



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 34 of Security Council resolution [2802 \(2025\)](#), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The report covers the period since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General ([S/2025/649](#)), from 2 October 2025 to 15 April 2026. It provides updates on, inter alia, political and security developments, women and peace and security, youth and peace and security, human rights and the humanitarian situation. It also highlights how the ongoing conflict in the Sudan and the internal challenges in South Sudan have affected Abyei, as well as UNISFA and Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism operations.

II. Abyei

Political engagements

2. During the reporting period, the political environment in Abyei continued to be shaped by the ongoing conflict in the Sudan, including the increased presence of unauthorized armed actors, as well as by the evolving political and security situation in South Sudan. These complex dynamics continued to influence meaningful bilateral engagement between the parties regarding Abyei and were a factor behind the limited progress on the reactivation of agreed bilateral mechanisms.

3. The representatives of both Governments have reiterated to UNISFA their commitment to maintaining Abyei as a demilitarized area, as well as to continuing constructive engagement on issues of mutual concern. Bilateral engagement continued, particularly in light of the continued challenges facing the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Sudan's suspension from the African Union, which have constrained support to the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and the implementation of agreed arrangements. By a letter dated 2 April 2026 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Government of South Sudan highlighted its efforts towards achieving the benchmarks set out in Security Council resolution [2802 \(2025\)](#), and, inter alia, urged the United Nations to support the parties to convene meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism as soon as feasible.



4. The UNISFA leadership, as well as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and United Nations Headquarters, continued their engagement with the African Union Commission, encouraging the African Union to remain seized of developments in Abyei and to consider options for reviving its facilitation role when conditions permit.

5. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa also continued his engagement with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as with interlocutors from South Sudan and the Sudan, underscoring the urgent need to resume dialogue between the Sudan and South Sudan on the final status of Abyei.

Conflict dynamics and the security situation

6. The security situation in the Abyei Area was marked by spikes in violence. A total of 196 security incidents were recorded between October 2025 and March 2026, representing a significant increase from 127 incidents in the previous reporting period, and resulting in 58 fatalities and 69 injuries. Sector North remained the primary security hotspot, with 77 incidents and 27 fatalities. The incident profile reflected a complex, multilayered threat environment driven by intercommunal tensions, arms proliferation, criminal activity and activities related to the Rapid Support Forces.

7. Intercommunal clashes remained a principal driver of casualties, particularly during seasonal migration involving the Ngok Dinka, Misseriya and Nuer communities, with 18 incidents resulting in 27 deaths and seven injuries. A serious incident occurred on 7 March in the Dumboloya (Shama) area, Sector North, when a cattle-rustling attempt by armed Nuer triggered a retaliatory incursion by armed Misseriya into South Sudan, resulting in 15 Misseriya fatalities and two Misseriya missing. They remain missing to date. Separately, on 6 March, intercommunal tensions led to the establishment of an unauthorized checkpoint by the Noong community near Noong company operating base in Sector Centre, prompting an exchange of gunfire between Ngok Dinka and Misseriya actors. A UNISFA quick-reaction force deployed promptly to stabilize the situation, and the Community Liaison Office facilitated a dialogue involving local leaders and the community protection committee.

8. Criminal incidents and sporadic gunfire continued to undermine public safety. Sixteen criminal incidents resulted in one death and six injuries. Notable cases included a hand grenade attack in Mulmul, Sector Centre, on 18 January, resulting in injuries and an arrest; a grenade discharge during a detention transfer in Amiet on 21 February; an armed robbery on 3 March near Dokura/Rumajak in Sector Centre; and a stabbing at Amiet market on 5 March. Forty-two incidents of sporadic gunfire caused 15 deaths and 22 injuries, underscoring the persistent threat posed by weapons proliferation.

9. The reporting period continued to see explosive hazards. On 11 December 2025, an old grenade detonated in Bachol Malual, Sector Centre, injuring two children aged 7 and 11 years of age. On 25 December, a rusted 60 mm mortar projectile that two young girls had found east of Amiet market exploded, injuring both. The UNISFA Mine Action Unit subsequently carried out an investigation, while the Mine Action Service of the United Nations held a risk education session. On 15 January 2026, a grenade explosion at the Abyei new market water yard killed a visiting South Sudan People's Defence Forces soldier and injured a civilian.

10. Fires remained a chronic hazard. After smaller outbreaks at Amiet on 1, 12 and 30 January, a large fire of unknown origin broke out in Amiet market between 10 and 11 February, destroying over 100 homes and shops. Initial access to firefighting was delayed by blocked lanes as residents fled, but UNISFA and the joint community peace committee cleared routes, deployed water bowsers and contained the blaze. Multiple small fires also occurred in Dari market, AmethBek and Goli in Sector Centre between 8 January and 10 February.

11. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the South Sudan National Police Service continued to maintain a presence in the Abyei Administrative Area, including through six active checkpoints as at 7 April. UNISFA estimates a range of 350 personnel equipped with assault rifles, machine guns and rocket launchers, which are heavy weaponry inconsistent with a demilitarized zone. These deployments extended the unauthorized occupation of civilian structures, including the Agok detention centre, obstructing United Nations police operations. While the UNISFA leadership engaged the Government of South Sudan in Juba and South Sudan People's Defence Forces commanders regularly to demand that they vacate civilian premises, no formal assurances of compliance or withdrawal had been received from the Government as at the time of reporting.

12. In addition, the continued presence of Rapid Support Forces in and around Sector North remained a concern, particularly in Goli, Diffra and Gibdud. Fifteen incidents related to the Rapid Support Forces were recorded during the period, including observations of armed vehicle convoys, demonstrations of armed presence and troop movements in proximity to civilian protection structures. While no direct attacks on civilians or UNISFA personnel were recorded, the sustained presence of the Rapid Support Forces reinforced community perceptions of intimidation and contributed to a prevailing climate of insecurity.

13. Cattle migrations in the Abyei Area during the 2025/26 dry season declined by 46.4 per cent from the previous reporting period (15,806 cattle versus 29,431), representing a cumulative loss of 26,246 cattle – one of the sharpest reductions since UNISFA was established. This deceleration stems from several factors related to climate degradation and intercommunal security tensions, including prolonged dry spells with fewer rainy days; extreme heat routinely exceeding 40°C, which degrades pastures and water points; and the flooding in January 2025 in south-eastern Abyei and Unity State in South Sudan, which caused the displacement of approximately 400 Nuer pastoralists from Unity State into Abyei. The displacement and drought contributed to the intensification of local resource competition.

14. Displacement of populations and the protection of civilians remained a central concern throughout the reporting period. On 9 March, a joint patrol to Noong, Sector Centre, identified approximately 70 Ngok Dinka persons, comprising around 10 households, who had relocated from the Sudan, with reports of a further 200 persons en route. UNISFA provided medical assistance, rations and temporary protection at Noong company operating base while intensifying patrols to secure the movement corridor. Following the 1 March attack on civilians in Abiemnom, South Sudan, by Buel Nuer armed youth, UNISFA maintained static deployments, quick-reaction forces and water supply. On 5 March, 941 internally displaced persons from Abiemnom were reported in Juoljok, Sector South. Repeated reports of armed movements in the vicinity of Rumamier triggered precautionary civilian displacement to UNISFA temporary operating bases, underscoring both the population's continued reliance on UNISFA as a refuge and the fragility of local security confidence.

15. The joint community peace committee in Amiet, supported by the UNISFA Community Liaison Office, played a critical early warning role. On 6 March, committee members relayed information regarding an alleged planned Nuer attack on

Amiet market, Abyei town and Agok. UNISFA responded by deploying quick-reaction force personnel, successfully deterring the threat without casualties. Community protection committees in Noong, Amiet and Abyei town similarly supported the United Nations police and military components in managing community tensions, despite reported pressure and attempted co-option by armed actors, including Rapid Support Forces elements.

16. UNISFA continued its weapons management strategy through proactive patrolling and community engagement. During the reporting period, the mission confiscated and destroyed 11 small arms and light weapons and 501 rounds of ammunition, including 25 items of unexploded ordnance.

17. Mine action activities were conducted systematically across the Abyei Area, with a focus on areas frequented by displaced communities, humanitarian actors and UNISFA patrols. The clearance of 309,403 m² of land and 610.8 km of routes directly improved the safety of civilian movement and humanitarian access. Mine risk education was integrated into community outreach activities, with a focus on women, children and nomadic communities whose movement placed them at elevated risk. Despite these efforts, the continued proliferation of arms and ammunition in the Abyei Area further deteriorated the security environment. UNISFA assesses that current circulation continues to exceed the mission's confiscation capacity.

Status-of-forces agreement violations and incidents

18. UNISFA recorded a total of 51 unresolved incidents with potential status-of-forces implications: 35 attributed to Sudanese actors, 13 to South Sudanese security forces and 3 to other parties. These incidents, including illegal checkpoints, vehicle seizures and obstructions of medical and logistics operations, constitute a sustained pattern of non-compliance by both Governments, undermining the effectiveness of the mission.

