

Lesson 2.10 Integrated Case Study



Protection of Civilians: A Whole-of-Mission Approach

Aim, Relevance and Learning Outcomes

Aim

To consolidate the understanding of the content in Module 2, particularly on the importance of a whole-of-mission approach to the protection of civilians (POC) and the shared responsibility for this critical, mandated and cross-cutting priority.

To help peacekeepers apply key learning on POC in practice when deployed.

Relevance

Over 95 per cent of peacekeepers today are mandated to protect civilians. POC has risen in importance for UN peacekeeping as violent conflict actors have increasingly targeted civilians with more widespread and horrific crimes and violations. The relevant content in Module 2 has addressed:

- Human rights
- POC
- Conflict-related sexual violence
- Child protection.

The case study integrates learning about POC through a case study with scenarios and inserts of a peacekeeping mission context – South Sudan.

Slide 1



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC



Aim

- To consolidate the understanding of module two, particularly on the importance of protection of civilians through a whole-of-mission approach

Relevance

- Over 95% of peacekeepers today are mandated to protect civilians. POC has risen in importance for UN peacekeeping as violent conflict actors have increasingly targeted civilians with more widespread and horrific crimes and violations.

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Slide 1

Learning Outcomes

Learners will be able to:

1. Reinforce and deepen key learning on POC as a critical cross-cutting mandated priority in UN peacekeeping missions.
2. Apply knowledge gained about POC to the mission context in which they will be deployed, strengthening skills, performance, attitudes and mindset to support the POC mandate through a whole-of-mission approach.

Slide 2



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC



Learning Outcomes

1. Reinforce and deepen key learning on POC as a critical cross-cutting mandated priority for UN peacekeeping missions.
2. Apply knowledge gained about POC to the mission context in which you will be deployed, strengthening skills, performance, attitudes and mindset to support the POC mandate through a whole-of-mission approach.

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Lesson at a Glance



Minimum lesson duration: 90 minutes (including *Learning Activity 2.10.1*).

The Lesson	Pages	Slides
Required Learning Activity 2.10.1: Integrated Case Study on Protection of Civilians – A Whole-of-Mission Responsibility	4–9	3–7
Lesson from the Case Study	10	8
What Individual Peacekeepers Can Do	11	9
Situational Awareness	12	10
Gathering and Sharing Information	13–14	11
Coordination and Referral	14–15	12
Engaging the Local Community Using Strategic Communications	15–17	13
Take Action – Alert, Prevent, Respond or Intervene!	17–18	14
Lesson Closing	18	15
Handout - Summary of Key Messages	19	—
Handouts 1 to 4	20–27	—



Trainer Tips: *Introduce the case study with information from the table Lesson at a Glance. No separate Learning Support file is provided for this lesson.*

The Lesson

Required Learning Activity 2.10.1

Integrated Case Study on Protection of Civilians – A Whole-of-Mission Responsibility		
Method	Films, group work, debrief and case study	
Purpose	Practice assessing POC threats and vulnerabilities, and practice working on POC action plans	
Time	90 minutes	
	Introduce the case study the previous day as homework and ask participants to read the scenarios and think about their answers.	Homework
	Start the exercise and show the three films	6 mins
	Explain group work and assign groups	4 mins
	Group work	45 mins
	Reporting back, presentations and discussion	20 mins
	Wrap-up case study, reinforce key messages and close the activity	15 mins
Resources	<p>UN Videos: slides 3-5</p> <p>Case Study Instructions: Slides 6 and 7</p> <p>Case study supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of assignment – develop a POC strategy • Background • Debriefing support. 	
Preparation	<p>Read the original mandate of UNMISS in Security Council resolution 1996 (2011). Link: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/706698</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare notes on key points about the responsibility of the UN peacekeeping mission and the whole-of-mission 	

