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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 the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) between 16 July and 15 October 2025.

II. Political and economic developments

2. The political situation in the country remains tense due to consistent violations of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and the lack of progress made on its key provisions. During the reporting period, power-sharing arrangements were almost entirely eroded. Unilateral reshuffles removed representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO), who were replaced by members of the splinter faction led by the Minister of Peacebuilding, Stephen Par Kuol. In response, SPLM/A-IO made its own appointments to state- and county-level positions in areas under their control, resulting in the reemergence of the parallel governance structures that existed prior to the establishment of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity.

3. Political reshuffles by presidential decree also continued within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Those reshuffled included the Ministers of Finance, Investment, Parliamentary Affairs, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, of Youth and Sports, and of East African Community Affairs; the Chief of Defence Forces of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the commander of the Presidential Guard (Tiger Division); and the Governor of Upper Nile State.

4. On 16 July, the Transitional National Legislative Assembly reopened following six months of recess.

5. On 22 July, the Chair of the National Transitional Committee, Kuol Manyang Juuk, announced that the second phase of training for the Necessary Unified Forces would begin in September. SPLM/A-IO rejected the announcement, citing ongoing violations by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and allies against SPLM/A-IO and civilians. Consequently, the Acting Chair of SPLM/A-IO, Nathaniel Oyet, directed SPLM/A-IO forces to avoid cantonment sites, contradicting Government directives for them to report there.



6. On 3 August, the Minister of Peacebuilding, Mr. Par Kuol, petitioned the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, to fill any vacant SPLM/A-IO posts at the national and state levels, as well as in the implementation mechanisms related to the Revitalized Agreement, with members of his faction.
7. On 6 August, the President dismissed the Minister of Water, Pal Mai Deng, (who serves as SPLM-IO spokesperson), replacing him with James Mawich Makuac, a member of faction led by Mr. Par Kuol.
8. On 7 August, the President appointed SPLM member James Altaib Jazz Berapai as Governor of Western Equatoria, replacing the SPLM/A-IO Governor, Alfred Futuyo, who was removed in February.
9. On 8 August, the reconstituted high-level ad hoc committee on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement convened to discuss pending issues in the implementation of the Agreement. Only Mr. Par Kuol's faction of SPLM/A-IO was represented, leading to criticism by SPLM/A-IO that the body was exclusionary.
10. On 13 August, the President dismissed six SPLM/A-IO members of parliament, including the First Deputy Speaker and Acting Chair of SPLM/A-IO, Mr. Oyet. In a statement in response to those dismissals, SPLM/A-IO said that they were "the final nail in the coffin" for the Revitalized Agreement.
11. On 17 August, the Acting Chair of SPLM/A-IO, Mr. Oyet, reinstated six SPLM/A-IO county commissioners who had previously been dismissed by the President and appointed four new commissioners, thereby creating parallel governance structures and justifying this by citing the power-sharing provisions of the Revitalized Agreement.
12. On 18 August, the Chair of the National Transitional Committee said that the investigation concerning the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, was ongoing and that the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement was continuing, inclusive of those SPLM/A-IO members not under suspicion or charge.
13. On 20 August, the President appointed his daughter, Adut Salva Kiir, as Senior Presidential Envoy for Special Programmes.
14. On 26 and 29 August respectively, the Acting Chair of SPLM/A-IO, Mr. Oyet, appointed new commissioners for Ayod County, Jonglei, and Maban County, Upper Nile. On 30 August, he reinstated Mr. Futuyo as Governor of Western Equatoria State.
15. On 1 September, the President removed the Governor of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State, Emmanuel Primo Okello, the last Governor appointed by SPLM/A-IO upon the recommendation of the First Vice-President, and replaced him with a member of Mr. Par Kuol's faction, Sherif Daniel Sherif.
16. On 4 September, the National Salvation Front (NAS) leader, Thomas Cirillo, confirmed a military-political alliance between NAS and SPLM/A-IO and called for the First Vice-President and all political detainees to be released.
17. On 11 September, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Joseph Geng Akech, announced charges, including treason and murder, against the First Vice-President and seven other members of SPLM/A-IO in connection with the Nasir incident of March 2025. On the same day, the First Vice-President and the co-accused Minister of Petroleum, Puot Kang Chol, were suspended from their posts to stand trial.
18. On 22 September, the First Vice-President and seven co-accused defendants appeared before a Special Court convened by the Chief Justice in Juba to face the charges. The defence raised an initial objection that the court did not have jurisdiction,

and that the proceedings were unconstitutional and breached the Revitalized Agreement. The presiding judge ruled against the objection, stating that the court had jurisdiction and that its jurisdiction did not overlap with that of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, as provided under the terms of the Revitalized Agreement. Following that ruling, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) spokesperson, Mr. Mai Deng, called the trial illegal, tribal and politically motivated. Protests against the trial were held in Bentiu, Unity State, and Nyerol, Jonglei State.

19. Civil society expressed concerns that the limited public and media access to the trial risks damaging public perceptions of the legitimacy and credibility of the proceedings. The failure of the court to recognize the primacy of the Revitalized Agreement was also criticized.