19. South Sudan People's Defence Forces and South Sudan National Police Service personnel manned six unauthorized checkpoints at Agok, Korioch, Athony junction, Wunpeth, Malual Aleu and Rumamier. Checkpoints along the Athony–Kilo 27 axis restricted UNISFA logistics and hindered the establishment of a temporary operating base at Athony junction. Furthermore, the Juba-appointed administration continued to subject mission movements to ad hoc searches and administrative constraints, causing significant delays to logistics convoys and violating the operational privileges and immunities of the mission.

20. UNISFA experienced sustained delays from the Government of South Sudan in processing tax exemption requests for equipment and supplies. Processing times extended to two months, well beyond the standard three-week period, resulting in depleted fuel stocks and degraded operational readiness. These delays represent a pattern of partial non-compliance with the status-of-forces agreement.

21. The operating environment in the Sudan deteriorated significantly, and UNISFA suffered a series of drone attacks on 13 December that killed six peacekeepers from Bangladesh and injured nine others in Kadugli at the headquarters and logistics base of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The attacks marked a new level of threat for the Mechanism and constitute an infringement of the legal inviolability of United Nations personnel and premises. The Secretary-General strongly condemned the violence and called upon the Government of the Sudan to fulfil its protection obligations.

22. Following these attacks and the host State's inability to guarantee safety, UNISFA relocated all personnel from Kadugli and closed the base on 21 December. Security responsibility for the Kadugli compound was transferred to South Kordofan

State authorities, ending the United Nations' permanent logistics presence in the area and curtailing sustainment capacity in the Sudan. Due to the continued security threat posed by drones, UNISFA closed its remaining two Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism team sites, handing over Tishwin (site 21) to local authorities on 6 February and Abu Qussa/Wunkur (site 22) on 4 March.

Intercommunal dialogue

23. Despite funding challenges, UNISFA continued to work closely with troop-contributing countries and other members of the international community to support and facilitate intercommunal and intracommunal dialogue initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the Abyei Area. Preparatory consultations have been ongoing since November 2025 with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka Paramount Chiefs with a view to convening a meeting to address outstanding issues affecting intercommunal relations, including security concerns in the Abyei Area. On 13 February, the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and the chiefs of the nine chiefdoms in Abyei town raised concerns with UNISFA regarding delays in determining the final status of Abyei, the influx of internally displaced persons, food security, water, road maintenance, the operationalization of the Athony and Rumamier airstrips, the presence of the Rapid Support Forces and troop deployment in vulnerable areas. The chiefs also reiterated the need for continued dialogue with the Misseriya, Twic Dinka and Nuer communities.

24. From 21 to 23 November, UNISFA, in collaboration with Concordis International Trust and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), facilitated the annual pre-migration conference in Noong, which concluded with a signed agreement reaffirming prior commitments, expanding the participation of women and youth in corridor structures and establishing, for the first time, a joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track the implementation of corridor agreements.

25. Preparations also continued for a traditional leaders' dialogue between the Twic and Ngok Dinka communities, building on the outcomes of the Twic-Ngok Dinka youth dialogue held in April 2025, which identified engagement among traditional leaders as a key follow-up action. UNISFA continued to work on preparations in collaboration with peace partners, including Concordis, FAO, national non-governmental organizations and faith-based institutions. In April 2026, UNISFA, in partnership with Concordis and other partners, supported an intercommunal dialogue between Misseriya and Ngok Dinka youth, with a view to strengthening youth engagement in peacebuilding and reducing tensions between the two communities. Discussions also continued on a stakeholders' dialogue involving the Nuer community residing in the Abyei Area, aimed at ensuring that the community is included in broader peace and security discussions affecting the Abyei Area.

26. On 13 November, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander met members of the joint community peace committee and provided updates on his engagements with the Governments of South Sudan and the Sudan, as well as with the African Union, on Abyei-related issues. He assured the committee that its concerns regarding the peace process and the provision of basic services would be conveyed to relevant stakeholders and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for consideration. On 14 November, the UNISFA leadership met the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief and his sub-chiefs to conduct consultations ahead of the migration season and to exchange views on the security, political and intercommunal dynamics in the Abyei Area. On 12 February in Dokura/Rumajak, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander met the Juba-appointed Chief Administrator, who raised concerns regarding the influence of actors affiliated with

the Rapid Support Forces, the administration and security of Amiet market and efforts to establish a permanent operating base at Athony junction.

27. On 19 February in Todach, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander met the joint community peace committee and the joint protection committee, whose members raised concerns regarding security, the management of Amiet market, humanitarian support for internally displaced persons, health, education, water and youth recruitment by unauthorized forces. They also requested strengthened support for the joint protection committee, including mobility and communications equipment, and highlighted challenges with detention-centre security and the feeding of inmates. On 24 February, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander also met Ngok Dinka civil society, youth, women and disability associations, who raised security concerns over the presence of unauthorized forces and requested support for peace conferences involving the Misseriya, Twic and Nuer communities, as well as capacity-building and trauma healing.