	<p>responsibility that applies to all peacekeeping personnel. Include points on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability • Duty to protect • Trust. <p>2. Print the instructions, the case study, the map and the worksheets for group work.</p>
<p>Instructions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce the activity and purpose, the groups, timing and supports in the handout packages. 2. Introduce and show the films - slides 3 to 5. 3. Ask participants to read the case study in their groups. 4. Explain the task: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants play the role of mission personnel working to protect civilians in the case study. • They should work through the discussion questions to develop a response plan – see <i>Steps for Participants</i>. • They should discuss and answer questions in groups. • Then they should prepare presentations to report back their group’s answers. 5. When all groups have presented, summarize. Add points to fill gaps, including actions not mentioned that are covered in materials below on responses. 6. Invite and respond to questions before wrapping up with the key messages, referencing related points in the answers groups provided.
<p>Variation</p>	<p>The group work takes 45 minutes. Trainers may want to have two shorter sessions of 22 minutes each, with 10 minutes of presentation and discussion in between. This will allow the groups to work on their action plans step by step and receive feedback at the midpoint.</p>

Support Materials for Lesson 2.10 Integrated Case Study on Protection of Civilians a Whole-of-Mission Responsibility

- Case study instructions
- Case study
- Map
- Worksheets for participants.

Please note that **Debriefing Support with expanded Key Messages** to close the case study follow the **Support Materials**.

Debriefing Materials (answers)

Specific Threats to Civilians

- Threats to life – killing during Lou Nuer attack on Murle
- Threats to property – Theft of cows during Murle attack on Lou Nuer
- Threats to physical integrity – Injury to men and women; abduction of children (Murle attack on Lou Nuer); rape of women
- Threats to freedom – Displacement of population
- Threats to freedom of expression and access to factual information (including threats to local journalists covering the conflict, threats to activists).

Threats

To life...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbitrary, summary or extrajudicial executions • Murder (from individual killings to systematic violence and genocide)
To physical integrity...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment • Rape and other forms of sexual violence (from opportunistic to widespread and systematic use) • Abduction • Deliberate deprivation (of food, water, other goods or services necessary for survival)
To freedom...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced disappearance • Arbitrary/illegal arrest and detention • Restrictions on freedom of movement (including forced displacement) • Forced labour or recruitment
To property...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft, extortion (e.g. illegal taxation) • Looting

Action Plan Elements

Action Plan

Phase 1: Prevention

- Police/military patrols in volatile areas.
- Carry out human rights monitoring in volatile areas (deployment of Human Rights Officers).
- Engage community leader (chiefs), civil society, including women and youth representatives, and faith-based leaders in reconciliation and mediation efforts (deployment of civilian affairs officers).
- Collect information from relevant local actors and community members to improve situational awareness and inform strategic and crisis communications.
- Identify proxy communicators (people who can communicate on the mission's behalf) or influencers who can transmit critical information to the community in a timely and effective manner during a crisis.
- Constant liaison and advocacy with Government and other non-Government armed actors. Set up of early-warning systems.
- Disarmament of the affected Murle, Nuer and Dinka communities.
- Security sector reform for the national police and army.

Phase 2: Pre-emption

- Increase deployment of military/police and patrols to volatile areas.
- Increase human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy.
- Step up mediation efforts at the local and national levels.
- Support the development of a mission-wide communications strategy, including key messages by target audience, to strengthen understanding of the UN's role, responsibilities and capabilities, manage expectations and demonstrate the impact of our work.
- Launch a communications campaign (using traditional and digital channels as relevant) to sensitize the population, promote community building and build support for UN Peacekeeping.

Phase 3: Response

- Deploy police/military personnel to create a buffer zone between vulnerable populations and potential aggressors.
- Use of force in case a vulnerable population is under imminent threat of physical violence.

- Step up mediation efforts to include regional and international actors – these can place political and economic pressure on potential aggressors.
- Continue implementing the strategic communications strategy, including the use of different community voices to promote calm and stability.
- Adjust key messages and dissemination efforts based on monitoring and analysis of the information environment, including narratives that may impact mandate implementation and the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Phase 4: Consolidation

- Liaison with the parties to the conflict.
- Dialogue with civilians affected by conflict and between communities.
- Investigation into human rights violations.
- Liaise with the South Sudan Human Rights Commission for a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and politicians inciting violence and bring them to justice.
- Launch of confidence-building measures to re-establish trust between affected population and governance institutions that have been broken.
- Disarmament of the affected Murle, Nuer and Dinka communities.
- Security sector reform for the national police and army.
- Continue proactive communication, including about the role and responsibilities of peacekeepers to manage expectations and address reputational risks.

