



Security Council

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Situation in South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2729 \(2024\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to 30 April 2025 and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Mission's mandate every 90 days. The report covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards the implementation of the Mission's mandate between 16 July and 15 October 2024.

II. Political and economic developments

2. After participants in the High-level Mediation for South Sudan, known as the Tumaini Initiative, signed a set of protocols (the Tumaini Consensus) on 15 July, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) withdrew from the delegation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to the initiative the following day, citing concerns that the talks in Nairobi had strayed from their intended purpose and were undermining the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

3. From 22 to 25 July, the Chief Mediator of the Tumaini Initiative, Lazarus Sumbeiywo, and the government delegation met with the presidency in Juba to discuss aligning the initiative with the Revitalized Agreement. On 13 August, a brief signed by all parties to the Revitalized Agreement was submitted to the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, declaring that the parties had agreed that the initiative should complement, not replace, the Revitalized Agreement.

4. From 12 to 15 August, consultative talks were held in Rome, facilitated by the Community of Sant'Egidio, with opposition leaders who had refused to join the talks in Nairobi, citing security concerns. These included the Commander of the National Salvation Front (NAS), Thomas Cirillo; the leader of the South Sudan National Movement for Change, Alex Yatta; and the leader of the National Democratic Movement-Patriotic Front, Emmanuel Ajawin. The faction subsequently announced that they would not join the Tumaini Initiative as it aimed at reviving the Revitalized Agreement, which they had never supported.



5. On 6 August, the Chair of the National Elections Commission announced that voter registration and other pre-election activities could not start unless the Government allocated additional funds, and noted that only a fraction of the funds had been received. Similarly, on 12 August, the Chair of the National Constitutional Review Commission noted little progress owing to the lack of funds.
6. On 14 August, the presidency deferred to the electoral and security bodies for technical advice on the feasibility of holding the elections and formulating a realistic election time frame and budget.
7. On 16 August, the High-Level Standing Committee met with the electoral and security institutions and requested those bodies to provide an update on the implementation of their respective mandates, including outstanding tasks, and the timeline and budget required to complete them. Reports were presented to the National Transitional Committee on 29 August. On 10 September, the High-Level Standing Committee consolidated the reports from the relevant institutions and signed the finalized document, which was submitted to the presidency.
8. On 3 September, the Board of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism noted receiving “anecdotal” records of the Necessary Unified Forces deployment; however, the numbers were not specified. As at 19 September, the deployment remained at eight battalions and was limited to the army.
9. On 13 September, based on recommendations of the report from the High-Level Standing Committee, the presidency announced a two-year extension to the transitional period of the Revitalized Agreement, with elections postponed to December 2026. The lack of funding was cited as the main reason for the delay in implementing the Revitalized Agreement.
10. On 18 September, the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, commended the parties to the Revitalized Agreement for arriving at the decision by consensus. On the same day, the embassies of Canada, France, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and the European Union delegation in South Sudan expressed their disappointment with the extension. On 19 September, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and UNMISS issued a joint statement calling on the Government to renew momentum in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. On the same day, the African Union Commission called for concrete steps towards the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards delivering transparent and credible elections. On 23 September, the Executive Secretary of IGAD called for renewed efforts and the allocation of adequate resources to complete outstanding tasks within the extended period.
11. On 7 October, at the direction of the President to consider all Tumaini protocols, the High-Level Standing Committee initialled a document containing their assessment and recommendations on aligning the Tumaini Peace Initiative with the Revitalized Agreement. The Secretary of the Committee, Martin Elia Lomuro, said the report focused on recommendations drawn from the Tumaini process, mainly on the power-sharing protocols that contradict the Revitalized Agreement.

Other political developments

12. The Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly passed legislation on financial management and transitional justice. These included the National Bureau of Statistics Act 2018 (Amendment) Bill, 2024; the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Act 2012 (Amendment) Bill, 2024; the Public

Procurement and Disposal of Assets Act, 2024; the Fiscal and Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission Bill, 2024; the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Bill, 2024; and the Compensation and Reparation Authority Bill, 2024. It also ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. With regard to the National Security Act 2014 (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which retains contentious provisions that give the National Security Service powers of arrest, Mr. Kiir did not take action to withhold assent to the Bill, despite calls from some political parties, civil society and the international community. On 13 August, the spokesperson of the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly said the Bill had taken effect.

13. During the period, Mr. Kiir made new appointments in key government positions, including the Minister for Presidential Affairs, the Deputy Minister for Interior, the Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria, the Governor of Warrap and the Director General of the Internal Security Bureau of the National Security Service, among others. Seven days after the initial appointment, Mr. Kiir revoked the appointment of Akol Koor Kuc to the governorship of Warrap. Mr. Kiir also rotated the Commander of the Presidential Guard, known as the Tiger Division.

Regional engagements and developments

14. As part of the efforts of South Sudan to restore peace and stability in the Sudan, on 18 July Mr. Kiir met with the Deputy Commander of the Rapid Support Forces, Abdelrahim Hamdan Dagalo, in Juba. On 16 September, the Chair of the Transitional Sovereign Council of the Sudan and Head of the Sudanese Armed Forces, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, visited Juba for bilateral discussions, including on resuming oil exports from South Sudan.

