



South Sudan Country Report: Children & Security

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Updated 3 April 2018

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I. BACKGROUND

Map of South Sudan¹



¹ Central Intelligence Agency, 'South Sudan', available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.



Children in South Sudan – Struggle Within Conflict

On 9 July 2011, South Sudan, officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, seceded from the Republic of Sudan to become an independent nation and Africa's fifty-fifth country. Although South Sudan is the youngest country in the world, it is no stranger to conflict or protracted civil war. Following the eruption of conflict in mid-December 2013, which intensified in 2016, the worsening situation is entering its fifth year in 2018, with devastating effects on children.² Today, South Sudan is faced with a myriad of other challenges arising from underdevelopment, political instability, inter-communal violence and cattle raiding, disease, and climatic shocks such as drought and flooding, which exacerbate the country's declining economy.³ From the outset, the South Sudan refugee situation has been characterised as a children's crisis.⁴ By the end of 2017, the conflict had resulted in the displacement of over four million South Sudanese civilians, 1.9 million within South Sudan (of which over 1.1 million were children as at May 2017), and a further 2.4 million in countries throughout the region (of which more than one million were children by May 2017).⁵ The combination of recurring displacement triggers, including ongoing conflict, economic crisis, natural hazards and inadequate access to food have caused many of those persons who have been able to return home to become displaced again, with little prospect of finding a durable solution to the issues prompting their displacement.⁶

² UNICEF, '2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview: South Sudan' (November 2017), available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_2018_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018 ('2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview') pp. 4, 5, 7, 9. See also UNHCR, 'South Sudan Regional Response Plan: January – December 2017' (December 2016), available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/SOUTH%20SUDAN%202017%20Regional%20Response%20Plan.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 ('UNHCR 2017 RRP'); November 2016 UNMISS Report, p. 6. See Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2017: Events of 2016' (2017) ('2017 Human Rights Watch Report'), p. 549. See also Council of the European Union, 'South Sudan – Council Conclusions', EU Doc. 14964/16 (12 December 2016), para. 1.

³ See UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018)', (28 February 2018) (UN Doc. S/2018/163), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1804744.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018; IMDC, 'South Sudan Mid-year update 2017 (January - June)', available at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴ European Commission, 'South Sudan Crisis: Echo Factsheet' (July 2015), available at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/deve/dv/echo_factsheet_s_sudan_echo_factsheet_s_sudan_en.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁵ UNHCR, 'South Sudan Operational Update: 16-31 January 2018', available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20SSD%20Operational%20Update%20No%202002%20-%202016%20-31%20January%202018.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018; See also UNHCR, 'More than one million children flee South Sudan violence' (8 May 2017), available at <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/5/590c736e4/million-children-flee-south-sudan-violence.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁶ IMDC, 'South Sudan Mid-year update 2017 (January - June)', available at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.



All parties are reported to have committed grave and widespread violations against children.⁷ Clashes between government and armed groups in a number of the country's regions have resulted in children being killed or maimed.⁸ Since the beginning of the conflict some 100,000 children have been directly affected by incidents of recruitment and use, abuse, exploitation and other grave violations by parties to the conflict.⁹ All told, between December 2013 and October 2017, at minimum the UN had documented 1,944 children were killed, 409 were injured, 3,237 were abducted, and 1,211 children were sexually assaulted.¹⁰ The true number is certainly much higher. As recently as January 2018, the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator advised the UN Security Council that both the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO had continued to perpetrate violations of international human rights law and human rights.¹¹

Grave Violations

Children continue to be recruited and used by both government forces and other armed groups. At least 19,000 children are believed to be currently associated with government forces and armed groups.¹² The displacement and re-displacement of children throughout the country has forced many of South Sudan's children into the bush where there is little access to food and water, increasing their vulnerability to recruitment and use by armed groups. Schools and hospitals also continue to be the subject of attack or use by armed groups or government forces, with 66 incidents of schools or hospitals being attacked or used for military purposes in 2016.¹³ Some two million children in South Sudan are out of school.¹⁴ Others have sought refuge at the UN Mission in South Sudan's (UNMISS) protection of civilian (PoC) sites.¹⁵ Each of these factors renders children vulnerable to recruitment and use in the ongoing armed conflict.

⁷ UN Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General', (24 August 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/821) ('2017 SGCAC Report'), para. 153.

⁸ 2017 SGCAC Report', p. 22.

⁹ 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, p. 2. See also UNICEF, 'Rise in child recruitment as conflict in South Sudan enters fourth year' (14 December 2016), available at https://www.unicef.org/media/media_94185.html, accessed 2 April 2018 ('UNICEF Rise'); November 2016 UNMISS Report, para. 42; 2016 SRSG Report, para. 4.

¹⁰ UNICEF, 'South Sudan Country Office: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Situation Report' (October 2017), available at https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/8_MRM_brief_October_2017.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹ UNOCHA, 'Assistant Secretary - General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan' (24 January 2018), available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20180124ASGStatementSecurityCouncilSSudanAsDelivered_0.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹² 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, p. 24.

¹³ 2017 SGCAC Report, paras. 148-150.

¹⁴ 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, p. 2.

¹⁵ 2017 SGCAC Report, para. 147; See also 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 550.



Beyond their direct participation in hostilities, children are killed and maimed by landmines, explosive remnants of war,¹⁶ and in acts of violence. For example, witness-reported accounts of children being thrown into burning houses, run over by military vehicles, and hanged from trees are numerous.¹⁷ Girls were reported to be killed if they resisted rape, and boys to be castrated and killed after attacks.¹⁸

Reports also note the risk to adolescent girls of early and forced marriage, and sexual abuse and exploitation by armed groups.¹⁹ The perpetration of sexual violence against children and the elderly violates social taboos, evidencing that sexual violence is often used as a tool of retribution and punishment against unsupportive or opposition communities.²⁰

Humanitarian access remains a serious challenge in South Sudan, with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs projecting seven million people in need of protection and assistance in 2018.²¹ The problem is exacerbated by challenges in access to humanitarian relief efforts. As recently as December 2017, truck drivers in Unity State delivering humanitarian supplies by road from Juba reported the existence of 66 checkpoints, delaying and sometimes preventing the delivery of humanitarian assistance.²² Food security deteriorated in 2017. As at December 2017, UNICEF reported that 1.1 million children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (a rate above the 15 per cent emergency levels in eight of nine South Sudanese states),²³ and by March 2018, 5.1 million people are projected to be classified as severely food insecure (of which 250,000 will be children).²⁴ Localised famines arose and

¹⁶ UN, 'Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict 2016 (20 April 2016) (UN Doc A/70/836-S/2016/360) ('2016 SGCAC Report'), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/children-and-armed-conflict-report-secretary-general-a70836-s2016360-enar>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 24.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, 'Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict' (28 December 2015) (UN Doc. A/HRC/31/19), available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/31/19&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC, accessed 2 April 2018 ('2015 SRSG Report') para. 3.

¹⁸ 2015 SRSG Report, para. 3.

¹⁹ UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General: conflict-related sexual violence', (23 March 2015) (UN Doc. S/2015/203) ('2015 SG Sexual Violence Report'), para. 11.

²⁰ UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence', (15 April 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/249) ('2017 SG Sexual Violence Report'), para. 61.

²¹ 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, p.4.

²² See also UN News, 'South Sudan: Ceasefire violations, hostile propaganda undercut regional peace push, Security Council told' (24 January 2018), available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1001121>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²³ UNICEF, 'UNICEF South Sudan Situation Report: Humanitarian Situation Report' (31 October 2017), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20South%20Sudan%20Humanitarian%20SitRep%20%23114%20-%202031%20October%202017%20.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁴ See UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018)', (28 February 2018) (UN Doc. S/2018/163), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1804744.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 27. See also United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 'Assistant Secretary - General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan' (24 January 2018), available at



ended throughout 2017 as the result of environmental hazards. These conditions are expected to deteriorate due to inability to farm arising from continuing conflict, and the annual lean season due to commence in March 2018. These factors could see the famine conditions already affecting 20,000 people spread to new locations throughout the country.²⁵

II. SECURITY SITUATION

1. Context

Following a civil war waged between southern Sudanese rebels and the government of Sudan from 1956 to 1972, the parties signed an agreement in 1972 which provided for regional self-government in the southern provinces of Sudan (i.e. Southern Sudan).²⁶ However, conflict resumed in 1983 when the government of Sudan unilaterally withdrew autonomy concessions afforded to Southern Sudan in the 1972 peace accord.²⁷ The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLA – now the South Sudan People's Defence Force (SSPDF)) was the primary rebel group fighting against the Sudanese government, though various splits in it and other groups were also involved. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed on 9 January 2005 after a six-year peace process, forming the Government of National Unity in Khartoum and an autonomous Government of Southern Sudan in Juba.²⁸ In the four years following signature of the CPA, nearly half of the four million civilians displaced from Southern Sudan to other regions of Sudan by years of conflict returned to their places of origin in Southern Sudan.²⁹

When the Republic of South Sudan seceded from the Republic of Sudan in July 2011, the UN Mission in Sudan was transformed into UNMISS to consolidate peace and security, and promote conditions for development.³⁰ Unfortunately, neither the formation of UNMISS nor the execution of the CPA brought an

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20180124ASGStatementSecurityCouncilSSudanAsDelivered_0.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵ 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, pp. 2, 6, 21; UNOCHA, 'Assistant Secretary - General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan' (24 January 2018), available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20180124ASGStatementSecurityCouncilSSudanAsDelivered_0.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁶ See 'The Addis Ababa Agreement on the Problem of South Sudan', available at http://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SD_720312_Addis%20Ababa%20Agreement%20on%20the%20Problem%20of%20South%20Sudan.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁷ Human Rights Council ('HRC') 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons' (A/HRC/32/35) (29 April 2016), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/report-special-rapporteur-human-rights-internally-displaced-persons-ahrc3235-enar>, accessed 2 April 2018 (2016 IDP Report), para. 7.

²⁸ HRC 2016 IDP Report, para. 7.

²⁹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 'Sudan: Durable solutions elusive as southern IDPs return and Darfur remains tense – A profile of the internal displacement situation' (23 December 2010), available at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Africa/Sudan/pdf/Sudan-December-2010.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 10.

³⁰ See UN Security Council Resolution 1996 (8 July 2011) (UN Doc. S/RES/1996).



end to the ethnically driven civil wars, insurgencies, and tribal conflicts within South Sudan's nascent borders. Conflict erupted in mid-December 2013 and has persisted since, involving violent clashes in Juba between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir (a member of the Dinka tribe) and those loyal to former First Vice-President, Dr. Riek Machar (a Nuer and commander and chief of the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO)).³¹ An agreement on cessation of hostilities was reached in early 2014,³² and resulted in the August 2014 expansion of UNMISS' mandate to protect civilians, monitor human rights, support the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and oversee the implementation of the agreement.³³ However, the government delayed deployment of the UNMISS force³⁴ and both the government and SPLM/A-IO continued to violate the terms of the agreement, with devastating effects on the civilian population.³⁵

In August 2015, the parties concluded another peace agreement which contained a formula for power-sharing between the NDFSS, the SPLM/SPLA-IO, representatives of released political detainees, and representatives from existing political parties of South Sudan.³⁶ However, efforts to end the fighting were complicated by executive orders issued by President Kiir in October 2015 and January 2017, which divided South's Sudan's ten-state system into 28, and then 32, states. This is widely perceived in South Sudan as an attempt to reconfigure state boundaries to benefit the Dinka majority, thereby threatening the power-sharing formula agreed by the parties.³⁷ Notwithstanding these political complications (which negotiations undertaken through February 2018 have been unable to resolve), and the continuing violence,

³¹ HRC, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' (6 March 2017) (A/HRC/34/63), available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/.../A_HRC_34_63_AEV%20-final.docx, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 15. Such clashes continue, including attacks on government security installations undertaken by 'unknown armed elements' in January 2018. See UN News, 'South Sudan: Ceasefire violations, hostile propaganda undercut regional peace push, Security Council told' (24 January 2018), available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1001121>, accessed 2 April 2018.

³² Intergovernmental Authority on Development, 'Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (In Opposition) (SPLM/A (In Opposition))' (23 January 2014), available at http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Agreement%20on%20Cessation%20of%20Hostilities_0.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

³³ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2155 (2014)', (27 May 2014) (UN Doc. S/RES/2155).

³⁴ HRC, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' dated 6 March 2017 (A/HRC/34/63), para. 18.

³⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 'South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan January – December 2018' (2018 Refugee Response Plan), available at <http://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/5a814777/2018-south-sudan-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-december-2018.html>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 10.