28. On 2 April, the joint community peace committee facilitated a meeting for the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander in Todach, where Misseriya and Ngok Dinka community representatives signed a declaration of intent to intensify efforts to curb the proliferation of illicit and unauthorized weapons in the Abyei Area, particularly in Amiet market. The acting Head of Mission and Force Commander reiterated the commitment of UNISFA to the demilitarized status of Abyei and urged continued cooperation among all stakeholders.

29. The functioning of the joint community peace committee nevertheless continued to face challenges, particularly among Misseriya members, whose participation was affected by the ongoing conflict in the Sudan. On 26 February, an introductory consultation between the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander and the Misseriya Deputy Paramount Chief was cancelled after Rapid Support Forces operatives insisted on attending the meeting. On 1 March in Diffra, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander held separate meetings with Misseriya representatives of the joint community peace committee and Misseriya civil society. Discussions focused on the security situation and the provision of basic services and humanitarian support. Civil society representatives called for recognition of and cooperation with what they referred to as alternative government representatives in the Abyei box and stated that Rapid Support Forces authorities were their legitimate representatives. UNISFA explained that, in accordance with its mandate, it engages with the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan on issues related to Abyei. Despite these challenges, compounded by the impact of financial constraints, the joint community peace committee remained the principal community-based dialogue and dispute-resolution mechanism between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. UNISFA continued to provide technical guidance and facilitation in support of dialogue, early warning and intercommunal stability, particularly during the migration season.

Rule of law

30. Despite messaging to the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan by UNISFA, the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and United Nations Headquarters, there was no progress in establishing the Abyei Police Service, as detailed in 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.

31. During the reporting period, 1,818 criminal offences were recorded, resulting in the apprehension of 1,202 suspects, including 111 women, by the community protection committees and joint protection committee. There was a significant rise in

crime, particularly in Abyei town and around Amiet market, driven by the continued influx of displaced populations, which continued to place 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.

32. UNISFA continued to promote community-based protection committees by supporting 54 of them and one joint protection committee at Amiet market. A total of 1,318 community protection committee members, including 298 women, and 127 joint protection committee members, including 12 women, served as community volunteers across the Abyei Area to enhance the protective environment.

33. To enhance legitimacy and accountability, UNISFA, in close coordination with traditional authorities, vetted and issued uniforms and identity cards to 124 community protection committee members. Additionally, to strengthen the operational capacity of the community protection committees and the joint protection committee, UNISFA delivered training sessions for 1,445 participants, including 357 women, on early warning systems, criminal investigation techniques, detention management, community-oriented policing, human rights, gender and child protection.

34. Coordination efforts continued to promote a unified mission approach to capacity-building and infrastructure support aimed at strengthening community-based protection mechanisms in Abyei. In this context, UNISFA reinforced the security perimeter of the Abyei juvenile detention facility, which is run by the community protection committee, contributing to improved physical safety conditions and dignified detention standards for juveniles.

35. UNISFA, working in close coordination with the United Nations country teams in the Sudan and South Sudan and partners, continued efforts to strengthen community-based mechanisms to address rule of law challenges in Abyei in line with the rule of law support strategy. In this context, the mission sustained its focus on strengthening community-based mechanisms to address prevailing crime and to enhance access to justice at the local level. Between October 2025 and February 2026, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the establishment of a community-based paralegal aid centre in Abyei and trained 65 Ngok Dinka community members, including 38 women. Paralegals provided grass-roots legal assistance in cases involving gender-based violence, homicide and land disputes, while promoting awareness of non-custodial measures and the rights of the accused. The UNDP South Sudan office also engaged traditional leaders to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

36. From 2 October to 16 April, UNISFA conducted 306 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 Abyei and Amiet detention centres. Furthermore, UNISFA conducted 192 awareness-raising sessions with community members to enhance their engagement in addressing security challenges and supporting protection efforts.

37. From October 2025 to April 2026, UNISFA organized five training sessions on the mission-specific standard operating procedure on the handling of detention for 97 uniformed and civilian personnel, including 28 women.

Human rights situation

38. The human rights situation remained concerning, exacerbated by the conflicts in the Sudan and South Sudan, the presence of the Rapid Support Forces in the

northern part of Abyei and Amiet market and unauthorized South Sudanese security deployments in the southern part of Abyei.

39. UNISFA documented eight human rights violations involving sexual violence against children (three girls, four boys and one sex unknown), including seven cases of rape and one attempted gang rape. This caseload highlights a serious pattern of conflict-related sexual violence.