15. On 24 July, Mr. Kiir visited South Africa to discuss with Mr. Ramaphosa the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, the Tumaini Initiative and bilateral relations. On 11 August in Kigali, Mr. Kiir attended the inauguration of Paul Kagame as the President of Rwanda following his re-election and discussed regional peace and stability as well as bilateral relations with him. On 26 August, Mr. Kiir travelled to Nairobi to attend the launch of the campaign of the former Prime Minister of Kenya, Raila Amolo Odinga, for the Chairpersonship of the African Union Commission.

16. From 1 to 8 September, Mr. Kiir attended the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing and held bilateral talks with the President of China, Xi Jinping.

17. On 17 September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, visited South Sudan to discuss issues affecting the region as well as bilateral relations.

18. On 14 October, Sudanese and South Sudanese government officials, after a meeting in Port Sudan, announced that the oil pipeline was repaired and technically ready for the resumption of oil exports from the Upper Nile oilfields.

Economic situation

19. During the reporting period, the South Sudan pound (SSP) remained unstable, fluctuating between SSP 5,000 to the United States dollar and SSP 4,000 to the dollar in the unofficial market owing to low foreign currency reserves held by the Bank of South Sudan. This was a continuation of the drastic decline since January, when the exchange rate was SSP 1,200 to the dollar, a depreciation of 258 per cent. The appreciation to SSP 4,000 to the dollar in September was attributed to interventions by the Bank. On 15 October, the official rate stood at SSP 2,954 to the dollar, leading to a gap of 46 per cent between the official and unofficial exchange rates.

20. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, annual inflation continued to increase, reaching 107.3 per cent in July, compared with 1.6 per cent in July 2023. Food was less accessible, with prices for staple items like sorghum, wheat, oil and flour rising sharply. According to the *Sustainable Development Report 2024*, the cost of the minimum expenditure basket increased from SSP 122,235 in December 2023 to SSP 410,314 in September 2024. The proportion of the population living on the \$2.15 per day increased from 41 per cent in 2011 to 79 per cent in 2024. This exacerbates gender inequality and women's vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence as a result of economic stress, limited access to resources and lack of support services.

21. On 25 September, the Minister for Finance and Planning presented the draft 2024/25 budget to the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly. Planned expenditure is SSP 4.2 trillion (\$1,651 million) and revenue is projected at SSP 2.3 trillion (\$893 million), resulting in a fiscal deficit of SSP 1.9 trillion (\$758 million, or 46 per cent) with oil revenue reduced 70 per cent since the pipeline rupture. The draft budget prioritizes salary payments, agriculture and the provision of basic social services. Fiscal and monetary discipline will be required, including transparency in oil revenue and exchange rates.

III. Security situation

22. Violent incidents continued during the reporting period, particularly in the border areas of Warrap and Lakes, and in Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei. The security situation across South Sudan continued to be affected by cattle-related intercommunal violence and reprisal attacks, particularly in the greater Bahr el-Ghazal and greater Upper Nile regions. In the greater Equatoria region, the period witnessed an increase in South Sudan People's Defence Forces operations against NAS land-grabbing and cross-border disputes, particularly in Central and Eastern Equatoria, resulting in civilian casualties and displacement, further exacerbating concerns related to the protection of civilians.

Greater Upper Nile region

23. In Upper Nile, an aerial bombardment on Khor Tombak by the Sudanese Armed Forces raised concerns of a spillover of the Sudan conflict into South Sudan. The attack, which reportedly targeted defectors from the Sudanese Armed Forces to the Rapid Support Forces, resulted in the deaths of two minors. Separately, tensions remained high in Nasir County, where renewed clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and armed Nuer youth were reported between 14 and 17 July. Eight people were killed, including three South Sudan People's Defence Forces officers, and six were injured. Civilians were also displaced. Despite efforts by the Government and UNMISS to improve the situation, including through a ceasefire between the parties to the conflict, the relationship between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the armed Nuer youth remains fragile due to mutual mistrust and unresolved grievances. UNMISS continued to engage relevant stakeholders at both the national and state level.

24. In Unity, between 5 and 15 August, the screening of General Simon Maguek Gai's forces was finalized, while the Terchuong armed youth were screened for subsequent disarmament, demobilization and possible integration into the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. Approximately 7,000 soldiers were screened in Rubkona, Guit and Koch Counties.

25. Separately, between 9 and 11 August, armed youth from Rubkona County attacked locals in Aliny, Pariang County, in the Ruweng Administrative Area,

resulting in seven killed, including two attackers, six injured and hundreds of cattle raided, which were subsequently recovered. The series of attacks have continued to fuel mistrust between the Ruweng Administrative Area and Unity.

Greater Equatoria region

26. Since 17 July, NAS-related incidents in Eastern and Central Equatoria have resulted in at least 61 civilian casualties, with 58 abducted, including humanitarian workers. Although most of the abductees were released or escaped, South Sudan People's Defence Forces operations against NAS continued to raise concerns related to the protection of civilians. From 4 to 6 August, clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and NAS in Ikotos County, Eastern Equatoria, resulted in civilian casualties and displacements. Reportedly, fighting ensued following the harassment and burning of villages in anti-NAS operations in the area. On 9 October, three separate attacks in Juba County, carried out by the former NAS commander, Brigadier General Kenyi Warrior, and the National Salvation United Forces, commanded by General John Kenyi Loburon, resulted in 14 people killed. UNMISS continued engaging with the local authorities, South Sudan People's Defence Forces commanders and religious authorities to de-escalate tensions, facilitate the release of abductees and address concerns related to the protection of civilians. UNMISS issued press statements on 17 July and 11 October condemning the widespread attacks.