³⁶ Intergovernmental Authority on Development, 'Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan' (17 August 2015), available at https://unmiss.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/final_proposed_compromise_agreement_for_south_sudan_conflict.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

³⁷ 'The Establishment Order No. 36/2015 AD for the creation of the new South Sudan states' dated 2 October 2015; 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' dated 6 March 2017 (A/HRC/34/63), paras 14-15; Human Rights Watch, '2018 World Report (2018)' ('2018 Human Rights Watch Report'), available at https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 505.



implementation of the peace agreement is supported and monitored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), China, the EU, Norway, the UK, and the US.³⁸

In July 2016, in the context of increased suspicion and mistrust between the country's ethnic communities following President Kiir's new state delimitations, intense clashes in Juba between troops loyal to President Kiir and those supporting Dr Riek Machar caused Riek Machar – who remains in exile as of March 2018 – to flee South Sudan,³⁹ and his former ally Taban Deng Gai was appointed as First Vice-President. This prompted Machar's supporters to call for a “return to war”,⁴⁰ leaving the internationally-backed peace agreement fragile, and its implementation further impeded by political fragmentation, defection of various actors, and increasing polarisation.⁴¹ The lack of political agreement undermined UNMISS' ability to protect civilians,⁴² and prompted the deployment of a 4,000-strong regional protection force authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 2304 (2016).⁴³ In February 2018, an additional 270 strengthened the 600 personnel already deployed to South Sudan, and were tasked specifically with providing protection to key facilities and routes in Juba, and protecting the UN's PoCs.⁴⁴

Since intense fighting broke out in South Sudan in July 2016, the violence has further escalated, both along South Sudan's borders and within South Sudan. In 2017, new incidents of fighting arose in Greater Upper Nile, Western Bahr al Ghazal, and the Equatorias.⁴⁵ For example, the government launched an offensive to capture the SPLM/A-IO headquarters in Pagak in early July 2017.⁴⁶ The situation remains volatile in 2018 despite the signing of an Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities in Addis Ababa in

³⁸ Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), ‘Communique of the 60th Extra-Ordinary Session of IGAD Council of Ministers on the Situation in South Sudan’, dated 27 January 2018, available at <https://igad.int/communique/1747-communique-of-the-60th-extra-ordinary-session-of-igad-council-of-ministers-on-the-situation-in-south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018; IGAD, ‘Communique of the 31st Extra-Ordinary Summit of IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on South Sudan’ dated 12 June 2017, available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/120617_Communique%20of%20the%2031st%20Extra-Ordinary%20IGAD%20Summit%20on%20South%20Sudan.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

³⁹ HRC ‘Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan’ dated 6 March 2017 (A/HRC/34/63), para. 17.

⁴⁰ Reuters ‘U.S. condemns South Sudan opposition leader's call for renewed war’, available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-usa/u-s-condemns-south-sudan-opposition-leaders-call-for-renewed-war-idUSKCN11Y2XP>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴¹ UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 6.

⁴² UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 6.

⁴³ UN News ‘South Sudan: Deployment of UN-mandated regional protection force begins’ (8 August 2017), available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/08/562962-south-sudan-deployment-un-mandated-regional-protection-force-begins>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴⁴ See ReliefWeb, ‘More Regional Protection Forces Arrive in South Sudan's Juba’ (14 February 2018), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/more-regional-protection-forces-arrive-south-sudans-juba>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴⁵ UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, ‘Report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan’ (20 September 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/789), available at <https://undocs.org/S/2017/789>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 4; 2018 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 501.

⁴⁶ UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, ‘Report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan’ (20 September 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/789), available at <https://undocs.org/S/2017/789>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 5.



December 2017. Since then there have been few signs of progress. Indeed, peace talks organised by the African Union held in Addis Ababa in early 2018 were marred by discord, boycotts, and walkouts. Specifically, organisations participating in the negotiations have suggested that talks broke down following a proposal by IGAD that the power-sharing arrangement negotiated in 2015 be amended, such that the proportion of parliamentary seats available to the government be reduced from 53 per cent to 51 per cent (leaving 49 per cent for the opposition).⁴⁷ Other rejected proposals include the IGAD proposal that four vice presidents be appointed to accommodate the interests of groups left out of the 2015 agreement.⁴⁸

It is the diverse and complex ethnic make-up of South Sudan's population which continues to exacerbate violence and potential unrest. The Dinka, largest of South Sudan's 64 tribes, comprises 35 per cent of the population and has historically had a prominent role in government. Resentment regarding the relative strength of representation of the interests of different tribes in South Sudanese culture is exacerbated by issues relating to grazing land rights, and cattle.⁴⁹ By the end of December 2011, only months after South Sudan's independence, tensions between the tribes began to increase.⁵⁰ The problem has only escalated in the face of power-distribution arrangements perceived to unfairly and unjustifiably promote the interests of the majority Dinka tribe over those of other tribes, by, *inter alia*, increasing Dinka control over the land and resources traditionally held by other groups. Disaffected youths have formed armed resistance groups which classify themselves as defenders of their respective ethnic groups, many of which have targeted Dinka civilians throughout the country, prompting ongoing retaliation.

Clashes are characterised by violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and other inhumane and degrading treatment, looting and destruction of civilian and humanitarian assets, the curtailment of freedom of movement, and recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.⁵¹ In response to the violence in Juba in July 2016, the SSPDF spread violence throughout the Equatoria region, carrying out military operations in pursuit of opposition members suspected of fleeing to Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁵² Ongoing outbursts of fighting in 2017 in areas including Jonglei,

⁴⁷ ReliefWeb, 'Few signs of progress in South Sudan peace talks' (15 February 2018) ('Few Signs'), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/few-signs-progress-south-sudan-peace-talks>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴⁸ Few Signs; The East African, 'No peace deal from Addis talks on South Sudan' (17 February 2018), available at <http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/No-peace-deal-from-Addis-talks-on-South-Sudan/2558-4309122-ljluv0/index.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁴⁹ For the country's nomadic tribes, cattle represent the foundation of all economic activity, and a means to pay bride prices. Each of these facts has created a history of cattle raiding between the tribes, extending back decades.

⁵⁰ For example, the Nuer White Army expressed its intention to protect its cattle by destroying the Murle tribe in late 2011.

⁵¹ See UNHCR 2018 Refugee Response Plan, available at http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2018%20South%20Sudan%20Regional%20Refugee%20Response%20Plan%20-%20Jan-Dec%202018%20%28January%202018%29_0.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 7.

⁵² HRC, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' dated 6 March 2017 (A/HRC/34/63), para. 16.

Lakes and Western Equatoria have all but emptied towns including Kajo-keji and Kaya, contributing to the widespread displacement of South Sudan's population.⁵³

Although patterns of serious and systematic violence against civilians can be attributed to all parties to the conflict, the actions of state actors are most widely reported. This largely arises from their relative force strength in the period from 2015 to 2017, the inability of opposition groups to secure logistical support, and UNMISS' limited access to areas controlled by opposition groups.⁵⁴

A specific difficulty is the continuing impediment of humanitarian efforts by the South Sudanese government.⁵⁵ Incidents of denial of humanitarian access increased to 445 in 2016.⁵⁶ Similarly, in 2017, the government was reported to have used its territorial control to prevent conduct of humanitarian actions (particularly denying civilians access to food humanitarian assistance), causing increased exposure to food insecurity, disease, family and community dissolution, and prompting additional waves of displacement and re-displacement.⁵⁷

Initially sparked by political issues, occurrences of hate speech suggest that the conflict has acquired an ethnic dimension.⁵⁸ During the first half of 2017, the international community feared outright ethnic war

⁵³ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 5; UNICEF, '2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview: South Sudan', available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_2018_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 4.

⁵⁴ HRC, 'Assessment mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan: Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights', (10 March 2016) (UN Doc. A/HRC/31/49) ('UNHRC 2016'), para. 3. See also UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, 'Report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 September 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/789), available at <https://undocs.org/S/2017/789>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 4; and Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 12 August to 25 October 2016) (10 November 2016) (UN Doc S/2016/950), para. 36.

⁵⁵ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 2.

⁵⁶ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, pp. 13, 16.

⁵⁷ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, pp. 13, 16.

⁵⁸ Peace Tech Lab 'Hate Speech Monitoring and Conflict Analysis in South Sudan - Report #5: September 24 – October 9, 2017', 12 October 2017, available at <http://www.peacetechlab.org/south-sudan-hate-speech-monitoring/2017/10/12/hate-speech-monitoring-and-conflict-analysis-in-south-sudan-report-5-september-24-october-9-2017>, accessed 2 April 2018; HRW, 'World Report 2018: Events of 2017', available at https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 503; UNMISS 'Special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan' (10 November 2016) (UN Doc. S/2016/951) para. 14. See also 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' (6 March 2017) (A/HRC/34/63), paras 16, 25-



and the commission of mass atrocity crimes such as genocide).⁵⁹ International actors have characterised the evolving conflict as ethnic cleansing. As at December 2017, tens of thousands have been killed, four million people have been displaced (of which 1.9 million are internally displaced),⁶⁰ 209,885 are taking refuge in six UNMISS PoC sites,⁶¹ and 2.1 million have fled to neighboring countries.⁶²

It is not only South Sudanese civilians experiencing violence and uncertainty caused by the conflict. Humanitarian services providers have reported experiencing violence, including sexual violence.⁶³ Since December 2013, 84 aid workers have been reported killed. Of them, at least 17 were killed between January and July 2017, making South Sudan the most dangerous locations in the world for humanitarian workers.⁶⁴ During attacks aimed at humanitarian workers' compounds, uniformed troops have reported to have participated in looting, beatings and rape of humanitarian workers.⁶⁵

27 and Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 12 August to 25 October 2016) (10 November 2016) (UN Doc S/2016/950), para. 26.

⁵⁹ UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 6; UN Press Center, 'Act now to halt South Sudan's "trajectory towards mass atrocities", Ban urges Security Council' (19 December 2016), available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55839#.WGdylwWfR4>, accessed 2 April 2018; UN Security Council Resolution 2327 (2016), (16 December 2016) (UN Doc. S/RES/2327).

⁶⁰ UNOCHA, 'Crisis Overview', available at <http://www.unocha.org/country/south-sudan/crisis-overview> accessed 2 April 2018; UNHCR Operational Update, 'South Sudan:16-31 January 2018', available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20SSD%20Operational%20Update%20No%2002%20-%202016%20-31%20January%202018.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 1.

⁶¹ UNOCHA, 'Humanitarian Bulletin South Sudan' (12 February 2018), available at https://unmiss.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/201800212_-_poc_update_ii.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁶² 2018 Response Plan. See also UN Security Council 'Special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan' (UN Doc. S/2016/951) (10 November 2016), para. 31; UNMISS, 'Protection of Civilian Sites Update No. 146' (12 December 2016), available at <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/161212%20Update%20-%202014608.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018. See also UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan', (9 February 2016) (UN Doc. S/2016/138), para. 22.

⁶³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 'Humanitarian Coordinator Demands There be no More Attacks Against Aid Workers in South Sudan' (19 August 2016), available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SS_160819_World_Humanitarian_Day_Press_Release.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁶⁴ UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, 'Report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 September 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/789), available at <https://undocs.org/S/2017/789>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 27.

⁶⁵ HRC, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' (6 March 2017) (UN Doc. A/HRC/34/63), available at www.ohchr.org/EN/.../A_HRC_34_63_AEV%20-final.docx, accessed 2 April 2018; The Guardian, 'Attack on aid workers in South Sudan: "There was incredible naivety"' (17 October 2016), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/oct/17/attack-on-aid-workers-in-south-sudan-there-was-incredible-naivety>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 15.