20. On 7 October, the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission met in plenary for the first time since February. Yolanda Awel Deng was nominated to represent SPLM-IO by the Acting Chair of SPLM/A-IO, Mr. Oyet. Mr. Par Kuol's faction was not present. Ms. Awel Deng said that the way forward was through inclusive dialogue, led by the President and the First Vice-President, Mr. Machar, and raised concerns that the ongoing trial of the First Vice-President was against the letter and spirit of the Revitalized Agreement. In response, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Akech, said that judicial processes were not subject to debate and should not be discussed outside the courtroom.

21. On 14 October, a senior member of SPLM and veteran minister, Nhial Deng Nhial, suspended his membership with SPLM and launched a new political movement, the South Sudan Salvation Movement. He said that the new party would operate under the opposition United People's Alliance, led by Pagan Amum. He cited grievances including the deteriorating security situation and the mismanagement of government revenues.

22. On 30 August 2025, the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of the Sudan notified the Ministry of Petroleum of South Sudan about attacks on the Heglig oil facilities by the Rapid Support Forces. The Ministry of Petroleum issued instructions to activate the emergency shutdown plan and to coordinate the evacuation of all personnel from the Heglig area.

Regional engagements and developments

23. From 10 to 12 August, a delegation of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, led by the Chairperson of the Council, Mohammed Khaled, visited Juba. They met with the President of South Sudan, who reaffirmed his commitment to the Revitalized Agreement, but the delegation was not allowed access to the First Vice-President, Mr. Machar, or his detained allies.

24. On 5 and 6 October, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Sudan, Monday Semaya Kumba, visited Port Sudan and met with the President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of the Sudan, General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan and other Sudanese officials. Following the visit, the two countries announced agreements to revitalize existing political and security mechanisms to oversee new initiatives on economic and security cooperation.

25. On 8 and 9 October, the Deputy President of South Africa, Paul Mashatile, visited Juba to discuss reinvigorating the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. He met with the President of South Sudan, Mr. Kiir, the Vice-President for the Economic Cluster, Benjamin Bol Mel, and the Vice-President for Gender and Youth Cluster, Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior, among others.

III. Security situation

26. The security situation in Greater Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria, particularly in Central and Western Equatoria, further deteriorated due to increased confrontations between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and allied SPLM/A-IO and NAS forces. These confrontations resulted in civilian casualties and displacement and led to a further deterioration in the humanitarian situation, amid widespread floods. UNMISS was also targeted by armed elements allegedly linked to SPLM/A-IO in Western Equatoria. In the greater Bahr el-Ghazal region, intracommunal violence declined in Warrap following reconciliation initiatives; however, cross-border violence, especially between Unity, Warrap and Lakes States, continued to be of concern.

Greater Upper Nile region

27. The Greater Upper Nile region experienced sustained hostilities between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO. South Sudan People's Defence Forces conducted repeated aerial and riverine offensives in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States, targeting SPLM/A-IO positions in Fangak, Pigi, Nasir, Longochuk, Wunkur and Panyikang Counties, and cumulatively resulting in 41 people being killed, 65 injured and 18 abducted over the course of four incidents. On 30 August, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces attacked and dislodged SPLM/A-IO from their headquarters in Tonga where, on 2 September, the Deputy Chief of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces inspected the area and encouraged displaced residents to return. SPLM/A-IO and White Army forces launched ambushes and sporadic counter-attacks, including in Nasir, Pigi and Mathiang. The conflict also triggered Nuer mobilization in Ayod County in Jonglei, resulting in 10 people being killed, 27 injured and 22 abducted.

28. Access to areas under the control of SPLM/A-IO in Upper Nile and Jonglei States has been restricted by government authorities and security dynamics. Meanwhile, authorities appointed by SPLM/A-IO at the local level have instituted bureaucratic obstacles in areas under their control, centring on Ayod County. Flooding further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, especially in Jonglei. Following a request by the Governor, a state of emergency was declared on 10 September by the Chairperson of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

Greater Equatoria region

29. In Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria, operations by SPLM/A-IO and NAS as well as by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces intensified. Between 21 and 23 July, three attacks in Yei County resulted in 20 soldiers of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces being killed and 30 injured. Meanwhile, from 19 to 23 July, renewed offensives at suspected SPLM/A-IO positions in Tambura resulted in the killing of 15 SPLM/A-IO fighters. SPLM/A-IO and NAS have claimed joint responsibility for two operations in both states, resulting in two civilians being injured and 40 abducted.

30. The targeting of civilians and humanitarian personnel continued to be observed in Central and Western Equatoria, perpetrated by unknown armed elements and by organized forces. On 7 August, seven international humanitarian organization workers were abducted by elements suspected to be NAS in Yei River County, Central Equatoria. They were released later that same day. In Western Equatoria, between 29 September and 10 October, approximately 40 young people from Maridi were abducted by suspected NAS and SPLM/A-IO. In five incidents, both the South Sudan

People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO targeted civilians seeking shelter at the Ayat camp for internally displaced persons in Tambura, during which eight civilians were killed and an unspecified number were injured.

31. On 3 September, an UNMISS patrol was ambushed by forces suspected to be linked to SPLM/A-IO in the Tambura area of Western Equatoria, resulting in the seizure of some weapons and ammunition. In the following days, stones were thrown at, and protests took place in the vicinity of, the UNMISS temporary operating base in Tambura, as protesters accused the Mission of prolonging the conflict by supplying weapons to armed groups and demanded that UNMISS depart the base.