Gender-responsive and child protection considerations for response planning

- Number of males/females according to age groups
- Threats to women/girls, men/boys
- Consult communities to understand the area (protection/security needs – especially for women and children)
- Take note of unaccompanied or separated children
- Note vulnerable groups: including children, women, ethnic or religious minorities, refugees, internally displaced people, people with disabilities, wounded and the elderly, journalists, advocacy and human rights workers.

Engagement with local community – Innovative examples from UN peacekeeping

Joint protection teams (JPTs) are small mixed teams drawn from the mission's military, police and civilian units (e.g. civil affairs, human rights, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), child protection). The aim is to work better to prevent harm to civilians at risk and to respond better when harm occurs. This includes improving early-warning mechanisms and analysing existing and potential threats to civilians, supporting the development of local protection plans in areas where UN military personnel are deployed and establishing or reinforcing existing local coordination structures with local authorities, communities or humanitarian partners. The JPTs visit areas identified as being at risk, carry out assessments and then write up reports with recommendations.

Community liaison assistants (CLAs) are deployed to support community engagement and protection activities alongside the mission's military component, at the company or platoon level. They are national UN staff members (in other words, nationals of the host country where the mission is deployed). They are tasked with outreach activities to facilitate engagement with the local authorities, communities, civil society and humanitarian partners. CLAs also respond to the longer-term objective of building capacity on POC and resolving conflicts peacefully by supporting communities to develop local protection mechanisms and encouraging inter-community dialogue.

Community alert networks (CANs) are established by the mission around its military bases. By distributing mobile telephones or phone numbers of CLAs to focal points in the villages surrounding the UN base, CANs aim to cover high priority areas where there is mobile network coverage. Selected in consultation with the local community, focal points are generally drawn from local leadership and civil society. CANs alert the peacekeeping mission when there is a threat to the local civilian population. Some UN military bases that are not covered by telephone networks have distributed high frequency radios for communication. Alerts are assessed and confirmed by CLAs who transmit them to field offices and UN military commanders.

Lessons from the Case Study

Protection of Civilians: A Shared Responsibility

Slide 8



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

POC: A Shared Responsibility

- Implementing the mandated is a shared responsibility
- All play a role – military, police and civilians
- All work together – directly in lead roles and indirectly in support roles
- Regardless of the role, the commitment of all is essential for success



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Key Message 1: Implementing the mandate is a whole-of-mission responsibility. Everybody in a peacekeeping operation, including civilians, the military and the police plays a role.

Peacekeeping personnel work together to implement cross-cutting mandates:

- Human rights
- POC
- Child protection
- Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

Peacekeeping personnel also work together on other mandated tasks.

Peacekeepers work directly in lead roles and indirectly in support roles to implement all mandated tasks.

Regardless of their role, all mission staff must commit to working on and working with others on cross-cutting tasks if the mission is to be a success. This means all military, police and civilians in substantive and support posts.

What Individual Peacekeepers Can Do

Slide 9



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

These specific actions include:

- Situational awareness
- Gathering and sharing information
- Coordination and referral
- Engaging the local community using strategic communications
- Take action – prevent, respond, intervene!

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Key Message 2: Individual peacekeepers take specific actions in their daily work to support implementation of mandated tasks.

These specific actions include:

- Developing situational awareness
- Gathering and sharing information
- Coordination and referral
- Engaging the local community
- Alerting response-actors, preventing and responding to incidents
- Strategic communications.

Situational Awareness

Slide 10



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

Situational Awareness

- Important in facilitating optimal mission responses
- Understand the environment in which you are operating
- Be aware of surroundings and situations on the ground as they change
- Share insights about a situation, especially as it changes
- Contribute to integrated mission reporting



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Key Message 3: All peacekeeping personnel need to be aware of their surroundings and the latest situation on the ground.

As a situation changes, peacekeeping personnel share insights. This guides mission responses and increases safety and security of people and equipment.

Whatever your role, you are responsible for understanding the environment and contributing to integrated mission reporting.

Peacekeeping personnel are monitors. The UN encourages all to be alert and report on changes in a situation, following communication and reporting lines.

Developing the ability to quickly understand situations on the ground through what you see comes with time, and by learning about local customs and culture.