2. State, Non-State, and International Actors

a) State Actors

Government Forces

The South Sudan's People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) (formerly the SPLA) is South Sudan's official military force. The SSPDF is primarily composed of soldiers from the Dinka ethnicity, but includes members of both Nuer and Shilluk backgrounds. The exact strength of the SSPDF is difficult to estimate due to its fluctuating use of militia groups, which have been integrated into the SSPDF following various peace deals.⁶⁶

Since 2003, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General has listed the SSPDF as a persistent perpetrator of grave violations against children during armed conflict, including the use and recruitment of children.⁶⁷ Children are recruited and used to serve as bodyguards, servants, and cooks for government officials and former commanders, known as 'commissioners'.⁶⁸ Other children have been used in combat, and have been reported among those killed on the frontlines.⁶⁹

In March 2012, South Sudan's government signed an Action Plan prepared cooperatively with the UN, pursuant to which it committed to end the recruitment and use of children aged 18 years or less within the SSPDF, and all other grave violations against children.⁷⁰ In 2013, the SSPDF forbade the recruitment and

⁶⁶ Global Security, 'Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)', available at <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/spla.htm>, accessed 2 April 2018. See also Security Sector Reform Resource Centre, 'Roadblocks to a Professional Security Sector in South Sudan' (13 August 2014), available at <http://www.ssrresourcecentre.org/2014/08/13/roadblocks-to-a-professional-security-sector-in-south-sudan/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, 'Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General' (10 November 2003) (UN Doc. A/58/546 / S/2003/1053), available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/58/546&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 23; UN General Assembly, 'Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General' (24 August 2017) (UN Doc. A/72/361 / S/2017/821), available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/821&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 38; Human Rights Watch, 'South Sudan: Child Soldiers Thrust into Battle: Government, Opposition Should Stop Deploying Children' (20 August 2014), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/20/south-sudan-child-soldiers-thrust-battle>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁶⁸ Human Rights Watch, 'We Can Die Too: Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in South Sudan' (December 2015), available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/12/14/we-can-die-too/recruitment-and-use-child-soldiers-south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018 ('We Can Die Too'), p. 32.

⁶⁹ Human Rights Watch, 'South Sudan: Child Soldiers Thrust into Battle: Government, Opposition Should Stop Deploying Children' (20 August 2014), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/20/south-sudan-child-soldiers-thrust-battle>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁷⁰ UNICEF Press Centre, 'Government of South Sudan Recommits to Action Plan to End Recruitment and Use of Children' (24 June 2014), available at http://www.unicef.org/media/media_73922.html, accessed 2 April 2018. See also Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, 'Action Plans with Armed Forces and Armed Groups', available at <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/action-plans/>, accessed 2 April 2018.



use of children within any operations, resulting in the formal release of more than 1,000 children. However, the SSPDF's absorption of former rebel groups in 2014 (as occurred when it integrated members of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army-Upper Nile Faction (SSDM/A) and the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA)) makes it difficult to confirm that the practice as a whole has been eradicated, such that children may still be participating in the SSPDF's activities. In August 2015, South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 Action Plan with the UN to end the recruitment and use of children.⁷¹ However, heightened conflict has undermined the Action Plan commitments made by both the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO to end violations of children's rights,⁷² and no further progress toward implementation of the Action Plan has been reported.

Beyond the recruitment and use of children in armed forces, the SSPDF is reported to have perpetrated sexual violence, often suggested as evidence of a lack of discipline and lax command and control in the group.⁷³ For instance, government soldiers reportedly raped hundreds of displaced women and girls from the Nuer tribe near the main UN base in Juba.⁷⁴

In July 2016, lax command and control within the SSPDF resulted in a number of high-ranking defections, including by Colonel Chan Garang,⁷⁵ which the SPLA-IO reported in detail to the local media.⁷⁶ Reports confirmed that President Kiir decided to restructure and rename the SPLA into the SSPDF in order to regain control of the organisation.⁷⁷

In May 2017, it was alleged that General Paul Malong led the 2016 fighting in Juba and controlled an ethnic militia. The Kiir administration placed General Malong under house arrest, where he stayed until his release in November 2017 when he was permitted to travel to east Africa for a medical check-up.⁷⁸

⁷¹ UNICEF, 'We are Children Not Soldiers: South Sudan' (May 2016), available at <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/South-Sudan-fact-sheet-May-2016.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁷² 2015 SRSG Report, para. 32.

⁷³ UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General: conflict-related sexual violence', (20 April 2016) (UN Doc. S/2016/361) ('2016 SG Sexual Violence Report'), para. 11.

⁷⁴ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 250.

⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan' (23 February 2018) (UN Doc. A/HRC/37/71), available at <file:///Users/AG/Downloads/b1293c47cfcfded8ee8b42fafdd7723e.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 20.

⁷⁶ Sudan Tribune, 'Rebel commander defects to SPLA-IO Taban: spokesperson' (3 March 2018), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article64852>, accessed 2 April 2018; Sudan Tribune, 'Opposition army releases names of recent SPLA defectors' (26 March 2016), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58424>, accessed 2 April 2018; Sudan Tribune, 'SPLA denies defection of 300 soldiers to rebels' (2 December 2016), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article60999>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁷⁷ Sudan Tribune 'South Sudan president says changed SPLA name to represent will of people' (5 August 2017), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article63161>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁷⁸ VOA News, 'Former South Sudan Army Chief of Staff Released from House Arrest' (9 November 2017), available at <https://www.voanews.com/a/former-south-sudan-army-chief-of-staff-released-from-house-arrest-/4108393.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.



Other State Actors

The recruitment and use of children is not restricted to the SSPDF; such activity is also reported among the South Sudan National Police Service and the South Sudan Wildlife Service.⁷⁹

b) Non-State Actors

There are a large number of non-state actors and clan militias operating in South Sudan. New armed groups continue to emerge, often in response to the escalation of conflict in the Equatorias and the Upper Nile. Senior SSPDF officers defected in 2017 to form and join these groups.⁸⁰

The following highlights a number of the key armed groups in operation as at the date of this report. However, it is important to note that new armed groups and militias continue to emerge.

SPLM/A-IO

Former Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar created an opposition force, SPLM/A-IO, to “liberate” South Sudan from President Salva Kiir. The SPLM/A-IO is composed of almost entirely Nuer soldiers who defected from the SSPDF and other government forces. Although the Small Arms Survey reports the SPLM/A-IO to be around 10,000 troops,⁸¹ this number is uncertain, following the split between SPLM/A-IO forces loyal to Dr. Riek Machar and those loyal First Vice President, General Taban Deng Gai.⁸²

The UN Secretary-General has listed the SPLM/A-IO as an armed group which commits all six grave violations of children’s rights, including recruitment and use of children.⁸³ Children are recruited by the

⁷⁹ UN Secretary General, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’ (15 April 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/249) (‘2017 SGCRSV Report’); 2016 SGCAC Report; UN Security Council, ‘Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General’ (5 June 2015) (UN Doc. S/2015/409) (‘2015 SGCAC Report’).

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, ‘Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan’ (23 February 2018) (UN Doc. A/HRC/37/71), available at <file:///Users/AG/Downloads/b1293c47cfcfded8ee8b42fafdd7723e.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 21.

⁸¹ Human Security Baseline Assessment, ‘The SPLM-in-opposition’ (May 2014), available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/south-sudan/HSBA-SPLM-IO-May-2014.pdf> accessed 2 April 2018, p. 6.

⁸² Nyamilepedia, ‘South Sudan FVP Taban Deng Gai March Troops to Capture Akobo in 5 Days’ (8 January 2018), available at <http://nyamile.com/2018/01/08/breaking-news-south-sudan-fvp-taban-deng-gai-march-troops-to-capture-akobo-in-5-days/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁸³ UN General Assembly, ‘Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General’ (24 August 2017) (UN Doc. A/72/361 / S/2017/821), available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/821&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC, accessed 2 April 2018, paras. 145-152; See also UNICEF, ‘We are Children Not Soldiers: South Sudan’ (May 2016), available at <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/South-Sudan-fact-sheet-May-2016.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.



SPLM/A-IO in Western Equatoria, Upper Nile and Unity States, and have been reportedly identified in forces operating in (among other places) Pibor, throughout 2017.⁸⁴

In May 2014, the SPLM/A-IO signed an agreement to end all grave violations against children immediately.⁸⁵ The SPLM/A-IO also signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children as well as sexual violence against children.⁸⁶ It also signed commitments to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to prevent conflict-related sexual violence by senior officers at the end of 2015.⁸⁷ However, the recruitment and use of children remains an ongoing issue throughout the SPLM/A-IO and allied militias.⁸⁸ The SPLM/A-IO continues to be led by Riek Machar despite his exile to South Africa. However, the difficulty of his ongoing effective control from afar has undermined attempts to reunify the two factions of SPLA-IO.⁸⁹

SSDM/A

Originally formed in 2010 as the political wing of a group seeking control over Jonglei state, the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army is a primarily Murle armed group. In the context of South Sudan's constantly shifting alliances, the SSDM/A has a complicated relationship with the government. The entities are not fully integrated, and each has an independent command structure.⁹⁰ The SSDM/A signed a peace agreement with the government in Juba on 27 February 2012.⁹¹ Since that time, the group's

⁸⁴ Conference and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism 'CTSAMM Report 2018/02: Child Soldiers' (15 January 2018), available at <http://ctsamm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CTSAMM-REPORT-201802-CHILD-SOLDIERS.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 2.1; Norwegian Embassy in South Sudan, 'Troika statement on the use of child soldiers' (29 January 2018), available at <https://www.norway.no/en/south-sudan/norway/news-events/news2/troika-statement-on-the-use-of-child-soldiers/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁸⁵ UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, 'Parties to the conflict in South Sudan renew their commitment to end recruitment and other grave violations against children' (11 May 2014), available at <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/press-release/parties-to-conflict-south-sudan-renew-commitment/> accessed 2 April 2018.

⁸⁶ 2016 SRSG Report, para. 40.

⁸⁷ 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para.11; UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, 'South Sudan: UN Special Representative welcomes SPLA-IO action plan to combat rape in war and undertakings by Commanders' (10 November 2015), available at <http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/press-release/south-sudan-united-nations-special-representative-welcomes-spla-io-action-plan-to-combat-rape-in-war-and-undertakings-by-commanders/>, accessed 2 April 2018. This was one of the first instances in which such commitments had been made by a non-state actor.

⁸⁸ Conference and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism 'CTSAMM Report 2018/02: Child Soldiers' (15 January 2018), available at <http://ctsamm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CTSAMM-REPORT-201802-CHILD-SOLDIERS.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁸⁹ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, pp. 16, 18, 21.

⁹⁰ Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan, 'The Conflict in the Upper Nile State' (9 April 2015), available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/south-sudan/HSBA-Conflict-Upper-Nile-April-2015.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 ('The Conflict in the Upper Nile State'), p. 4.

⁹¹ The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 2.



allegiance has shifted a number of times; in June 2013 Johnson Olonyi (an SSDM/A commander) attacked SSPDF troops at Wadakona, but in 2015, Olonyi directed an SSPDF attack on SPLA-IO forces at Wadakona.⁹² It is difficult to determine the factors which prompt such periodic shifts in allegiance in the alliance.

Further complicating the tumultuous relationship between the SSDM/A and the South Sudanese government are allegations that the SSDM/A forces under Johnson Olonyi – one of the SSDM commanders who received amnesty and integrated into the SSPDF after a 2014 deal – recruited and used children.⁹³ The SSPDF denied the allegations, claiming that Johnson Olonyi is a part of the SSPDF, arguing that the SSDM/A have not been fully integrated into the SSPDF proper.⁹⁴ Olonyi's refutations are verified by his reported defection from government-aligned forces in mid-2015, when he is understood to have formed a new armed group, known as the Agwelek, and began fighting against them.⁹⁵ Divisions formed within the SSDM, causing a split into two factions – the Cobra faction, comprised of Murle ethnicity, and the Upper Nile faction, comprised mainly of people of Shilluk background. In March 2017, the Cobra faction was announced to have been dissolved, and to have merged with General Cirillo Swaka's National Salvation Front.⁹⁶ Very little information regarding the activities of the SSDM-Upper Nile exists after 2015.

White Army

The White Army (sometimes referred to as the Nuer White Army) is the semi-official name for a collection of Nuer armed youth. An in-depth analysis of the White Army undertaken by the Small Arms Survey Sudan indicates that village elders hold considerable influence over the group,⁹⁷ influencing its participants – largely comprised of individuals between 12 and 18 years of age, motivated to protect their community against external threats and to defend property and livestock.⁹⁸

⁹² Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan, 'The Conflict in the Upper Nile State' (9 April 2015), available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/south-sudan/HSBA-Conflict-Upper-Nile-April-2015.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 ('The Conflict in the Upper Nile State'), p. 8.

⁹³ The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 7.

⁹⁴ The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 7.

⁹⁵ Small Arms Survey Sudan, 'The Conflict in Upper Nile State – Events through 8 March 2016', available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/facts-figures/south-sudan/conflict-of-2013-14/the-conflict-in-upper-nile.html>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 12.

⁹⁶ Radio Tamazuj, 'SSDM-Cobra Faction dissolved, merged with Cirillo's rebels' (8 March 2017), available at <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/ssdm-cobra-faction-dissolved-merged-with-cirillo-s-rebels>, accessed 2 April 2018.

⁹⁷ Small Arms Survey Sudan 'Popular Struggles and Elite Co-optation: The Nuer White Army in South Sudan's Civil War', available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/working-papers/HSBA-WP41-White-Armypdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p.32.

⁹⁸ Sudan Tribune, 'The White Army and mythology in South Sudan political violence' (17 April 2016), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58655>, accessed 2 April 2018.