32. On 28 July, cross-border hostilities between the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces and South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Kajo Kaji County, Central Equatoria, reportedly resulted in five soldiers being killed and the displacement of approximately 2,600 households. Following the announcement of a bilateral investigation committee established by South Sudan and Uganda in early August, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region established an ad hoc committee on 26 August to investigate the border clashes.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

33. On 18 July, the government launched a disarmament campaign began in greater Tonj, coinciding with a series of Warrap government-led peace initiatives in the region. Despite notable violent incidents that cost civilian lives, initiatives such as a tour of greater Tonj by the Governor of Warrap and reconciliation efforts reduced intracommunal violence in the area.

34. Cross-border cattle-related violence continued between Unity, Warrap and Lakes. This was most significant between Panyijiar County in Unity and the bordering counties in Lakes, where 32 civilians were killed, 41 were injured and 8 were abducted, in 35 incidents. The security situation further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis and resulted in more than 100,000 individuals being displaced by floods, as reported by the Panyijiar County Commissioner on 22 August, some of whom rely on their ability to retreat to higher ground in Lakes for safety.

IV. Humanitarian situation

35. Flooding continued to affect and displace communities. As at 15 October, an estimated 927,000 people were affected in 26 counties in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap and Western and Central Equatoria States. Jonglei and Unity States accounted for over 91 per cent of those affected. Over 335,000 people in 16 counties were displaced and took shelter on higher ground. Floodwater submerged farmland, homes and humanitarian compounds and disrupted access to education, healthcare, nutrition and water services. Tensions were reported to be rising at relocation sites due to overcrowding. The ongoing political conflict has also displaced youth who would typically work on dyke reinforcement operations, thereby weakening local flood mitigation efforts.

36. An estimated 7.7 million people experienced acute food insecurity, including 1.2 million malnourished pregnant and lactating women and 2.3 million children, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) for the period from April to July 2025. As at 15 October, approximately 83,000 people faced a catastrophic level of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 5), nearly half of whom were South Sudanese returnees fleeing conflict in the Sudan. Those affected are in conflict areas, including Malakal, Nasir and Ulang Counties in Upper Nile and in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

37. Over 1.2 million people have crossed into South Sudan from the Sudan since April 2023, including over 261,000 arrivals since the start of 2025. Around 68 per cent are South Sudanese returnees, many of whom are arriving in urgent need of shelter, protection and basic services.

38. Between January and October, more than 657,000 people were newly displaced across South Sudan, due to floods and escalating armed clashes in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Western Equatoria States. Of that total, some 164,000 people sought refuge in neighbouring countries, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda. Air strikes and armed clashes continue to affect civilians and disrupt humanitarian operations in affected states.

39. Cholera remains a major public health threat, with 93,294 cases and 1,565 deaths reported since the outbreak began in September 2024. Despite recent declines, the high risk of transmission and cross-border spread remains. Over 8.6 million oral cholera vaccine doses have been administered across affected counties, 86.8 per cent of the targeted doses.

40. South Sudan remains one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a humanitarian worker, according to the Aid Worker Security Database.¹ During the reporting period, at least 142 violent incidents targeted humanitarian staff, compounds and supplies, resulting in mission stand-downs, delayed aid deliveries and temporary programme suspensions. In September, one aid worker was killed in Mayendit County in Unity State, and a contractor was injured in Western Equatoria State in July. During the reporting period, 12 humanitarian staff were abducted in Central and Western Equatoria States and high ransoms were demanded for their release, leading to temporary suspension of operations.

41. On 4 September, a local armed group looted nutrition supplies offloaded by a humanitarian helicopter at Mogok airstrip, Ayod County, while items were being moved to a nearby facility. On 9 September, a non-governmental organization partnering with the World Food Programme reported that its boat transporting food from Malakal to Fangak County for people displaced by the floods was detained by government security forces in New Fangak town. Soldiers confiscated 300 bags (15 tons) of sorghum. The boat was later released and reached its destination safely and the food was replaced by authorities. On 7 September, five health and nutrition sites in Canal/Pigi County, Jonglei State, were vandalized, cutting off services for thousands. On 20 August, local authorities denied access to multiple locations outside Nasir town, Upper Nile State, allowing movement only in areas controlled by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

42. Funding shortfalls are affecting access to life-saving aid for millions. The 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for South Sudan, for which \$1.7 billion is sought to assist 5.4 million people, was only 30.5 per cent funded (\$517 million) as at 15 October, down from 57 per cent in October 2024.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

43. In October 2025, based on the current financial estimates and following a careful review, the Secretary-General requested all peacekeeping missions funded under the peacekeeping budget to implement their contingency plans for a 15 per cent reduction in expenditures. The effects could include a significantly reduced capacity for the protection of civilians, reduced ability to provide support to national and local peace

¹ See https://humanitarianoutcomes.org/AWSR_2025.

and reconciliation processes, as well as humanitarian operations, and reduced capability for the monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation.

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

44. On 9 and 10 September, signatory civil society stakeholders to the Revitalized Agreement convened a consultation facilitated by civil society, with UNMISS support, to urge a return to dialogue. The consultation brought together 15 participants (including 5 women) and concluded with the signing of a communiqué urging the signatory parties to engage in constructive dialogue, uphold the ceasefire, immediately and unconditionally release political detainees and accelerate the inclusive implementation of the agreement.

45. In pursuit of greater coherence in international and regional support to the Government, the Mission convened three meetings of the trilateral mechanism between the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in which the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission was also invited to participate, one of which was held at the principal level and two at the working level. In addition, the Mission organized diplomatic discussion forums at the principal and working levels.