Peacekeepers in the field are responsible for learning about and respecting local cultural sensibilities. Regular contact with local people and learning more about the mission context will develop an individual's understanding and ability to interpret what they see.

Gathering and Sharing Information

Slide 11



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

Gathering and Sharing Information

- Can be a matter of life and death in peacekeeping context
- Gather and feed information for reporting, analysis and response
- Distinguish information relevant to JOC and JMAC from a variety of sources
- Build networks and share information through them
- Record essential information
- Be sensitive when handling information



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Key Message 4: In peacekeeping, information can mean life or death. This is especially true as volatile and dangerous situations unfold.

Gathering information is a collective task. **All personnel have a role in gathering information and feeding it into mission channels for reporting, analysis and response.** Senior officers and managers are accountable for ensuring reports are completed.

Personnel should be able to distinguish information relevant to joint operations centres (JOCs) and joint mission analysis centres (JMACs).

Information will come from mission and non-mission sources. For example, rumours about political developments picked up by staff from locals at a bar can be interesting but the information will need to be checked to be sufficiently credible. Information must come from a reliable source if it is used for decisions about actions.

Personnel need to be able to establish, maintain and use networks across components to gather information. Peacekeeping personnel are **encouraged to build networks between components and share information through them.**

Personnel also need to be familiar with specific reporting requirements. Personal communication skills are critical. The UN expects peacekeeping personnel to use language precisely.

When an incident occurs, all peacekeeping personnel should record essential information:

- Time
- Location
- Alleged perpetrator
- Victim (including age and gender)
- Circumstances of an observed threat or violation
- Source of the information.

Personnel should report this basic information to the relevant lead component or focal point in the mission area. Leads on cross-cutting thematic tasks will share protocols for reporting through in-mission briefings. Protocols will detail who to contact and how.

Information gathering and sharing carries potential risks. Information is sensitive. All staff are responsible for protecting records and information and maintaining confidentiality to ensure a do-no-harm approach.

Personnel are to be careful and sensitive to the unexpected consequences of information gathering or sharing when it is done badly.

Coordination and Referral

Slide 12



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

Coordination and Referral

- Essential to ensure actions are effective
- Coordinate with the relevant lead component or focal point
- The relevant lead component or focal point will take the lead in the referral processes



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Key Message 5: Good coordination and communication are essential to ensure actions are effective.

All peacekeeping components share responsibility to implement the mission mandate. Coordination is important.

Coordination can be challenging among components and with the UN Country Team and external actors. One component or entity may want to lead. Others may be unwilling or unable to deliver as part of a team.

Peacekeeping personnel must coordinate with relevant lead components or focal points on cross-cutting thematic tasks and substantive issues. Leads are mission experts on all related matters and concerns. They liaise with relevant UN Country Team (UNCT) and other mission partners (national and external).

For any incident, peacekeeping personnel must refer survivors of violations to appropriate services for medical, legal or psychosocial help.

In many mission areas, humanitarian referral systems support timely and adequate responses. For better coordination, the relevant unit or focal point in the mission leads in referral, based on information provided by peacekeeping personnel.

Engaging the Local Community Using Strategic Communications

Slide 13



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

Engaging the Local Community using Strategic Communications

- Consult respectfully and sensitively
- Involve vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Engage local community in the activities of the mission and encourage local ownership
- Clearly communicate mission's role, mandate and actions



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Key Message 6: Peacekeeping personnel must engage with the local community. This builds trust and reinforces understanding of the mandate and cooperation in carrying it out.

Peacekeeping personnel must consult with the local community. This helps to gather and understand information on protection threats and needs for better response planning. Consultations should be carried out respectfully and sensitively, with a do-no-harm approach, to avoid making vulnerable people even more vulnerable. It is important to consult with vulnerable and marginalized groups – such as children, women, ethnic or religious minorities, refugees and the internally displaced – but it is equally important to avoid exposing them to retaliation or threats from having engaged with them.

Civil affairs officers, supported by CLAs who speak the local language, work with local communities to collect valuable information for early warning and pass on messages on social cohesion (society working together as a group) and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Peacekeeping personnel must also make sure the local community is consulted on and engaged in the activities of the mission that implement the mandate. This includes supporting the local community, including women and youth, to develop their own protection strategies for their area. Such strategies should be shared within the mission to be part of response plans to protect civilians.

