and security

47. Following the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka youth peace dialogue held in Wau, in April 2025, Ngok Dinka youth held peace rallies in Mijak, Rumamier, Alal and Ameth-Aguok, engaging women, young people, elders, traditional leadership and other local leaders in support of peace. They elected 10 members to a joint peace monitoring committee with Twic Dinka counterparts, with 30 per cent of the members being young women, in order to monitor and report any breaches of the agreement reached between youth representatives of the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka communities on 12 April 2025 in Wau, South Sudan. On 23 July, UNISFA and UNMISS hosted a virtual meeting for Twic Dinka and Ngok Dinka youth leaders, who reaffirmed their commitment to the agreement.

Operations of the Mine Action Service

48. As part of mine action activities conducted during the reporting period, a total of 50,631 m² of land in Abyei was assessed and declared safe. The areas assessed included

sites identified for the excavation of materials for road rehabilitation and construction, as well as sites in Koladit, central Abyei, where mine clearance was conducted.

49. Eight small arms and light weapons and 322 rounds of small arms ammunition confiscated by UNISFA were destroyed. All explosive remnants of war and landmines recovered during clearance activities were also destroyed, including 19 explosive remnants of war and 55 rounds of small arms ammunition located through survey activities.

50. A total of 116 sessions on explosive ordnance risk education were delivered to 1,729 people (328 men, 415 women, 632 boys and 354 girls). Furthermore, 267 community briefing sessions on explosive ordnance risk education were conducted, reaching 1,235 people (352 men, 247 women, 356 boys and 280 girls). A series of surveys conducted during the reporting period revealed that an average of 94 per cent of respondents demonstrated increased knowledge of how to distinguish between safe and unsafe behaviour. In addition, 15 safety training sessions were delivered to 344 UNISFA personnel and humanitarian actors, of whom 49 were women.

51. On 16 June, the Mine Action Service suspended deployments to the northern part of Abyei as a result of intimidation and threats by members of the joint community peace committee, who alleged that the Mine Action Service was engaged in digging for gold in Abyei. Despite engagement by UNISFA with the joint community peace committee leadership to explain the mandate of the Mine Action Service and its methodologies and activities, the situation was not resolved as of the end of the reporting period.

Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei

52. The implementation of the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei continued to promote peacebuilding through collaboration with local and international partners. On 16 April, UNICEF completed the drilling a 114 m deep borehole and the installation of a 12,000 litre storage tank at the primary healthcare centre in Amiet. UNICEF also established two solar-powered water yards in Ameth-Bek and Abyen Jong Yom on 27 May to serve various communities, including returnees and internally displaced persons. On 28 May, UNICEF trained 21 members of the Water User Committee, made up of 11 men and 10 women from the communities in Amiet, Abyen Jong Yom and Ameth-Bek who are engaged in water management and governance, in measures aimed at ensuring unhindered access to water facilities by community members, particularly women. In addition, on 25 June, a new water yard in Amiet market was officially handed over to the joint protection committee, thereby assuring a continued water supply to its detention centre.

53. The United Nations Development Programme supported seed and tool distributions to 1,400 farmers from 1 to 4 June, ahead of the farming season. UNDP also supported the expansion of primary healthcare infrastructure and facilitated dialogues and workshops to foster social cohesion and counter hate speech. Between April and June, UNDP also delivered gender-inclusive training focused on economic empowerment of women and young people.

54. Between May and August, IOM worked with local organizations to provide primary and community health services, including 5,058 consultations, the training of health staff in medical waste management, mental health and psychological first aid and in the clinical management of rape survivors, as well as distributing dignity kits to 500 women in northern Abyei. WHO delivered essential medical kits, cholera kits and other medical supplies to various locations in Abyei.