27. Cross-border land disputes with Uganda and Ethiopia resurfaced, with two separate incidents reported in Eastern Equatoria on 20 and 22 July, respectively, resulting in a total of 14 people killed and communities displaced along the borders.

28. In Western Equatoria, the security situation along the border with the Central African Republic in Tambura County continued to be tense. Meanwhile, in Yambio town, the killing of a Necessary Unified Forces soldier on 22 August triggered clashes on 25 August between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO), and resulted in the South Sudan People's Defence Forces increasing their presence and leading disarmament operations in Yambio town and the surrounding areas. Instances of harassment, including rape and ill-treatment, were reported during these operations. Although tensions subsided with the arrest of the suspect in the 22 August incident, the situation caused fears among the civilian population.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

29. In greater Tonj, Warrap, communal violence continued. The Thiik and Luanyjang communities engaged in retaliatory attacks in July, August and October, resulting in over 114 people killed and 82 injured. Road closures to isolate the Luanyjang community were also reported. In response, Luanyjang community members in Juba submitted a petition to the Government demanding a separate administrative area.

30. Along the Warrap, Lakes and Western Bahr el-Ghazal border, incidents of intercommunal violence declined. In Lakes, violence between the Ngok Dinka and the Rup Dinka communities recurred on 27 July, killing 4 and injuring 11.

IV. Humanitarian situation

31. South Sudan has experienced above-average rainfall since May, due to the El Niño weather pattern, which is expected to continue until November, with peak rains forecast for late October. Heavy rains and significant water release from Lake Victoria in Uganda into the Nile River have caused widespread flooding nationwide.

According to the United Nations Satellite Centre, about 900,000 people are potentially exposed to flooding. As at 15 October, flooding had affected an estimated 893,000 people across 42 counties. More than 241,000 people have been displaced by floods in 16 counties, seeking shelter on higher ground.

32. Due to heavy rains and flooding, 15 major supply routes have become impassable, affecting greater Upper Nile and greater Bahr el-Ghazal. Humanitarian actors have been forced to use air and river transport, which are costly and unreliable alternatives.

33. Since the conflict in the Sudan erupted in April 2023, South Sudan has seen an influx of 830,944 people fleeing the war, constituting more than 6 per cent of the total population of South Sudan, which is estimated at 12.4 million. Humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance, with the onward transportation of returnees and refugees from transit centres remaining a critical need. Since the conflict began, 319,975 returnees have been assisted by the United Nations in reaching their final destination.

34. The subnational security situation remained volatile, further complicating the humanitarian response. On 17 August and 1 October, intercommunal violence in Tonj East County, Warrap, led to fatalities, injuries, the displacement of over 10,000 people and the destruction of property. Extensive damage and looting of food supplies from the humanitarian warehouse, which housed more than 20 tons of food supplies, was reported. Similar hostilities in Nasir County, Upper Nile, on 14 and 15 August displaced an unknown number of civilians and forced humanitarian organizations to suspend their activities as a result of security concerns. On 15 August, escalating threats against personnel led Médecins sans frontières to suspend health services and relocate staff from Ulang County, Upper Nile.

35. Health crises were also escalating, with Unity reporting over 1,300 cases of the hepatitis E virus since the outbreak in February, primarily in the Bentiu displaced persons camp and in Rubkona and Bentiu towns. On 17 July, an outbreak of the hepatitis E virus, linked to the influx of people from the Sudan, was declared in the Abyei Administrative Area. As at 15 October, of the 98 suspected samples tested for mpox, 97 had tested negative, with one sample still under investigation, according to the Ministry of Health.

36. South Sudan remained one of the most perilous environments for humanitarian workers. Persistent access constraints severely hindered efforts to reach the most vulnerable. Between 16 July and 15 October, 118 incidents related to humanitarian access restrictions were reported, including bureaucratic and physical impediments and security incidents. The security situation along the Juba-Nimule road, following an attack on a passenger bus on 24 September, has posed a significant threat to the supply of goods to Juba Market. The abduction of humanitarian staff for ransom led an international non-governmental organization to suspend health services in Yei County, leaving the population with reduced access to healthcare.

37. The 2024 humanitarian needs and response plan seeks \$1.8 billion to assist 6 million people across South Sudan. As at 15 October, the plan was only 57.2 per cent (\$1.2 billion) funded. Due to this shortfall, humanitarian partners have prioritized their efforts, focusing on areas with the highest vulnerability.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

38. UNMISS leadership continued to provide good offices through engagements with the presidency, parties, stakeholders of the Tumaini Initiative, the trilateral mechanism and other partners. The trilateral mechanism, comprising the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations, continued its advocacy for responses to the 10 key priority areas that require decisions to realize a permanent constitution and prepare for elections. In this regard, on 15 July, representatives of the trilateral mechanism visited the Political Parties Council as part of engagements with the key electoral institutions to ascertain its level of preparedness and opportunities for support.

39. From 10 to 13 September, UNMISS, in cooperation with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, organized a workshop on federalism and power-sharing for the National Constitutional Review Commission. The workshop was attended by 77 participants (22 of whom were women), including the National Constitutional Review Commission leadership and secretariat, commissioners, academia, civil society and representatives from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Participants in the workshop considered political devolution under federalism and ways to enhance understanding of the principles of the permanent constitution-making process.

