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PROTECTION TRENDS SOUTH SUDAN

April - September 2016



 Rocco Nuri/UNHCR

South Sudan Protection Cluster

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INTRODUCTION

Photo: Displaced women carry sorghum and oil following a food airdrop by humanitarian organisations in Thonyor, South Sudan's Unity

This is the eighth Protection Trends report prepared by the South Sudan Protection Cluster (PC) in close collaboration with Child Protection, SGBV and Land Mines and Explosive Remnants of War sub-clusters, and other protection actors.¹ The report provides an overview of the protection situation highlighting the main threats to civilians that have caused displacement, and describes trends on issues reported and observed in the second and third quarters of 2016 (1 April through 30 September).² A detailed description of the main conflict displacement areas, obstacles to return, and specific sections on the threats against children, gender-based violence, and landmines and explosive remnants of war is also included. The report also examines certain trends since the crisis started in December 2013 with the data available. Recommendations for the humanitarian community, the UN Mission (UNMISS) and the government of South Sudan are also provided.

OVERVIEW OF PROTECTION THREATS

With the return of opposition leader and First Vice-President designate Dr. Riek Machar and the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity upon his return in April 2016, many considered this as a step forward for the Peace Process. This was an opportunity for the President and First VP to start to work together on the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan

(ARCSS) signed by both in August 2015. There was even optimism that there was now a chance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return, and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) started to plan with the government to create a strategy for return of IDPs and durable solutions. However few aspects of the ARCSS were implemented over the next months while increasing conflict in Greater Bahr el Ghazal, the Equatoria region and leading up to the July Conflict in Juba resulted in Machar fleeing again from the country. In addition to no progress with the Agreement, the 28 states decree by the President in October 2015, and subsequently, further establishment of new counties in some new states, was pursued by the President and opposed by the In Opposition (IO) leaders and many communities.³ This creation of new jurisdictions and control of areas, has contributed to increased tensions and protests over land ownership, resources and authority and further fragmentation of communities including in areas that were previously not affected by conflict.⁴ In some areas, this resulted in violent attacks against civilians by government forces causing displacement. As the previous PC Trends report identified conflict in the Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal, conflict continued in these areas and increased in the Equatoria region where changes of the political authorities and demarcation of land took place, resulting in displacement during this reporting period. Since the first quarter report, major incidents of human rights violations have been identified

¹ See previous reports at: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/protection

² To provide the most up to date report some information obtained in October is included.

³ See Security Council Report, Month Forecast, 1 April 2016: The government has been unwilling to reconsider Kiir's October 2015 decree increasing the number of states in the country from ten to 28. This decision violates the August 2015 agreement, which is based on power-sharing ratios in ten states. Furthermore, it has aroused the ire of minority ethnic communities, who view the decision as an effort to confiscate some of their land and power for the benefit of the Dinka, Kiir's ethnic group. Also see Wikipedia description, 28 States decree South Sudan: The decree established the new states largely along ethnic lines. A number of opposition parties challenged the constitutionality (of the decree).

⁴ See International Crisis Group report on Greater Equatoria region, May 2016.

in Jonglei, Leer, the Upper Nile region, Western Bahr el Ghazal and the Equatoria region, including Juba, and both parties to the conflict have used tactics that demonstrate a lack of commitment to international humanitarian law and the violation of human rights against civilians. Below are some specific examples of international humanitarian law and human rights violations that describe the current protection environment that is causing displacement.

TARGETING OF CIVILIANS AND COMMUNITIES, INDISCRIMINATE FIRING INTO CIVILIAN AREAS AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

The targeting of civilians appears to be spread across broader geographic areas during this reporting period. Areas that had previously been for the most part calm, most notably in Western Bahr el Ghazal and the Equatoria region, have experienced new surges of violence that have been characterized by ethnically motivated attacks on civilians, as well as indiscriminate firing into civilian areas.⁵

Both Government and Opposition forces have been responsible for targeted killings of persons on the basis of their ethnicity. During the July 2016 conflict in Juba, government forces reportedly went house to house in neighborhoods in Juba looting property and killing anyone of Nuer ethnicity.⁶ More recently in the Equatoria region, a common threat has been road ambushes between Juba and cities to the south and the border, during which individuals from certain ethnic groups are identified and killed. In one such incident on 9 October along Yei Road, according to media reports, 21 Dinka individuals (including women and children) were killed.⁷

Journalists and human rights actors are concerned for their own safety. The actors that gather information on HR and IHL violations, particularly national actors, should be commended for their brave efforts in such a dangerous environment. Radio stations and newspapers have come under threat and have been closed by the government for reporting on government misconduct and abuse of civilians. Journalists have been abducted, tortured, targeted and killed.⁸ This has put a chilling effect on freedom of speech about grave human rights violations within the Protection Cluster and throughout the humanitarian community. Root causes to conflicts that create fear in the civilian population that force them to flee are vaguely described, limiting fact-finding for accountability to contribute to transitional justice and peace-building. This further impacts on the overall goal of ending conflict to achieve durable solutions.

Both parties to the conflict have also been observed firing from and into civilian areas. In Juba during the July crisis, much of the fighting took place in residential neighborhoods, with armed actors showing clear disregard for the impact on the civilian population. In Mundri, Yei, and elsewhere in the Equatoria region, civilians reported

the government fired from helicopter gunships into civilian areas.

The ongoing attacks causing large-scale displacement in the Equatoria region is an example of the blatant violation of civilians' safety and welfare. Government forces have deployed counter-insurgency tactics that collectively punish civilian communities, depopulating areas with rebel activity. In Yei, Lainya, Mundri and Torit it is reported by NGOs and UNMISS that the SPLA is forcing entire communities to move, telling the people in surrounding villages to come to the main town so they can drive out insurgents. Persons who do not move to towns are considered associated with the IO and targeted.⁹ Similarly, armed groups have attacked civilian vehicles along the main roads in the region particularly targeting ethnic Dinkas, causing further fear and displacement.

DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY AND ASSETS

Throughout the nearly three years of the South Sudan crisis, armed groups (including government forces) have repeatedly targeted civilian homes, crops, and assets such as cattle which serve as both a source of food and as a de facto currency. During a Protection Cluster assessment conducted in Leer in April 2016, interviewees reported that in addition to stealing cattle, destroying tools and crops, and permanently damaging civilian infrastructure, attackers also systematically cut down or burned mango trees to remove any natural source of food or livelihood.

Protection actors have also observed what appear to be "depopulation" tactics in other locations around the country. During the attacks on the surrounding villages of Yei from July and still ongoing in some remote areas, IDPs in Yei and Wau towns reported the SPLA forced civilians to flee into the town and the bush, burning homes, inflicting heavy damage on civilian structures, and looting of farm and food stocks and animals.¹⁰ Similar reports from IDPs in Wau were also documented.¹¹ During a recent interagency assessment in Torit County, Eastern Equatoria, protection actors observed villages that had been burned. Most of Eastern and Central Equatoria had been spared during the first two years of the conflict, but now it appears poised for further deterioration.