46. To support civic space and public dialogue on good governance and the political transition, the Mission hosted five round-table conversations on Radio Miraya with members of the Government, civil society and academia. The Mission also organized six *Democracy in Action* radio programmes on topics such as the functions of local government and the roll-out of public consultations on the Constitution.

47. As part of a series of key stakeholder engagements, a round-table dialogue was held on 15 and 16 July with the National Elections Commission and civil society groups on raising awareness of actionable political decisions, legal clarity and a realistic election time frame. The discussions garnered collective commitment, prompting a communiqué setting out four recommendations from civil society.

48. On 2 September, the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission, along with the heads of the Political Parties Council, the National Constitutional Review Commission and the National Bureau of Statistics, met with the ad hoc committee on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, including its Chair, Mr. Manyang Juuk, and its Secretary, Martin Lomuro (who also serves as Minister for Cabinet Affairs), to discuss electoral preparations. The Commission presented the legal framework for the electoral timeline developed by the trilateral task force of the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD, which highlights significant timeline challenges and the lack of synchronization between the constitution-making, census and election schedules. In his remarks after the meeting, Mr. Lomuro encouraged the institutions to continue to work together collaboratively, reminded them of their interdependence and reaffirmed the commitment to elections, saying that initial funding would be provided soon. To date, no funding has been allocated to the electoral institutions since April 2024.

49. In order to strengthen leadership and advocacy capacity in women-led organizations, UNMISS facilitated a workshop in Wau from 29 to 31 July, bringing together 39 civil society representatives (30 women) to develop skills in strategic communications, advocacy and networking. From 5 to 7 August, a civil society leadership workshop was facilitated in Warrap State, engaging 45 participants (18 women, 30 youth and 4 persons with disabilities). On 31 July and 1 August, UNMISS supported a traditional leaders' workshop for 70 participants (19 women) in Yambio

County, Western Equatoria, to raise awareness of the Revitalized Agreement and the role of traditional leaders in constitution-making and election processes.

50. The Mission continued to facilitate platforms for civic dialogue. On 27 August, UNMISS facilitated a “Citizen talk for peace” between the State government, civil society and community leaders in Jonglei State. From 1 to 5 September, UNMISS supported the second County Commissioners’ Forum in Malakal, Upper Nile, with 120 participants (20 women). The forum reinforced collaboration between state and county governments, emphasizing governance, law enforcement and reconciliation as pillars of sustainable peace.

51. Community violence reduction initiatives continued to create livelihood opportunities for at-risk groups. In Eastern Equatoria, in October 2025, a violence reduction project culminated in the graduation of 167 beneficiaries (43 women), whose empowerment is expected to contribute to lasting peace and stability.

52. As part of reforms under the Revitalized Agreement, UNMISS and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) facilitated a corruption risk management study visit to Kenya, enabling South Sudanese officials to learn from regional practices. The Anti-Corruption Commission and Financial Intelligence Unit of Kenya subsequently trained the budget unit in the Ministry of Finance of South Sudan, improving its capacity to detect and mitigate risks. With the support of UNODC and the World Bank, UNMISS also strengthened the capacity of the Commission on international cooperation and asset recovery.

53. The mission supported the Union of Journalists of South Sudan in advancing conflict-sensitive reporting among local journalists, thereby strengthening their capacity to shape public discourse, promote transparency and accountability and increase involvement in the transformation of the security sector.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

54. The Mission continued to deploy peacekeepers to patrol main supply routes and hotspots, to project force and to support the protection of civilians. The UNMISS force conducted 8,480 patrols, including 578 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel for the protection of civilians through presence in strategic areas.

55. United Nations police conducted 5,175 patrols across South Sudan, including 38 integrated patrols and 3,099 patrols with women officers. A total of 1,627 personnel in quick response teams were on standby to support policing efforts in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu. Ninety-five police officers were deployed to five company operating bases and two temporary operating bases to enhance confidence-building, leadership engagement and service delivery for local communities.

56. United Nations police trained 4,573 participants (1,670 women), strengthening institutional and community capacity to manage election security, uphold human rights and respond effectively to sexual and gender-based violence.

57. The Mission continued efforts in support of protection of civilians and facilitated the implementation of at least eight programmes that targeted 450 participants (106 women) in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Warrap States. In Tambura, Western Equatoria State, from 21 to 23 August, UNMISS facilitated a dialogue to mediate and promote reconciliation, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between Azande and Balanda youth. The forum benefited 80 participants (30 women). In Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, UNMISS facilitated the official launch of a project that was aimed at training 30 focal points for the

community alert networks, in order to foster returns and reintegration by strengthening community resilience.

58. In Warrap State, UNMISS supported a locally initiated peace meeting between Luac-jang and Jalwau cattle camp leaders of Tonj on 25 August, resulting in commitments to cease hostilities, ensure the free movement of civilians and cattle and promote justice and accountability. UNMISS also facilitated the establishment of five community-based protection network committees to support urgent communication regarding early warning information in Tonj South County, integrating into existing government structures at the payam level. In Central Equatoria, UNMISS supported a peace conference between herders and farmers from 27 to 29 August in Kuda payam, Juba County, with over 300 participants (85 women). The initiative addressed climate-induced conflicts and promoted multi-stakeholder monitoring and seasonal migration coordination.