The UN Secretary-General has identified the White Army as an armed group which recruits and uses children in its operations.⁹⁹ However, given the low average age of members of the group, it is unclear which individuals ought to be held responsible for this recruitment activity.

South Sudan People's Patriotic Front

The South Sudan People's Patriotic Front is an armed group based in Western Equatoria, formerly known as the Arrow Boys/Girls. On 23 November 2015, the group declared that "it is the people who have been fighting to defend themselves against unpatriotic tribal dictatorial regime which is only interested in furthering its tribal agenda without thinking about the country which our forefathers and recently our brothers and sisters sacrificed for with over 2 million lives to achieve the CPA in 2005 and finally Independence in 2011", .¹⁰⁰

The group is listed as having come into existence on 3 March 2014 in response to an attempted insurgency into Western Equatoria by the LRA.¹⁰¹ The strength of the group is difficult to measure. In November 2015, its commander Futiyo boasted ranks of over 10,000 personnel in Western Equatoria alone. In August 2016, approximately 1,100 individuals defected from the Patriotic Front to join Gabriel Changson Chang's South Sudan Army Forces/Federal Democratic Party (SSAF/FDP).¹⁰²

The UN Secretary-General has identified the Arrow Boys/Girls (now the South Sudan People's Patriotic Front) as an armed group which commits grave violations against children including recruitment and use of children in its operations, and perpetration of sexual violence against girls.¹⁰³

South Sudan Democratic Army-Cobra Faction (SSDA/CF)

Comprised primarily of ethnic Murle individuals based in Pibor county, the Cobra faction defected from the government and followed General Khalid Boutros (former deputy to David Yau Yau within the SPLM-IO) to pursue a goal of overthrowing the government.¹⁰⁴ The group named itself "Cobra faction" to distinguish it from the wider South Sudan Democratic Movement.¹⁰⁵ The group signed a peace deal with

⁹⁹ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁰⁰ See e.g. Sudan Tribune, 'New South Sudan rebel faction seeks alliance against government' (25 November 2015), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57150>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁰¹ https://www.facebook.com/pg/EquatoriaStrong1870/about/?ref=page_internal.

¹⁰² Wars in the World, 'South Sudan: Over 1,000 South Sudan People Patriotic Front (SSPPF) rebels defect to Gabriel Changson Chang's South Sudan Army Forces (SSAF)' (19 August 2018), available at <https://www.warsintheworld.com/index.php/2016/08/19/south-sudan-over-1000-south-sudan-people-patriotic-front-ssppf-rebels-defect-to-gabriel-changson-changs-south-sudan-army-forces-ssaf/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁰³ 2017 SGCAC Report, paras. 145, 147; 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁰⁴ Sudan Tribune, 'Cobra Faction of Ethnic Murle Defects from South Sudan Government' (28 September 2016), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article60364>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁰⁵ Small Arms Survey Sudan, 'SSDM/A-Cobra Faction', available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/de/facts-figures/south-sudan/armed-groups/southern-dissident-militias/ssdma-cobra-faction.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.



the South Sudanese Government in May 2014.¹⁰⁶ However, in September 2016, General Boutros accused the government of having violated the agreement, forcing the Cobra faction to fight.¹⁰⁷

The UN Secretary-General has identified the SSDA/CF as a group which recruits and uses children in its operations.¹⁰⁸ The UN has not reported the group's commission of any other grave offences against children.

In March 2017, the faction was dissolved, and merged with the movement led by General Thomas Cirillo Swaka.¹⁰⁹

Mathiang Anyoor

An ethnic Dinka militia allied with the SSPDF,¹¹⁰ the Mathiang Anyoor is also known as Dot Ke Beny, and was formed as a militia of Dinkas. The Mathiang Anyoor is often accused of perpetrating much of the ethnic violence against non-Dinkas.¹¹¹ Former Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Paul Malong, attempted to disband the group following his removal by President Kiir in May 2017. He instructed members of the Mathiang Anyoor to return home to Aweil State.¹¹² They were then permitted free passage through Unity State to facilitate their demilitarisation.

The UN Secretary-General has not included Mathiang Anyoor in its list of entities in South Sudan which recruit and use children, but the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict has cited reports of sexual violence by the Mathiang Anyoor,¹¹³ including incidents of rape, gang rape, forced stripping or nudity, forced sexual acts, castration and mutilation of genitalia, and looting and

¹⁰⁶ Sudan Tribune, 'South Sudanese Government, Yau Yau Rebels Sign Peace Deal' (9 May 2014) ('Yau Yau Peace Deal'), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article50935>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁰⁷ Yau Yau Peace Deal.

¹⁰⁸ 2017 SGCAC Report, para. 145; 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁰⁹ Radio Tamazuj, 'SSDM-Cobra Faction dissolved, merged with Cirillo's rebels' (9 March 2017), available at <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/ssdm-cobra-faction-dissolved-merged-with-cirillo-s-rebels>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹⁰ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 18.

¹¹¹ The World Post, 'Who's behind South Sudan's return to fighting, if it isn't Kiir or Machar?', available at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/the-conversation-africa/whos-behind-south-sudans_b_11008018.html, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹² Nyamilepedia, "'Give Safe Passage to Mathiang Anyoor' ~ Dr. Machar Orders His Troops In South Sudan' (11 June 2017), available at <http://nyamile.com/2017/06/11/give-safe-passage-to-mathiang-anyoor-dr-machar-orders-his-troops-in-south-sudan/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹³ UN Security Council, 'Security Council Sanctions Committee Concerning South Sudan Meets with Coordinator of Panel of Experts, Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict' (27 September 2016), available at <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12535.doc.htm>, accessed 2 April 2018.



destruction of civilian property.¹¹⁴ The UN has not reported the group's commission of any other grave offences against children's rights.

National Salvation Front

SSPDF Deputy Chief of the General Staff for Logistics, General Thomas Cirillo Swaka, has led the National Salvation Front since he resigned from the South Sudan military in February 2017.¹¹⁵

The group, which operates in Eastern Equatoria, describes itself as a political organisation formed to restore the unity and dignity of the South Sudanese people,¹¹⁶ seeking to reduce the mechanisms used to unfairly advantage ethnic Dinkas at the expense of other South Sudanese.¹¹⁷ In March 2017, General Cirillo Swaka announced that the purpose of the National Salvation Front was to oust President Salva Kiir from power.¹¹⁸ Later that month, the SSDA/CF dissolved and merged with the National Salvation Front, also led by General Thomas Cirillo Swaka.¹¹⁹

The UN Secretary-General has not listed the National Salvation Front as an armed group which recruits and uses children. However, since the National Salvation Front has merged with the SSDA/CF (which is listed as committing these violations), it is possible that the National Salvation Front is involved in the recruitment and use of children.¹²⁰

Agwelek

Agwelek is an armed group which operates primarily in the Equitorias.¹²¹ Funded by Juba, former SSDM/A commander Johnson Olonyi led the Agwelek forces in pursuit of a largely Shilluk ethnic agenda

¹¹⁴ HRC, 'Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan* - Advance edited Version' (13 March 2018), (UN Doc. HRC/37/71), available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/.../A_HRC_37_71_EN.docx, accessed 2 April 2018, paras. 26 and 41.

¹¹⁵ Amnesty International, 'South Sudan 2017/2018', available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/south-sudan/report-south-sudan/>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 336.

¹¹⁶ See <https://www.facebook.com/NasSouthSudan/>.

¹¹⁷ Terrorism Research Analysis Consortium, 'National Salvation Front (NAS/NSF) - South Sudan', available at <https://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/national-salvation-front-nasnsf-south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018; Messenger Africa, 'Exclusive interview with South Sudan's General Thomas Cirilo Swaka' (22 March 2017), available at <https://messengerafrika.com/2017/03/22/exclusive-interview-with-south-sudans-general-thomas-cirilo-swaka/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹⁸ South Sudan Nation, 'The Declaration of the National Salvation Front (NAF): Gen. Thomas Cirillo forms his Movement' (6 March 2017), available at <http://www.southsudannation.com/the-declaration-of-the-national-salvation-front-nas-gen-thomas-cirillo-forms-his-movement/>, accessed 2 April 2018; Messenger Africa, 'Exclusive interview with South Sudan's General Thomas Cirilo Swaka' (22 March 2017), available at <https://messengerafrika.com/2017/03/22/exclusive-interview-with-south-sudans-general-thomas-cirilo-swaka/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹¹⁹ Voice of Africa, 'South Sudan: Former Rebel Chief Joins National Salvation Front in South Sudan' (10 March 2017), available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201703100178.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹²⁰ 2017 SGCAC Report, para. 145; 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹²¹ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 18.



in 2014 and 2015. During that time, the forces achieved success in the south of Upper Nile, driving the SPLA-IO away from the bank of the West Nile.¹²² In September and October 2017, Agwelek forces were reported to receive armed shipments in Upper Nile.¹²³ Neither the existence nor the origins of such shipments have been verified independently.

Reports of Agwelek commission of grave violations against children in armed conflict are few, vague and unverified.

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

The LRA, a Ugandan-based armed group led by Joseph Kony, continues to operate in eastern regions of the CAR and enslave, among others, South Sudanese boys and girls who are used as cooks, porters, concubines, and combatants.¹²⁴ It continues to abduct and force girls into marriages and force children to commit atrocities against civilians.

While the LRA is not listed by the UN Secretary-General as a party that recruits and uses children or commits other grave violations in South Sudan, the group remains active near the South Sudanese border. Specifically, the LRA was active along the Uganda / South Sudan border region in 2017, committing eight attacks within 25 kilometers of the border that year alone.¹²⁵

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

The JEM – a Darfur-based armed group and ally of the government – has reportedly been involved in the conflict in South Sudan despite its repeated denial. JEM has assisted government forces in offensives and has been sighted within South Sudan, contributing to the country's instability.¹²⁶

In addition, despite having concluded a 2010 Memorandum of Understanding, and a 2016-18 Action Plan with the UN's Mission in Darfur, and issuing a command order to put an end to the use and recruitment of children, JEM has committed grave violations against children.¹²⁷ Notably, JEM was listed in the UN

¹²² Small Arms Survey Sudan, 'The Conflict in Upper Nile State – Events through 8 March 2016', available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/facts-figures/south-sudan/conflict-of-2013-14/the-conflict-in-upper-nile.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹²³ UN Security Council, 'Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan' (20 November 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/979*), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2017_979.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 21.

¹²⁴ United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report' (June 2016) ('2016 TIP Report'), p. 125; United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report' (July 2015) ('2015 TIP Report'), p. 116.

¹²⁵ Invisible Children, 'LRA Crisis Brief: 2017 Annual Brief' (February 2018), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017-Annual-Brief-LRA-Crisis-Tracker.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 12.

¹²⁶ United States State Department, 'South Sudan 2014 Human Rights Report' (2014), available at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236620.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 15.

¹²⁷ Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 'Action plans to prevent and end violations against children: The role of action plans in the UN's children and armed conflict agenda' (2013), available at <http://watchlist.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-Discussion-Paper-Action-Plans.pdf> accessed 2 April 2018, p. 14; UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan'



Secretary-General's most recent report for the use and recruitment of children and has recruited children from South Sudan for use in combat in Darfur and South Sudan,¹²⁸ among other violations such as abduction and rape.¹²⁹ JEM has also targeted and used numerous refugee camps in Southern Kordofan State to recruit and use children in its ranks.¹³⁰ With the heightened conflict in South Sudan and JEM participating in hostilities, it is likely that cross-border child recruitment will increase. In 2017, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict met with JEM's leader, who agreed to develop strategies for the implementation of its Action Plan.¹³¹

c) International Actors

African Union

On 30 December 2013, the African Union's Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) created the Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan (AUCISS) to investigate alleged atrocities by both government forces and the SPLM/A-IO.¹³² In July 2015, the AUCISS released the long-awaited report, but only shared it with GRSS.¹³³ Following broader release of the report on 15 October 2014,¹³⁴ the AUCISS pushed for the Transitional Government of National Unity to sign the 2015 South Sudan Peace Agreement. AUCISS has since encouraged peace negotiations, most recently those held in February 2018 in Ethiopia, where the Transitional Government of National Unity was encouraged to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Hybrid Court to try those who have committed atrocities including the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.¹³⁵

UNMISS

The UN Security Council established UNMISS in 1996 to support South Sudan's government in peace and security consolidations and develop an effective and democratic government that has positive

(6 March 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/191), available at

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1705844.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 65.

¹²⁸ 2017 SGCAC Report, p. 39.

¹²⁹ UN Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan' (6 March 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/191), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1705844.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, paras. 27, 38, 49-50, 65.