40. UNMISS worked to create a conducive environment for elections through support for civic and political space and institution-building. UNMISS facilitated a workshop on 7 and 8 August for the South Sudan National Police Service on election security, planning and on violence against women in elections, ahead of the Mission's support for the development of a comprehensive election security plan. On 5 September, UNMISS assisted the National Elections Commission with the regularization of monthly virtual meetings with the state high elections committees. On 8 and 11 October, UNMISS supported a nationwide induction workshop for the state high elections committees to introduce them to foundational concepts of electoral administration, legal frameworks and civic and voter education.

41. UNMISS supported three state-level political party forums in Unity (17 and 18 July), Western Equatoria (7 and 8 August) and Jonglei (24 to 26 September). The forums, which brought together 294 participants (77 of whom were women), including members of civil society organizations, political parties, state government officials, security agencies, faith leaders and traditional authorities, culminated in joint communiqués outlining recommendations for strengthening civic and political space, including the implementation of the 35 per cent quota for the meaningful participation of women. The forums also created a platform for constructive engagement across party lines and among diverse groups of stakeholders, who committed to pursuing the implementation of the resolutions they adopted. As a result, in Western Equatoria, the Council of Ministers unanimously endorsed the communiqué, while the Governor issued a declaration to all state agencies to ensure open civic and political space.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

42. As part of its protection of civilians efforts, UNMISS implemented six programmes to mitigate intercommunal conflict. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal on 17 July, UNMISS and partners facilitated an intercommunal dialogue between the

Balanda of Kpaile and the Luo of Rocrocdong to address disputes over borders and natural resources for 68 participants (including 12 women). The dialogue enabled the two communities to discuss their differences and agree on critical issues, leading to mutually agreed recommendations to settle disputes and promote peaceful coexistence. In Western Equatoria, UNMISS disseminated peace messages in Tambura County, targeting 200 participants (including 100 women) to de-escalate intercommunal tensions between the Azande and the Balanda communities. This followed the postponement of a peace conference due to security concerns, at the request of the Commissioner of Tambura. In Lakes and Unity, UNMISS facilitated a cross-border peace dialogue between the Nuer and the Dinka communities, targeting 77 participants (including 7 women), to address emerging conflicts attributed to competition over resources and cattle raiding, culminating in a peace agreement.

43. To address persistent conflicts attributed to Murle age-set violence, UNMISS supported two age-set conferences led by the Chief Administrator of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in Likuangole and Gumuruk from 26 to 31 July and 6 to 8 August, respectively. Participants in the conferences discussed ways to address insecurity, including with neighbouring Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. Key outcomes included a commitment to end age-set conflicts and cross-border attacks on neighbouring communities, disband age-set cattle camps by January 2025 and return abducted children and women. Subsequently, UNMISS facilitated the return of 11 Toposa children (including 3 girls) from Pibor to their families in Eastern Equatoria.

44. UNMISS strengthened the capacity of 62 (including 7 women) community leaders, local authorities and representatives of community-based organizations on the protection of civilians in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Warrap. UNMISS worked with five community protection committees in Western Equatoria to strengthen early warning mechanisms. Thirteen quick-impact projects were handed over across the country, including three primary schools; a solar power system; a bridge; a courthouse, a prosecutor's office and accommodations for a judge and prosecutor; a renovated judge's residence; a police station; a justice centre; a prison; prison water, sanitation and hygiene facilities; a community peace centre; and a multipurpose youth centre. UNMISS facilitated the launch of two vocational training sessions, targeting 80 participants (including 40 women) in Wulu County, Lakes, on 23 July, and 50 participants (including 24 women) in Tambura, Western Equatoria, on 13 August, aimed at enhancing resilience and reducing community violence. On 1 October, UNMISS facilitated a session on the status-of-forces-agreement for 35 government officials (including 4 women) in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, addressing operational impediments to efficiency, cooperation and humanitarian access. Following significant technical support from UNMISS and partners, on 10 October, the Government launched the South Sudan action plan on return, integration and recovery for the period 2024–2028 to advance durable solutions for displaced persons, returnees and refugees.

45. On 16 July, UNMISS organized a closing ceremony for the first community-violence reduction project in South Sudan targeting ex-combatants. The project was implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with technical assistance from UNMISS and funding from France and took place from January 2023 to June 2024 in Western Bahr el-Ghazal. The project targeted 500 people (250 of them ex-combatants), including 137 women.

46. Since 27 August, UNMISS has been providing strategic and technical support for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Fund project to promote community-violence reduction partnerships with the White Nile and Sobat River communities to advance socioeconomic cohesion and the peaceful uses of the White Nile and Sobat Rivers.

47. The UNMISS force conducted 15,145 patrols, including 566 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel for the protection of civilians. The force sustained the capability to respond in a crisis through the maintenance of a mobile and responsive force. This was achieved through 4,366 force protection patrols.

48. To increase operational reach, deter attacks against civilians and secure main supply routes, the UNMISS force maintained four extended-duration temporary operating bases in Koch, Jamjang, Abiemnom and Tambura.

49. As at 15 October, United Nations police had completed 7,442 patrols, including 79 integrated patrols and 3,939 patrols that included women personnel. Sixteen quick response teams were on standby to respond to security incidents in support of the South Sudan National Police Service in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu. Seven workshops were conducted for 175 community members (including 75 women) and 65 South Sudan National Police Service personnel (including 25 women). United Nations police printed 500 copies of its book on general crime case management for the South Sudan National Police Service. Of these, 300 copies were delivered to Central Equatoria, while the remaining copies will be evenly distributed across the other nine states. United Nations police also supported the South Sudan National Police Service in translating a practical handbook for police from Arabic into English.