55. In support of intercommunal confidence-building, UNDP and UNISFA facilitated a dialogue on 27 June in Todach between 50 Ngok Dinka leaders, including 20 women, and 50 Misseriya leaders, including 18 women, to promote trust, cooperation and joint economic projects. Additional workshops on peacebuilding, community security and countering hate speech were organized to reinforce social cohesion. From 16 to 26 August, UNISFA and UNDP carried out an initiative to enhance access to financial resources and strengthen entrepreneurial capacities for 150 women who established and organized themselves in three cooperatives. Participants were provided with essential knowledge, resources and other tools to establish and expand small-scale businesses, such as catering services and grinding mills.

56. Throughout May, FAO distributed seeds, tools and fishing kits to 600 households. It carried out gender safety audits and delivered technical training, including on milk handling and hygiene, on 4 July for 16 female participants and on 13 August, conducted a community workshop on conflict resolution, sustainable practices and climate resilience. On 15 October, FAO completed the construction of a fish and vegetable market, as well as the installation of solar-powered lights in Abyei, which were handed over to local authorities. On 10 and 11 September, UNISFA worked with FAO and the local non-governmental organization Abyei Community Action for Development to conduct a two-day training session on market linkages through partnerships for 35 farmers, pastoralists and business owners, including 5 women, aimed at fostering connections and promoting peaceful coexistence.

57. Skills development support continued under IOM, which provided vocational training, start-up kits and capital to enable young people to launch small businesses, create jobs and boost local economies. Through that support, 275 students (148 men and 127 women) graduated from the Abyei Vocational Training Centre on 31 May, in trades including tailoring, catering and hospitality, building and masonry, plumbing, computer literacy and business management.

III. Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism: progress on benchmarks

58. The ongoing conflict in the Sudan continues to affect the operations of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The closure of Sudanese airspace continues to prevent aerial monitoring. At the same time, security concerns have deterred private contractors from resupplying the Mechanism site at a UNISFA base in Kadugli. Headquarters functions of the Mechanism continued to be performed from Abyei. The Sector 1 headquarters of the Mechanism in Gok Machar, South Sudan, and its two team sites remained non-operational.

59. Due to security considerations following the seizure by the Rapid Support Forces of United Nations-contracted fuel trucks during a UNISFA logistics convoy en route to Kadugli in February 2025, resupply by ground remained unviable. As a result, all resupplies were conducted by air. On 15 June, two UNISFA helicopters were fired at while travelling from Kadugli to Abyei; no damage was recorded. The mission investigated the incident but was unable to identify those responsible.

60. In this context, on 13 August, UNISFA began to temporarily reduce its presence in Kadugli, pending an improvement in the security and operational environment. In order to ensure coordination for the reduction process, the mission engaged with Sudanese authorities at the local and national levels, while also keeping the Government of South Sudan informed.

61. Despite the challenges, including the deteriorating security situation and the continued absence of South Sudanese national monitors at its team site 22 (Abu

Qussa/Wunkur), the Mechanism continued to carry out its mandate through ground monitoring missions and situation assessment patrols from team sites 21 (Tishwin) and 22 (Abu Qussa/Wunkur). Civil-military cooperation activities continued in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area of operations, including the provision of medical care to local patients and the distribution of water.

62. The South Sudan National Police Service operated a checkpoint at Panakuac, 12 km north of the southernmost limit of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, and continued to restrict the movement of Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism patrols beyond the checkpoint, in contravention of the status-of-forces agreement. This issue was discussed with South Sudanese authorities during visits to Juba by the UNISFA leadership in May 2025.

63. South Sudanese security forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition remained stationed in Panyikang and Koubre, close to team site 22 (Abu Qussa/Wunkur), in violation of the demilitarized status of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

64. There has been no progress in border demarcation and the establishment of border crossing corridors. Despite these challenges, 4 out of 10 border crossing corridors remained open to returnees and displaced individuals escaping the conflict in the Sudan.