59. From 2 to 6 September, UNMISS and partners facilitated a civil society organizations exchange visit, followed by a policy dialogue forum for 35 members of parliament, local government officials and representatives of civil society organizations in Morobo County, Central Equatoria State. On 1 and 2 October, UNMISS supported the South Sudan Council of Churches and the South Sudan Islamic Council in conducting a national peace conference in Juba for 80 religious leaders from across the country. The conference concluded with the adoption of a joint statement, in which faith leaders committed to actively engage their followers to foster reconciliation and support peacebuilding efforts across South Sudan. A consultative forum was held in Kajo Kaji County on 12 and 13 September and attended by 60 participants (20 women) from local government, peace committees and religious institutions, as well as women and youth leaders, to address civilian protection challenges. From 16 to 18 September, UNMISS and partners supported a peace symposium in Terekeka County, which concluded with recommendations for mitigating measures to address persistent cattle-related conflicts.

60. The Mine Action Service contributed to the protection of civilians by responding to 331 requests from UNMISS and local communities for the identification, removal and disposal of explosive ordnance. These activities enabled communities to safely gain access to 28 agricultural areas and six water sources, thereby facilitating food production and water access in previously contaminated areas. In total, 514,942 m² of land were cleared (constituting 2.5 per cent of the currently known contamination in South Sudan) and 494 explosive items destroyed. The Mine Action Service also delivered explosive ordnance risk education to 55,666 individuals (11,140 men, 12,581 women, 16,528 boys and 15,417 girls), including 1,565 people who had been displaced by the conflict in the Sudan, reducing the risk of accidents and enhancing community safety.

C. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

61. The Mission continued to provide security for humanitarian assistance delivery through the protection of convoys. The UNMISS force conducted 87 long-duration patrols, 876 short-duration patrols and 664 force protection tasks to help to create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. UNMISS provided and facilitated the delivery of 10,000 sandbags by humanitarian actors to Ganyliel, Panyijiar County, as part of integrated flood mitigation efforts.

62. Out of the total 514,942 m² of land cleared, 414,885 m² were cleared in direct support of humanitarian partners, which supported a humanitarian project near

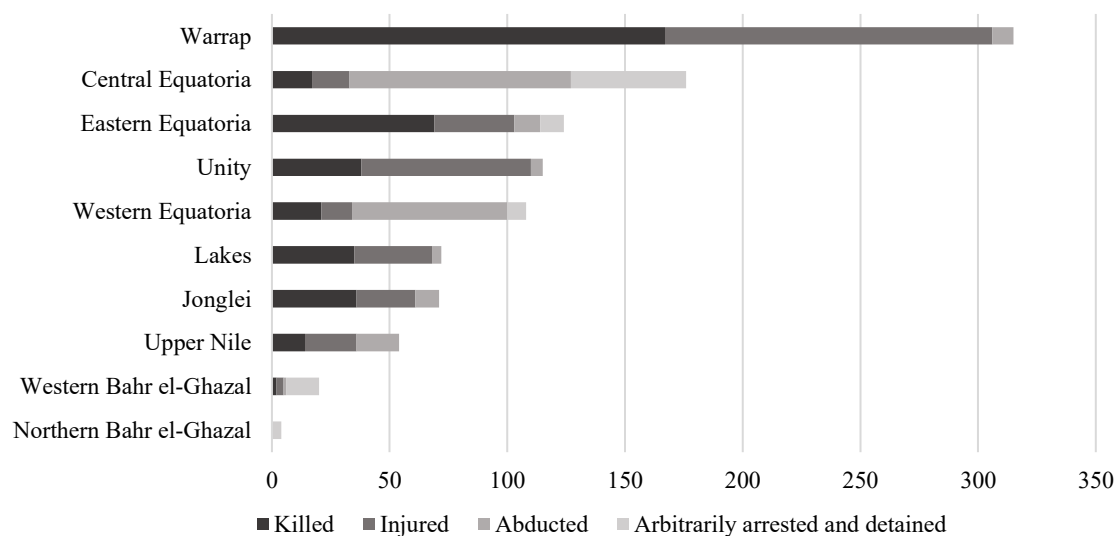
Bentiu, Unity State, where the presence of anti-tank mines had previously halted the construction of a 17 km dyke. The clearance efforts enabled land to be reclaimed, which was then designated for the resettlement of displaced persons. In addition, the Service conducted route verification over a distance of 1,057 km, thereby enabling the safe movement of UNMISS patrols facilitating the rehabilitation of main supply routes.

D. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations and abuses

63. The Mission documented and verified 275 incidents of human rights violations and abuses affecting 1,059 civilians, including 109 women and 99 children (81 boys and 18 girls). A total of 399 civilians were killed, 357 were injured, 218 were abducted and 85 were arbitrarily arrested and detained (see figure below). Community-based militias and/or civil defence groups accounted for 55 per cent of the incidents, while 42 per cent were attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other armed groups and 2 per cent to unidentified and/or opportunistic armed elements. UNMISS documented 30 extrajudicial executions by security personnel (16 in Warrap State, 12 in Western Equatoria State and 2 in Lakes State).

64. On 26 September, UNMISS published its second quarterly brief on violence affecting civilians, in which it documented and verified 334 incidents affecting 1,518 civilians (198 women and 155 children). The number of victims attributed to the conventional parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups increased by 127 per cent compared with the previous quarter.