ATTACKS CAUSING HARM TO CIVILIANS IN UN PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS SITES

The previous PC Trends report highlighted the attack on the Malakal POC site by government forces in February 2016. The July 2016 Juba crisis has now been well documented by independent experts such as Human Rights Watch and CIVIC, as well as by UN Special Investigation teams. Although the majority of the fighting occurred between the two main armed groups, the impact on the civilian population was significant causing large scale displacement. Due to the proximity of the Opposition

⁵ The Protection Cluster received a smaller number of reports of deliberate targeting of civilians. House to house searches reportedly took place in at least five neighborhoods in Juba, with soldiers asking questions in their local language to "test" the ethnicity of the person. Nuer men and women appear to have been particularly targeted, and would reportedly be killed (or raped and then killed, in the case of women) on the spot if they were discovered. Nuer with tribal markings were particularly vulnerable, and those who could not make it to one of the UN Sites were reportedly forced into hiding. These house to house searches do not appear to have reached the scale or level of organization that occurred in 2013, but are nevertheless extremely concerning.

⁶ Protection Cluster Juba Update, 20 July 2016

⁷ UNMISS has confirmed the incident took place without confirmation of the identity of the victims, but suspect the perpetrators are likely from a rebel group from the Equatoria region (JOC meeting, 13 October 2016).

⁸ See The Guardian news report, South Sudan reporter murdered, the seventh journalist killed this year, 21 August 2016. Also see numerous reports from Reporters without Borders on South Sudan.

⁹ PC Juba Update, 8 July 2016

¹⁰ Protection Cluster update, 7 October 2016 and UNHCR Wau Situation Report: Protection Factsheet: Western Bahr el Ghazal, 31 March 2016.

¹¹ See Human Rights Watch Report, Wau, 14 May 2016.

cantonment site to one of the UNMISS bases in Juba, heavy fighting occurred around the UN House POC sites. Multiple mortars fell inside the POC sites, including two grenades that fell on the maternity ward of the hospital for IDPs. Over 60 IDPs inside the UN House POC Sites were reportedly killed as a result of the fighting.¹²

The POC site that formed in Tumping was also heavily affected by the fighting. Government forces set up roadblocks along each of the main access gates to the UNMISS Tumping base, which prevented civilians from accessing the site safely. Human rights actors documented incidents of people being shot at from nearby buildings as they tried to reach the safety of the base. As in UN House, mortars were also fired into the UNMISS Tumping base, though the fatalities in Tumping were comparatively lower at less than ten reported deaths.¹³

UNLAWFUL DETENTIONS AND FORCED DISAPPEARANCES OF CIVILIANS

Unlawful detentions and forced disappearances of young men continue to be a prominent feature of the conflict in South Sudan, particularly in the Equatoria region, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States. This threat to the population instills fear and causes people to flee. Over the past few months there have been 46 cases reported by family members of people going missing after they have gone outside of the Malakal POC site, however only a few of these cases have been confirmed as detained by government forces or still missing. Two have been confirmed dead. There is no effective tracking procedure as IDPs are not required to report when reported “missing persons” are released or are found. In Wau town, there are regular reports by IDPs of family members missing after they attempt to return to their property.

The use of shipping containers as informal detention sites was reported previously in Leer County, October 2015 and has also been reported in other areas, and most recently in Yei town. The Protection Cluster has received reports that government actors have “preemptively detained” many men of fighting age who are perceived to be sympathizers of the Opposition and held in a shipping container in the SPLA barracks outside of town. In a recent fact finding mission sent by the President it was acknowledged that young men were being held by the SPLA and a release arrangement was agreed with local church and community leaders. As of this date there are reports that 23 youth have been released but over a hundred still remain in detention.¹⁴

RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Civilians in multiple areas around the country have

faced serious restrictions on their freedom of movement. From 13 -17 July, it is estimated up to 20,000 people were prevented from crossing the border to Uganda by the South Sudan authorities at the Nimule border. New arrivals in Uganda reported that border points are heavily guarded (on the South Sudanese side), with many asylum seekers choosing to cross the border through minor crossing points or are arriving to Uganda irregularly through the bush.¹⁵ In Yei, civilians were driven into the town following extensive violence in surrounding areas, and are now trapped inside the town center. The four access roads in and out of the city have multiple checkpoints, first of government soldiers and then opposition forces, making it nearly impossible for anyone to leave without resources to buy their way out.¹⁶ Civilians in Yei town have repeatedly requested for a corridor to be established to help them escape to Uganda. Targeting of civilians and transport vehicles on the main roads to the southern border by armed groups has also prevented the movement of people and essential goods. This will also have a significant impact on the rest of the country as the Equatoria region is not only the breadbasket for the country but also provides all of the main southern trade routes to Uganda, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These acts that restrict freedom of movement are a serious human rights violation impacting on the ability of civilians to seek safety, security and access their own resources and humanitarian assistance.

Restrictions of movement persist for the Malakal POC site and the river crossing between Malakal and Wau-Shilluk, as previously reported. Over 75% of the population in the POC site was previously living in Malakal town and cannot return there for security reasons. From focus group discussions with IDPs inside the Malakal POC site after the February attack on the POC site and now approaching three years in the confined site, an increasing number of IDPs are expressing they would like to leave to a safer location, including seeking asylum in Sudan.¹⁷ While access for humanitarians to the west bank of the river is often granted for short periods of time, civilians continue to face extreme risks when outside the POC site and when trying to cross the river. IDPs from the POC site faced arrest, abductions, sexual violence, and some killed. As a result of these threats, children are unable to reunite with their caregivers due to the risks associated with the journey. Still, many IDPs have tried to cross the river under the cover of darkness, only to be confronted by soldiers at risk of exploitation and abuse, rape and some “missing” as reported above.

For people in the POC sites, as a result of the lack of security provided in their places of origin by the government, the lack of freedom of movement from the POC sites has

created congestion in the sites and protection concerns are increased as the confined community is dependent on assistance. The leadership structures that develop in the camp-like setting further harm the coping mechanisms and support of communities. The POC sites, as all camp-like situations, generate unhealthy conditions, increase vulnerability of women and children by increasing risks of exploitation and abuse and gender based violence. Long stay in the POC sites have deteriorated the psychosocial conditions of inhabitants, increased dependency and provide an environment that enables youth to organize to the detriment of their own community. A newly identified phenomena in recent months is incidents of suicide and attempted suicide by children in the Malakal POC site . A prerequisite for improvement of the conditions for the population in the POC sites is for the government and UNMISS to increase the protective environment outside these sites to enable freedom of movement that contributes to decongestion so humanitarian standards in the POC sites can be improved.¹⁸

Despite the lack of services and essential resources in communities outside of POC/camp-like sites, as recommended in the previous report, more frequent and

proactive patrols are needed combined with holding the government accountable to deter attacks on civilians around the POC sites and beyond, as well as to create the conditions that would enable people to return to their homes. Juba is an example where thousands of people in the POC sites live a short walk away from their home. With more focus on providing security outside of the POC sites and engaging with communities with the appropriate support, civilians can better protect themselves, re-establish their human rights and restore their dignity. An example of this approach is the “Beyond Bentiu Outreach Response Strategy”.¹⁹

¹² OHCHR, Update on the Human Rights Situation in South Sudan, July 2016

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ UNOCHA reported, information obtained from released youth.

