



# Security Council

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## Situation in South Sudan

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2779 \(2025\)](#) and covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) between 16 January and 15 April 2026.

#### II. Political and economic developments

2. Unilateral actions by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have continued, with implications for the composition of the Government and the functioning of inclusive decision-making processes in South Sudan. Political fragmentation has directly contributed to military escalation, increasingly hostile rhetoric and greater assertiveness among armed actors. The persistent lack of political will to pursue inclusive dialogue, combined with a focus on elections at the expense of fully implementing the key benchmarks of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan – including unification of forces – have created an atmosphere that increasingly favours one signatory party. The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity has yet to respond clearly to regional and international proposals for inter-signatory dialogue.

3. The situation in Jonglei State deteriorated in January with increased mobilization and military offensive operations by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO). On 25 January, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces issued a 48-hour ultimatum demanding civilians, humanitarian actors and UNMISS personnel vacate areas controlled by SPLA-IO.

4. On 23 January, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed deep concern over the slow implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and reported cases of ceasefire violations. The Peace and Security Council underlined the need to keep the fragile peace process alive by amicably resolving the current political and security impasse, and called on the parties to cease unilateral actions and all forms of hostilities, while reinvigorating their commitment to political inclusion. The Council emphasized that priority should be given to the organization of elections by



December 2026 and stressed the need to uphold the supremacy of the Revitalized Agreement and adhere strictly to its provisions.

5. On 24 January, ahead of military operations in Jonglei State, Assistant Chief of Defense Forces for Mobilization and Disarmament Gen. Johnson Olony reportedly stated that no one, including civilians, should be spared, heightening fears of ethnically targeted violence. UNMISS, human rights actors, civil society and political opposition actors condemned the inflammatory nature of this statement.

6. On 27 January, the Minister of Information, Ateny Wek, stated that the South Sudan People's Defence Forces deployment to northern Jonglei was a defensive measure aimed at halting armed elements' advances. He further indicated that Olony's remarks did not reflect government policy. On the same day, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) responded that their forces acted in self-defense and denied any intentions to threaten area controlled by the Government.

7. On 23 February, the President of South Sudan, Selva Kiir removed the Minister of Finance, Barnaba Bak Chol, Commissioner General of the Revenue Authority, William Anyoul, and the Presidential Envoy to the Middle East, Monica Achol. Mr. Bak Chol was arrested on 27 February while reportedly attempting to cross the border into Uganda, following which the Government initiated resource management investigations.

8. Also on 23 February, the National Elections Commission established an Election Dispute Resolution Committee following the announcement that the Commission intended to use the 2010 constituency boundaries.

9. On 26 February, the President removed Vice-President Josephine Lagu as lead of the Service Cluster, reappointing the Agriculture Minister, Hussein Abdelbagi, leader of a South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) splinter faction.

10. On 3 March, an Inter-Party Committee, appointed by the President and headed by the Presidential Advisor for National Security Affairs, Tut Gatluak, convened to outline its mandate and discuss the way forward for elections.

11. Also on 3 March, the National Elections Commission stated that voter registration, electoral campaigns and poll preparations could be achieved within six months, depending on political will, legal clarity and resource allocation.

12. On 6 March, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces ordered UNMISS to close and withdraw from its base in Akobo, Jonglei State within 72 hours, additionally calling upon United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and civilians to relocate.

13. On 9 March, the President appointed Daniel Akot Akot, from the SPLM-IO faction under Stephen Par Kuol, as Speaker of the Council of States, replacing Deng Deng Akon from the mainstream SPLM/A-IO.

14. On 11 March, the President removed SPLM/A-IO deputy governors in Lakes, Unity and Eastern Equatoria States which the SPLM/A-IO rejected as violations of the Revitalized Agreement.

15. Also on 11 March, the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission, Abednego Akok Kacoul, told the media that the Commission had only received 4 per cent of its requested budget. On 12 March, in a meeting with the President, the Chairperson said the Commission would announce an election date and launch civic education and voter registration in June.

16. On 13 March, the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly approved the budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year, with a total expenditure of South Sudan pounds (SSP) 8.58 trillion (\$1.9 billion) against projected revenues of SSP 7 trillion (\$1.56 billion), leaving a deficit of SSP 1.57 trillion (\$350 million). Oil accounts for about 76 per cent of the projected revenue.

17. On 13 March, the South Sudan Council of Churches expressed concerns regarding the security situation and called for a ceasefire and the release of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar. On 17 March, the Office of the President said that ongoing military operations were necessary to restore stability and that judicial processes must be independent from political or religious influence.

18. On 7 April, the SPLM announced the removal of the speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly Jemma Nunu Kumba, replacing her with Joseph Ngere Paciko.

19. During the reporting period, the President also changed the Unity State Governor, the Administrator of the Ruweng Administrative Area, the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning and the Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs; and made major reshuffles in the governments of Warrap, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria States, dismissing and appointing ministers, advisers, heads of commissions and several county commissioners.

### **Regional engagements and developments**

20. On 29 January, Kenya announced the launch of a four-week dialogue under the auspices of the Tumaini Initiative, with the support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, with a broader mandate that would include the SPLM/A-IO.