Number of victims by State and type of violation



Source: United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Human Rights Division.

65. Shrinking civic and political space in the country remained a consistent trend. For instance, during the reporting period, UNMISS documented and verified two incidents involving 12 civilians, including one woman. These cases involved arbitrary arrest and detention, violations of due process rights, prolonged and short-term detentions under National Security Service surveillance and judicial interference, as well as the use of State institutions to suppress dissent, resulting in chilling effects on the rights to freedom of expression and association. UNMISS continued to advocate compliance with national and international human rights norms and standards and engage with

relevant stakeholders to safeguard civic space in the lead-up to the electoral period in South Sudan.

66. The Mission continued to engage and collaborate with the African Union Mission in South Sudan and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to streamline the selection of the three non-South Sudanese Commissioners for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing in accordance with the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Act (2024).

67. Between 24 and 26 July, UNMISS conducted a three-day training course on international human rights law, preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence and on the protection of civic space, which was attended by 30 security personnel (including 4 women) representing security sector actors in Western Bahr el-Ghazal State. On 12 August, UNMISS facilitated a session on civic and political space during a workshop for 35 participants (10 women) drawn from civil society, the police and the State legal administration in Jonglei State.

1. Children and armed conflict

68. The Mission verified 116 grave violations against 73 children (57 boys, 16 girls). Some 43 children (39 boys, 4 girls) were recruited and used, 15 children were killed (6 boys, 5 girls) and maimed (2 boys, 2 girls), 10 boys were abducted and 5 girls were raped. Among those children, 32 boys suffered multiple violations of recruitment through abduction, including one who suffered both violations on two occasions, while one girl was abducted, raped and maimed.

69. The Mission also verified the escape of 22 boys from forceful recruitment by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (19) and SPLM/A-IO (3). Following sustained advocacy and engagement by the Mission with SPLM/A-IO in Jonglei, two boys who had fled the South Sudan People's Defence Forces military training and sought refuge at the nearby SPLM/A-IO barracks were successfully released and reunited with their families.

70. The Mission further verified six attacks on schools and hospitals (three on each) and one incident of the denial of humanitarian assistance to children. In addition, the military use of three schools and one hospital by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces were also verified. The 116 violations occurred in Upper Nile (44), Western Equatoria (27), Jonglei (16), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (11), Central Equatoria (14), Warrap (2) and Lakes (2), and were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (73), forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (13), SPLM/A-IO (12), the South Sudan National Police Service (11), unidentified perpetrators (5) including resulting from explosive ordnance (2), unknown armed elements (2) and resulting from crossfire between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO (1) and the National Salvation Front (NAS) (1).

71. The Mission delivered 50 awareness-raising sessions on child protection to 3,037 participants (787 women), including 1,787 community members (681 women), 880 members of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (51 women), 55 staff of the South Sudan Prison Service (20 women), 118 members of the South Sudan National Police Service (21 women), 70 SPLM/A-IO officers (1 woman), 106 government officials (9 women), 17 protection partners (4 women), 3 staff of the National Security Service (all men) and one wildlife officer (man).

2. Conflict-related sexual violence

72. The Mission documented and verified 45 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 79 survivors (53 women, 26 girls). Survivors ranged in age from 11 to 65 years old; 62 survivors received medical assistance and 21 were referred to

psychosocial care. A total of 27 incidents were reported to the National Police Service. These incidents occurred in Central Equatoria, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, Western Equatoria, Warrap and Lakes, and were attributed to unidentified armed elements, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, community-based militias and/or civil defence groups, the National Police Service, the Prison Service, the National Security Service, SPLM/A-IO and NAS. A total of 17 outreach and capacity-building activities on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence were conducted across South Sudan, reaching 939 beneficiaries, including 337 women.

73. The Mission facilitated several coordination mechanisms for conflict-related sexual violence prevention and response efforts. Coordination efforts included a meeting with the Oversight Committee of the South Sudan National Police Service on the action plan for addressing conflict-related sexual violence, held on 14 August, the quarterly meeting of the joint consultation forum, on 28 August, and the quarterly meeting of the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements Technical Working Group, on 16 September. The latter is the mandated coordination mechanism under the framework for preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

E. Cross-cutting issues

1. Rule of law and accountability

74. As part of efforts to drive forward the judiciary's strategic plan, the Chief Justice launched the largest judicial deployment since independence, posting over 60 judges nationwide and re-establishing High Court benches in Unity, Upper Nile and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, after a decade of absence. A total of 10 judges were promoted to the Supreme Court and 17 to the Court of Appeals, including the first woman appointed to serve as judge in Greater Equatoria. On 26 August, the Chief Justice adopted a new code of conduct, reaffirming the judiciary's commitment to promoting integrity within its ranks.

75. In order to strengthen accountability for serious crimes, particularly sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, UNMISS supported an assessment conducted by the Military Justice Directorate of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces ahead of a General Court Martial in Eastern Equatoria (29 September–13 October). Seventeen case files were finalized across Torit, Ikotos, Kapoeta and Magwe. UNMISS also provided support to civilian justice authorities in the conduct of investigative missions and the deployment of mobile courts in Unity, Warrap, Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

76. The Mission continued to strengthen coordination between customary and criminal justice chain actors, as well as the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of formal justice actors through targeted trainings in Pibor, Bentiu, Malakal, Bor and Likuangle, which benefited over 100 justice actors. UNMISS and partners organized rule of law forums and meetings of prison development committees in Bentiu, Bor, Pariang, Torit, Yei, Yambio, Malakal, Rumbek and Aweil in order to foster inclusive dialogue to tackle obstacles and support effective access to justice at the grass-roots level.