¹⁵ UNHCR monitoring report, 13 July 2016

¹⁶ Protection Cluster Yei Situation and surrounding area Update, 7 October 2016

¹⁷ UNHCR focus group discussions in the POC site and see MSF Internal Review of February Attack on POC site, June 2016

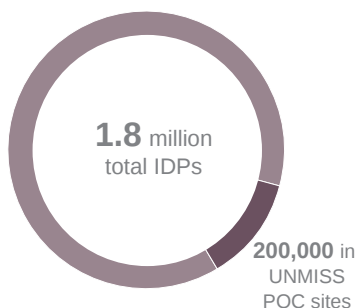
¹⁸ To emphasize, it is the government responsibility to provide security of their civilian population.

¹⁹ This strategy focuses on training and delivery of humanitarian assistance in vulnerable communities to enable them to remain in their places of origin where they can access established community support mechanisms.

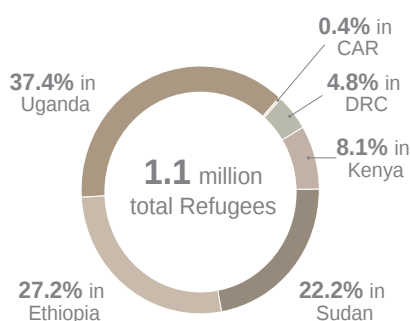


DISPLACEMENT

IDPs as of September 2016



South Sudanese Refugees as of September 2016



In the last reporting period (1 January to 31 March 2016) the total number of IDPs was 1.69 million and the number of South Sudanese refugees reported was 820,000. At present (end September 2016) the estimated number of IDPs is 1.8 million and the number of refugees is now more than 1 million. This brings the total of conflict displaced persons from 2.5 million (March 2016) to over 2.8 million (mid October 2016). The IDP population has increased by 6.5% in the last six months and the number of South Sudanese seeking asylum in surrounding countries has increased by 34%. People who had been and are presently being forcibly displaced are increasingly moving across the border to Uganda, DRC, Ethiopia and recently to Kenya seeking security and assistance. With conflicts erupting in new areas near international borders and in areas where there has been sustained insecurity and the populations' resources have become depleted, people are fleeing to where they can obtain protection assisted by a host government, UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in the neighboring countries. As of the second week of October 2016, there are over 450,000 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. Half of these arrived since July 2016.²⁰ From monitoring of new arrivals in Uganda, a significant number have been living as IDPs in Juba and as far away as Bentiu stating they can no longer afford to provide for their families in South Sudan without work or access to their land.²¹ Since the July 2016 conflict in Juba, over 2,000

persons have been crossing the border to Uganda each day and since the first week of September, on average, each day over 1,000 people have been fleeing to Ethiopia.

The most significant displacement situations from April to September 2016 are described below.

Equatoria region - In the July Juba conflict, during the first four days of the fighting, an estimated 40,000 people fled from their homes in the capital, seeking refuge in UN bases that were already hosting IDPs and collective sites such as churches and schools. All civilians that fled to Tamping have either left the site or have been transferred to UN House POC sites. There are now over 40,000 IDPs in the two UN House IDP sites, an increase of about 11,000 persons. Over 11,500 IDPs are estimated to be in identified informal IDP collective sites in urban Juba. An increasing number of IDPs are arriving in Juba town approaching the UN House POC and going to other informal settlements, as well as those staying with host communities, integrating into the urban population.²² Many of these newly displaced are from the Equatoria region that includes a sizable Dinka population. The IDP population in Juba is now estimated to be as high as 100,000 and could be much higher.²³

In the three months since the renewed outbreak of fighting in Juba in the beginning of July 2016, there has been an expansion

²⁰ UNHCR Uganda: #48 Emergency Update on the South Sudan Refugee Situation 14 October 2014

²¹ Border monitoring report, UNHCR Uganda, 23 September 2016

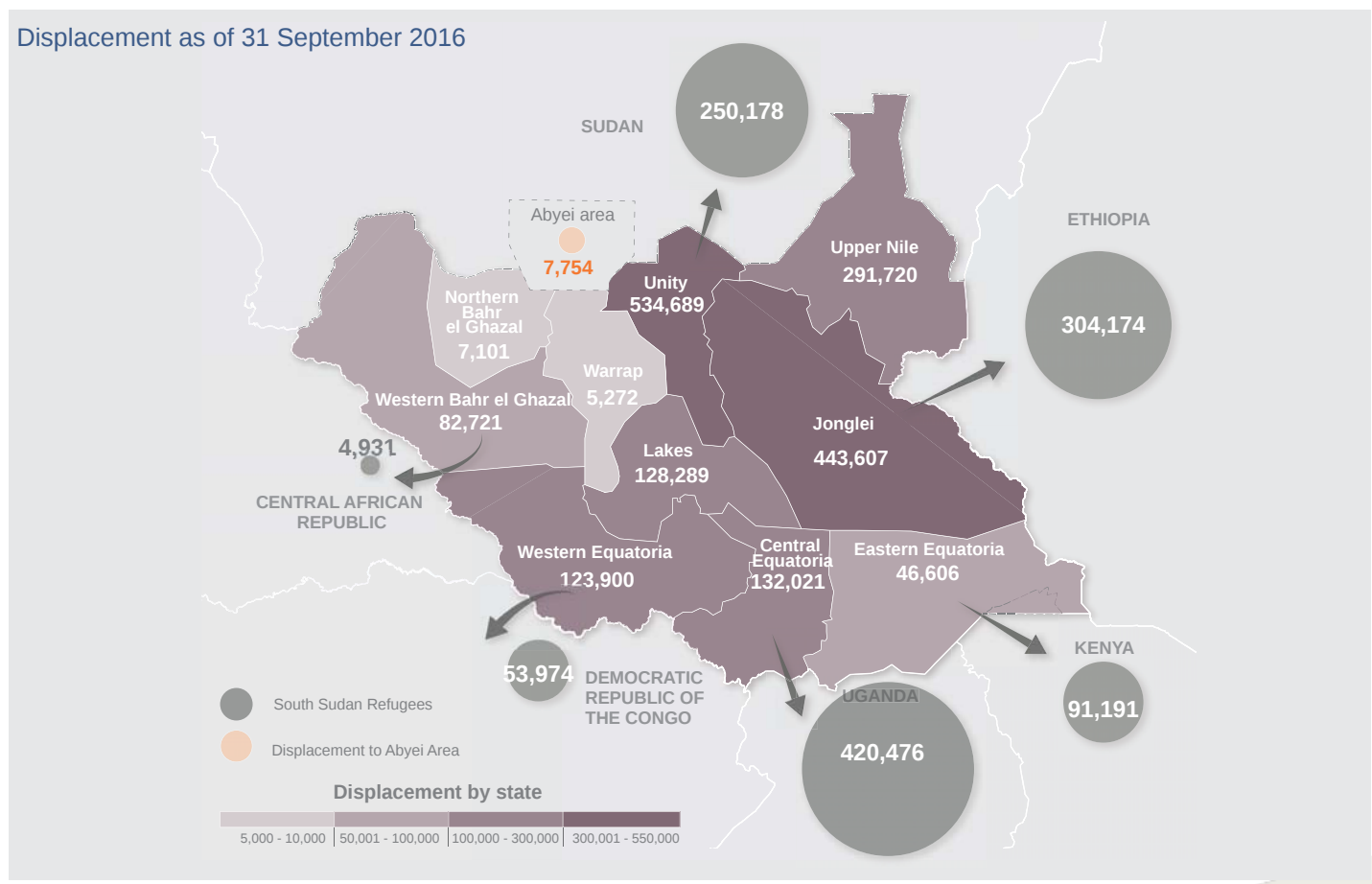
²² The community leaders in Mahad settlement reported to UNHCR that they have received a total of 1,280 HHs/ 10,695 individual IDPs who came from Yei to Juba by flights. 800 HHs were brought by government through the road. These IDPs are living with their relatives/families within residential areas in Juba but went to the site only to be registered for humanitarian assistance. The camp chairman reported the case to RRC-CES. The majority of these IDPs are from Dinka community. They also reported that more people are expected to come to Juba from Yei and other towns from the Equatoria region. (Field report 21 October 2016).