21. On 15 February, the President participated in the meeting of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan on the sidelines of the thirty-ninth ordinary session of the African Union Summit, held in Addis Ababa. He emphasized the need to avoid undue interference in the internal affairs of South Sudan.

22. The resulting declaration from the High-level Ad Hoc Committee meeting called for an immediate ceasefire; consideration of the release of political prisoners, including the First Vice-President; support for elections; and the appointment of a former Head-of-State as the African Union High Representative to oversee the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and harmonize various peace tracks. The declaration also discouraged further extensions of the transition.

23. From 14 to 22 March 2026, the President visited South Africa to follow up on the declaration of the High-level Ad Hoc Committee and strengthen bilateral relations. He met with the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Deputy President, Paul Mashatile. According to President's press office, the Government of South Africa pledged electoral support.

24. On 25 March, the Africa Union appointed the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, as its High Representative for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

## **III. Security situation**

25. The security situation in Greater Upper Nile further deteriorated during the reporting period, with heightened confrontations between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO and their White Army allies, with Jonglei State seeing the highest increase in fighting and related casualties. In the greater Bahr el-Ghazal

region, specifically along the tri-State borders, and Central and Western Equatoria, cattle related intercommunal violence spiked with cycles of reprisal attacks.

### **Greater Upper Nile region**

26. Fighting between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO continued with reports of the targeting of civilians and spikes in communal violence.

27. In Jonglei State, clashes across Ayod, Uror, Nyirol and Akobo Counties resulted in shifts in territorial control while an aerial bombardment by security forces in Lankien town on 3 February damaged a hospital. On 8 February, eight women were found dead with gunshot wounds in Walgak payam, Akobo County, while seven others were gang-raped by security forces. On 21 February, a South Sudan People's Defence Forces-affiliated militia reportedly killed 16 civilians (eight women, five children) in Pajiek payam, Ayod County. An UNMISS human rights division investigation is underway. On 25 February, 14 civilians (eight men, four women and two boys) were killed in Walgak payam as attackers opened fire on civilians engaged in daily activities.

28. In Upper Nile State, the situation remained volatile with insecurity escalating following the looting of 12 United Nations-contracted boats enroute to Nasir and Ulang counties by armed youth in Baliet County on 30 January. In retaliation, on 7 February, youth from Ulang attacked Baliet County. Meanwhile, UNMISS transferred security and administrative responsibility for the Malakal Protection of Civilians site to the State government on 13 February, marking the site's transition to a settlement area. On 17 February, an international humanitarian aid worker for an international non-governmental organization contracted by the World Food Programme was killed in Ngueny, Nasir County. On 20 and 21 February, White Army attacks in Ulang town killed over 15 people.

29. In Unity State, troop mobilization, intercommunal violence and defections fuelled renewed clashes. Armed clashes on 10 and 11 February between security forces and SPLM/A-IO near the Bentiu Internally Displaced Persons Camp and the shelling on 12 February by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Tong and Parkur, Rubkona County, increased tension and fear among civilians. On 1 March, Bul Nuer armed elements from neighbouring Mayom County attacked Dinka-dominated Abiemnhom, resulting in 178 killed, among them 132 civilians, including 6 women and 10 children, 79 injured and 15 missing. The attackers burned tukuls, engaged in indiscriminate shooting and looted property. The SPLM-IO denied any involvement in the attack. A cross-border cattle raid by armed youth in Kueryek payam prompted an aerial bombardment by South Sudan Peoples Defence Forces, further displacing civilians. UNMISS provided physical protection and medical assistance to approximately 1,500 civilians fleeing the violence.

### **Greater Equatoria region**

30. Sporadic clashes continued across the region between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO, particularly in areas surrounding Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria State; Yambio, Western Equatoria State; and Morobo, Central Equatoria State. Fighting in Morobo resulted in the displacement of approximately 6,000 civilians towards Juba County, Central Equatoria State.

31. The region also witnessed communal and cattle-related violence, particularly in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria States where tensions involving migrant cattle keepers and local communities persisted. In Central Equatoria State, clashes between the Dinka Bor and Mundari cattle keepers resulted in 45 persons killed, 26 injured (1 girl) and 19 missing. On 18 February, communal violence linked to a land

dispute erupted near Terekeka, north of Juba City, resulting in over 30 killed (including 9 women and 3 children) 23 injured, and over 11,000 civilians displaced. In Western Equatoria State, between 13 and 14 March, unidentified armed elements reportedly attacked and killed 15 civilians, including a woman and a child in Mundri East County.

#### **Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region**

32. The region remained unstable due to intercommunal violence, cross-border cattle raids, clashes involving the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO, as well as skirmishes along the South Sudan-Central African Republic border linked to illicit natural resource extraction and armed group activity.

33. Along the border of Warrap and Lakes States, renewed clashes in early January between the Dinka Luanyjang and Dinka Jalwau communities resulted in about 70 civilians killed and more than 1,000 cattle raided in Tonj East County, triggering displacement and prompting reinforced South Sudan People's Defence Forces presence. Also, in Warrap, some officials were reportedly targeted. On 26 February, intra-Dinka violence in Tonj South County resulted in 11 killed and 29 injured while in Gogrial East 12 were killed and three injured.

