

NEW MODE OF INTERACTION WITH OUTSIDE UN FORCE COOPERATION – STORY OF THE REGIONAL PROTECTION FORCE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Crisis Management Operation

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29.10.2019



U.N. MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)



UNMISS FACT SHEET

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



Location: South Sudan **Headquarters:** Juba

Established: July 2011 **Local time:** 26 October 2019 - 23:07 EAT

The main aims of UNMISS is to consolidate peace and security and promote development in the Republic of South Sudan in order to strengthen the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbours.



UNMISS MANDATE

- ▶ Protect civilians under threat of physical violence
- ▶ Deter violence against civilians
- ▶ Implement a Mission-wide early warning strategy
- ▶ Maintain public safety and security in regards to PoC sites
- ▶ Exercise good offices, confidence building and facilitation” in regards to its protection strategy
- ▶ Foster a secure environment for the eventual safe and voluntary return of (IDPs) and refugees

STRENGTH



Deployed number of personnel as of August 2019

(Civilian data as of May 2018)



19 315

Total personnel



2 275 Civilians



14 259 Contingent Troops



230 Experts on Mission



1 731 Police



427 Staff Officer



393 UN Volunteers

Authorised number of personnel



7,900

Total uniformed personnel



7,000 Military personnel *



900 Civilian police personnel



An appropriate civilian component



CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN

- ▶ Civil war in December 2013 was escalated and violence erupted between forces loyal to President Kiir, the ethnic Dinka
- ▶ Armed conflict between the opposing armies and their allied military groups continued throughout 2014 and 2015
- ▶ On 15 December 2013, violence broke out in Juba and spread later to other parts of the country
- ▶ Seven of the country's 10 states were affected by the conflict, with Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Upper Nile states

CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN





CAUSES OF THE CRISIS

- ▶ Violation of human rights
- ▶ Total number of displaced persons had reached 900.000
- ▶ The number of civilians affected by "acute" or "extraordinary" food
- ▶ Insecurity increased from 1.1 million to 3.2 million
- ▶ Warnings of a possible genocide
- ▶ Rapes of civilians, including humanitarian aid workers and journalists

UNMISS CHALLENGES I

- ▶ The country is largely inaccessible, especially during the lengthy rainy season
- ▶ The vulnerable population is dispersed, living mainly outside of major urban areas, often beyond the reach of State institutions
- ▶ Massive human suffering and large-scale killings have left the social and economic fabric of the country in tatters, while manipulation of communal identity has created deep divisions and high levels of mistrust
- ▶ The institutions of the State are nascent and often ill-governed, while patronage and flagrant corruption remain dominant modes of governance at all levels



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UNMISS CHALLENGES II



- ▶ **Protection challenge:** In 2016 armed elements forcibly entered several PoC sites, killing dozens of civilians. The mission also failed to intervene when government soldiers attacked UN personnel and aid workers in a compound close to its premises.
- ▶ **Consent challenge:** Insufficient host state support, Juba's formal consent to its deployment notwithstanding. Government forces, for example, frequently obstruct the mission's freedom of movement, limiting its ability to carry out mandated tasks.

UNMISS CHALLENGES III

- ▶ **Performance challenge:** UNMISS also struggles with varying levels of performance among its peacekeepers. Not all troops and police are willing to operate under dangerous conditions. During the crisis in July 2016, for instance, several European countries, including Germany, evacuated police officers - a unilateral decision, which not only compromised the mission's operational capacity, but also dealt a serious blow to the morale of staff remaining on the ground.
- ▶ **Political challenge:** Lack of progress on the political front has similarly impacted on the mission's work. UNMISS has been charged with supporting the implementation of a peace agreement it did not broker, for a conflict, which the warring parties themselves do not seem ready to end.



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UNMISS KEY FAILURES

- ▶ UNMISS leadership had followed the decision-making guidelines provided to them, there were issues in relaying and implementing this information among police and military personnel
- ▶ UNMISS is depended on the support of locally contracted inter-ethnic security personnel, many of whom resided in the PoC camp, but were unable to assist in providing adequate security during the attack on the camp
- ▶ The use of local contracted security guards drawn from the three tribes, many of them residing in the PoC site, was not conducive to properly securing the base and PoC site
- ▶ Security personnel at all levels lacked clear information and adequate training on established UNMISS protocols designed for such breaches
- ▶ Security personnel were helpful in managing tensions within the PoC site, however, they were not equipped or trained to deal with external attacks
- ▶ Linguistic differences between forces from different countries exacerbated their inability to mobilize and act effectively



COOPERATION WITH THE REGIONAL PROTECTION FORCE IN SOUTH SUDAN



- ▶ Although the conflict was officially ended in August 2015 and the parties to the conflict signed an Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) and the scope of the conflict has diminished, both parties regularly violate the terms of the agreement.
- ▶ Following the riots, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2304 on 12 August 2016. As a result, following the adoption of the resolution, the mandate of UNMISS was extended and the establishment of a new 4,000 RPF reporting to the UNMISS Force Commander was approved. A plan was outlined for RPF to provide a secure environment in and around Juba by means of a security plan.
- ▶ Even after the ratification of the Resolution 2304, the Government of South Sudan refused to accept the deployment of a regional force.
- ▶ At the 17 October meeting of the Security Council, it was discussed that the Government of South Sudan continued to obstruct UNMISS operations and delayed significant progress in the deployment of RPF.



IMPORTANCE OF UNMISS

- ▶ **Protection of Civilians:** UNMISS has saved countless lives by sheltering hundreds of thousands of civilians since the conflict began. In 2016, UNMISS not only provided protection to more than 160,000 IDPs in its camps but also humanitarian assistance to millions more, in addition to its mandated tasks.
- ▶ **Creating Conditions Conducive to the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance:** The number of people receiving humanitarian assistance directly from UNMISS is difficult to quantify, with an estimated 100,000 people receiving assistance and 200 000 people in the PoC sites.

IMPORTANCE OF UNMISS



- ▶ ***Monitoring and Investigating Human Rights:*** the Mission in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners established a court in Juba to hear cases of sexual violence.
- ▶ ***Supporting Implementation of the Agreement and Peace Process:*** the 2018 peace process became more successful. The role of UNMISS in ensuring inclusiveness and supporting agreements at the local level in support of the agreement appears to have had a positive impact on the process.

CONCLUSION

- ▶ UNMISS has done a great deal of work in protecting the population, creating PoC and protecting human rights. However, the ambitious wording of the mandate is not matched by limited resources. There is thus a large gap between what South Sudan expects from the United Nations and what the Mission can realistically deliver. Key political developments in South Sudan before and after the July 2016 violence meant that the current peace process had collapsed. Juba has already "stabilized" with the change in power relations in the city since July; however, this stability does not protect civilians.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!