50. A total of 62 individual police officers were deployed to the Tambura temporary operating base and five company operating bases in Yei, Akobo, Pibor, Renk and Kodok to support confidence-building, key leadership engagement, capacity-building for the South Sudan National Police Service and service delivery for communities. United Nations police provided security during four deliveries of humanitarian assistance and 46 security escorts of engineers and others.

51. The Mine Action Service responded to 695 requests from UNMISS and local communities for the identification, removal and disposal of suspected landmines and explosive ordnance. The activities enabled communities to safely access 54 agricultural areas, five hospitals and four water sources. The responses resulted in the disposal of a total of 1,056 items of explosive ordnance and the release of 936,729 m² of land during the period. The Mine Action Service provided explosive ordnance risk education to civilians across the country to enhance their knowledge of safe behaviour and thereby prevent accidents caused by explosive ordnance, benefiting 80,605 people in total (13,199 men, 15,268 women, 27,474 boys and 24,664 girls), including 5,930 people fleeing the conflict in the Sudan.

52. The Mine Action Service coordinated closely with local authorities, UNMISS, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other humanitarian partners in supporting the emergency flood response, particularly in Upper Nile. Efforts included the assessments of safe areas, explosive ordnance clearance and the delivery of explosive ordnance risk education to affected communities and humanitarian responders.

Climate, peace and security

53. The severity of the ongoing flooding prompted the Government to issue several alerts. Following the Government's request, the United Nations country team, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, provided support, including analyses to inform and prepare the national flood preparedness and response plan for 2024, developing messaging to sensitize the public and co-chairing the national flood task force. In support of state governments and county authorities, UNMISS identified and mapped 243 locations of high ground nationwide as places for self-relocation by communities to escape rising flood water, with the Government responsible for safety and security in those locations. UNMISS also developed a conflict sensitivity

database to track impacts and facilitate coordinated responses and organized 55 community sensitization activities and five peace dialogues to mitigate the risks of conflict, especially in volatile border areas and at high ground refuges.

C. Rule of law and accountability

54. Between July and August, UNMISS supported a mobile court in Bentiu to try criminal offenses in Unity. The court heard 105 cases (41 of them criminal), resulting in 49 convictions and 27 releases. The initiative expanded on the previous deployments to Koch and Mayom, empowering victims to seek justice. It also aimed at prompting the permanent deployment of judicial authorities to Unity, the only state without an appointed judge since 2013. The Governor of Unity took the opportunity to reiterate orders to ban blood compensation and prohibit child and forced marriages.

55. From 30 July to 27 August, UNMISS supported the Military Justice Directorate of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in deploying a case preparation mission and a general court martial to Maridi, Western Equatoria. The general court martial adjudicated 12 cases, including murder, convicting eight members of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and one member of the Necessary Unified Forces who were deployed in Western Equatoria. Following the general court martial, UNMISS supported a civil-military dialogue on ending sexual violence.

56. On 7 August, UNMISS facilitated the country's first fully virtual trial. A High Court Judge based in Juba presided over a murder hearing in Malakal through videoconference. The trial offers an opportunity to address prolonged pretrial detention in areas that lack judicial authorities when mobile court deployments are not possible.

57. In Jonglei, UNMISS supported a judicial team in investigating cases involving subnational violence and fostering trust in judicial institutions. Pending the appointment of permanent judicial authorities in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, UNMISS supported the temporary deployment of an investigation team to finalize criminal case files.

58. UNMISS complemented its technical support to the justice chain by handing over vital rule of law infrastructure. The renovated judiciary accommodation in Malakal and a courthouse in Pibor were aimed at strengthening judicial capacity by enabling the deployment of additional judges to Upper Nile and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Prison infrastructure improvements were made in Upper Nile and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. The renovated Thuro Majok agricultural camp and juvenile block at the prison in Malakal were aimed at supporting the National Prison Service of South Sudan in enhancing detention conditions. The prison farm was aimed at reducing overcrowding by transferring prisoners convicted of minor offenses from the state prison to the prison farm, which also provides agricultural skills for social reintegration and combats food insecurity.

59. UNMISS also enhanced the capacity of prison officers, facilitating training on prison management for 35 personnel (including 17 women) in Torit, on prison security for 40 personnel (including 15 women) in Bentiu and on anti-riot drills for 25 officers (including 5 women) in Yambio. To contribute to prison decongestion and address unlawful detentions, UNMISS supported inmate case reviews in Rumbek, Aweil, Torit, Kuacjok, Bentiu and Bor, resulting in the release of 569 detainees (including 60 women and 81 juveniles).

60. At the Malakal detention facility, to provide safety and security to the residents of the protection of civilians site, UNMISS processed the detention of 51 detainees (including 5 women and 4 juveniles) by carrying out various risk assessments on

whether to hand over the detainees to national authorities or release them back to the protection of civilians site community. A total of 41 were handed over to national authorities (including 2 women and 2 juveniles).

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

61. The UNMISS force conducted 243 long-duration patrols, 1,323 short-duration patrols and 1,170 force protection tasks to help create conditions conducive for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers.

62. UNMISS and humanitarian partners strengthened their preparedness and response in anticipation of floods across the country, which resulted in the activation of committees and the development of plans on flood management and awareness-raising, including in Central and Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Warrap, Unity, Upper Nile and Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal.

63. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal, on 26 July, UNMISS supported the state Ministry of Education in delivering dignity kits benefiting 156 girls in Rocrocdong payam, Jur River County.