77. In order to address unlawful detention and prison overcrowding, UNMISS supported judicial interventions that resulted in the release of 752 prisoners (60 women and 6 juveniles) in Juba, Rubkona, Torit, Yei and Wau. UNMISS complemented its technical advice with targeted infrastructure support through quick-impact projects, thus renovating prisons, prosecutors' accommodation and offices and the offices of the Military Justice Directorate of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Malakal, Renk, Magwe, Yambio and Juba, among other key locations.

78. As part of its efforts to strengthen the rule of law chain, UNMISS trained 417 staff of the South Sudan Prison Service (142 women) in Juba, Torit, Malakal, Rumbek and Bentiu on prison security and riot management, gender mainstreaming, record-keeping and human rights. In addition, UNMISS, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, provided farming tools and technical support to Unity, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Lakes States to address food insecurity in prisons, while also imparting livelihood skills.

79. With a view to strengthening civic and political space ahead of elections, UNMISS and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization supported the Transitional National Legislative Assembly in holding public consultations on the draft cybercrime and computer misuse bill and enabled relevant stakeholders to review and comment on provisions that affect freedom of expression, access to information, data protection and accountability.

2. Women and peace and security

80. Presidential decrees regarding the appointment and removal of key officials neglected the gender provisions in the Revitalized Agreement. Women's representation in leadership remains at 20 per cent, below the 35 per cent quota required by the Revitalized Agreement. In response, the Mission intensified engagement with women parliamentarians in the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and State assemblies and with women civil society leaders so as to strengthen their participation in governance.

81. The Mission further observed a demographic shift in the political participation of women due to delays in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, with attrition among veteran women leaders from the liberation struggle. UNMISS is nurturing a younger generation of women leaders through a civil society partner, to assess needs and prepare women for leadership in peace and political processes, including in constitution-making and elections. UNMISS also trained 83 women in legal professions on strategies to enhance women's participation and contribution to governance processes of the Revitalized Agreement for the achievement of sustainable peace.

3. Climate, peace and security

82. South Sudan faced a delayed onset of the rainy season, which affected farming, particularly in Upper Nile and Jonglei. The situation carries risks of crop failure, which would exacerbate food insecurity. In parallel, intense and widespread flooding is expected to exceed 2024 levels, with a peak in October and November 2025. Bentiu, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, Lakes and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal are the most heavily affected so far, with Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area declaring a state of emergency.

83. In comparison with 2024, 20 per cent of the 302 areas of high ground mapped to be used for flood response are experiencing armed conflict, which constrains self-relocation by communities. Those circumstances have resulted in overcrowding on the limited high ground and led to clashes in some areas, including the killing of five people and two people being injured in Panyijiar County.

84. The Mission has intensified early-warning monitoring and its support to national, state and county-level flood preparedness task forces. The Mission has conducted community awareness and sensitization efforts, climate-sensitive dialogues and two County Commissioners Forums in Aweil and Malakal. UNMISS has also enhanced coexistence between farmers and herders in Kuda, Central

Equatoria, and built the capacity of uniformed personnel within the Mission to respond to climate-related conflict.

VI. Mission staffing, status of deployments, and conduct and discipline

85. As at 15 October, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,660, comprising 866 international staff members, including 273 women (31.5 per cent); 1,392 national staff members, including 234 women (16.8 per cent); 384 international United Nations Volunteers, including 149 women (38.8 per cent) and 4 national United Nations Volunteers, including 2 women (50 per cent).

86. UNMISS police strength stood at 1,555 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 654 individual police officers, including 199 women (30.4 per cent); 850 personnel in formed police units, including 224 women (26.4 per cent); and 51 government-provided personnel (of an authorized 88 personnel), including 19 women (37.2 per cent).

87. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,914 military personnel: 230 military liaison officers, including 74 women (32 per cent); 435 military staff officers, including 101 women (23 per cent); and 13,249 military contingent personnel, including 948 women (7 per cent).

88. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 July and 30 September, 24 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. Two allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were recorded. 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

89. From 16 July to 30 September, UNMISS recorded 129 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement. Of these, 111 incidents involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, which affected UNMISS patrols in nine States. UNMISS cancelled 88 dynamic air and ground patrols due to the non-acknowledgement of the UNMISS sharing of information and flight safety assurance documents by the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Juba. In addition, during the previous reporting period between 1 and 15 July, the Mission recorded 19 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement, 16 of which involved movement restrictions. Among these, seven were ground-based access denials, while nine related to dynamic air and ground planned patrols that were cancelled by the Mechanism headquarters.

90. Challenges related to the non-issuance of tax exemptions for the import of essential supplies for the Mission's exclusive use, continued during the reporting period. The Ministry of Trade and Industry levies undue taxes, fees and charges on UNMISS international contractors for the importation of petroleum products (fuel) for the exclusive use of the Mission, and for rations for UNMISS troops, respectively. A ministerial order issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on 13 May and the approved regulatory import and export licence fees for financial year 2024–2025 indicate that modified fees do not exclude UNMISS contractors. UNMISS remains actively engaged on this issue.