34. In Lakes State, following the removal of the Governor, clashes increased between 21 and 29 January among Dinka sub-clans in Cueibet, Rumbek Central and Rumbek North Counties, killing over 12 civilians and displacing others. Tensions were compounded by escalating cross-border insecurity, prompting the deployment of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to deter further revenge-driven attacks.

35. Western Bahr el-Ghazal witnessed continued tensions between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO, including clashes on 14 February in Jur River County that displaced approximately 4,000 civilians. On 6 February, five humanitarian workers were temporarily detained by security forces on allegations that included aiding SPLM/A-IO.

## **IV. Humanitarian situation**

36. In 2026, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan has worsened, with nearly 10 million people projected to need humanitarian assistance. Conflict, disease outbreak, flooding and the impact of the Sudan crisis continue to drive humanitarian needs. Funding shortfalls remain a significant challenge. As at 31 March 2026, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was only 19.3 per cent funded.

37. Intensified fighting across Urur, Nyirol, Akobo, Duk, Ayod, Canal/Pigi, Twic East and Bor South Counties in Jonglei State since 29 December has triggered large-scale displacement. As of 25 March, nearly 276,500 people were displaced across Jonglei, Lakes, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria States and an estimated 110,000 people have fled to Ethiopia. Civilians continue to flee amid heightened protection risks.

38. Conflict in the Sudan continues to drive refugee outflows. As at 17 March, daily arrivals through border crossing points in Renk County, Upper Nile State, had increased to approximately 350 to 400 people a day at the Joda point of entry. Between 26 January and 13 February, Renk Hospital treated 115 war-wounded patients, overstressing its limited capacity. Since April 2023, more than 1.35 million individuals, including some 910,000 South Sudanese returnees, have arrived in South Sudan from the Sudan, with over 42,800 new arrivals registered between January and March 2026 alone, placing additional strain on already fragile services and host communities.

39. From 20 to 24 February, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Thomas Fletcher, visited South Sudan amid a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. He engaged with senior Government officials, including the President, who committed to facilitating humanitarian access and ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel. He also visited affected communities in Upper Nile and Jonglei States

40. Cholera transmission remains a critical public health concern. As at 24 March, 100,800 cases and 1,657 deaths have been reported in 55 counties, nine states and three administrative areas since the outbreak was declared in September 2024. In response, the United Nations and humanitarian partners are expanding treatment capacity and conducting vaccination campaigns.

41. Humanitarian access in multiple states deteriorated sharply from January to March due to escalating hostilities, interference in operations and forced staff relocations, particularly in Jonglei State. On 30 January and 1 February, 11 boats carrying over 1,500 metric tons of food assistance for more than 73,000 conflict-affected people were looted in Baliet County, Upper Nile State. In February alone, four humanitarian workers were killed and an international non-governmental organization vehicle was ambushed in Yei County, with staff abducted and a ransom demanded. Since late December, at least 26 health facilities in Jonglei have reportedly been damaged or looted, and humanitarian compounds and vehicles seized in Urur, Akobo, Ayod, Nyirol, Canal/Pigi, and Duk Counties, disrupting essential health services for an estimated 1.35 million people. On 3 February an aerial strike also hit a health facility in Lankien, Nyirol County. On 25 March, assets of four non-governmental organizations were looted during conflict in Urur, Akobo and Nyirol Counties. At the time of reporting, restrictions on humanitarian air access in parts of Ulang and Nyirol Counties, and access impediments in some locations in Nasir County persist.

## **V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks**

### **A. Supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the peace process**

42. UNMISS continued its efforts to advance political dialogue and inclusive implementation of the Revitalized Agreement through high-level engagements with government stakeholders, opposition parties, traditional leaders and Trilateral partners, as well as by providing support to national and state-level dialogue, the National Constitutional Review Commission and the National Elections Commission.

43. From 27 January to 5 February, UNMISS collaborated with the National Elections Commission and the Political Parties Council in organizing two capacity-building workshops on the electoral process to raise awareness, promote compliance with electoral standards and facilitate dialogue among political parties and electoral institutions. The workshops provided 57 participants (including 8 women) with the knowledge and tools necessary to engage meaningfully with electoral institutions and uphold democratic standards throughout the electoral process.

44. Also in January, UNMISS, in partnership with international donors, supported the National Elections Commission in producing 18,500 civic education manuals and booklets for nationwide distribution to promote awareness and inclusive citizen engagement.

45. On 17 February, UNMISS facilitated the South Sudan Council of Churches and the South Sudan Islamic Council in developing an advocacy toolkit, enhancing the

role of churches and mosques in promoting reconciliation, rejecting hate speech and supporting dialogue.

46. From 20 to 22 January, UNMISS convened a cross-border migration conference in Aweil East County with the Northern Bahr el-Ghazal Ministry of Peacebuilding, the Food and Agriculture Organization and Veterinarians Without Borders. The conference brought together 48 Dinka Malual and Misseriya (the Sudan) communities, 28 resolutions and five strategic points were adopted to sustain peaceful migration and social cohesion.