IV. Administrative aspects and mission support

65. As at 21 August, the number of civilian staff at UNISFA stood at 281, comprising 172 international staff, 34 United Nations Volunteers and 75 national staff, against an authorized total of 200 international staff, 39 United Nations Volunteers and 94 national staff. Women accounted for 26 per cent of the civilian component, including 33 per cent of senior staff positions.

66. As at 21 August, the United Nations police strength stood at 53 individual police officers, of whom 22 were women. The deployment level mandated by the Security Council is 148. From 16 April 2025 to 21 August 2025, the Government of South Sudan approved visas for 19 individual police officers and 5 experts, all of whom have deployed. No progress was made on the deployment of the three formed police units and additional individual police officers as authorized by the Security Council. On 27 July, UNISFA sent a note verbale to South Sudan and the Sudan requesting the deployment of the formed police units, but no response was received.

67. As at 21 August, UNISFA had 3,227 military personnel (303 women and 2,924 men). The total comprised 2,989 troops, 125 staff officers and 113 military observers, against the authorized strength of 3,250. Included in these figures is the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, which accounted for 528 military personnel (495 men and 33 women), comprising 490 troops, 14 staff officers and 24 military observers. Women represented 9.4 per cent of all military personnel, including 29 per cent of staff officers and military observers and 7.8 per cent of contingent troops.

68. The construction of the Dokura/Rumajak, Highway and Agok camps, along with the Nepal camp located within the UNISFA mission headquarters, was fully completed as of 24 April. The Diffra camp was completed on 30 July, except for the perimeter road, which remains unfinished due to the impact of the rainy season. Athony camp reached 90 per cent completion as of 31 July, with outstanding work primarily involving major horizontal elements that cannot be finalized during the rainy season. Ground preparation for reconstruction at the Nigerian camp commenced on 12 August. Planning is under way for the construction of other camps earmarked under the 2025–26 budget and is dependent on the availability of funding.

Culture of performance

69. During the reporting period, the Mission created an action plan to enhance organizational learning from security incidents. This plan includes initiatives for conducting after-action reviews, developing a mission-wide knowledge management database and improving the sharing of best practices. An integrated planning cell has also been established to guide military contingents, United Nations police officers and military observers in coordinated intelligence efforts. The mission has further initiated the rollout of the Unite Aware platform, with a focus on patrol plans.

Conduct and discipline

70. During the reporting period, one allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse was recorded; assistance was offered to the victim, who declined. An investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services is ongoing. Registration in the victim assistance tracking system was completed. Ten allegations of misconduct were also recorded and are under investigation by either the Office of Internal Oversight Services or national investigation officers. A total of 1,905 United Nations personnel received training on the prevention of misconduct, especially sexual exploitation and abuse, while 11 risk assessments were conducted so as to mitigate potential risks.

71. Between April and August 2025, UNISFA conducted six outreach activities aimed at raising awareness among the local population, including by continuing to map services for implementing partners and participating in three monthly meetings with the Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, a group composed of community members, UNISFA personnel and representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that aims to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, UNISFA collaborated with Network focal points to enhance the community-based complaints mechanism for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Public information

72. During the reporting period, UNISFA observed incidents of misinformation and disinformation affecting its operations in Kadugli, with over 20 reported incidents on social and mainstream media. Inaccurate narratives included unfounded claims about contracts for local staff being terminated due to the reduction of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism presence in Kadugli and accusations that the mission had aided the escape of individuals accused of committing crimes in Kadugli and used its air assets to transport money out of the area, which negatively affected mission operations and threatened the safety of peacekeepers. During the reporting period, UNISFA facilitated activities on combating misinformation and disinformation for the local administration and Ngok Dinka traditional leadership, including a month-long visual art contest in which 18 Ngok Dinka and Misseriya youth participated. The contest, which included a three-day art workshop by a local artist, culminated in a peace-themed mural aimed at amplifying youth voices and promoting awareness of misinformation and disinformation.