40. In Sector North, the Rapid Support Forces continued to commit systemic violations of civil and political rights, including carrying out warrantless searches, financial extortion at checkpoints and unauthorized screening of personal mobile devices. They further interfered with UNISFA community programmes, suppressing freedom of expression among locals and undermining neutral consultation. Arbitrary detentions reportedly persisted, including the unlawful detention of two Diffra residents on 9 February. UNISFA received reports that on 10 March, the Khartoum representative of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, who had been arbitrarily detained in May 2025, had been released from Rapid Support Forces detention alongside 259 others following advocacy of leaders of the Misseriya community. The total number of detainees still in Rapid Support Forces custody remains unverified.

41. In Sector South, the unauthorized presence of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and their occupation of private residences, schools and hospitals in Agok continued to violate the rights of the civilian population and impede the return of displaced persons.

42. The dual impact of the closure of schools in Sector North by the Rapid Support Forces and the occupation by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Sector South has curtailed access to education. Across the Abyei Area, the conflict continued to limit the enjoyment of basic economic and social rights, particularly regarding access to water, food and healthcare for vulnerable populations.

Women and peace and security

43. In accordance with Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) and [2802 \(2025\)](#), UNISFA continued to integrate gender perspectives across its protection, participation and peacebuilding efforts. Female engagement teams accounted for 13.6 per cent of total mission patrols, while women's representation in community-based protection mechanisms included 194 members in the community protection committees and five in the joint protection committee.

44. Between October 2025 and April 2026, the mission conducted 69 sessions on eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, reaching 2,192 participants. An additional 2,556 community members were engaged through awareness programmes on gender equality, child marriage and human trafficking. Commemorations for the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence reached over 3,200 individuals, providing platforms to advocate for girls' education and sexual and gender-based violence prevention.

45. Efforts towards gender-inclusive governance were made at the November 2025 pre-migration conference, where women comprised 33 per cent of participants and secured a formal agreement to expand their role in the migration corridor management structures. UNISFA also supported the Abyei Women's Union internal elections in December 2025 to strengthen representative leadership.

46. Under the climate resilience for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Abyei project, led by the United Nations Environment Programme with the support of UNISFA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa and funded by the European Union, UNISFA facilitated two intracommunal

consultations on local impacts of climate, peace and security with Misseriya women in Diffra and Ngok Dinka women in Abyei town, on 28 and 29 January, respectively. The sessions culminated in a facilitated intercommunal dialogue bringing together 38 women representatives from both communities in Abyei town on 4 February. Participants exchanged experiences on the impacts of climate change and agreed on modalities for the women-led demonstration farm. On 8 March, UNISFA marked International Women's Day through a series of events at Abyei town, Amiet market, Diffra and mission headquarters, engaging over 200 women in discussions on women's rights, leadership and community development.

Youth and peace and security

47. On 3 and 4 January, UNISFA facilitated the fourth biannual Abyei Youth Union convention, convening 120 Ngok Dinka delegates, including 19 women. The convention was aimed at promoting democratic accountability and youth-led peacebuilding through the transparent election of new Abyei Youth Union leaders with improved gender inclusion following UNISFA guidance. However, the recruitment of youth by armed groups, particularly in Sector North, continued to be a major concern.

Humanitarian support

48. The humanitarian situation was significantly shaped by successive waves of displacement driven by intercommunal violence and regional conflict spillover. Livelihoods were further threatened by recurring attacks on civilians engaged in subsistence activities around Marial Achak by armed elements from Unity State, compounding food insecurity across affected communities. As at 16 April, the number of internally displaced persons in the Abyei Administrative Area had risen to an estimated 20,000.

49. Following the incident in Abiemnom, South Sudan, on 1 March, over 80 injured persons were admitted to the Médecins sans frontières hospital in Abyei town, and a large number of displaced persons entered the Abyei Area. A total of 3,252 households (approximately 16,260 individuals) were sheltered at the Abyei Youth Centre and 845 households (approximately 4,225 individuals) at Agok/Juoljok. Primary needs encompassed food, emergency shelter, non-food items and safe water. UNISFA maintained protective patrols at both sites to safeguard displaced persons and facilitate humanitarian access. Additionally, 941 displaced persons were reported in Juoljok, Sector South, citing fear of further armed attacks. UNISFA maintained static deployments and quick-reaction forces in close coordination with humanitarian partners.

50. On 9 March, a joint patrol to Noong identified approximately 70 Ngok Dinka individuals who appeared to have self-relocated from the Sudan, with 200 more en route; UNISFA provided medical assistance, rations and temporary protection at Noong company operating base. During the reporting period, 1,278 households (approximately 4,873 individuals) arrived from the Sudan and required urgent emergency shelter, food and protection assistance at the Amiet point of entry.