47. On 19 February, UNMISS convened members of civil society from all 10 States and the two administrative areas to discuss the security and political situation in the country. On 3 March, civil society groups issued a joint statement on the Abiemnom incident, calling for investigation and accountability. On 7 March, they issued a further statement regarding imminent security operations in Akobo and appealed to the President for intervention.

48. On 24 and 25 February, UNMISS convened intellectuals, faith leaders, civil society representatives and political parties from South Sudan, to facilitate an open exchange on the status of the Revitalized Agreement, dialogue efforts and elections. Participants stressed the need for dialogue between signatory parties to address ongoing challenges to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

49. From 17 to 19 March, UNMISS supported a Council of States' stakeholders dialogue on subnational boundaries as a building block for sustainable peace. Participants identified the need for an independent technical boundaries body and for strengthening the Government's internal cooperation.

50. On 25 and 26 March, UNMISS and South Sudanese security institutions and line ministries worked jointly to resolve overlapping mandates among security actors.

51. On 24 and 25 March, UNMISS supported a civil society-led leadership dialogue for 100 youth (including 65 women) to amplify their participation in peace processes across diverse constituencies and foster dialogue across political and generational lines.

## **B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict**

52. UNMISS peacekeepers continued to patrol main supply routes and hotspots, to project force and support the protection of civilians. As at 22 March, UNMISS force conducted 1,483 patrols, including 158 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel for the protection of civilians.

53. UNMISS continued efforts in support of the protection of civilians and facilitated the implementation of ten programmes with 4,510 participants (including 2,108 women) in Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile States. In February and March, UNMISS facilitated three dialogues in Jonglei State, to promote peaceful coexistence between Nuer internally displaced persons and Dinka host communities in Bor, Panyagor and Poktab targeting 225 participants (including 27 women) and another dialogue in Upper Nile State targeting 60 participants (including 15 women), which concluded with a communique signed by community representatives.

54. On 25 March, in Gangura, Western Equatoria State, an UNMISS-organized civil-military forum with 70 participants (including 30 women) promoted civil-military coordination and conflict prevention.

55. UNMISS workshops enhanced institutional capacity and community engagement on the protection of civilians for 162 participants (including 35 women), including South Sudan People's Defence Forces officers, and community members in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State. UNMISS facilitated inclusive dialogues and reintegration workshops for 60 participants (including 34 women), including elders, returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities from the Bentiu internally displaced people site and Bentiu town, Unity, promoting early warning coordination and community-led solutions to mitigate risks. In addition, in March UNMISS and implementing partners handed over six milling machines in Rubkona County and Bentiu Town, Unity State. Quick impact projects continued to deliver impact on cattle migration conflicts mitigation, rule of law, and electoral security. These included the construction of a water reservoir in Terekeka County, Central Equatoria State, the handover of justice and security infrastructure in Warrap funded by the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund, and the handover of solar power systems and office furniture to the State Police Headquarters and State High Election Committee in Western Bahr el-Ghazal benefiting 3,272 staff members (including 1,535 women) and county authorities.

56. On 13 February, UNMISS handed over the security and administration of the Malakal protection of civilians site to the Upper Nile State government, while continuing efforts to ensure a protection-sensitive transition, in collaboration with various stakeholders.

57. With the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, the Bureau of Community Security and Small Arms Control, Don Bosco and the African Christian Ecumenical Alliance, UNMISS launched a community-violence reduction project in the greater Juba area, primarily for female ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces and armed groups. On 15 February and 1 March, UNMISS provided physical protection to approximately 1,500 civilians in Abiemnom after tensions escalated and subsequent attacks by Bul Nuer on Abiemnom.

58. As at 26 March, United Nations police had conducted 2,892 patrols, including 24 integrated patrols and 2,026 patrols involving women personnel. Quick reaction teams were on standby on 1,044 occasions to support policing efforts in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu, with four activations to address incidents in the Protection of Civilians' site and the internally displaced persons' camps. In addition, 72 individual police officers (including 17 women) were deployed to five Company Operating Bases to support confidence-building, leadership engagement, capacity-building for the South Sudan National Police Service and service delivery to communities.

59. United Nations police implemented 134 activities, reaching 3,591 participants (including 1,223 women). Of that number, 117 activities, some of which concerned children's rights and the handling of juvenile offenders, were delivered to the South Sudan National Police Service, engaging 2,298 participants (including 626 women). The other seven activities were community-focused and covered such topics as crime-reduction awareness, engaging 1,293 participants (including 597 women).

60. The Mine Action Service responded to 316 requests from UNMISS, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and local communities for explosive ordnance identification, removal and disposal. Interventions included verification of road segments to facilitate the safe passage of a UNISFA convoy transiting from Sudan through Unity into Abyei. They also destroyed one explosive ordnance that landed at the Bentiu protection of civilians' site amid recent fighting. In total, 342,328 m<sup>2</sup> of hazardous land was cleared and 646 explosive items destroyed, reducing threats in areas affected by conflict and intercommunal tensions.

61. Mine Action operations enabled safe access to 26 agricultural sites and five water sources, lowering the risk of accidents for vulnerable communities amid an estimated 20,761,342 m<sup>2</sup> of known contamination. Explosive ordnance risk education reached 25,598 individuals, including displaced persons from the Sudan, reinforcing community awareness and decreasing the likelihood of incidents. These interventions enhanced civilian safety, supported stabilization efforts and contributed to safer conditions for livelihoods and community resilience.