73. On 6 August, UNISFA officially handed over a radio station, constructed as a quick-impact project, to local journalists in Abyei. This initiative aims to bridge the information gap and meet media development needs. The station, previously located in Agok, had been non-operational for over two years due to the tensions between the Ngok Dinka and the Twic Dinka.

V. Financial aspects

74. The General Assembly, by its resolution [79/301](#) of 30 June 2025, appropriated \$309.1 million for the maintenance of UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

75. As at 3 September 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNISFA amounted to \$138.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,855.6 million.

76. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 March 2025, and reimbursement for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024.

77. To address financial challenges facing peacekeeping operations, UNISFA is implementing contingency plans for a 15 per cent reduction in expenditures for the current budget period.

VI. Observations and recommendations

78. I remain concerned that the conflict in the Sudan and political uncertainty in South Sudan continue to impede progress on the political front. I urge the parties to re-engage in order to discuss pressing matters related to Abyei, including resuming meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. The United Nations remains ready to support these discussions, in close coordination with the African Union.

79. The continued presence of armed actors, including the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, continues to strain the security situation inside Abyei. Reports of the arrest of Khartoum-appointed officials by the Rapid Support Forces in northern Abyei are deeply concerning. I call for the immediate withdrawal of all armed actors, in line with applicable Security Council resolutions and the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, as well as for the release of all those illegally detained. I also urge the relevant authorities to ensure that the Mine Action Service is able to immediately resume its important work in northern Abyei, following the intimidation of United Nations contractors by local communities.

80. I commend the traditional leadership of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities for their commitment to dialogue and peaceful coexistence, especially in the context of the increasingly complex intercommunal dynamics in Abyei during the period under review, due in part to the increased presence of Rapid Support Forces elements.

81. The participation of women in community-level peace processes and security mechanisms is critical to the goal of inclusive peace in Abyei, and I am encouraged by the establishment of joint women's peace committees both by members of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, as well as by Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka community members, with the support of their communities.

82. The reduction in humanitarian funding has directly affected the capacities and resources of humanitarian partners in Abyei. I call upon the international community to continue to support humanitarian needs in Abyei, where the increased arrival of displaced people continues to place pressure on the limited resources available, strain intercommunal relations and heighten concerns related to criminality, particularly in Amiet market. In this context, programmatic activities such as the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei remain critical

tools for providing basic services and fostering social cohesion, and priority must be given to maintaining them.

83. The persistent gaps in rule of law mechanisms in Abyei contribute to injustice, human rights violations and criminal activity. The situation is particularly pressing in Amiet market, where the presence of armed groups and rising levels of criminality are a concern for intercommunal peace and stability. I urge the parties to support UNISFA in deploying the outstanding individual police officers and formed police units authorized by the Security Council and to explore ways to work towards establishing the joint Abyei Police Service as envisioned in the 2011 Agreement.

84. The security environment and operational constraints facing the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism are a serious and pressing concern. As the mission continues to temporarily reduce its presence at its base in Kadugli, I call upon both parties to help to create conditions that are conducive to the Mechanism's operations in Kadugli and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, including by allowing unrestricted freedom of movement by air and road between the Abyei Administrative Area and Kadugli. I reiterate my call for those in possession of the eight United Nations-contracted fuel trucks, seized by Rapid Support Forces personnel in Nyama, West Kordofan, on 28 February 2025, to return them to UNISFA without delay, and for the relevant authorities to ensure that the matter is investigated in order to hold those responsible to account.

85. Notwithstanding the implementation of contingency plans to reduce expenditures, it is essential that the legislative bodies of the United Nations ensure that the mission is provided with adequate and predictable resources for achieving its mandate.

86. I thank the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNISFA, Major General Robert Yaw Affram, for his leadership and dedication, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided uniformed personnel and assets to the mission. I also wish to thank all UNISFA personnel and the personnel of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as our local and international partners, for their tireless work in support of peace and stability in Abyei.