64. To ensure the mobility of peacekeepers and humanitarian partners and keep them free from the threat of explosive ordnance, the Mine Action Service verified and cleared 183 km of road as prioritized by UNMISS and escorted 825 km of UNMISS patrols. It also continued clearing land for the establishment of resettlement sites for displaced persons, including in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile, following requests from the International Organization for Migration and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, respectively.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

65. UNMISS documented and verified 206 incidents of violence affecting 1,039 civilians, including 74 women and 62 children (46 boys and 16 girls). A total of 356 civilians were killed, 325 were injured, 118 were abducted, 218 were arbitrarily arrested and detained and 22 were unlawfully detained and ill-treated. Of the total number of incidents, 63 per cent were attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defence groups, 31 per cent were attributed to government security forces and other armed groups and 6 per cent were attributed to unidentified armed elements. During the reporting period, UNMISS documented 13 extrajudicial executions. Extrajudicial executions by state authorities and security personnel continued to escalate in Warrap, despite advocacy with the authorities to end the practice and adhere to the rule of law.

66. UNMISS documented 11 incidents of infringement on civic and political space affecting 47 men, which were perpetrated by government security forces and state and county authorities, including 8 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society activists and a journalist, 1 case of a blanket administrative fine for a peaceful public assembly, 1 case of intimidation of a media representative and 1 case of forced closure of a non-governmental organization. Media censorship and restrictions on peaceful assembly, as well as threats to and intimidation of outspoken members of civil society and government critics, have hindered public debate on elections and the constitution-making process.

67. UNMISS conducted 69 human rights capacity-building activities, reaching 2,014 participants (including 770 women). These activities were aimed at enhancing

the capacities of government officials, security forces, human rights institutions, civil society organizations, women and youth groups, students, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, prisoners and community leaders to advocate for and protect human rights.

68. UNMISS also provided technical assistance to the Specialized Parliamentary Committee on Peace and Reconciliation of the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly on the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Bill, 2024, and the Compensation and Reparations Authority Bill, 2024, to ensure their compliance with human rights standards and principles. UNMISS provided technical and logistical support for eight members of the Specialized Parliamentary Committee to conduct a study visit to Rwanda between 11 and 18 August. The visit, focusing on transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, was aimed at providing a deeper understanding of transitional justice mechanisms and processes to enrich the provisions of the two bills. On 3 September, the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly passed the two bills from the third to the fourth and final readings with minor amendments, which will be incorporated by the Specialized Parliamentary Committee and submitted to Mr. Kiir for their signing into law. The passing of the bills demonstrates the political and legal commitment on the part of the executive and legislative arms of the Government to pursue the implementation of provisions under chapter 5 of the Revitalized Agreement.

1. Children and armed conflict

69. UNMISS verified 26 grave violations against 19 children (10 boys, 4 girls and 5 whose sex was unknown). The violations comprised the abduction of five boys, the killing and maiming of eight children (five sex unknown, two boys and one girl), the recruitment and use of four children (three boys and one girl) and the rape of two girls. Two attacks on schools and four attacks on hospitals were verified. UNMISS also verified the military use of one school and one hospital by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. Seven boys were separated from armed groups: four were released by NAS, while three boys escaped from unknown armed groups. Violations occurred in Central Equatoria (11), Western Equatoria (8), Unity (2), Upper Nile (2), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (1), Eastern Equatoria (1) and Jonglei (1), and were attributed to NAS (11), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (8), SPLM/A-IO (3), the Sudanese Armed Forces (2) and the South Sudan National Police Service (1), and 1 violation remained unattributed, as it resulted from unexploded ordnance.

70. UNMISS supported the Government in holding a national conference on the protection of children against recruitment and use from 17 to 19 September, with 120 stakeholders (including 43 women) participating. The conference raised awareness on the concerning increase in verified cases of the recruitment and use of children in South Sudan since 2023 and advocated for strengthened accountability and response measures to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. Participants recommended the establishment of a child protection desk within the Office of the President to elevate issues affecting children, to put an end to the recruitment of children and to enforce accountability.

71. UNMISS delivered 56 child protection awareness-raising sessions to 3,767 participants (1,345 of whom were women), including 3,321 community members (1,314 women), 298 government security forces (17 women), 103 government officials (14 women) and 45 SPLM/A-IO officers (all men). The sessions delivered essential knowledge and skills to the participants to enable them to identify, report, prevent and respond to the six grave violations.

2. Conflict-related sexual violence

72. UNMISS documented and verified 87 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 90 survivors (57 women, 2 men and 31 girls). Survivors' ages ranged from 11 to 55 years. These incidents occurred in Western Equatoria (68), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (6), Warrap (4), Eastern Equatoria (3), Central Equatoria (3), Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (1), Lakes (1) and Jonglei (1), and were attributed to community-based militias (59 incidents), unidentified armed elements (14), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (7), the South Sudan National Police Service (2), SPLM-IO (2), the National Security Service (1), the fire brigade services (1) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (1). Thirty-seven of the survivors received urgent medical assistance and 11 were referred to psychological care. Twenty-six incidents were reported to the South Sudan National Police Service.

73. During the UNMISS-supported mobile court deployments to Bentiu and Maridi, six cases of sexual and gender-based violence-related offences were tried, resulting in convictions. The Maridi general court martial convicted and sentenced two members of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to 10 and 14 years of imprisonment, respectively, and their immediate dismissal from the armed forces. Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence-related offences received free legal representation and psychosocial support, the latter provided by local partners.