### **C. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance**

62. UNMISS continued to provide security for humanitarian assistance delivery through the protection of convoys. As at 22 March, UNMISS had conducted 44 long-duration patrols, 359 short-duration patrols and 544 force protection tasks to help create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. Force protection tasks included engineering works, logistical moves and airfield security for humanitarian movements, as well as security for external visitors and force hierarchy.

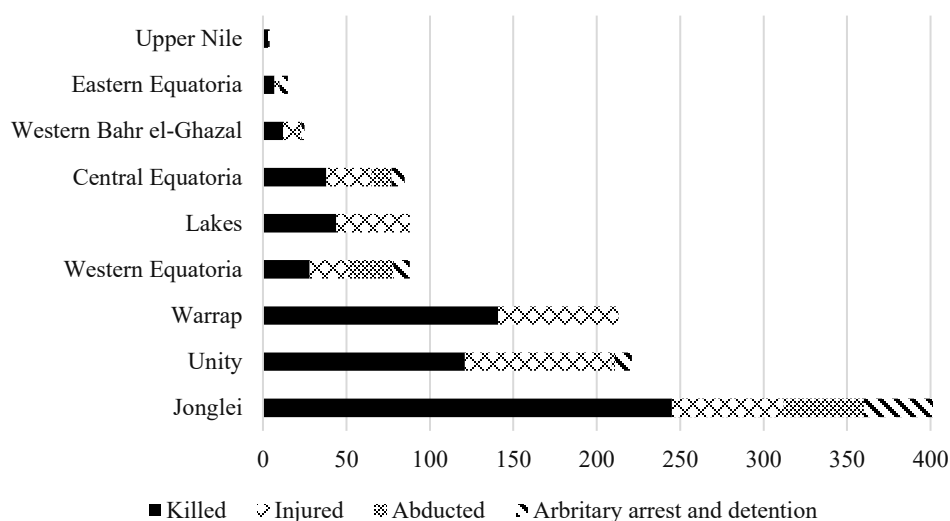
63. UNMISS also supported the delivery of medical supplies and flood-mitigation materials to support dyke construction for flood-affected communities in Unity State and joint humanitarian response planning for 96,205 people impacted by flooding across Upper Nile State.

64. The Mine Action Service reduced explosive ordnance threats through emergency assessments in Jonglei and Upper Nile States, enabling United Nations agencies, funds and programmes' flights. The Service also conducted clearance of 40,959 m<sup>2</sup> in Khor Malang 2,242 km route verification for UNMISS patrols and four assessments in northern Jonglei.

### **D. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations**

65. UNMISS documented and verified 139 incidents of human rights violations and abuses affecting 1,063 civilians, including 139 women and 106 children (including 33 girls). A total of 639 civilians (454 men, 118 women, 18 girls and 49 boys) were killed, 332 were injured (310 men, 13 women, 4 girls and 5 boys), 92 were abducted (54 men, 8 women, 11 girls and 19 boys) (see figure below). Community-based militias and/or civil defence groups were responsible for 48 per cent of the incidents, while 45 per cent were attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups. The Mission also documented 27 extrajudicial executions by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Warrap, Jonglei and Central Equatoria States, and 19 incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention affecting 81 individuals (70 men, 7 women and 4 boys).

Figure  
Number of victims by State and type of violation



66. UNMISS documented and verified four incidents of infringement on fundamental freedoms affecting five civilians (four men, one woman). These cases involved arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society actors, abduction and incommunicado detention of humanitarian workers, death threats and hate speech and incitement to violence message by a high-ranking government official.

67. On 18 February, the President signed the Cybercrime and Computer Misuse Act 2026. While the Act provides a legal and institutional framework for addressing cybercrime, concerns persist over the investigative powers under the Act being misused to monitor, harass or intimidate journalists and activists.

## 1. Children and Armed Conflict

68. The Mission verified 104 grave violations against 63 children (54 boys, 8 girls, 1 sex unknown). A total of 25 boys were recruited and used, 36 children (29 boys, 6 girls, 1 sex unknown) were killed (21) and maimed (15) and two girls were raped. Seven boys suffered multiple violations, including recruitment and use through abduction, and one girl was abducted and raped. UNMISS verified 21 attacks on hospitals in Jonglei (20) and Unity (1) States.

69. The Mission additionally verified 12 denials of humanitarian access and the military use of three schools by South Sudan People's Defence Forces. Notably, persistent advocacy by the Mission and local authorities led the Forces to vacate one of the schools. UNMISS also verified the separation of seven boys.

70. Violations occurred in Jonglei State (73), Western Equatoria State (11), Unity State (9), Upper Nile State (5), Warrap State (5) and Central Equatoria State (1) and were attributed to the Defence Forces (68), unidentified perpetrators (22), resulting from crossfire between the Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO (10), between the Defence Forces and the National Salvation Front (2), explosive ordnance (8), unknown armed group (2) and SPLM/A-IO (14).

71. The Mission delivered 32 awareness-raising sessions to 1,294 participants (including 410 women), including community members, security forces, and

government officials, and two training sessions to 100 participants (including 39 women), including community members, government officials and security forces.