Peacekeeping personnel need to communicate to explain their role. Proper messaging can manage expectations, steer crisis situations and ensure information integrity. It is also important when threats to civilians become real. Briefings and information-sharing through social media are to be early, timely and regular, and through authorized channels.

Strategic communications play a key role. They explain clearly and concisely the mandate and actions of the UN peacekeeping mission and can counter misinformation and disinformation. Different tools include print, radio and social media.

Strategic communications help peacekeeping personnel:

- Know what to say when in contact with local people
- Get and keep local support for a mission
- Manage expectations
- Promptly counter misinformation and disinformation
- Alert mission contacts about misinformation and disinformation.

The mission's **strategic communications and public information (SCPI) component** is a source of reliable and timely information for different audiences, both in country and internationally. The SCPI component works closely with the mission's leadership and core mission components including civilian, police and

uniformed personnel. Military and police components may have their own SCPI representatives who liaise closely with the mission SCPI component.

For effective communication, peacekeeping personnel should:

- Only speak when authorized and within their area of responsibility and competence
- Give facts and not opinions
- Not discuss sensitive issues unless otherwise directed by mission leadership
- Always refer media related queries to the SCPI component.

Take Action – Alert, Prevent, Respond or Intervene

Slide 14



2.10 Integrated Case Study on POC 

Take Action! Prevent, Respond and Intervene!

- Be alert to potential and actual threats
- Be proactive to prevent threats from becoming real
- Follow the situation where threats have been identified
- Respond, intervene in situations when threats become real



UN CPTM 2025 Slide 14



Key Message 7: All peacekeeping personnel must take action when needed – they must alert, prevent and respond to threats to civilians.

Peacekeeping personnel must:

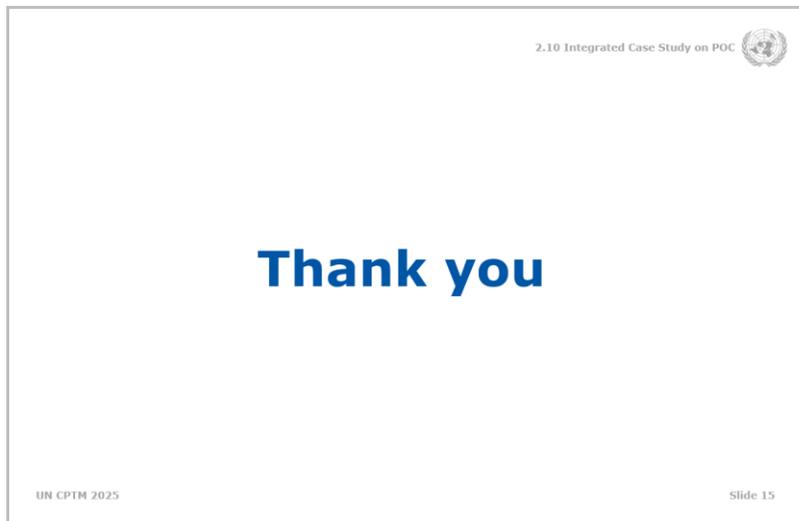
- Be alert to potential and actual threats in the first place
- Be proactive to alerts about threats and prevent them from happening
- Follow the situation where threats have been identified
- Respond and intervene in situations when threats become action.

Gender-responsive and child protection considerations for response planning include taking note of:

- The number of males and females according to age-groups
- Threats to women and girls and men and boys
- Protection and security needs, especially for women and children
- Vulnerable groups – including children (especially unaccompanied or separated children), women, ethnic or religious minorities, refugees, internally displaced people, people with disabilities, wounded and the elderly.

Lesson Closing

Slide 15



Trainer Tips: *If you have time, summarize the lesson, recalling the aim and learning objectives. Mention that the key messages support the learning objectives. Ask participants if they have questions. Ensure you distribute the Handout – Summary of Key Messages to all participants.*

Handout - Summary of Key Messages

Key Message 1: Implementing the mandate is a whole-of-mission responsibility. Everybody in a peacekeeping operation, including civilians, the military and the police plays a role.