74. UNMISS continued its advocacy efforts to engage the relevant authorities on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence in South Sudan, which has been renewed until December 2026. However, the mandate of the Joint Implementation Committee has yet to be renewed, as the South Sudan People's Defence Forces have not nominated their members to this body. UNMISS engaged with the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs and the Joint Defence Board to urge for the renewal of the Committee's mandate,

75. To protect civilians from sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, prevent its occurrence and support survivors' access to services, the Gender Adviser led integrated field missions on 24 and 26 July to hot spots in Bagari and Boro Medina, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, respectively. The missions reached over 140 women, who reported a low number of cases of sexual and gender-based violence but noted a rise in HIV cases and a lack of health and education services. In Cueibet, Lakes, patrols highlighted the need for the frequent presence of UNMISS and mobile courts to address cases under statutory laws and build community confidence. During a patrol to an internally displaced persons camp in Juba (IDP Camp 3), conducted in response to a reported rise in sexual and gender-based violence, 27 women were engaged in focus group discussions. Additional engagements with state authorities and women's rights organizations, reaching over 60 women in Warrap, Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, and Eastern Equatoria, focused on women's inclusion in the constitution-making and electoral processes.

F. Women and peace and security

76. In support of the inclusion and participation of women in the Tumaini Initiative and the wider peace process, UNMISS provided financial support for five women leaders, representing the Women's Bloc of South Sudan, academia and civil society organizations, to attend the Tumaini Initiative in Nairobi as observers. Prior to their departure, UNMISS supported the leaders' consultations with civil society organizations and women's rights organizations to reflect their perspectives and aspirations on key issues. The leaders, on their return, held a feedback workshop from 3 to 5 September with other non-political actors of the Tumaini Initiative, where they

discussed the protocol on financial and resources management. The workshop produced inputs and recommendations on the protocol to be shared with the Tumaini Initiative secretariat for consideration.

77. Building on its support at the conceptual phase of the Peacebuilding Fund project entitled “Women in South Sudan’s security sector: a path to inclusive and transformative leadership”, UNMISS continued to provide strategic and technical support to the project during its implementation phase, which was initiated on 3 September with a workshop co-facilitated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNDP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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

78. As at 15 October, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,680, comprising 869 international staff members, including 269 women (31 per cent); 1,397 national staff members, including 235 women (17 per cent); and 414 United Nations Volunteers, including 162 women (39 per cent).

79. UNMISS police strength stood at 1,602 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 702 individual police officers, including 215 women (31 per cent); 850 personnel in formed police units, including 216 women (25 per cent); and 50 government-provided personnel, including 22 women (44 per cent).

80. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,965 military personnel: 225 military liaison officers, including 70 women (31 per cent); 424 military staff officers, including 91 women (21 per cent); and 13,316 military contingent personnel, including 979 women (7 per cent).

81. 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, 19 allegations of unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. Zero allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were recorded during this period. 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.

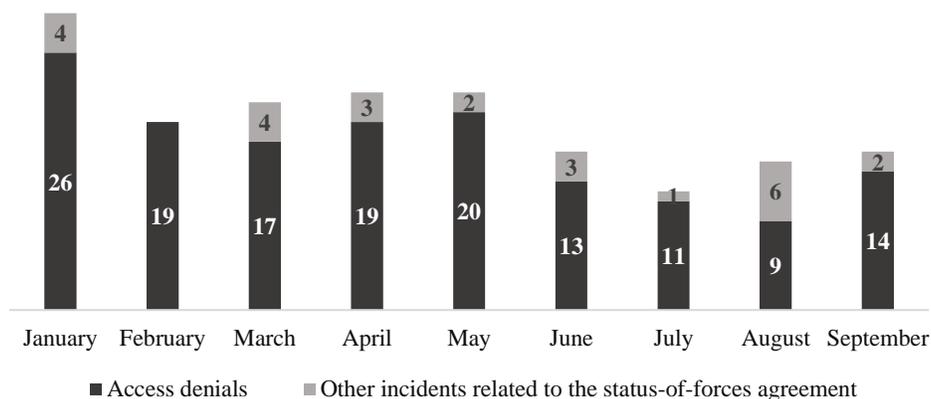
VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

82. As at 30 September, UNMISS had recorded 43 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement. Of these, 34 incidents involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, which affected UNMISS patrols in Western, Eastern and Central Equatoria, Warrap, Jonglei, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Lakes, and Upper Nile. Twenty-eight UNMISS dynamic air and ground patrols were cancelled due to non-acknowledgement by the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism of the Mission’s sharing of information and flight safety assurance.

83. On 23 July, in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, during a patrol to support the local police at the Naivasha Police Station, a United Nations police team was harassed by National Security Service personnel. On 2 August, in Jonglei, an UNMISS-associated person was verbally harassed and physically assaulted by the government security personnel of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area while boarding a United Nations flight to Maruwa Hills. On 11 September, a Radio Miraya journalist was detained and had his

phone confiscated by National Security Service personnel in Wau while interviewing a member of the state parliament who was being forcibly evicted from his house.

Number of status-of-forces agreement violations, by month and category



Source: UNMISS Legal Affairs Unit.

84. On 7 August, the office of the Chief of Military Intelligence impounded an UNMISS contingent's cargo container that held military equipment, including bulletproof jackets and helmets, belonging to a troop-contributing country, at the Nimule border crossing point, citing that the equipment was undeclared. This was in spite of the military gear being cleared in the cargo list attached to the import clearance documents shared by UNMISS with the Government and the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters prior to the importation of the consignment. On 23 September, the office of the Chief of Military Intelligence conducted an unauthorized search of the cargo container. While the container was eventually released, the equipment remained impounded.