91. On 3 September, UNMISS recorded an incident involving an ambush on an UNMISS convoy that was on patrol from Tambura to Mapuse, Western Equatoria State. The incident resulted in the unlawful seizure of a machine gun, an AK-47 assault rifle and two ammunition boxes with approximately 300 rounds. UNMISS notified the Government of the incident by note verbale.

92. The Mission noted 44 incidents of harassment of United Nations staff and patrols by immigration officials, police and personnel of the National Security Service and South Sudan People's Defence Forces, including seven cases of extortion and confiscation of documents and seven cases of monetary extortion. There were 34 incidents of intrusion into an UNMISS compound. In Juba, there were 29 incidents of UNMISS personnel being threatened, with at least eight of these at gunpoint.

93. Sixty incidents directly affected UNMISS personnel, including armed burglaries, robberies and targeted attacks. In Bor, gunmen assaulted a United Nations contractor and injured a locally recruited staff member. In Tambura, a contracted driver was detained despite a force protection escort. In greater Mundri, one contracted driver was killed and another wounded in separate ambushes. A total of 10 kidnappings targeted staff of international non-governmental organizations, while arbitrary arrests of United Nations personnel were reported in several states.

VIII. Performance optimization

94. The UNMISS force conducted 14 evaluations in six sectors and the units were found to be trained and operationally ready.

95. United Nations police conducted evaluations and contingent-owned equipment inspections for three formed police units. While overall performance was satisfactory, gaps were noted in sustainment, logistics and administrative requirements. A performance improvement plan has been initiated to address these shortcomings and ensure adherence to operational standards.

IX. Observations and recommendations

96. The further deterioration of the political and security landscape of South Sudan is deeply troubling. I am concerned about the erosion of the power-sharing arrangements established under the Revitalized Agreement, the only existing legal framework for long-term peace and stability in South Sudan. Unilateral dismissals and replacements have begun to undermine the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity and the spirit of inclusivity and consensus that the Agreement was designed to foster.

97. I note that following the prolonged detention of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, and other senior SPLM/A-IO officials since March 2025, charges and the suspension of the First Vice-President from office were announced on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the signing of the Revitalized Agreement, and his trial with the co-accused persons began shortly thereafter. I urge that any judicial proceedings adhere to international standards of due process, fairness and transparency.

98. These and other security-related challenges are fundamentally political and can only be resolved through inclusive dialogue. Accordingly, I urge the leaders of South Sudan to uphold the provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, which they themselves negotiated and signed. I also call upon IGAD, as the principal peace guarantor, to ensure that all parties are held accountable for their commitments under the

Revitalized Agreement. I stand ready to support efforts to intensify engagements that include all signatory parties, working closely with the African Union and IGAD.

99. The political impasse has had a destabilizing impact on the security situation. The ensuing re-emergence of parallel appointments by SPLM and SPLM/A-IO risks escalating tensions. Already, hostilities between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO forces in pockets of the country are resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and restricted humanitarian access. If this trend continues, the consequences would be dire and the chances of a national conflict real.

100. I call upon all parties to immediately cease hostilities and uphold the 2017 cessation of hostilities agreement. I urge the Government to ensure accountability for attacks on civilians and humanitarian actors and to take urgent steps to prevent the escalation of ethnic tensions in conflict-prone areas. UNMISS will continue to support national and local peace initiatives and early warning mechanisms, but these efforts must be matched by a display of political will by the leaders of South Sudan.

101. I remain extremely concerned about the human rights situation in South Sudan. I also condemn in the strongest possible terms the violations against children, incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and abductions, which continue to affect civilians, with limited accountability. In this regard the expansion of the judiciary and the reestablishment of High Court benches in some states for the first time in over a decade is a step in the right direction. The adoption of a new code of conduct by the Chief Justice is also a positive step. These reforms, if sustained, can contribute meaningfully to restoring public trust in the rule of law and improving access to justice.

102. The humanitarian situation remains dire. Ongoing conflict and insecurity continue to drive significant and new displacement, while a sustained influx of returnees and refugees from the Sudan and other neighbouring countries, compounded by economic and climate shocks, is placing immense strain on overstretched services. Access to some conflict-affected areas remains restricted due to insecurity and mounting bureaucratic impediments. Without urgent restoration of access, particularly in conflict-affected areas, a full-scale food and nutrition catastrophe is possible. I urge the Government and all armed actors to immediately lift access restrictions and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers so that assistance can reach communities without delay.

103. I urge Member States and donors to also scale up support for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which remains critically underfunded at less than one third of its target. I also call upon the Government to provide for its people, especially those in crisis, by expanding public services.

104. I note the significant impact that the 15 per cent reduction in expenditures, due to the liquidity crisis affecting peacekeeping operations, will have on the ability of the Mission to implement its mandate, particularly with respect to protecting civilians, capacity-building and humanitarian assistance. I urge the cooperation of the Government as the Mission adjusts to these constraints and I reaffirm the continued commitment of the United Nations to supporting the people of South Sudan. I also stress the importance of all Member States paying their assessed contributions to the peacekeeping budget in full and on time.

105. I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, the personnel of UNMISS and of the United Nations system in South Sudan and the humanitarian workers who continue to serve under extremely difficult conditions. I also thank the troop- and police-contributing countries for their steadfast support to the Mission and the African Union and IGAD for their support to the peace process in South Sudan.

Map