51. The World Food Programme (WFP), through Abyei Community Action for Development, distributed 91.88 tons of food commodities to 14,490 students across 25 schools under its school feeding programme. Under the targeted supplementary feeding programme, WFP, through Save the Children International, distributed 112 tons of ready-to-use supplementary food to 6,108 children under 2 years of age and pregnant or lactating women. A further 13.2 tons of Corn-Soy Blend++ reached 4,401 beneficiaries in February 2026. Save the Children International additionally

distributed fishing kits and agricultural seeds to support livelihood recovery, pending improved security conditions in Alal payam.

52. UNISFA played a critical enabling role in sustaining humanitarian space throughout the reporting period, providing security at key locations. In March 2026, the mission provided 50 tents to the internally displaced persons who had moved from Abiemnom to Abyei town. Structural challenges persisted, including the departure of key humanitarian actors and limited basic service capacity, leaving critical gaps in health, water, sanitation and education that partners and UNISFA sought to address within available resource constraints.

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

53. During the reporting period, UNISFA, in close coordination with the Resident Coordinators for the Sudan and South Sudan, continued to advance social cohesion and peacebuilding in the Abyei Area through the Joint Programme.

54. On 23 October, the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the African Christian Ecumenical Alliance, distributed 1,600 dignity kits to women and girls in the Abyei Area, including survivors of gender-based violence and women displaced from the Sudan and conflict-affected communities. The distribution addressed acute shortfalls in access to basic hygiene and dignity items resulting from ongoing displacement and supply chain disruptions.

55. Between October and December 2025, UNDP established 50 cooperative business groups comprising 145 beneficiaries, including 59 women, who were engaged in block- and brick-making activities. The cooperative model generated income while fostering social cohesion among Ngok Dinka, Misseriya, Nuer and displaced community members around shared economic objectives. Concurrently, 105 small businesses were established, led by women, girls and youth, with training delivered in financial literacy, business administration and access to banking services. Upon completion, all beneficiaries were linked to formal financial institutions, including the Kush Bank Abyei branch, and provided with start-up capital to operationalize their enterprises.

Mine action

56. During the reporting period, six incidents involving explosive ordnance and ammunition resulted in seven casualties. This represents an increase compared with zero incidents in the same period in the previous year and is likely linked to the increased proliferation of arms and ammunition in the region in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan. In response to those six incidents, the Mine Action Service delivered 155 explosive ordnance risk education sessions to 1,796 people (375 men, 355 women, 774 boys and 292 girls). In addition, 321 community briefing sessions were conducted, reaching 3,230 people (1,173 boys, 756 girls, 716 men and 585 women). The Mine Action Service delivered 47 safety training sessions to 1,234 UNISFA personnel and humanitarian actors, including 135 women, on how to recognize and appropriately respond to explosive hazards.

57. Owing to financial contingency measures, the Mine Action Service had reduced its operational capacity by 50 per cent by December 2025, retaining one patrol support team for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and one integrated road assessment and clearance team in the Abyei Area. Mine Action Service personnel also supported the safe withdrawal of personnel and assets from the Kadugli, Tishwin and Abu Qussa/Wunkur team sites.

III. Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

58. The reporting period marked a fundamental transformation in the operational environment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The escalation of the conflict in the Sudan and rising intercommunal tensions in South Sudan's border states rendered large sections of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone inaccessible. That, and the unpredictable but grave threat of further drone attacks, culminated in the closure of all Mechanism sites and the suspension of the Mechanism's physical presence since its establishment.

59. The fall of El Fasher in October 2025 consolidated the control of the Rapid Support Forces over most of Darfur, Sudan, shifting military pressure towards Kordofan. The Rapid Support Forces subsequently strengthened its operational alliance with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction in an effort to seize Kadugli, the South Kordofan capital, resulting in prolonged siege conditions and the displacement of approximately 80 per cent of its population. The growing use of drones by the Rapid Support Forces and their long-range strike capabilities posed persistent force protection risks to Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism personnel at Kadugli.

60. On 8 December, the Rapid Support Forces captured the Heglig oilfield and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone came under the effective control of armed groups, directly undermining the demilitarization framework established under the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area.

61. On 13 December, drone strikes on the logistics base in Kadugli killed six Bangladeshi peacekeepers and severely injured nine, constituting one of the deadliest incidents since the deployment of UNISFA. The attack forced the relocation of the Kadugli Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters and logistics base to Abyei and led to the eventual closure of all Mechanism installations in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, marking the first complete suspension of the Mechanism's physical presence since its establishment.

62. Following the deterioration of the security situation around Heglig, team site 21 (Tishwin) was closed on 8 February due to increased force protection risks from drone strikes and multi-actor armed activity. Team site 22 (Abu Qussa/Wunkur) was also closed on 6 March following frequent armed clashes between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition elements in close proximity to the site, including incidents in which stray projectiles struck team site infrastructure.