²³ This includes POC sites, informal settlements, IDPs renting space and living with host families (information gathered from UNHCR and partner monitoring and focus groups discussions in Juba neighborhoods).

of the civil war particularly in the south of the Equatoria region. It is estimated there are now over 300,000 IDPs in the Equatoria region (not including Juba).²⁴ With the increased SPLA deployment to the Equatoria region after the July Juba conflict, there have been numerous attacks and human rights violations reported including abductions, forced disappearances, killings and rapes. Tens of thousands people are displaced from large areas of Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria. Over 50,000 IDPs have been registered in Yei town. It is estimated there are 30-40,000 IDPs in Torit town and many more in surrounding villages and the northern mountain area. The conflict has spread causing displacement in Magwi, Ikotos, Budi and Lopa counties.²⁵ With the extent of fear and destruction reported by communities, people continue to flee, particularly within the Central and Eastern regions to Uganda and smaller numbers to Kenya. With restricted freedom of movement imposed by the SPLA, increased attacks on civilians by armed groups on main roads and organized IO attacks on SPLA positions, a return of the displaced population is not expected in the near future.

In the **Western Bahr el Ghazal**, at present, over 80,000 IDPs are unable to return to their homes. During the first half of 2016 SPLA soldiers increasingly carried out a wide

range of attacks on civilians in and around Wau town against the majority Fertit-Balanda population.²⁶ Eight new counties were created without local consultation and agreement in April 2016 in the Western Bahr el Ghazal region which added to the civilian unrest. The abuses in the Western Bahr el Ghazal region took place during government counterinsurgency operations against local armed youth groups. Many civilians, particularly young men, were arrested and killed for being perceived as SPLM-IO supporters.²⁷ Governor Elias Waya Nyipuoc admitted that by 30 May 2016, he had confirmed that at least 100 civilians had been murdered by SPLA soldiers, and had reported the cases to the government.²⁸ While the violence in Wau town mostly abated after 7 July, fighting continues in the countryside. There are now over 25,000 IDPs in the UNMISS protected area in Wau town. In six other locations in town there is a total of over 16,000 IDPs. Outside of town, humanitarians are severely restricted but over the course of months over 42,000 IDPs were identified in other parts of Wau county, Jur River and Raja counties.²⁹ In all IDP locations, lack of physical security and safety; restrictions on freedom of movement; inadequate shelter with many IDPs sleeping in the open, indicate the dire humanitarian situation. Outside of Wau town in nine areas assessed, all civilian infrastructures have been burnt or



²⁴ International Crisis Group reported in May 2016, more than 100,000 have been displaced (See Crisis Group Africa Report #236, 25 May 2016, pg 16)

²⁵ See REACH Situation Overview: Displacement and intentions in Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan, 17 October 2016.

²⁶ See Aljezeera report by Richard Nield, 3 July 2016, South Sudan: Dozens killed as violence flares in Wau.

²⁷ Human Rights Watch Press release on Wau, 14 May 2016.

²⁸ See Wikipedia Wau 2016 Clashes.

²⁹ Agreed numbers of IDPs with IOM, OCHA and Protection Cluster meeting 21 October 2016.

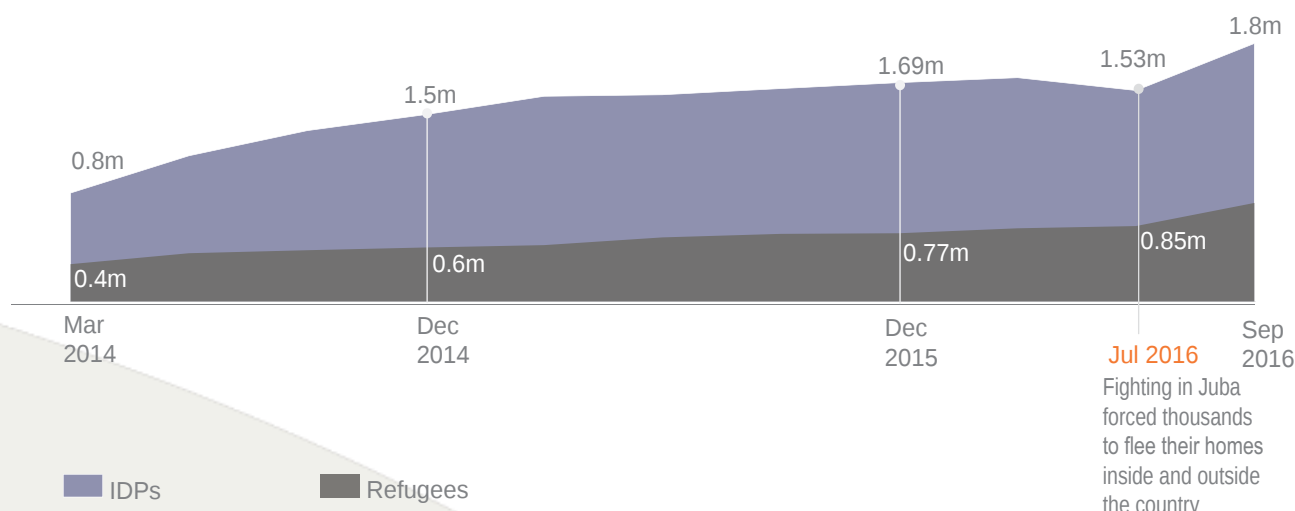
destroyed, including schools and clinics. IDPs continue to arrive at collective centers and the UNMISS protected area in Wau town.³⁰ Fear of returning to their homes is repeated. IDPs report that neighbors or relatives were shot at, arrested, robbed, tortured, and killed.³¹

In the **Upper Nile** region, in early August 2016 fighting between IO and SPLA occurred in Nasir County resulting a large displacement as people moved to safer locations, including a large cross-border movement. Since the beginning of September 2016 over 42,000 South Sudanese have arrived in Gambella, Ethiopia. An average of 1,000 individuals continue to be received daily.³² Insecurity from IO and SPLA fighting is the major cause of displacement in areas in the Upper Nile State (Nasir, Maban, Mathiang and Maiwut) coupled with food insecurity. Civilians have been further confronted with floods, which is adding to the number of IDPs not only in Nasir County but also in Longechuk and Maiwut Counties. Fighting between IO and SPLA resumed in Nasir town in September which has prevented return. In Liang, Maban County, during the first week of August fighting broke out between the SPLA-IO and government forces resulting into 3 fatalities and 3 civilians injured. UNHCR registered 385 individuals newly displaced as a result of the fighting who fear to return because of continuing insecurity.³³ At the time of this report, large numbers of South Sudanese continue to flee to Ethiopia from the Upper Nile region.