¹³⁰ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 140.

¹³¹ 2017 SGCAC Report, para. 169.

¹³² AUPSC, 'Communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (CDXI) Rev. 1 (30 December 2013), available at <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc-com-411-south-sudan-30-12-2013.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹³³ African Arguments, 'No Peace, No Justice: How the African Union is failing South Sudan – By David K. Deng' (2 February 2015), available at <http://africanarguments.org/2015/02/02/no-peace-no-justice-how-the-african-union-is-failing-south-sudan-by-david-k-deng/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹³⁴ See AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, 'Final Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan' (15 October 2014), available at <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/auciss.final.report.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹³⁵ The East African, 'No peace deal from Addis talks on South Sudan' (17 February 2018), available at <http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/No-peace-deal-from-Addis-talks-on-South-Sudan/2558-4309122-ljluv0/index.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.



relations among its civilians and neighboring countries. The mission first deployed staff in the field following South Sudan's independence in July 2011. On 27 May 2014, UNMISS's mandate was changed to enhance the mission's capacity to protect civilians (and children in particular), provide humanitarian aid, monitor and report human right violations (to inform preventative action against children), and help in peace-building discussions.¹³⁶ Today, UNMISS' force stands at 17,000 troops, 2,001 police personnel, and a civilian component.¹³⁷ A total of 60 countries contribute to UNMISS, including India, Rwanda and Nepal as the three biggest contributors.¹³⁸ Notably, Kenya pulled out its troops from UNMISS in October 2016 after the UN Secretary-General fired the Kenyan Force commander, following a report of an investigation into the failure to properly respond to the July crisis in Juba.¹³⁹ In April 2017, Japan withdraw its forces,¹⁴⁰ denying suggestions that this action was the result of security concerns. A Japanese minister later resigned in relation to accusations that she had been covering up the security situation in Juba.¹⁴¹

As at 16 November 2017, 209,885 people are living in several PoC sites on UNMISS' bases, which are not intended or prepared to host large numbers of people long-term.¹⁴² Those sites too have suffered attacks since the beginning of the conflict. The first serious incident was committed by approximately 2,000 armed youth that opened fire on the Akobo UNMISS base in Jonglei State.¹⁴³ In February 2016, fighting broke out in the Malakal PoC which has had a significant impact on humanitarian operations.¹⁴⁴ Incidents of rape, attempted murder, assault, theft, smuggling of alcohol, possession of drugs, and drunk or disorderly conduct have been reported at these sites.

¹³⁶ International Crisis Group, 'Sudan and South Sudan's Merging Conflicts' (29 January 2015), available at <https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/223-sudan-and-south-sudan-s-merging-conflicts.pdf> accessed 2 April 2018 ('Sudan and South Sudan's Merging Conflicts'), p. ii.

¹³⁷ UNMISS, 'UNMISS Facts and Figures', available at <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/facts.shtml>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹³⁸ UN Peacekeeping, 'UN Mission's Summary Detailed by Country' (31 December 2016), available at http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/2016/dec16_3.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹³⁹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 553.

¹⁴⁰ Reuters, 'U.N. says Japanese troops start withdrawing from South Sudan mission' (17 April 2017), available at <https://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN17J12M-OZATP>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴¹ Japan Times, 'What next for Japan's peacekeepers after withdrawal from South Sudan?' (20 March 2017), available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/03/20/reference/japans-peacekeeping-role-review-amid-withdrawal-south-sudan/#.WrhE44lh0dU>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴² UNMISS, 'UNMISS Protection of Civilians Sites Update' (20 November 2017), available at https://unmiss.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/171120_poc_update_-_181.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴³ Amnesty International, 'Nowhere safe: Civilians under attack in South Sudan' (9 May 2014), available at <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/nowhere-safe-civilians-under-attack-south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴⁴ UNICEF, 'South Sudan Situation Report' (25 February 2016), available at http://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_South_Sudan_Humanitarian_SitRep_25_Feb_2016.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 2



UN Regional Protection Force

Authorised by UN Security Council in its Resolution 2304 (2016), the UN has commenced deployment of a 4,000-strong force in South Sudan. This protection force is mandated to provide protection to key facilities in the nation's capital, Juba, and the main routes into and out of the city, and to strengthen the security of UN PoC sites and other UN premises. It is expected that this will allow the existing UNMISS personnel based in Juba to be reassigned to different locations across the world's youngest country to protect civilians, support humanitarian assistance, and monitor and report on human rights abuses.

IGAD and the African Union envisaged a “Protection and Deterrent Force” (PDF) as a peace support operation that could offer a mechanism that would deter offensive military action by South Sudanese armed actors.¹⁴⁵ The force began to deploy in May 2017, and as at March 2018 amounts to 870 personnel.¹⁴⁶ As at March 2018, the Regional Protection Force has released no public reports.

UN Human Rights Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

The UN Human Rights Council established a human rights commission in South Sudan in March 2016 with a one-year mandate to monitor the human rights situation and the promotion of transitional justice.¹⁴⁷ The Commission’s mandate was extended for an additional year on 24 March 2017,¹⁴⁸ with its current term due to expire in March 2018.

The Commission released its first written report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session in March 2017, and a second report on 23 February 2018. The Commission’s report detailed appalling instances of cruelty against civilians and children, noting that social taboos are intentionally breached, including physical and sexual abuse of children and the elderly.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁵ World Peace Foundation ‘South Sudan: UNMISS Short Mission Brief’, available at <http://fletcher.tufts.edu/African-Peace-Missions/Research/Case-Studies/South-Sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴⁶ International Peace Institute Global Observatory, ‘South Sudan: What Options Remain?’ (10 May 2017), available at <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/05/south-sudan-unmiss-kiir-machar/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴⁷ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan’, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoHSouthSudan/Pages/Index.aspx>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁴⁸ HRC Resolution 34/25, dated 24 March 2017.

¹⁴⁹ See ReliefWeb, ‘Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (A/HRC/37/71)’ (23 February 2018), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/report-commission-human-rights-south-sudan-ahrc3771>, accessed 2 April 2018.



d) Regional Actors

Ugandan People's Defence Forces (UPDF)

The UPDF participated in support of the Juba government from 2013, upsetting many amongst the Nuer population.¹⁵⁰ Uganda announced the withdrawal of its troops on 23 October 2015.¹⁵¹

Between 14 and 18 July 2016, UPDF forces led by Brigadier Kayanja Muhanga entered South Sudan to evacuate 40,000 Ugandans seeking to escape the fighting there.¹⁵²

The UPDF has had no further involvement in the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

Sudan

Following the 2005 CPA, Khartoum has supported various armed opposition groups which have emerged in South Sudan. In July 2015, the International Crisis Group noted that “Khartoum appears to play both sides by simultaneously giving support to the armed opposition in South Sudan, partly to counter Uganda and partly because Sudanese rebel groups are both fighting alongside the South Sudanese government and serving as a mediator at the peace talks”.¹⁵³

Specifically, the International Crisis Group reported that Sudan had supported the SPLM/A, the SPLM-IO and JEM against the South Sudanese government during different periods of the conflict.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵⁰ See UN Security Council, ‘Letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Panel of Experts on South Sudan established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council’ (21 August 2015) (UN Doc. S/2015/656).

¹⁵¹ Sudan Tribune, ‘Ugandan troops withdraw from South Sudan’s Jonglei state’ (20 October 2015), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article56796>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁵² Uganda Ministry of Defence and Veteran’s Affairs, ‘Sum up of the South Sudan Evacuation Mission’ (5 August 2016), available at http://portal.defence.go.ug:10039/wps/portal/mod-home/MOD-latest-news/sum%20up%20of%20the%20south%20sudan%20evacuation%20mission!/ut/p/a1/zZRnc9owEib_ii8cjdbCH3JunmTqQgC3-QRfMsLIsgi2jCWbNr8-guSulhCmHKqLZmd33919pF2UohlKK9oJTrWQFV3v7NR_ChMgzjXgUfldvkFE4ukQJzG-jV0TMDcBcOBE8CH_Loggih-Cn8k4HA6vPfSIUpRmla51gea1bDRdW0po1oOXw7IU9u5QGtlnwCupAwqUd8FGrkMhnr0P7gJyoIRXakuOFXd7oNrSamtL5pYumKVkqwtLtUtaWayjWbtv3yqFUubeVVhTzpzMCF5mZWKJ5jkmjgOOb_ueQ2zXdR174ebEZgvfcz2ahVmG3_l8AuAI3z2fl4SPMR4dCzBFRtViQDhKG5azhjX9tjGPX2hdX_QM7O12218aT5WxPpf9lvf9b0mFVBrN_ghGcwMhONxlgG5PpPq5IMHnFhycWTBx_1WQ3F9dQjSe_Bjhhxulp3DuCv2TB Udf2BW4mVxO-G6edGGLKpdodtfoGgmx2mzSyCwNWWn2y_y3_3Rr1OV9SVb52L8hvwfrriyfplObLggMvLp7ucvLR6JeAR4T7dQ!/dl5/d5/L2dBISvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁵³ Sudan and South Sudan’s Merging Conflicts, p. ii.

¹⁵⁴ Sudan and South Sudan’s Merging Conflicts.



III. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Recruitment and Use of Children

As outlined above, many actors operating in South Sudan have been reported to recruit and use children. UNICEF estimates that more than 19,000 children have been recruited and used in the conflict between December 2013 and October 2017,¹⁵⁵ with tens of thousands more at risk of recruitment.¹⁵⁶ The UN verified 169 incidents affecting 1,022 children in 2016¹⁵⁷ and 159 incidents of recruitment affecting 2,596 children in 2015.¹⁵⁸ Notably, 70 per cent of cases were attributable to the SSPDF and other government security forces and allied forces, including the Cobra faction of the SSDM which was integrated into the SSPDF in 2015.¹⁵⁹ In 2016, 61 per cent of those affected by victims were attributed to the SSPDF and government security forces.¹⁶⁰

It is important to recognise that not all children are forcibly recruited. In South Sudan, only one-third of the boys associated with armed groups in South Sudan are recruited forcibly and violently.¹⁶¹ Some boys feel a “strong sense of responsibility to defend their communities and cattle from attack”¹⁶² and others are vulnerable in PoC sites, with boys as young as 11 years old reportedly leaving to join armed forces.¹⁶³ Some children join “willingly” to protect themselves from being killed, and the vulnerabilities associated with a particular ethnicity or allegiance.¹⁶⁴ A small proportion of children in South Sudan are reported to have joined in order to access food or money.¹⁶⁵ Other children are held at gunpoint, detained, or abducted. Recruited children, even those recruited willingly, are also beaten and detained to prevent escape.¹⁶⁶ Parties to the conflict also take advantage of the vulnerability of displaced and refugee

¹⁵⁵ UNHRC, ‘Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan’ (6 March 2017) (A/HRC/34/63), para. 42. See also UNICEF ‘UNICEF Briefing Note: South Sudan – The impact of the crisis on children’, available at https://www.unicef.org/media/files/UNICEF_South_Sudan_Report_Childhood_under_Attack_15Dec_FINAL.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁵⁶ We Can Die Too, p.1.

¹⁵⁷ UN, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict 2017 (24 August 2017) (UN Doc. A/72/361-S/2017/821) (2017 SGCAC Report)’, available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1726811.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 22.

¹⁵⁸ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁵⁹ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁶⁰ 2017 SGCAC Report, p. 22.

¹⁶¹ We Can Die Too, p. 20.

¹⁶² We Can Die Too, p. 21.

¹⁶³ We Can Die Too, pp. 21, 30.

¹⁶⁴ We Can Die Too, p. 20.

¹⁶⁵ We Can Die Too, p. 21.

¹⁶⁶ We Can Die Too, pp. 3, 32.



populations to recruit children living in refugee camps, or those who are temporarily to moving between them.¹⁶⁷

Boys and girls recruited by armed groups often come from poor rural areas where many, if not all, children do not have birth certificates.¹⁶⁸ Despite government military enlistment procedures that require an age assessment, the government reportedly continues to recruit and use children.¹⁶⁹ It is, however, understood that children over the age of 14 form the majority of the children recruited and used in South Sudan. The absence of formal documentation such as birth certificates makes age difficult to verify.