Key Message 2: Individual peacekeepers take specific actions in their daily work to support implementation of mandated tasks.

Key Message 3: All peacekeeping personnel need to be aware of their surroundings and the latest situation on the ground.

Key Message 4: In peacekeeping, information can mean life or death. This is especially true as volatile and dangerous situations unfold.

Key Message 5: Good coordination and communication are essential to ensure actions are effective.

Key Message 6: Peacekeeping personnel must engage with the local community. This builds trust and reinforces understanding of the mandate and cooperation in carrying it out.

Key Message 7: All peacekeeping personnel must take action – they must alert, prevent and respond to threats to civilians.

Handout 1 - Case Study Instructions

(Project slides 6 to 7)

Consider the case study. You are deployed to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). As part of UNMISS, you share the responsibility to protect civilians with all other peacekeeping personnel. If you are to achieve the goal of protecting civilians you must all work as a team to try and eliminate the threats or mitigate the risks.

Develop an Action Plan

STEP 1: Threats to civilians

- Identify the threats to civilians.
- Identify the threats that are specific to women, men, girls and boys.

STEP 2: Vulnerability assessment

- Identify the vulnerabilities of the civilian population.
- Which civilians are most vulnerable?
- Fill in the sheet.

STEP 3: Threat assessment

- Assess the threats in more detail.
- Identify the potential perpetrators and their motives.
- Fill in the sheet.

STEP 4: Action plan

- Identify actions for the mission at each phase.
- Identify the roles of military, police and civilians (including for substantive and support components).
- Fill in the sheet.
- What specific actions should the mission take to protect women and children and other vulnerable groups?
- How should the mission engage with the local community?
- What information should the mission continue to gather?
- Identify areas for coordination within the mission and with mission partners.

Handout 2 – The Case Study

South Sudan - Background

Decades of civil war within Sudan between the north and south finally ended in 2005 when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed on 9 January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), ended Africa's longest running civil war. The CPA also called for a referendum to take place to determine the status of southern Sudan.

In January 2011, the referendum was held. The result was an overwhelming majority, 98.83 per cent of participants, voting for independence. On 9 July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became the newest country in the world. That same month, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established to consolidate peace and security and help support the development of South Sudan. The mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which had been established in March 2005 to support the implementation of the CPA, ended on the same date.

However, independence did not bring an end to problems in South Sudan. In December 2013, political divisions within the SPLM, mainly between President Salva Kiir and then first Vice-President Riek Machar Teny, led to the outbreak of armed conflict across the country. Widespread violence and atrocities against civilians impacted more than half of the population and left millions displaced, requiring the establishment of protection of civilian's sites. Over 200,000 civilians sought protection in UNMISS compounds across the country. In 2015, the parties signed several ceasefire agreements, culminating in an Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). However, the agreement only brought short-lived reprieve, as fighting erupted again in Juba in June 2016 and spread to the rest of the country, leading to more civilian casualties and displacement.

In September 2018, the major warring parties signed the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), resulting in a significant reduction in clashes and violent incidents between the signatories. However, low-intensity conflict resumed between Government forces and other groups that had not signed the peace agreement, referred to as the "non-signatories". These groups, such as the National Salvation Front (NAS), were causing civilian suffering in Greater Equatoria. Further, subnational violence continued, mainly in Jonglei and Warrap, and became the primary cause of threats to civilians. While the violence was mostly between communities, it often had significant links with national political dynamics in a context of a slow and fragile implementation of the revitalized peace agreement. Traditional and religious leaders and political and administrative elites supported actors involved in local violence. In addition, some rank-and-file personnel and officers of the national security forces and armed opposition supported or actively participated in the fighting, as individuals and according to which community they belonged to or their political alliances.

Communal Conflict in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPPA)

Jonglei state and the Greater Pibor Administration Area have a long history of ethnic tensions, cow stealing, kidnappings and sometimes violent competition for scarce resources. Conflicts over cows and other clashes between rival groups are common in South Sudan but have serious consequences on the civilian population and pose greater security risks to the displaced populations. Impunity, proliferation of small arms and militarization of cattle camps exacerbate violence among armed youth belonging to the Lou Nuer, Dinka Bor and Murle communities. Further, climate change-induced flooding has intensified competition for scarce resources (water and grazing land) among these communities who depend largely on subsistence farming and cattle-herding.