In **Jonglei**, insecurity and fighting continues to caused displacement and prevent return of IDPs. Following the outbreak of fighting in Juba, July 2016, there have been

clashes between the government and IO forces in Pajut, Duk, Uror and Poktap. Deaths of over 500 people and the displacement of over 16,750 persons has been assessed by protection partners in the area and monitoring on the border of people crossing to Ethiopia indicates many people fleeing are coming from as far away as these areas. Over 1,100 IDPs fleeing fighting in neighboring Unity State also arrived in Jonglei and 4,027 IDPs as a result of communities fighting over land. With the IO in control of about 60 percent of the state, IO and SPLA clashes are common resulting in the displacement of civilians, looting and destruction of farmland and property. Fear over the spread of the conflict in Ayod, Akobo, Fangak and Uru, has caused more displacement. People will remain displaced given the tenuous security situation caused by the two warring factions and cattle raiding.³⁴

Displacement Trends Mar2014 - Sep2016



³⁰ Reported in UNMISS JOC meeting, 20 October 2016

³¹ Human Rights Watch, South Sudan: Civilians Killed, Tortured in Western Region, 24 May 2016

³² UNHCR South Sudan Situation, Ethiopia Update #8, 14 October 2016

³³ UNHCR Maban Office Protection report, 13 October 2016

³⁴ UNHCR Bor Field Office report, 11 October 2016

Separated Children



8,373

Missing Children



3,564

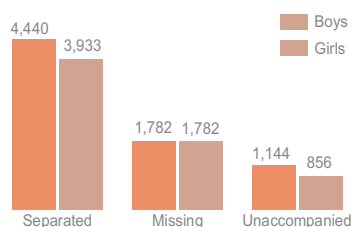
Unaccompanied Children



2,000

Unaccompanied, Missing and Separated

Children by Gender as of 30 September 2016



FAMILY TRACING AND REUNIFICATION

Ongoing fighting and resulting displacement continued to cause family separation. By the end of September 2016, 13,937 children across South Sudan had been registered as unaccompanied, separated or missing, an increase of 3,596 since the same time last year, or 300 new cases a month.

The rate of reunifications has held consistently at just over 42% through 2016, a marked improvement on the 22.2% seen at the end of the third quarter last year, but one shifting in accordance with a changed funding environment and renewed focus on care monitoring for separated and unaccompanied children. At the end of the third quarter, Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) partners were managing a total national caseload of 9,139 active cases, having reunified 4,394 children with their parents or usual caregiver since the onset of the conflict, 1,013 during the first three quarters of 2016.

Family Tracing and Reunification services have been stretched to respond to changing conflict and displacement dynamics through the second and third quarters, particularly across the Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal regions. While inaccessibility and a limited partner presence in Eastern and Central Equatoria have made it difficult to determine the extent of need, largescale population movement and ongoing insecurity speak to the need for expansion of the national FTR platform into this expanding conflict area.

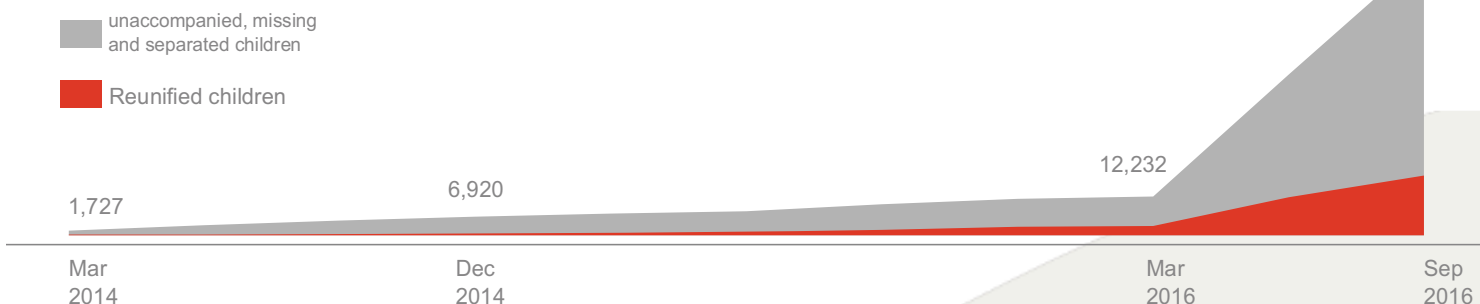
Protection partners also continue to be worried about the projected 16,000 children who are believed to be associated with

armed forces or armed groups, though the partners are encouraged by the planned release of children from the SPLA-IO.

As a result of the severity of the violence and displacement in South Sudan, the trauma and psychosocial support needs are acute across all segments of the population. While the total psychological impact is currently unknown, it is estimated that more than 907,000 children are experiencing some form of psychosocial distress, up from 876,000 at the end of the third quarter in 2015. In addition to the trauma experienced by both IDPs and host communities, displacement makes it difficult to process the events naturally.

Since 2015, protection partners have transitioned to a community-based strategy for psychosocial support, which focuses on building the psychosocial response capacity of traditional caregivers, complemented by direct psychosocial support for the most complex cases. In the first quarter of 2016, 51,707 children received psychosocial support, the largest group being adolescent boys 11-17 years old. In addition, 256 mothers and 102 fathers received training on parental support and protection skills. While 6,258 caregivers received dedicated supportive services as well, there is a huge gap in psychosocial support for the adult population of South Sudan.

Family Tracing and Reunification (cumulative)
Mar2014 - Sep2016



Source: Family Tracing and Reunification database.



GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Attacks on & military use of schools & hospitals



5,636 affected children

Recruitment and use of children



399 affected children

Abduction



81 affected children

Killing



53 affected children

Sexual violence



43 affected children

Injuring



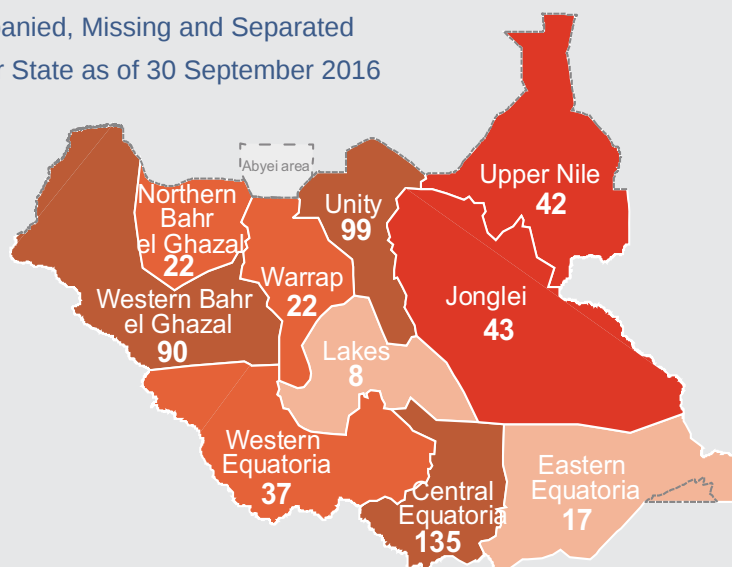
37 affected children

During the first quarter of 2016, 240 incidents of grave violations of children's rights were reported through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), affecting approximately 5,004 children. The UN verified 185 incidents of these incidents. Fewer incidents were documented during this reporting period than in the previous quarter, when 258 incidents were reported. The majority of verified incidents (70%) have continued to take place in the Greater Upper Nile — Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile. Military activity also increased in Western Bahr el Ghazal, where almost as many verified incidents (18) were documented during this reporting period as in all of 2015 (17 cases total). Denial of humanitarian access accounted for 33 per cent of all incidents documented

during the reporting period through the MRM. Incidents included attacks on and looting of humanitarian facilities that were providing child protection services to communities in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, as well as attacks on the UN Protection of Civilians site in Malakal, during which schools and hospitals were also attacked.