Children recruited and used by armed groups reportedly receive the same treatment as adult soldiers, often forced to walk long distances for days and receiving inadequate food.¹⁷⁰ Children under the age of 14 often serve as bodyguards and cooks.¹⁷¹ Others work as servants for commanders, washing clothes, cooking, collecting firewood, making tea and collecting water.¹⁷² Where boys are more commonly reported to have received orders to kill civilians or loot property, girls are more commonly reported to have been used for sexual purposes.¹⁷³

South Sudanese boys and girls are also vulnerable to recruitment by foreign armed groups operating in the region. For example, the Lord's Resistance Army recruits and uses South Sudanese boys and girls as cooks, porters, concubines, and combatants.¹⁷⁴

International pressure against the recruitment and use of children has prompted change. On 24 June 2014, the SPLA signed an agreement with the UN to implement a revised plan of action to end the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations against children.¹⁷⁵ The SPLA has also issued many

¹⁶⁷ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 18.

¹⁶⁸ SIDA, 'UTV Working Paper 2011:3 - Sudan Country Case Study: Child Rights', available at https://www.sida.se/contentassets/e3a7b0cb84274558afc2720451885d62/20113-sudan-country-case-study-child-rights_3127.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018; p. 34; UNICEF, 'UNICEF in South Sudan: Children in South Sudan', available at https://www.unicef.org/esaro/Children_in_South_Sudan_fact_sheets.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁶⁹ 2017 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹⁷⁰ We Can Die Too, p. 2.

¹⁷¹ We Can Die Too, p.21.

¹⁷² We Can Die Too p. 31.

¹⁷³ 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 123.

¹⁷⁴ 2017 TIP Report, p. 122.

¹⁷⁵ See UNHCR, 'Interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in South Sudan' (A/HRC/27/74), available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Pages/ListReports.aspx>, accessed 2 April 2018, para. 39. It ought to be recognized that the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2012, article 17, specifies that every child has the right "not ... to be required to serve in the army". Further, the SPLA signed action plans to work with the UN to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers in November 2009 and March 2012. These programs were intended to identify and report all children associated with the SPLA, and prompt disciplinary action against "persons responsible for aiding and abetting the recruitment and/or use of children." See 'Action Plan between the SPLA and the United Nations Regarding Children Associated with the SPLA in South Sudan', signed March 13, 2012.



military orders banning the recruitment and use of anyone under 18 years of age and the use of schools by SPLA members for any purpose.¹⁷⁶ However, both Government and rebel forces actively recruit and use children in South Sudan.¹⁷⁷ The formal release of children from armed groups party to conflict has followed a number of peace deals in recent years.¹⁷⁸ Reporting is inconsistent as to the number of children formally released by the government and other armed groups. UNICEF reported the release of more than 300 children by armed groups in February 2018 – 87 of whom were girls – as part of a process which anticipates the release of over 700 children by April 2018.¹⁷⁹ Unlike in many other countries, the widespread use of children in conflict in South Sudan, both between 1983 and 2005, and since 2013, means that those released back into their communities do not often experience stigmatisation.¹⁸⁰

To support the re-entry of recruited children into society, a disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programme was created in Sudan and South Sudan as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. The programme was split between Sudan and South Sudan after South Sudan's secession in July 2011. By July 2013, the South Sudan programme entered its second phase, which envisioned the demilitarisation of 220,000 ex-combatants.¹⁸¹ The process of releasing children from armed groups in South Sudan is reported to involve extensive delays, a lack of accountability for perpetrators, and often a cycle of abuse. Specifically, although South Sudan's 2008 Child Act prohibits the recruitment and use of children for military or paramilitary activities and prescribes sentences of up to 10 years imprisonment for such crimes, the Government has not yet held anyone accountable for these crimes.¹⁸² The culture of impunity this creates is reported to be expected by both victims and perpetrators – reinforcing the culture of child soldiering in the country.¹⁸³

In March 2015, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2206 (2015) establishing a sanctions regime for, *inter alia*, commanders who recruit and use children. None of the six individuals listed under the sanctions regime was listed expressly as a result of activities relating to the recruitment of children.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁶ HRW, 'We Can Die Too' (December 2015), available at https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/southsudan1215_4.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018 (We Can Die Too), p. 20.

¹⁷⁷ HRW, 'South Sudan: Events of 2016' (2017), available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018. 2017 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹⁷⁸ We Can Die Too, p. 4.

¹⁷⁹ DW, 'UNICEF: 'Child soldiers want to continue their education'' (12 February 2018), available at <http://www.dw.com/en/unicef-child-soldiers-want-to-continue-their-education/a-42554038>, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁸⁰ We Can Die Too, pp. 4, 17.

¹⁸¹ Small Arms Survey, 'DDR in South Sudan' (9 July 2013), available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/ddr/HSBA-DDR-in-South-Sudan.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 1.

¹⁸² 2017 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹⁸³ We Can Die Too, pp. 60, 61.

¹⁸⁴ UN Security Council, 'Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan' (29 December 2017) (S/2017/1093), available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/1093, accessed 2 April 2018; See also We Can Die Too, p. 63.



These men: James Koang Chuol, Simon Gatwech Dual, Peter Gadet, Gabriel Jok Riak, Marial Chanuong Yol Mangok, and Santino Deng Wol were senior commanders of the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO, and were all listed for leading attacks on civilians.

2. Trafficking and Child Labour

South Sudan is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.¹⁸⁵ South Sudanese children are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking in Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.¹⁸⁶ Similarly, within South Sudan, women and girls from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking.¹⁸⁷

South Sudanese women and girls from rural areas or who are internally displaced are particularly vulnerable to domestic servitude, where they are often sexually abused and exploited.¹⁸⁸ Child prostitution is also reported, with South Sudanese girls – some as young as 10 years old – subjected to sex trafficking in brothels, hotels, and restaurants.¹⁸⁹

Children who have fled South Sudan are similarly particularly vulnerable to abduction for sex or labour trafficking,¹⁹⁰ in which law enforcement officials are reportedly complicit.¹⁹¹ Many children working in South Sudan in construction, shoe shining, car washing, rock breaking, and begging are victims of forced labour.¹⁹² Moreover, South Sudanese law only partly implements international standards in relation to criminalisation of trafficking. It adequately punishes those found guilty of selling persons across borders, but imposes only a two-year custodial sentence for those guilty of inflicting forced labour. Further, there is a critical paucity of justice-sector capacity regarding trafficking issues. As a result, there have been almost no repercussions for trafficking activity carried out against officials or leaders of opposition groups.¹⁹³

3. Separation of Children and Institutionalisation

Conflict continues to drive the separation of children from families in South Sudan. Some 16,055 unaccompanied and separated children have been registered. As at October 2017, more than 5,000

¹⁸⁵ 2017 TIP Report, p. 366; USA Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report: June 2016’ available at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 (2016 TIP Report), p. 342; US Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report: July 2015’ available at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/245365.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 (2015 TIP Report), p. 310.

¹⁸⁶ 2017 TIP Report, pp. 234, 366; 2016 TIP Report, p. 225.

¹⁸⁷ 2017 TIP Report, p. 366; 2016 TIP Report, pp. 165, 342.

¹⁸⁸ 2017 TIP Report, p. 366; 2016 TIP Report, p. 342; 2015 TIP Report, p. 310.

¹⁸⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 342; 2015 TIP Report, p. 310.

¹⁹⁰ 2018 Refugee Response Plan, p. 10; See also 2017 TIP Report, p. 366; 2016 TIP Report, p. 342; 2015 TIP Report, pp. 204, 311.

¹⁹¹ 2017 TIP Report, p. 366.

¹⁹² 2017 TIP Report, p. 366; 2016 TIP Report, p. 342.

¹⁹³ 2017 TIP Report, p. 365.



children were reunified with their families throughout South Sudan as a result of family tracing and reunification programs run by UNICEF, Save the Children, and other partners.¹⁹⁴

Among the 5,000 children reunified with their families are children who have been released from service in the government's armed forces and other armed groups. In February 2018, UNICEF's program arranged the release of 300 children (of which 87 were girls) recruited and used by armed groups. These children were placed in interim care centres pending reunification with their families. Another 400 children recruited and used by armed groups are expected to be returned home by the end of March 2018.¹⁹⁵

Children living in residential care institutions, sometimes referred to as orphanages, on a long-term basis raise serious child protection concerns. There is, however, no reliable information available on the number of children in residential care institutions in South Sudan. Moreover, there is little information available regarding the conditions and standards in such facilities.

4. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Government forces and armed groups in South Sudan continue to employ sexual violence as a tactic of war in a widespread and systematic manner that “points to ethnic and political undertones”.¹⁹⁶ The rate of sexual violence also appears to be increasing: during 2016, service providers recorded a 20 per cent increase in the number of victims seeking services following sexual assault.¹⁹⁷ Although the majority of cases are committed by SSPDF and associated militia,¹⁹⁸ Dinka youth, armed cattle keepers (including elements of the White Army), members of the South Sudan National Police Service, the Justice and Equality Movement, and Nuer deserters from the SSPDF and LRA, are reported to be among the alleged perpetrators.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁴ UNICEF, ‘South Sudan Conflict: 5,000 children reunited with family by Save the Children, UNICEF and partners’, available at https://www.unicef.org/media/media_101065.html, accessed 2 April 2018.

¹⁹⁵ UN News, ‘More than 300 child soldiers released by armed groups in South Sudan – UN mission’ (7 February 2018), available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1002191>, accessed 2 April 2018. By early 2016, all children released from Pibor in 2015 had been reunified with their families. See UNICEF, ‘UNICEF South Sudan Annual Report 2015’ available at https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/South_Sudan_Annual_Report_2015.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 19.

¹⁹⁶ UN Secretary General, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’ (15 April 2017) (UN Doc. S/2017/249), available at <http://www.un.org/en/events/elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict/pdf/1494280398.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 (2017 SGSV Report), paras. 59, 61; UN Secretary General, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’ (20 April 2016) (UN Doc. S/2016/361), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1611178.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 (‘2016 SGSV Report’) para. 58.

¹⁹⁷ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 60.

¹⁹⁸ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 61; 2016 SGSV Report para. 58; UN Secretary General, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’ (23 March 2015) (UN Doc. S/2015/203), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1508136.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018 (‘2015 SGSV Report’), para. 50.

¹⁹⁹ See 2016 SGSV Report. See also 2015 SGSV Report, para. 50.



Women and girls account for 96 per cent of the reported cases of sexual violence. Boys are also victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and boys have been reported to be found sexually mutilated following attacks by the SSPDF and associated groups.²⁰⁰

The UN has documented a number of forms of sexual violence committed in the context of the conflict: rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, abduction, castration, forced nudity and forced abortion.²⁰¹ Rape, including gang rape, has been part of a strategy to terrorise and punish the population.²⁰² In 2016, UNMISS documented 577 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, perpetrated against victims including 57 girls, several of whom were below 10 years of age, and two of whom were less than one year old.²⁰³ Girls as young as nine years old have been reportedly forced into marriage as compensation for inter-clan killings, where they are further subjected to slavery and servitude.²⁰⁴

The scale of sexual violence is shocking: more than 1,300 rapes, including gang rapes, were reported in Unity State between April and September 2015 alone.²⁰⁵ In February 2017, the South Sudan Protection Cluster (a combined effort created by human rights organisations worldwide including UNICEF, UNIDO, and the Norwegian Refugee Council) reported a further 61 per cent increase in reported SGBV between 2015 and 2016.²⁰⁶ While armed opposition groups prey on women and girls, participants in armed groups allied to the Government are permitted to rape women in lieu of the payment of wages. Intoxicated SSPDF soldiers are also alleged to have committed sexual assaults, and of “assigning” women to fighters.²⁰⁷

Women and girls continue to be harassed near UNMISS PoC sites and some have reported to have been raped while leaving the site to pursue livelihood activities.²⁰⁸ This has spread fear among the internally displaced female population, impeding livelihood activities as women restrict their movement.²⁰⁹ Within the PoC sites, rape, attempted rape, and unsafe, self-administered abortions, have also been reported.²¹⁰

Sexual violence in South Sudan is also reported during inter-communal clashes. Remedies for sexual crimes committed are rarely forthcoming as claims of sexual violence are “trivialized” by law enforcement officials and the community, with survivors often forced to marry perpetrators as a “remedy”.²¹¹ Women from neighbouring countries suspected of having allegiances to parties to the conflict have also been raped. As well, those fleeing violence to neighboring countries, many of them

²⁰⁰ 2016 SGSV Report, para. 59. See also 2016 SGCAC Report, para. 125.

²⁰¹ 2015 SGSV, para. 49.

²⁰² 2017 SGSV Report, para. 61; 2016 SGSV Report, para. 59; UNHRC 2016, paras. 41-42.

²⁰³ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 60.

²⁰⁴ 2016 SGSV Report, para. 59; 2017 TIP Report p.366; 2016 TIP Report, p. 342; 2015 TIP Report, p. 311.

²⁰⁵ UNHRC 2016, para. 29.