Historically, ethnic clashes and cow stealing also occurred as a result of the demand for high bridal dowries. In the past, clashes between communities, cattle-raiding and revenge attacks used spears. In more recent years, easy access to weapons has led to an increase in intensity and in the number of civilian casualties resulting from clashes. Women and children are targeted for killings and abduction as a tactic in these conflicts.

In 2012, a major crisis ensued after armed elements from the Murle community attacked neighbouring areas of Jonglei state and raided cattle from the Lou Nuer community. These attacks resulted in killing, injury and the abduction of women and girls. This triggered armed elements in the Lou Nuer community to act in revenge. The attackers burned and stole from homes; killed and injured Murle civilians, abducted women and children, seized hundreds of thousands of cows and forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes to hide in the bush. Retaliatory attacks and counterattacks by Murle, Lou Nuer and Bor Dinka continued throughout 2012, resulting in massive displacement of civilians.

In 2020, a similar cycle of violence erupted in Jonglei state and the Greater Pibor Administration Area. Supported by a web of religious, administrative and political actors and individuals from the national security forces, violent attacks and counterattacks involving armed elements from the Dinka, Nuer and Murle communities erupted between January and August 2020. These resulted in the killing and wounding of at least 1,058 people from these communities. At least 686 women and children, mainly from the Murle community, were abducted and 39 Murle women were raped or gang raped.

While localized violence, particularly cow stealing, has been common in these farming communities throughout history, the violence in recent years involves young people with weapons who are organized and capable of conducting planned and coordinated military-style attacks: They attack independently as well as with the support of members of Government or opposition forces. This subnational violence is therefore linked to national political and military dynamics.

As in previous years, Government security forces remain poorly trained and ill-equipped to deter or mitigate these clashes. Therefore, conflicts between communities continue unabated. These conflicts account for over 80 per cent of the civilian casualties in South Sudan over the past few years.

UNMISS has a Field Office in Bor, the capital of Jonglei state and a Team Site in Pibor, the seat of the Greater Pibor Administration Area. Following the outbreak of violence in 2013, UNMISS established a POC site in Bor after civilians ran for their lives to the Mission's base seeking protection. Bor POC site provided sanctuary thousands of civilians who fled their homes until its redesignation into a conventional internally displaced persons' camp in 2020.

Sources

- Human Rights Watch, "South Sudan: Justice Needed to Stem Violence," Prosecute Those Responsible, Seek International Investigation, February 2012; Human Rights Watch, "South Sudan: Army Making Ethnic Conflict Worse," Abusive Tactics, Lack of Protection, Send Civilians Fleeing, July 2013; Genocide Watch, "South Sudan," website accessed March 2017)
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/02/10/south-sudan-justice-needed-stem-violence>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/07/19/south-sudan-army-making-ethnic-conflict-worse>
- <http://www.genocidewatch.org/southsudan.html>
- UNMISS and OHCHR Joint Report- ARMED VIOLENCE INVOLVING COMMUNITY-BASED MILITIAS IN GREATER JONGLEI January – August 2020, MARCH 2021
- <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/SS/Jonglei-report.pdf>
- UNMISS Annual brief on violence affecting civilians (January – December 2020)

Handout 3 – Map



Map No. 4450 Rev.1.1 UNITED NATIONS
October 2011

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

Handout 4 - Worksheets for Group Work/Participants

Vulnerability	
Vulnerability factor	Community
<p>Individual/community factors (Age, gender, sex, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, social status)</p>	
<p>Environmental factors (Geographical location, level of urbanization, proximity and capacity of state authority in the area, level of infrastructure and communication)</p>	
<p>Access to services (Ability to access basic services and receive assistance)</p>	
<p>Self-sufficiency (Existence of local protection strategies, including early-warning capacities, local protection committees, self-defence capacities or other strategies)</p>	

Threat Assessment			
Threat	Perpetrator	Motive/intent (opportunity/ strategic aim)	Capacity (number, weapons, experience)

Action Plan				
Phase	Main activities	Military roles	Police roles	Civilian roles
Prevention				
Pre-emption				
Response				
Consolidation				
Other				