63. Upon the closure of all team sites, a working group was established at United Nations Headquarters, including UNISFA representatives and relevant experts from across the United Nations system, to assess possible alternative options and future next steps to continue the implementation of the mandate of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

IV. Administrative aspects and mission support

64. As at 28 April 2026, the number of civilian staff at UNISFA stood at 239, comprising 154 international staff, 33 United Nations Volunteers and 52 national staff, against an authorized total of 200 international staff, 39 United Nations Volunteers and 94 national staff. Women accounted for 25 per cent of the civilian component, including 35 per cent of senior staff positions.

65. Progress on several administrative elements relevant to mandate implementation remained limited during the reporting period. Visa issuance for police and civilian personnel remained pending, hindering the deployment of the full authorized police component of 640 police personnel, including 148 individual police officers and three formed police units. In addition, the appointment of a civilian Deputy Head of Mission remained unresolved. There was no authorization granted for the use of the Athony airstrip. At the same time, inconsistent safety assurance clearances affected the mission's capacity to ensure timely medical evacuation, troop movements and logistical support, thereby affecting operational readiness.

66. Mandatory reductions of between 8 and 10 per cent of the civilian staffing and troop numbers have negatively impacted the implementation of the mandate of the mission. The abolishment of key strategic posts, including the Head of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Deputy Police Commissioner, reduced the operational effectiveness of UNISFA amid growing demands, while the recruitment freeze has also worsened existing gaps. The elimination of quick-impact projects and a 50 per cent reduction in programmatic funding have also impacted community trust and conflict prevention efforts.

67. As at 11 March 2026, the United Nations police strength stood at 58 individual police officers, of whom 26 were women. There are currently no formed police units deployed. During meetings with South Sudanese government officials in Juba in February, the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander recalled the need to reach the mandated United Nations police ceiling of 640. The matter was also raised with the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations in New York on several occasions in 2025 and 2026. The Government of the Sudan repeated its previously expressed support for the deployment of United Nations police, including formed police units.

68. By the end of the reporting period, camp reconstruction for uniformed personnel was fully complete at Highway, Agok, Diffra and Athony and at one camp at the mission's headquarters for the Nepalese contingent. The Nigerian camp at mission headquarters was 98 per cent complete. Funding issues affected the acquisition of materials, impacting the construction works. Most of the construction work is currently on hold due to the lack of funding, including planned construction for Banton camp and designs for all the remaining camps.

Culture of performance

69. The Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System impact assessment for the period from November 2024 to August 2025, endorsed by the mission's leadership on 15 January 2026, identified significant operational risks to mandate implementation and peacebuilding sustainability. The mission is taking corrective measures to address performance gaps to ensure the continued viability of the Abyei peace process.

Human rights due diligence

70. UNISFA enhanced its collaboration with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights conducted five human rights due diligence policy risk assessments to ensure that UNISFA support does not cause or contribute to human rights violations. UNISFA and UNMISS also worked on data exchange mechanisms on human rights violations to mitigate risks linked to support for non-United Nations security forces and other actors in the Abyei context.

Conduct and discipline

71. No allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported during the reporting period. The mission has continued to implement its comprehensive sexual exploitation and abuse prevention architecture, encompassing training, risk assessment and outreach activities. Through 76 training and refresher training sessions, a total of 2,387 United Nations personnel have been trained on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and the promotion of a harmonious working environment. Seventeen sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessments were conducted across the military component in team sites during the reporting period. UNISFA further conducted two community outreach activities and led five meetings of the Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, a multi-stakeholder forum comprising local community members, UNISFA personnel and representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for the reinforcement of the community-based complaint mechanisms for the referral pathways on sexual exploitation and abuse and mapping services for implementing partners.

Public information

72. UNISFA recorded more than 25 incidents of misinformation and disinformation across online and offline platforms, which posed direct risks to the mission's credibility, community trust and personnel safety.

73. In response, the mission prioritized evidence-based public communication and developed dedicated counter-narrative messaging disseminated through social media, press releases and community engagement forums, affirming the mandate of UNISFA, its impartiality and its commitment to the protection of civilians.

74. UNISFA convened two round-table dialogues with local and regional journalists, on mandate activities and emerging issues, to strengthen media engagement. A session on harmful narratives was included in the pre-migration conference held in Noong from 21 to 23 November. With UNISFA support, the Abyei FM radio station resumed broadcasting on 13 March after two and a half years off air due to conflict. UNISFA also expanded outreach to communities to promote accurate messaging.

V. Financial aspects

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

76. As at 27 April 2026, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNISFA amounted to \$177.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,544.1 million.

77. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 December 2025, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule, and reimbursement for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment has been made for the period up to 31 March 2025.

78. 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

79. I strongly condemn the drone strikes on the UNISFA logistics base in Kadugli on 13 December 2025, which resulted in the death of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers. I wish to convey my sincere condolences to the Government and people of Bangladesh and to the families of the personnel killed, and wish a swift recovery to the injured personnel. Beyond the tragic human cost, these attacks forced the relocation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters and logistics base to Abyei and the eventual closure of all its installations in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, marking the first complete suspension of the Mechanism's physical presence since its establishment. Deliberate attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international humanitarian law. All parties to the conflict must ensure the safety and inviolability of United Nations personnel, premises and assets.

80. The lack of progress in bilateral engagements between the Sudan and South Sudan, the significant erosion of the operational capacity of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the compounding impact of resource constraints on mission delivery define the mission's current operational landscape.

81. I am concerned that neither the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee nor the Joint Political and Security Mechanism convened during the reporting period. The United Nations has engaged both Governments at all levels, both through formal diplomatic channels and informally, urging them to convene such meetings as soon as feasible. I urge both Governments to recognize the importance of making progress on this key benchmark. The United Nations remains available to support these meetings as appropriate.

82. The full demilitarization of the Abyei Area remains unattainable at this time. South Sudan People's Defence Forces and South Sudan National Police Service personnel remain present in Sector South and continue to maintain unauthorized checkpoints and to occupy civilian structures. Some of these checkpoints are equipped with heavy weapons that should not be present within a demilitarized zone. Similarly, in Sector North, elements of the Rapid Support Forces continue to operate checkpoints, conduct searches and impede freedom of movement. Their influence over community structures is growing, including their interference in traditional leadership engagement with UNISFA. All parties in the Sudan should cease interference with the civilian population of Abyei and uphold their obligations under the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area. The Government of South Sudan must immediately withdraw all unauthorized personnel and vacate occupied civilian structures.

83. The persistent lack of rule of law institutions remains a concern. The Abyei Police Service has not been established and the United Nations police deployment remains well below authorized levels. While both Governments have expressed support for the deployment of the remaining mandated individual police officers and three authorized formed police units, the current budgetary environment now makes swift deployment difficult. UNISFA and United Nations Headquarters are working on a solution to allow this deployment within existing resources until the budgeted funds are available, but the need for police remains urgent. In this context, community protection committees, staffed by volunteers, continue to bear the primary responsibility for law enforcement in the Abyei Area. These are not sustainable arrangements. I call upon the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to enable the United Nations police to deploy as soon as the administrative and budgetary aspects are addressed. Nevertheless, it remains the responsibility of the parties to

establish the Abyei Police Service, in line with their agreement. This is also a benchmark set by the Security Council.

84. The suspension of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism presence outside Abyei is a significant challenge. While the United Nations system is internally working on possible alternatives and next steps for its implementation, a durable return to full monitoring capacity along the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone requires the resumption of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and continued security guarantees from both Governments. Without these, the demilitarization framework established in 2011 risks becoming an instrument without operational meaning at a time that is critically important for South Sudan, the Sudan and the wider region.

85. The significant reduction in the presence of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Abyei following funding cuts has left a vacuum in peacebuilding, humanitarian response and basic service delivery, which were recently established jointly by UNISFA and the United Nations country teams in the Sudan and South Sudan. As a result, the uniformed and civilian components of UNISFA are increasingly absorbing responsibilities well beyond their core mandate. I call upon Member States and international partners to urgently address these funding gaps, bearing in mind that any eventual exit strategy for UNISFA should consider the establishment of a United Nations country team presence. I urge the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as other stakeholders, to continue to support the work of the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei, taking into account the significant efforts made to establish a United Nations country team presence, which has started to deliver important peacebuilding services to the people of Abyei.

86. The Abyei Area stands at a critical juncture. The mission continues to, *inter alia*, protect civilians, facilitate dialogue and maintain a protective presence, but cannot be a substitute for political resolve from the parties. Peace in Abyei requires the Sudan and South Sudan to implement their commitments, resume bilateral engagement and take concrete steps towards demilitarization and the establishment of formal governance and security institutions. It also requires the Rapid Support Forces and all armed non-State actors to cease interference with civilian life and South Sudan to withdraw its forces from the Abyei Area.

87. I wish to thank the outgoing acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Robert Affram, and welcome his successor, Major General Ganesh Shrestha, who arrived in the mission on 25 January 2026. I also extend my appreciation to the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, the personnel of UNISFA and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for their steadfast commitment to peace and security for the people of Abyei under exceptionally challenging conditions.