## **2. Conflict-related sexual violence**

72. The Mission documented and verified 34 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 64 survivors (51 women and 13 girls). Survivors' ages ranged from 10 to 50 years old; 27 survivors received medical assistance and two were referred to psychosocial care. 12 incidents were reported to the South Sudan National Police Service. The incidents occurred in Jonglei (14), Central Equatoria (9), Western Equatoria (4), Unity (3), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (3), Eastern Equatoria (1), and were attributed to South Sudan People's Defence Forces (18), unidentified armed elements (4), community-based militias (3), SPLM/A-IO (3), National Police Service (2), National Salvation Front (2) and the National Security Service (2).

73. The Mission facilitated key coordination mechanisms to enhance information-sharing, reinforce collaboration among stakeholders and advance efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. These included the quarterly meeting of the joint consultation forum, held on 16 January, and the quarterly meeting of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements Technical Working Group on 19 February, the latter serving as the mandated coordination mechanism under the conflict-related sexual violence framework.

74. On 3 and 4 March, UNMISS provided technical support to the National Police Service to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of their action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan (2019–2025), which ended in October 2025. The review identified challenges and outstanding gaps and developed actionable recommendations to inform the next phase of implementation and revision.

## **E. Cross cutting issues**

### **1. Rule of law and accountability**

75. After the Joint Integrated Police Unit ceased operations in the Bentiu internally displaced persons camp in January 2026, UNMISS supported weekly visits by justice actors to address arbitrary detention and investigate serious crimes. Similar visits across Unity State led to about 57 releases during the reporting period. Earlier, from 20 to 24 February, UNMISS supported training activities for 55 chiefs (including 13 women) on the laws of South Sudan and of 20 investigators (including 4 women) on sexual and gender-based violence investigations.

76. Between 29 January and 31 March, UNMISS provided support to mobile court deployments in Gogrial East (Warrap), Mundri (Western Equatoria) and Yei (Central Equatoria), with a focus on sexual and gender-based violence. UNMISS also supported the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to deploy a General Court Martial to Torit, Eastern Equatoria, to address crimes committed by the armed forces. Across the four court deployments, proceedings resulted in approximately 40 convictions, including 20 related to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as 22 acquittals.

77. From 2 to 12 February, UNMISS conducted a sexual and gender-based violence investigations training in Malakal for 20 investigators (including three women) from Malakal, Nasir and Baliet, resulting in the establishment of the first Special Protection Unit in Upper Nile. Between 29 and 31 March, UNMISS supported workshops for prosecutors and lawyers and judges on victim-centred advocacy and adjudication approaches, including the role of victim's counsel. From 23 to 27 March, UNMISS

also assisted the Ministry of Justice in developing a Rapid Reference Guide for prosecutors and investigators to enhance handling of sexual and gender-based violence cases. Between March and April, UNMISS, with the United Nations Population Fund, supported data collection on the “hidden costs” of accessing justice, particularly for sexual and gender-based violence survivors, to inform advocacy on cost reduction.

78. UNMISS conducted rule of law forums and prison development committee meetings in Pariang, Malakal, Bentiu, Yambio and Wau to strengthen linkages across the justice chain.

79. From 25 to 27 March, UNMISS supported the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes training sessions in Jonglei for 30 officers (including 8 women).

80. UNMISS also supported training sessions for 375 prison officers (including 137 women) in Yambio and Wau and 256 prison officers were trained on prison security, records management and human rights. On 31 March, UNMISS supported the National Prison Service of South Sudan in endorsing the revised Standing Orders aligned with the Prisons Act (2022) and Regulations (2023), and between 10 and 14 April, on a baseline assessment of Wau and Thuro Majok prisons in Western Bahr el-Ghazal to evaluate operations and human rights compliance.

## **2. Women and peace and security**

81. The Mission continued to engage and support women leaders and stakeholders who contribute to mediation processes to overcome political impasses in peace agreement implementation. This included support, alongside the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to 21 women mediators, ensuring continued engagement with political parties and signatories.

82. The Mission continued to support the South Sudan Women’s Coalition, a signatory to the Revitalized Agreement representing different sectors in civil society, to strategize ahead of proposed high-level dialogues.

83. On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the Mission facilitated a round table discussion with women and civil society organizations, to better understand their experiences in conflict and fragile transitions and help them develop sub-national strategies, including community-based mechanisms and the roles of women therein.

## **3. Climate, peace and security**

84. Widespread flooding in Koch and Leer Counties forced communities to relocate to high grounds in Unity State. Similarly, in Fashoda and Malakal Counties in Upper Nile, farming practices were severely compromised due to rising floodwater levels that submerged most cultivable land, increasing the likelihood of hunger and food insecurity and preventing many displaced communities from returning to Malakal, thus exacerbating the risk of conflict between communities.

85. Flooding has become a year-round occurrence rather than a seasonal event in parts of South Sudan, leaving communities with little opportunity for recovery. Climate-related and unregulated cattle migration patterns across the Equatorias, which are less plagued by flooding, have also contributed to farmer-herder conflicts and herder-herder rivalries, for example in Wunduruba payam, Central Equatoria, between Dinka Bor and Mundari herders.