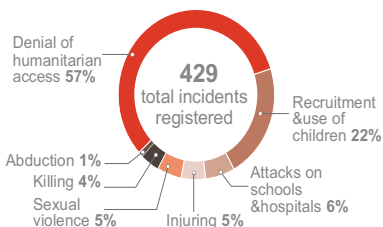
Incidents of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups were the second most reported accounting for 29 per cent of all incidents reported. Sixty-one incidents were documented during the reporting period, slightly higher than the average quarterly incidents documented in 2015, which was 50. Of the 61 incidents, 46 were documented in the Greater Upper Nile region.

Unaccompanied, Missing and Separated Children per State as of 30 September 2016



Source: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

Registered Incidents: April - September 2016



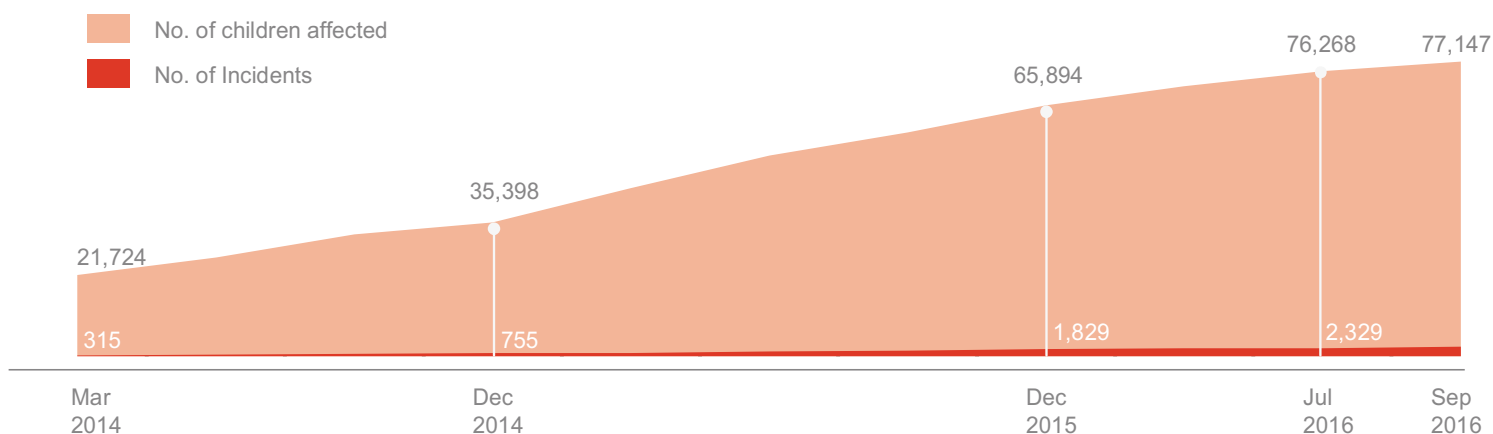
At the end of 2015, the UN signed an action plan with the SPLA-IO to stop and prevent the recruitment and use of children and killing and maiming of children. The SPLA signed an action plan with the UN to stop and prevent the recruitment and use of children in 2009. It signed a revised action plan in 2012 and made a recommitment to its revised action plan in 2014. Both the SPLA and the SPLA-IO are listed for recruitment and use of children and killing and maiming of children in the Secretary-General's 2015 report on children and armed conflict.

In 2015, 1,054 incidents of grave violations were documented through the MRM, an increase of 28.2 per cent from 2014, when 756 incidents were documented. Incidents of all six types of grave violations, with the exception of maiming, increased in 2015; indeed, incidents of killing more than doubled, and incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence increased by 41 per cent. In both years, the majority of such violations have been documented

in the Greater Upper Nile. The increase in documented violations in 2015 are mostly attributable to the prolonged fighting in Unity, which targeted and displaced civilians from villages throughout the state into the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. Witnesses and survivors of attacks on villages recounted incidents of killing, maiming, raping, and abduction of children. According to multiple testimonies, children were not only victims of the attacks but also perpetrators as child soldiers.

Finally, incidents of attacks on and military use of schools have been recorded throughout South Sudan, particularly in Unity and Central Equatoria. Since the start of the conflict, schools have been used as barracks, living quarters for soldiers and their families, and even as recruitment centres for children.

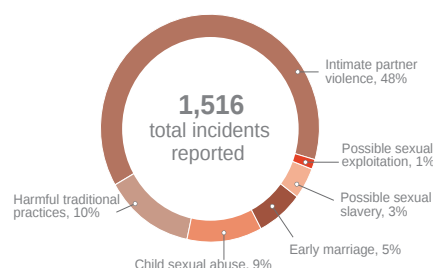
Incidents of Grave Child Rights Violations (cumulative) Mar2014 - Sep2016





GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

GBV Reported Cases: Case Context April - September 2016

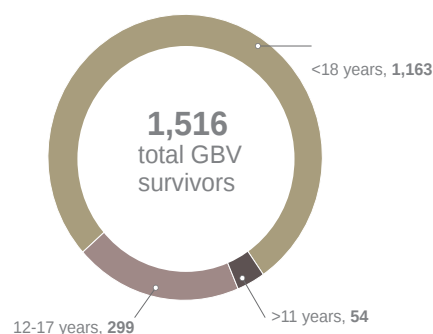


The needs for response and prevention of Gender-based violence (GBV) as part of the Protection of Civilians mandate have increased since the last protection trends report. Gender-based violence in the context of the humanitarian emergency in South Sudan is widespread.

The reported forms of GBV continue to be egregious. They include gang rapes, mass rape, demands for sex for food and safe passage for survival, sexual slavery, widow inheritance and early and forced marriage, forced recruitment and abuse of children and high prevalence of intimate partner violence. Gender-based violence is occurring in IDP areas, POC sites, refugee hosting areas and in urban displacement and conflict areas across the country. All parties to conflict allegedly committed acts of GBV, including sexual violence. Community leaders, police, security guards and UN/ NGO staff were other alleged perpetrators of different types of gender-based violence.

August, reported incidents decreased but rose approximately 56% during September. Intimate partner violence comprised the largest percentage of reported incidents in all months. Different forms of sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, forced and early marriage and possible sexual slavery) were the second most reported types of incidents. In a disturbing new trend, incidents of harmful traditional practices exponentially increased from previous months in July, with 72 incidents reported. Incidents of possible sexual slavery more than tripled during July, with 25 incidents reported. Forced marriages doubled in number in July, with 41 reported incidents. UNMISS reportedly documented 217 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence in July 2016 alone. Since July, service providers have received multiple reports of GBV, including sexual violence, occurring in the context of the conflict in Yei, Mundri, Eastern Equatoria and Southern Unity, but humanitarians have not been granted sufficient access to mount a multi-sector protection response for survivors. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the Violation of the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict (MRM) recorded 37 incidents of sexual violence affecting 137 girls from January to September 2016.