²⁰⁶ South Sudan Protection Cluster, Protection Trends: South Sudan, 2015 – 2016, February 2017, p. 14.

²⁰⁷ 2016 SGSV Report, para. 59.

²⁰⁸ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 59; 2016 SGSV Report, para. 60; UNHRC 2016, para. 35.

²⁰⁹ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 59; 2016 SGSV Report, para. 60.

²¹⁰ 2016 SGSV Report, para. 60.

²¹¹ 2017 SGSV Report, para. 59; 2016 SGSV Report, para. 60; 2015 SGSV Report, paras. 11, 48.



unaccompanied minors, report sexual assault, teenage pregnancies and forced marriage.²¹² As refugee camp populations continue to grow in neighbouring countries, so too have the number of reported incidents of sexual violence. Girls as young as nine years old have also been subjected to forced marriage.²¹³

5. Education

South Sudan is home to one of the highest proportions of out-of-school children in the world, and had a higher number of children out of school at the end of 2017 than ever before.²¹⁴ The country's ongoing conflict has resulted in the closure of 70 per cent of schools in areas affected by fighting since December 2013, forcing 400,000 children from education.²¹⁵ In total, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports 1.8 million children in need of educational services. It notes specifically that by December 2017, 48 per cent of schools were reported as non-functioning, and 60 per cent of school age children were not enrolled in primary school.²¹⁶ South Sudanese child refugees in neighboring countries similarly face challenges accessing education – region-wide, 54 per cent of the 1.3 million South Sudanese refugee children were not in school in 2017, increasing their vulnerability to protection risks such as early marriage, forced recruitment, and survival sex. The schools which are functioning are often overcrowded, and very few children can access secondary education.²¹⁷

Even those children capable of accessing education may elect not to attend, for fear of abduction, rape or recruitment by armed groups.²¹⁸ In 2017, children were taken by Johnson Olonyi's forces from an Upper Nile school, and when hundreds of children were abducted from two schools in Unity state.²¹⁹

Schools are regularly occupied and destroyed by groups party to the ongoing conflict,²²⁰ and supplies have been looted by military forces.²²¹ Since 2013, about 30 per cent of primary schools had suffered at least

²¹² 2015 SGSV Report, para. 7.

²¹³ 2016 TIP Report, p. 342; 2015 TIP Report, p. 311.

²¹⁴ UNICEF, 'South Sudan, 12 January 2016: Highest proportion of out-of-school children in global conflict zones' (12 January 2016), available at http://www.unicef.org/esaro/5440_ss2016_out-of-school.html, accessed 2 April 2018. See also UNOCHA, '2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview -South Sudan' (November 2017), available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_2018_Humanitarian_Needs_Overview.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018 (2018 HNO) p.5.

²¹⁵ We Can Die Too, p. 15 citing UNICEF press release, 'Amid conflict in South Sudan 400,000 Children Will Return to School' (19 February 2015), available at http://www.unicef.org/media/media_79847.html, accessed 2 April 2018. See also UNICEF press release, 'Put Child Rights First in South Sudan' (5 May 2015), available at http://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media_16479.html, accessed 2 April 2018.

²¹⁶ 2018 HNO, p. 17.

²¹⁷ 2018 Refugee Response Plan, p. 10.

²¹⁸ 2017 TIP Report, p. 367. Other, more general concerns including the risks posed by improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants on child-travelled routes, also affect all human activity, including children's passage to school.

²¹⁹ We Can Die Too, p. 54.

²²⁰ 2018 HNO, p. 7; We Can Die Too, p. 54.

²²¹ 2016 SGCAC, para. 126; UNHRC 2016, para. 47.



one attack.²²² In June 2015, South Sudan committed to prevent attacks on schools and military use of schools and endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration. However, this declaration has done nothing to end the use of schools for military purposes. In 2017, 21 schools were newly used for military purposes. The SSPDF was responsible for the majority of these uses (ten), alongside the SPLA-IO (seven).²²³

6. Access to Healthcare

Though an estimated 4.8 million South Sudanese people will require assistance to access health-care services in 2018, hospitals continue to be the subject of attack and military use in South Sudan.²²⁴ Of those in need, UNICEF estimates that 2.9 million are children.²²⁵ Following three attacks between May and October 2017,²²⁶ only 22 per cent of health facilities were fully operational (down from 43 per cent in November 2016).²²⁷ Those health facilities which are functional suffer chronic lack of essential medicines, and high operational costs.²²⁸

The widespread displacement of people caused by South Sudan's ongoing conflict has also had dire effects on the thousands of people living with HIV whose life-sustaining treatment has been interrupted.²²⁹ Similarly, those affected by the longest-running cholera outbreak in history, and other diseases endemic to South Sudan, continue to cause death and illness.²³⁰ Malaria currently accounts for 61 per cent of all illnesses reported in health facilities and 70 per cent of disease related deaths in November 2017.²³¹

UNICEF and its partners plan to treat over 200,000 South Sudanese Children aged between 6 months and five years for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) during the course of the year.²³² UNICEF estimates that more than 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished and will require assistance in 2018.²³³

²²² 2018 HNO, p. 7.

²²³ 2017 SGCAC, paras. 148, 150.

²²⁴ 2018 HNO, p. 20.

²²⁵ UNICEF, 'South Sudan: Humanitarian Action for Children - Snapshot', available at https://www.unicef.org/appeals/south_sudan.html, accessed 26 March 2018; See also UNICEF, 'UNICEF: Humanitarian Action for Children - Overview' (January 2018), available at https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Humanitarian_Action_for_Children_2018_Overview_EN_G.PDF, accessed 25 March 2018.

²²⁶ Safeguarding Health in Conflict, 'Impunity Must End: Attacks on Health in 23 Countries in Conflict in 2016', available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SHCC2017final.pdf> (Impunity Must End), accessed 21 February 2018, pp. 38-40; 2018 HNO, p. 7.

²²⁷ 2018 HNO, p. 2; 2017 HNO, p. 8.

²²⁸ Impunity Must End, p. 39.

²²⁹ 2018 HNO, p. 8; 2016 HNO, p. 4.

²³⁰ November 2016 UNMISS Report, para. 18; 2018 HNO, p. 2; 2016 HNO, p. 23.

²³¹ 2018 HNO, p. 8.

²³² UNICEF, 'South Sudan: Humanitarian Action for Children - Snapshot', available at https://www.unicef.org/appeals/south_sudan.html, accessed 26 March 2018

²³³ UNICEF, 'South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report: 1 – 31 January 2018:: South Sudan SitRep #117' (31 January 2018), available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20South%20Sudan%20Humanitarian%20SitRep%20-%20January%202018.pdf>, accessed 26 March 2018.



The lack of reproductive healthcare available in large parts of the country makes unsafe abortions the leading cause of maternal mortality in South Sudan.²³⁴

Access to counselling and mental healthcare is also limited. The World Health Organization notes that there are two psychiatrists, one psychiatric nurse, 30 psychologists and 20 community mental health workers in all of South Sudan, rendering access very difficult for the approximately 15-20 per cent of the population likely to be suffering from mild or moderate mental disorders.²³⁵

²³⁴ 2016 SGSV Report, para. 17.

²³⁵ 2017 HNO p. 5, citing WHO (2013), *Building Back Better: Sustainable Health Care after Emergencies*, p. 17, available at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85377/1/9789241564571_eng.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, and WHO (2016) *WHO Scales-up Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in South Sudan*, 27 November 2016, available at <http://www.afro.who.int/news/who-scales-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.



ANNEX I: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAR	Central African Republic
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
JEM	Justice and Equality Movement
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
PoC	Protection of Civilian
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SPLA	South Sudan People's Liberation Army (now the SSPDF)
SPLM	South Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SPLM/A-IO	South Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition
SSDM/A	South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army-Upper Nile Faction
SSLA	South Sudan Liberation Army
SSPDF	South Sudan People's Defence Force
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
UPDF	Ugandan People's Defence Force

ANNEX II: KEY FACTS²³⁶

South Sudan in a Snapshot

	South Sudan
Geography	<p>Climate: hot with seasonal rainfall</p> <p>Terrain: plains in the north and center of the country rise to southern highlands along the borders with Uganda and Kenya. The White Nile, flowing north out of the uplands of Central Africa, is the major geographic feature of the country, and feeds the Sudd, a large swampy area of more than 100,000 square kilometers.</p> <p>Border countries: Central African Republic (1,055 km), Democratic Republic of the Congo (714 km), Ethiopia (1,299 km), Kenya (317 km), Sudan (2,158 km), Uganda (475 km)</p> <p>Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)</p>
People	<p>Population: 13,026,129 (July 2017 est.)</p> <p>Median age: 17.3 years</p> <p>Languages: English (official), Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants), regional languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk</p> <p>Ethnic groups: Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi, Baka, Fertit (2011 est.)</p> <p>Religions: animist, Christian</p>
Economy	<p>Capital: Juba</p> <p>Major urban areas: Juba 321,000 (2015)</p> <p>GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$2.915 billion (2016 est.)</p> <p>GDP per capita: \$1,500 (2017 est.)²³⁷</p>
Children and youth	<p>Population under age of 25: 64.93%</p> <p>Unemployment (ages 15-24): 18.5%</p> <p>Child labor (ages 10-14): 45.6%</p> <p>Legal age of conscription: 18</p>

²³⁶ Central Intelligence Agency, ‘The World Factbook - South Sudan’, available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>, accessed 2 April 2018; United States Department of Labor, ‘Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: South Sudan’, available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/south-sudan>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²³⁷ Note – purchasing power parity.





Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

Sanctions regime – Resolution 2206 (3 March 2015), extended by 2353 (24 May 2017)

South Sudan-Sudan relations – Resolution 2046 (2 May 2012)

Recommendation that South Sudan be admitted as UN member – Resolution 1999 (13 July 2011).

UN Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) – Established by Resolution 1996 (8 July 2011), and mandate extended and adjusted by Resolutions 2057 (5 July 2012); 2109 (11 July 2013); 2132 (24 December 2013); 2155 (27 May 2014); 2187 (25 November 2014); 2223 (28 May 2015); 2241 (9 October 2015); 2155 (27 May 2014); 2187 (25 November 2014); 2223 (28 May 2015); 2241 (9 October 2015); 2265 (10 February 2016); 2271 (2 March 2016); 2280 (7 April 2016); 2287 (12 May 2016); 2290 (31 May 2016); 2296 (29 June 2016); 2302 (29 July 2016); 2304 (12 August 2016); 2318 (15 November 2016); 2326 (15 December 2016); 2327 (16 December 2016); 2340 (8 February 2017); 2352 (15 May 2017); 2353 (24 May 2017); 2363 (29 June 2017); 2386 (15 November 2017); 2392 (14 December 2017); 2400 (8 February 2018); 2406 (15 March 2018)

South Sudanese Child Protection Legislation

National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (2011) ▪ Nationality Law (2011) ▪ South Sudan Child Act (2008) ▪ Penal Code Act (2008) and Code of Criminal Procedures Act (2008) ▪ SPLA Act (2009) ▪ Police Service Act (2009) ▪ South Sudan Human Rights Commission Act (2009) ▪ The Southern Sudan War Disabled, Widows and Orphans Commission Act (2011)
International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention on the Rights of the Child (acceded 23 January 2015) ▪ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 30 April 2015) ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 30 April 2015) ▪ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded 30 April 2015) ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded 30 April 2015) ▪ Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols (acceded 25 January 2013)



ANNEX III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS

1899-1955

Northern and southern Sudan are subject to Anglo-Egyptian rule.

1956

Sudan becomes an independent country.

1956-1972

First civil war erupts between northern and southern Sudan.

1978

Oil is discovered in southern Sudan.

1983

Second civil war between northern and southern Sudan breaks out.

1986

Sudan experiences a state of emergency due to drought, grasshopper and locust infestation, and ongoing civil conflict.²³⁸

1989

Sudan falls under the military control of Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

1990

A major earthquake strikes the region, approximately 100km northeast of Juba, killing 135 and injuring at least 800 people.²³⁹

1991

Around 2,000 Dinka civilians are massacred in Bor, mainly by Nuer fighters.

1993

²³⁸ The New York Times, 'Drought Easing, Africa has new enemy: locusts' (7 August 1986), available at <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/08/07/world/drought-easing-africa-has-new-enemy-locusts.html>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²³⁹ UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Sudan: Earthquake May 1990 UNDRO information reports 1-2' (29 May 1990), available at <http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-earthquake-may-1990-undro-information-reports-1-2>, accessed 2 April 2018.



Earthquake hits Khartoum and volcanic activity is reported in Omdurman.