85. During the reporting period, 245 incidents of crime and harassment of United Nations and international non-governmental organizations personnel were recorded. Most of these incidents were minor, and included instances in which the South Sudan National Police Service or the South Sudan People's Defence Forces demanded money for supposed driving violations or incorrect documentation upon entry into South Sudan at Juba International Airport, the primary port of entry for United Nations personnel. Several notable incidents of armed robbery and shootings were recorded, particularly in Juba. On 3 August, a United Nations locally recruited staff member was shot and wounded while conducting personal business in Juba. Since 1 January, seven locally recruited staff members of the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations have been killed, including one staff member of an international non-governmental organization during the reporting period.

VIII. Performance optimization

86. United Nations police evaluated one formed police unit in Juba and one in Malakal on 23 July and 14 August, respectively. While the overall assessments were satisfactory, both units had a shortfall of contingent-owned equipment related to the demolition and replenishment of expired ammunition, and remained on a performance improvement plan.

87. The UNMISS force carried out 18 evaluations in six sectors (East, West, South, North, Unity and Juba) among the infantry, aviation, military police, medical, engineering and marine units. The units were found to be well trained and operationally ready according to United Nations standards. Some units, although satisfactory overall, displayed deficiencies that are being addressed.

IX. Observations and recommendations

88. I take note of the decision on 13 September by the parties to the Revitalized Agreement to extend the transition by two years, with elections rescheduled to December 2026. Regrettably, the extension was necessitated by the fact that the essential requirements for credible and peaceful elections by the end of the agreed transitional period have not been met. The extension, agreed to by the parties and processed in accordance with the provisions under article 8.4 of the Revitalized Agreement, will require sustained political commitment, a clear timeline tied to key benchmarks and sufficient financial resources to ensure the implementation of the outstanding tasks. The United Nations remains ready to explore all potential pathways to accelerate progress and support the parties in meeting these critical milestones, paving the way for a positive conclusion of the transitional period.

89. The gaps identified in my assessment of April 2024 (see [S/2024/297](#)) to achieve a “critical mass” of implementation necessary for the peaceful conduct of free, fair and credible elections in South Sudan persist. Poorly organized elections with perceptions of bias could jeopardize the Revitalized Agreement. Guaranteeing a safe political and civic space is indispensable. I wish to underscore to the parties that there is no time for a pause and urgent progress must be made to restore confidence among the people of South Sudan.

90. I welcome the ongoing efforts of the trilateral mechanism to engage the National Constitutional Review Commission, the National Elections Commission, the Political Parties Council and other key institutions in order to gauge and support their preparations. The Government must immediately strengthen institutional capacities to implement electoral prerequisites, particularly constitution-making and voter registration, to deliver credible elections on time. The extension of the transition means that the United Nations and international partners must adapt their framework of engagement to new timelines and redouble their efforts to assist the parties to make progress towards the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

91. I urge continued dialogue under the Revitalized Agreement, as well as within other platforms, to engage non-signatories, including the Tumaini Initiative. It is also essential to ensure complementarity of these initiatives, as well as to maintain the opportunity for inclusion and confidence-building. An increased role from regional actors, especially IGAD, is needed to reinvigorate a focus on South Sudan and to pursue confidence-building measures.

92. With the uncertainty generated by the delays in implementing the transitional security arrangements, I am concerned about the impact of pockets of violence in hotspot areas across the country. I encourage the Government to expedite the establishment and deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces in the interest of creating a neutral and professional force to address intercommunal fighting and create a safe and secure environment critical to the conduct of credible elections.

93. I welcome the passing of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Bill and the Compensation and Reparations Authority Bill and urge their prompt signing into law, followed by their full and effective implementation.

94. I am troubled by the spiralling humanitarian situation. The effects of the floods are now threatening to open new conflicts as communities seek scarce resources on higher ground. I welcome the collaborative efforts of UNMISS and the United Nations country team to support national early warning systems, including monitoring water levels, and engage with the Government for awareness-raising activities, as well as organize peace dialogues between communities at risk of flooding and related insecurity. These actions should be intensified.

95. The cumulative effects of nearly 800,000 people fleeing from the conflict in the Sudan to South Sudan on the already fragile situation is of concern. Concurrently, inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of the population, thus compounding the hardship faced by ordinary South Sudanese citizens. These issues also affect the operational environment for the delivery of assistance and threaten the investments required for political transition. The economic and humanitarian crises risk aggravating existing security threats.

96. Additional assistance is required to reduce the deficit in the humanitarian needs and response plan. Critical life-saving efforts are needed now to reach the most vulnerable. I encourage the Government to facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian services, as well as undertake fiscal measures to assuage the impact of the economic situation. I also urge the Government to prioritize funding to basic services and safety net programmes in a transparent manner. Pledges made by the Government to release funds directly to states and counties most affected by floods and to support critical preparedness activities should be followed through in earnest.

97. To conclude, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the staff of UNMISS and the United Nations country team, whose daily work continues to shed light on the challenges faced by thousands of civilians, contribute to alleviating the suffering of many and develop creative solutions with dwindling resources. I thank my Special Representative for South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, for his leadership, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided essential uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I also wholeheartedly commend the efforts of local and international humanitarian partners for their dedication to providing vital humanitarian assistance to the people of South Sudan despite the challenging operational environment.