GBV Reported Cases: Age of the Survivor April - September 2016



The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBV-IMS), used by humanitarian service providers and managed by UNFPA, recorded 1516 incidents of GBV from 1 April to 31 September 2016. Survivors comprised 1163 adults and 353 children, who received GBV response services. In May and July incidents sharply increased, with a 106% increase in incidents from June to July. The highest number of physical assaults and rapes reported occurred in July. In

The reported incidents represent only the tip of the iceberg of GBV prevalence, due to the stigma and violence often associated with reporting acts of GBV and survivors' limited access to reporting mechanisms and services.

The GBVIMS was rolled out in South Sudan in 2014. It currently includes 15 member organizations. GBVIMS data that is shared is only from reported cases in areas where the data-gathering organizations are providing services, and is in no way representative of the total incidence or prevalence of GBV in South Sudan. These statistical trends are generated exclusively by GBV service providers who use the GBVIMS for data collection in the implementation of GBV response activities in a limited number of locations across South Sudan and with the consent of survivors.

GBV Reported Cases:
Types of Incidents
April - September 2016

Physical assault

 746

Rape

 246

Psychological abuse

 206

Denial of resources

 143

Forced marriage

 113

Sexual violence

 62

Women and girls who leave POC sites to gather firewood and food are under particular threat. They are regularly attacked in Juba, Wau, Bentiu and Malakal, among other places, including abduction and rape. These attacks often occur at military checkpoints and in close proximity to POC sites.

Gender-based violence in POC sites is also a serious concern. Security of latrine areas and insecurity related to poor lighting in the POC site needs to be addressed on a priority basis for prevention. Livelihood programs must be strengthened to mitigate GBV risks as well as to contribute to addressing inequality as a root cause of GBV. Although there are awareness-raising, health, psycho-social, humanitarian led-protective patrols, and some skills-building initiatives to prevent GBV and support survivors, access to legal/justice measures for civilians in POC sites is not possible.

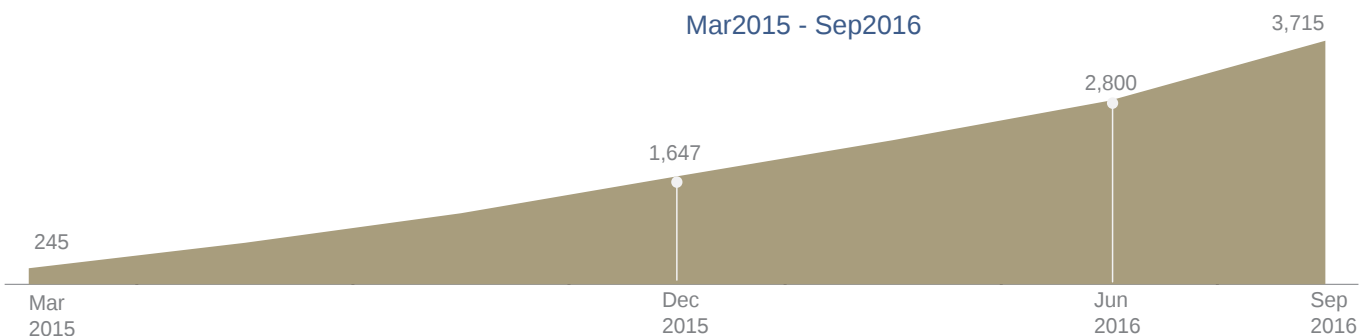
Survivors who experience GBV inside of PoCs do not have adequate access to justice options. UNMISS has a quasi-policing structure in place, including POC holding centers where it can detain alleged perpetrators of GBV, exercising regular detention review procedures. However, with the lack of rule of law, lack of guarantees of protection of fundamental human rights for

alleged perpetrators to allow for handover to national authorities, and inadequate judicial capacity and laws to prosecute GBV, there is not a realistic option to bring cases to courts for survivors in PoCs to obtain justice and protection.

Without access to freedom of movement and an end to the conflict, in addition to measures to strengthen the justice system, survivors in POC sites will not have their rights to truth or justice fulfilled. Currently, only international or hybrid judicial mechanisms would be able to fill this gap over the long term.

The diminishing humanitarian space in South Sudan has severe negative consequences for survivors of gender-based violence. Indiscriminate armed attacks by parties to conflict that damaged health facilities and the prevalence of armed actors in hospitals prevent access to life-saving interventions for survivors, such as post-rape treatment and other GBV-related services. Conflict-induced displacement and flight to neighboring countries has robbed South Sudan of essential local healthcare personnel trained to respond to GBV.

Number of GBV Reported Cases (cumulative)
Mar2015 - Sep2016

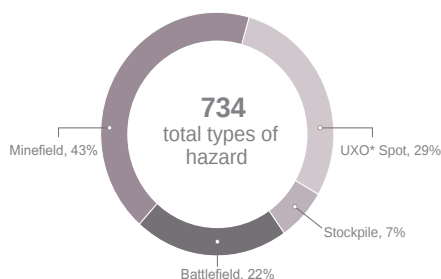




LANDMINES AND EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

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Types of Hazards
as of September 2016

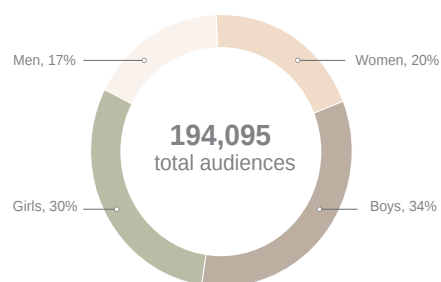


The explosive legacy of conflict in South Sudan means that nearly eight million people live in counties which are impacted by explosive hazards, with 92 million square metres of land contaminated by such hazards recorded in the Mine Action database. The map below illustrates the spread of known explosive hazards across all of South Sudan. The full extent of contamination from landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains unknown, as the Greater Upper Nile region (including Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei) has not yet been comprehensively surveyed and the impact of armed violence in the region remains to be quantified.

From April to June, Mine Action teams were deployed across the country to conduct surveys, clearance, and risk education to support protection of civilians, create conditions for the delivery of humanitarian