1995

Sudan is accused of attempted assassination on Egyptian President Mubarak.²⁴⁰

1998

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) responds to Southern Sudan's widespread famine.²⁴¹ A Khartoum pharmaceutical plant is attacked by US missile for alleged manufacture of chemical weapons. New constitution is endorsed.

1999

State of emergency is declared after a power struggle in the National Assembly. Oil exports begin.

2000

Omar al-Bashir is re-elected for another five-year term.

2001

Memorandum of understanding is signed by Sudanese leader (Hassan Al Turabi) and southern SSPDF leader (John Garang). Al-Turabi is arrested. Sanctions against Sudan are imposed by US for terrorism and rights violations.

2002

Ceasefire agreement is signed between the Sudanese government and SSPDF.

2003

Rebels in the western region of Darfur declare Khartoum is neglecting their region. Al-Turabi is released from prison and bans against his party are removed.

2004

Sudan is affected by an outbreak of locusts. Army personnel in the western region of Darfur are increased to suppress rebels. Pro-government Arab Janjaweed militias attack and kill non-Arab villagers in Darfur.²⁴² Al-Turabi, army officers, and opposition politicians are detained for an alleged coup plot. Darfur killings labelled as genocide by US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

²⁴⁰ BBC, 'Sudan profile' (5 June 2014), available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14095300>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁴¹ Médecins Sans Frontières, 'Timeline: Famine in South Sudan', available at <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/about-us/history-principles/timeline>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁴² BBC, 'Sudan profile' (5 June 2014), available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14095300>, accessed 2 April 2018.



2005

January: CPA ends the civil war and provides autonomy for southern Sudan.

March: UNMISS is established. UN Security Council authorizes sanctions against ceasefire violators in Darfur.

June: Al-Turabi is released from prison.

July: John Garang is sworn in as the first Vice-President of South Sudan.

August: John Garang is killed in a plane crash and Salva Kiir replaces him as Vice-President.

October: An autonomous government with former rebels is created in southern Sudan.

2006

Peace accord is signed by Khartoum government and the main rebels in Darfur (Sudan Liberation Movement). UN resolution for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur is rejected. UN's top Sudan official, Jan Pronk, is expelled.

2007

May: ICC issues arrest warrants for war crimes of Janjaweed militia leader and a minister. US sanctions are imposed against Sudan.

July: 26,000 troops are authorised for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur.

October-December: The SPLM is briefly suspended from national government as Khartoum is accused of failing to uphold the CPA agreement.

2008

March: Sudan and Chad agree a cessation of hostilities between the two countries.

April: National census counting begins. Darfur conflict's death toll estimated at 300,000.

May: Fighting erupts over ownership of Abyei (oil-rich town) between northern and southern Sudan. Sudan breaks diplomatic relations with Chad over alleged assistance in Omdurman raids.

June: International arbitration is requested to resolve the dispute over Abyei.

July: ICC issues arrest warrant for President Bashir for genocide but Sudan rejects indictment.

November: President Bashir's ceasefire request is rejected by main rebel groups.

2009

MSF provides around 129,000 consultations; however, many emergency intervention projects are closed because four staff members are kidnapped.²⁴³

January: Al-Turabi is arrested.

March: ICC issues arrest warrant for President Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

²⁴³ Médecins Sans Frontières, 'Timeline: A difficult year in Sudan', available at <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/about-us/history-principles/timeline>, accessed 2 April 2018.



July: Both parties accept the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling for Heglig oil field to be part of northern Sudan.

August: UN military commander states Darfur war is over.

October: The pandemic of influenza A (H1N1) affects Sudan.

December: Northern and southern leaders agree on referendum terms for southern Sudan's 2011 independence.

2010

First contested presidential election takes place since 1986. Omar al-Bashir is elected as President.

Feb-March: JEM signs a peace agreement with Sudan government.

July: ICC issues a second arrest warrant for President Bashir for genocide.

August: President Bashir travels to Kenya but ICC arrest warrants are not enforced.

2011

January: The people of southern Sudan vote in favour of independence from Sudan.

February: In Jonglei State, a conflict between security forces and rebels kills 100. Fighting also erupts near Abyei.

March: Southern Sudan suspends communication and accuses the north of plotting a coup.

May: North Sudan takes control of Abyei.

June: An agreement is signed by north and south Sudan to demilitarise Abyei.

July: South Sudan becomes an independent country. UNMISS is established.

August: The UN declares ethnic killings in Jonglei State with a minimum of 600 people dead.

October: President Salva Kiir makes his first visit to Khartoum since South Sudan's independence. The SSLA rebel group attacks Mayom, Unity Province, and kills at least 75 people.

November: Refugee camp in Yida, Unity, is bombed and Sudan is blamed for the aerial bombardment.

2012

January: More than 170,000 people flee to Jonglei State because of inter-communal clashes. Oil production in South Sudan is shut down.²⁴⁴

February: Due to Sudan shutting down South Sudan's oil export pipeline, South Sudan halves public spending on all but the salaries of those providing essential services.

May: Sudan withdraws its troops from border region of Abyei.

July: South Sudan's first anniversary.

August: Around 200,000 refugees flee to South Sudan to escape the battle between the Sudanese army and rebels in southern Sudan.²⁴⁵

September: South Sudan and Sudan agree to trade, oil, and security deals.

²⁴⁴ UNOCHA, 'South Sudan: Consolidated appeal 2013 mid-year review' (17 June 2013), available at https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/MYR_2013_South_Sudan.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 12.

²⁴⁵ BBC, 'Sudan profile' (5 June 2014), at available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14095300>, accessed 2 April 2018.



November: An aerial bombardment displaces more than 4,000 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.

December: The SSPDF shoots down a UNMISS helicopter.

2013

March: Agreement is reached between South Sudan and Sudan to resume oil supply.

May: An outbreak of meningitis and polio affects South Sudan.

June: Finance Minister Kosti Manibe and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor are dismissed over a multi-million-dollar financial scandal.

July: Vice-President Dr. Machar and the entire cabinet are dismissed by President Salva Kiir.

September: A measles outbreak occurs in Upper Nile State.²⁴⁶

December: Civil war erupts between President Salva Kiir and Dr. Machar. Thousands of civilians are killed and displaced. Eleven SPLM members are arrested and Dr. Machar flees to the bush. The UPDF army is deployed to South Sudan.

2014

January: CoH agreement is signed and broken by both parties. Dr. Machar is charged with treason. Seven of the eleven SPLM detainees are released.

February: Cluster bombs are found on the Bor-Juba road.²⁴⁷ Ethnic fighting erupts in UNMISS PoC camp in Malakal.

April: Unity State is bombed by the Sudanese air force. UNMISS PoC base in Bor is attacked by Dinka Bor youth. Charges against the four SPLM detainees are dropped.

May: CoH agreement is re-signed and broken by both President Salva Kiir and Dr. Machar. United States sanctions are imposed against rebel commander Peter Gadet and SSPDF commander Marial Changuong. President Salva Kiir announces a delay in the 2015 election by two years. A cholera outbreak affects Central Equatoria State.

July: The UN Security Council defines South Sudan's food crisis as the worst in the world. EU sanctions are imposed against South Sudanese military leaders.²⁴⁸

August: CoH agreement is signed and broken by both opposing parties. A UNMISS helicopter is shot down.

October: Canada imposes sanctions against rebel commander Peter Gadet and SSPDF commander Marial Changuong.²⁴⁹

²⁴⁶ UNOCHA, 'Humanitarian Bulletin: South Sudan' (23 - 29 September 2013), available at http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Weekly_Humanitarian_Bulletin_23_29_September_2013.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018, p. 2.

²⁴⁷ Human Security Baseline Assessment, 'Timeline of recent intra-southern conflict' (2014), available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/documents/HSBA-South-Sudan-Crisis-Timeline.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁴⁸ Council of the European Union, 'EU imposes sanctions on South Sudanese military Leaders' (10 July 2014), available at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143811.pdf, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁴⁹ Sudan Tribune, 'Canada sanctions two South Sudanese military officers' (2 November 2014), available at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52914>, accessed 2 April 2018.



2015

March/April: UNICEF negotiates the release of 1,757 children held by armed groups.²⁵⁰

May: SPLM/A-IO meets with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and commits to end violations against children.²⁵¹

August: Peace deal is signed by President Kiir and rebel leader Machar ending the fighting, re-establishing Machar as vice president, and calling for the release of all children/soldiers.²⁵²

September: The peace deal is violated with several acts of violence from both sides.²⁵³

October: The Security Council updates the mandate for UNMISS.²⁵⁴ SPLA-IO signs action plan to combat rape in war and 54 commanders make undertakings.²⁵⁵

2016

January: Panel of Experts recommends sanctions and an arms embargo to the Security Council.²⁵⁶

February: President Kiir executes presidential decree number six, appointing opposition leader Dr. Machar as Vice-President, in accordance with the power-sharing strategy of the agreement.²⁵⁷

March: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report released indicating human rights violations, including a Government-operated ‘scorched earth policy’, and deliberate targeting of civilians for killing, rape and pillage.²⁵⁸

April: Riek Machar returns to Juba and is sworn in as first vice-president in a new unity government.

July: Violence erupts in Juba and Riek Machar sacked and returns into exile.

²⁵⁰ UN News Centre, ‘UNICEF Welcomes Final Release of Child Soldiers by Armed Group in South Sudan’ (25 April 2014), available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50680#.VfO11flVikq>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵¹ UNICEF, ‘Nine Year Old Girl Soldier Freed in Large Release of Child Soldiers in South Sudan’ (21 March 2015), available at http://www.unicef.org/media/media_81345.html, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵² BBC, ‘South Sudan President Salva Kiir Signs Peace Deal’ (26 August 2015), available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34066511>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵³ Antony Loewenstein, ‘South Sudan’s Peace Deal Never Stood a Chance’ (8 September 2015), available at <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/08/south-sudans-peace-deal-never-stood-a-chance/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵⁴ UN Security Council, ‘Resolution 2241 (2015)’, (9 October 2015) (UN Doc. S/RES/2241).

²⁵⁵ UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, ‘South Sudan: UN Special Representative welcomes SPLA-IO action plan to combat rape in war and undertakings by Commanders’ (10 November 2015), available at <http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/press-release/south-sudan-united-nations-special-representative-welcomes-spla-io-action-plan-to-combat-rape-in-war-and-undertakings-by-commanders/>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵⁶ Security Council Report, ‘February 2016 Monthly Forecast: South Sudan’ (29 January 2016), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2016-02/south_sudan_18.php, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵⁷ UNHCR, ‘South Sudan UNHCR Operational Update 3/2016, 1 to 15 February 2016’ (15 February 2016), available at <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20SSD%20Operational%20Update%20No%203%20-%2015%20February%202016.pdf>, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁵⁸ See HRC, ‘Assessment mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’, (11 March 2016) (UN Doc. A/HRC/31/49).



November: UN fired Kenyan commander of UNMISS over failure to protect civilians in Juba during clashes in July.

2017

January: UNMISS Head David Shearer affirms that the arrival of RPF troops in Juba is enabling UNMISS to extend its presence to more remote parts of the country.²⁵⁹

February: In mid-February, heavy fighting in the Wau Shilluk area of Upper Nile state causes large-scale displacement west of the Nile River.²⁶⁰

March: General Thomas Cirillo Swaka announces that the National Salvation Front intends to oust President Salva Kiir from power; Sanctions Committee discusses final report of the Panel of Experts and advocates an arms embargo on South Sudan.²⁶¹

May: Kiir administration announces a ceasefire; and places General Malong under house arrest.

July: Fights are reported as taking place between youth groups within the UNMISS civilian protection site at Bentiu.

October: IGAD delegation met with opposition leader and former First Vice-President Riek Machar in South Africa.²⁶²

November: Kiir administration releases General Malong from house arrest.

December: Cessation of Hostilities Agreement comes into effect.

2018

January: 40,000 people are reported to have fled to Gambella, Ethiopia in the six months to mid-January due to conflict in Pagak.

February: 300 children are released from residential care institutions.

²⁵⁹ UN Security Council Report, 'February 2018 Monthly Forecast: South Sudan' (31 January 2018), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2018-02/south_sudan_40.php, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁶⁰ UN Security Council Report, 'March 2017 Monthly Forecast: South Sudan (28 February 2017)', available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2017-03/south_sudan_29.php, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁶¹ UN Security Council Report, 'April 2017 Monthly Forecast: South Sudan' (31 March 2017), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2017-04/south_sudan_30.php, accessed 2 April 2018.

²⁶² UN Security Council Report, 'November 2017 Monthly Forecast: South Sudan' (31 October 2017), available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2017-11/south_sudan_37.php, accessed 2 April 2018.



ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

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