86. UNMISS continued to strengthen response capacity, including by training newly deployed South Sudanese police officers on climate, peace and security and training 30 women-led civil society organizations on gender-sensitive flood preparedness and

response action, as well as by supporting consultations by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on land tenure and land policy reforms.

## **VI. Mission staffing, the status of deployments and conduct and discipline**

87. As at 27 March 2026, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stands at 1,947, comprising 700 international staff members (226 including women), 958 national staff members (including 174 women), and 289 United Nations Volunteers (including 114 women).

88. The police strength stands at 1,240 (of the authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 572 individual police officers (including 192 women), 640 personnel in formed police units (including 195 women) and 38 corrections officers (including 11 women).

89. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 8,989 military personnel: 126 military liaison officers (including 46 women), 249 military staff officers (including 57 women) and 8,614 military contingent personnel (including 619 women).

90. In accordance with applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 16 January and 27 March, 19 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. All identified victims of previously reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse continued to receive support from the Senior Victims' Rights Officer in South Sudan.

## **VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel**

91. Between 16 January and 15 March, UNMISS recorded 82 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement, of which 66 involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, affecting UNMISS patrols. In addition, between 1 and 15 January 2026, the Mission recorded 29 incidents, 28 of which involved movement restrictions, which have not previously been reported. Regarding the abduction and subsequent killing of an UNMISS personnel in Wau on 15 December 2025, the Government arrested an alleged perpetrator but has not informed UNMISS on measures taken to hold him accountable under the national law. UNMISS transmitted a note verbale to the Government to underscore its obligations under the status-of-forces agreement.

92. On 19 January, in Jonglei, despite prior acknowledgement by the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, security organs in Bor conducted an unwarranted inspection of personnel and duly authorized equipment belonging to a troop-contributing country at the airstrip. This was despite peacekeeping personnel carrying duly authorized weapons and ammunition and the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism acknowledging the movement. A member of UNMISS was physically assaulted while others had guns pointed at them. Twelve cases of the authorized and duly manifested ammunition were forcibly seized, despite the documentation being official, verifiable and complete. Senior UNMISS personnel who arrived to defuse the situation were met with hostility and South Sudan People's Defence Forces pointed their weapons at them. The seized ammunition was released

on 12 March, after protracted engagement with Government officials at various levels.

93. On 20 January, the South Sudan National Police Service impounded an UNMISS vehicle following a road traffic accident in Juba on 17 January involving the vehicle and two motor cyclists. The vehicle was released, after engagement with the police service and a formal communication with the Government.

94. On 5 February, the Ministry of Roads and Bridges and the South Sudan Revenue Authority imposed a blanket flat-rate weighbridge charge on an UNMISS international contractor, for the importation of petroleum products for the exclusive use of UNMISS. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Trade and Industry re-imposed import licence fees on the contractor, despite a 17 February order from the Ministry of Finance and Planning acknowledging statutory tax exemptions for UNMISS and its contractors under the status-of-forces agreement.

95. Between 16 January and 25 March, the Mission recorded multiple incidents affecting United Nations security management staff, movements and premises. Eight incidents involved patrols being stopped and turned back at South Sudan People's Defence Forces checkpoints. Thirty further incidents involved stop-and-hold, harassment, intimidation or temporary detention of United Nations personnel by security actors, immigration or traffic police. These included the detention of United Nations Police officers, firearm intimidation, retention of an international driver's licence, seizure of vehicle keys and numerous demands for payment, as well as temporary detention following alleged traffic violations, generally unsubstantiated.

96. The Mission facilities experienced at least 43 perimeter breaches or attempted intrusions across Juba, Bentiu, Bor and Wau, including repeated cutting of concertina wire and theft of materials. Ninety small-arms fire incidents were reported within a few hundred metres of United Nations premises.

97. Seventeen incidents of armed robbery and assault targeting staff and contractors, including home break-ins and roadside attacks, were recorded during the reporting period. Eight national personnel or contractors were arrested by local authorities on administration-related grounds. One contracted international staff was fatally shot at a humanitarian site in Upper Nile and a Mission convoy was shot at in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

## **VIII. Implementation of the 15 per cent expenditure reduction and its impact on the Mission's mandate**

98. The implementation of the 15 per cent expenditure reduction contingency plan during the 2025/26 budget cycle resulted in an overall resource reduction of approximately 25 per cent to 30 per cent. Cost-reduction measures included the closure of two field offices (Aweil and Torit), downsizing of two field offices into company operating bases (Kuajok and Rumbek) and the closure of three company and temporary operating bases (Yei, Tambura and Pariang). The closure of an additional five bases is planned.

99. The reduction in the Mission's footprint, including decreases in uniformed and civilian personnel and operational funding, have constrained geographical reach, early warning and rapid response capabilities. It has also significantly reduced human rights monitoring, community and political engagement and humanitarian protection support, thereby heightening protection concerns.

100. The Mission is focusing on high-risk areas and protection-of-civilians priorities, recalibrating its geographic coverage, expanding integrated and long-duration patrols

and strengthening partnerships with the United Nations country team and non-governmental organizations to sustain protective presence and early warning networks. The Mission will continuously reassess and adjust its footprint, capacity and modalities of operation to ensure effective protective presence, prevention and political impact.