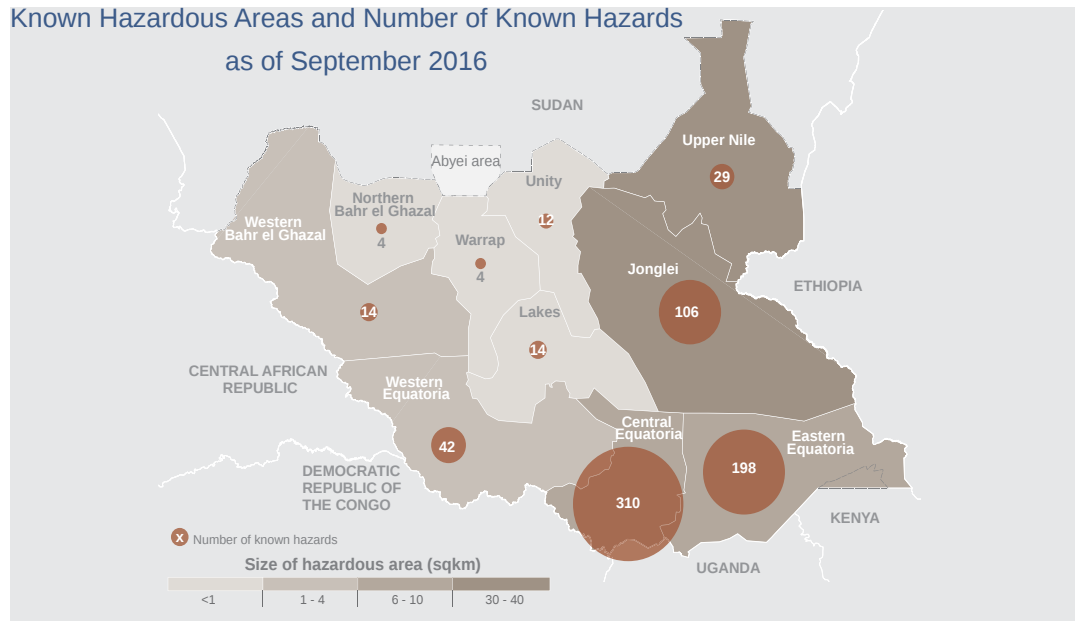
assistance, and support human rights monitoring and reporting. During this period, 817 Hazardous Areas were newly reported and 871 were cleared. The strong clearance outputs during this quarter are partly attributable to the late rains and the fact that UNMAS retained a larger number of teams on operations in the month of June, which is the start of the stand down period for Mine Action. April commenced with the tragic killing of two deminers in an ambush on the Yei-Juba road. The security environment has continued to negatively impact on operations throughout the reporting period and we see this most dramatically in July to September when the lowest clearance outputs since October 2013 were recorded.

MRE* Audiences:
April - September 2016



The third quarter of the year was dominated by the outbreak of fighting in Juba which

Known Hazardous Areas and Number of Known Hazards
as of September 2016



Source: Information Management System of Mine Action (IMSMA).

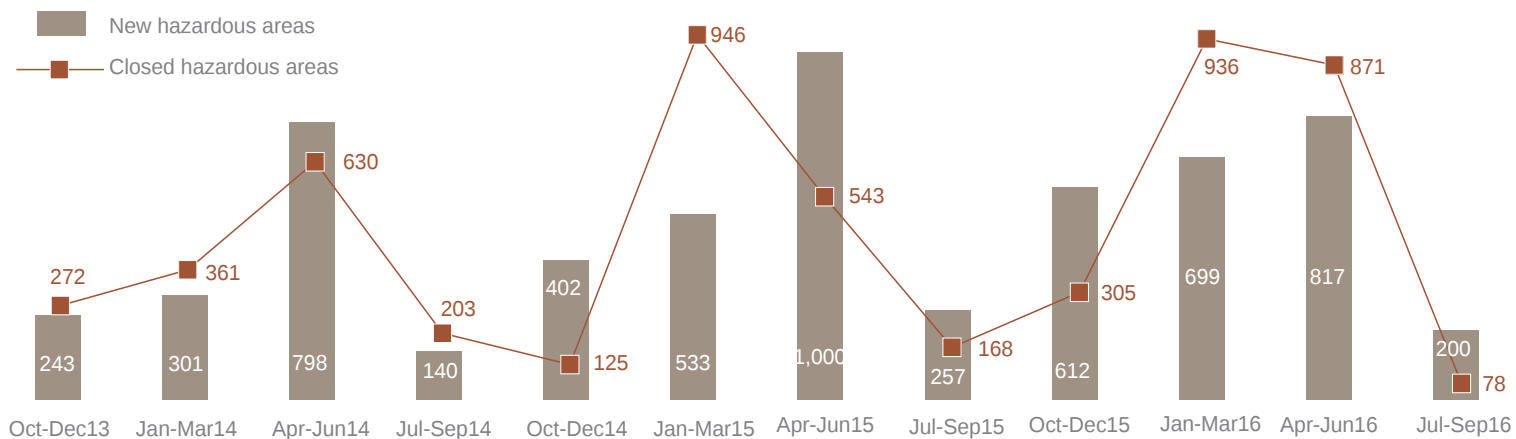
* MRE: Mine Risk Education, UXO: Unexploded Ordnance.

littered areas of the capital and the outlying city environs with explosive hazards. As soon as the ceasefire was declared, Mine Action teams conducted rapid assessments of areas impacted by the fighting and prioritised locations for survey and clearance including the UN allocated apron of the Juba airport, key routes that were required by humanitarian actors, as well as the WFP compound and churches providing shelter to IDPs. Following an information campaign using a variety of media including radio, the Mine Action Hotline received up to 40 calls a day in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. This has since reduced to approximately 4 calls per week. One such call was received from the head teacher of Green Hill Primary School in the Gudele area of Juba. The head teacher explained that her school had been hit during the July fighting and that

she could not allow the children to return. Mine Action teams immediately responded and a visual inspection confirmed that the school was unsafe. After a period of access negotiation, the school was surveyed and a number of hazards, including a rocket propelled grenade were removed.

Beyond Juba, the sub-cluster has received a number of requests for assistance, including from schools, which it is unable to respond to owing to access constraints. One further complication which is emerging relates to the ethnic composition of demining teams. Deminers now find themselves at risk in areas where they have been working for a substantial period of time.

Hazardous Areas - Dec2013 - Sep2016



RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROTECTION OF IDPS

To the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan and all parties to the conflict:

As demanded in previous and current resolutions, immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan, and refrain from actions that target civilians and humanitarian actors and jeopardize their safety and security.

With close to 200,000 civilians living in the POC sites in conditions that do not meet acceptable humanitarian standards, it is paramount that the government work with the humanitarian community and UNMISS to create conditions for them to return to their places of origin or move to where they choose. This includes ensuring security, and providing support to vulnerable displaced populations in identified communities.

The leadership is responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and must be held accountable for violations and abuses of human rights, and that South Sudan's Transitional Government of National Unity bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

To UNMISS:

With over 1.6M internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country living outside UNMISS protected (POC) sites, it is recommended to shift humanitarian action and existing UNMISS capacity and any deployment of additional peacekeepers to South Sudan to be utilized in areas outside the POC sites where civilians are living to provide protection and increase stability, including the opening of protected safe corridors to allow civilians to flee conflict areas to locations where they can seek safety and security.

To ensure the civilian character of the UNMISS POC sites,

enhance perimeter and internal security of UNMISS POC sites, including improved entry point and access control, regular searches to identify and separate/isolate armed individuals and security measures to protect women and children in high risk areas for GBV.

It is recommended that UNMISS and Humanitarian actors jointly undertake contingency planning for worst case scenarios and assess how they can better respond to protect civilians should another major crisis occur.

In accordance with resolution 2252 (2015) it is recommended that UNMISS increase internal coordination between the Relief, Re-integration and Protection Section, Human Rights Division, Women Protection Advisors and Child Protection Unit in coordinating and cooperating with the Protection Cluster and other actors. Where possible within the limits of their mandate, sharing of information of progress made on reported human rights violations and protection issues to advance measures that enhance human dignity, access to rights and welfare of affected individuals residing in and outside the POC sites and for investigation and verification of human rights and IHL violations to support the eventual establishment of a judicial mechanism (international or hybrid) or other transitional justice mechanisms.

To the International Donor Community:

Despite the deteriorating situation in South Sudan, efforts for the protection of civilians, IDPs and refugees must continue. Resources are needed to improve interventions for the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, including activities that can support communities outside of the POC sites and monitoring and reporting of human rights violations to contribute to the accountability of perpetrators and justice for the people in South Sudan.