## **IX. Performance optimization**

101. The UNMISS force completed four evaluations in four sectors and the units were found to be trained and operationally ready.

102. United Nations police conducted a performance assessment and evaluation of Ghana, Nepal and Rwanda Formed Police Units in Juba, Bentiu and Malakal. Performance was assessed as satisfactory, with a gap in expired anti-riot ammunition necessitating targeted performance improvement plans.

## **X. Financial aspects**

103. The General Assembly, by its resolution [79/306](#) of 30 June 2025, appropriated the amount of \$1,186,358,500 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. As at 12 March 2026, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNMISS amounted to \$611.1 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$3,589.4 million. Reimbursement of the costs of troop- and formed police units has been made for the period up to 30 September 2025 in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule, while reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 March 2025.

## **XI. Observations and recommendations**

104. As the peace process enters the final year of the transitional period, the deterioration of the political and security situation remains extremely concerning. Unilateral actions by one of the signatories to consolidate power, the lack of progress on transitional security arrangements and the shrinking of political space in the country remain matters of serious concern. Collectively, these trends have deepened mistrust and significantly narrowed the space for peaceful and inclusive political processes, bringing the country to the brink of renewed conflict. I urge the parties to recommit to genuine dialogue and take realistic steps to place the peace process back on track.

105. I am concerned that with eight months remaining before the elections planned for December 2026, the necessary political and legal clarity regarding their conduct, as well as commensurate financial resources, are still lacking. Without a level playing field, adequate security and meaningful political space for all stakeholders, the conduct of peaceful and credible elections will be extremely difficult.

106. I welcome regional efforts, including those led by the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Kenya, to reinvigorate dialogue among stakeholders in South Sudan. These initiatives, if harmonized and conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner, could help forge a path out of the current impasse.

107. The call by the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan of 15 February for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, the consideration of the

release of political detainees, including the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, support and funding for credible elections in December 2026 and the discouragement of any further extension of the transition period should be supported. I welcome the appointment of an African Union High Representative for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea who will also provide oversight to monitor and support the implementation of the peace process in South Sudan.

108. I remain deeply concerned that the intensified hostilities across several States, particularly in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity, continue to have exacted a severe toll on civilians and impeded humanitarian operations. Fighting has involved heavy weaponry, aerial bombardments in populated areas, forced displacement, retaliatory targeting of communities and, in some cases, inflammatory rhetoric by senior actors that has raised serious concerns about potential ethnically-motivated violence.

109. There is an urgent need to halt offensive military operations and uphold international humanitarian and human rights law. The safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets must be respected at all times in order to ensure that UNMISS is able to implement the key pillars of its mandate, including the protection of civilians; facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the implementation of the peace agreement; and monitoring and reporting on human rights. In this regard, I strongly condemn the killing of a contracted staff member of the World Food Programme in Nasir County, Upper Nile State, on 16 February.

110. Amid surging humanitarian needs, the Government's commitment, made during the visit by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, to ensure unhindered humanitarian access and safety of humanitarian personnel are welcomed, and must continue to be translated into concrete actions countrywide. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is only 19.3 per cent funded. I urge the Government to prioritize budget commitments to address this gap. I also call upon Member States and donors to scale up flexible and predictable funding to prevent further deterioration and support timely response. Sustained international engagement remains essential to assist overstretched host populations.

111. I remain deeply concerned by reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and attacks on humanitarian workers, as well as humanitarian and civilian infrastructure. The significant increase in reports of extrajudicial killings by security personnel is particularly alarming. I urge the Government to hold accountable the perpetrators of these serious human rights violations and breaches of humanitarian law, in accordance with national and international legal frameworks. The adoption and implementation of domestic laws, including the recently enacted legislation on cybercrime, must remain fully consistent with international human rights norms and standards and must safeguard fundamental freedoms.

112. The implementation of the reduction in expenditure by 15 per cent resulted in the reduction of the Mission's footprint and personnel capacity, restricting UNMISS to focus its efforts on high-risk areas and priorities related to the protection of civilians. It is, therefore, important to note that as the challenges in South Sudan rise, the capacity of UNMISS to implement its mandate has been severely constrained due to diminished resources. I reiterate the importance of all Member States paying their assessed contributions to the peacekeeping budget in full.

113. Despite these challenges, the Mission remains flexible in its posture to emerging protection needs. Its recent decision to retain presence in Akobo and Abiemnom in line with its mandate for the protection of civilians will contribute to saving lives,

conflict de-escalation and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and voluntary returns.

114. I express my appreciation to the troop- and police-contributing countries and to all civilian personnel who are carrying out their duties with professionalism in a challenging operating environment. I also applaud the humanitarian and development partners for their sustained efforts across the country. The United Nations remains steadfast in working with its South Sudanese and international partners towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous South Sudan.

115. I regret to report the passing of Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, during the reporting period. I deeply appreciate the extraordinary work he undertook, his principled leadership, wisdom, diplomatic skill and unwavering commitment to the people of South Sudan. May his memory continue to inspire all of us who remain committed to supporting the people of South Sudan in their aspirations for peace and prosperity.

