



Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2026

Original: English

Situation in South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2820 \(2026\)](#) and covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) between 16 April and 15 July 2026.

II. Political and economic developments

2. The reporting period was characterized by the continued unilateral actions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to amend the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, with implications for its primacy, as well as by internal government reshuffles that deepened political contestation. UNMISS and international partners intensified engagement, strongly calling for procedural adherence in the amendment process, high-level dialogue and adequate preparations for credible elections. With political and security dynamics increasingly intertwined, the situation in the country remained volatile, marked by ongoing clashes, contested ceasefires, humanitarian deterioration and a shrinking civic space.

3. On 17 April, the Council of Ministers approved a bill to amend the Revitalized Agreement, which was met with strong opposition during parliamentary debate. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) walked out of the session on 11 May after consistently maintaining that the proposed amendments had been introduced unilaterally. The South Sudan Opposition Alliance led by Josephine Lagu also boycotted the proceedings. On 1 July, parliament ratified the amendments bill, deferring the population census and the permanent constitution-making process until after the elections in December. Provisions conferring the Agreement's primacy over conflicting national laws were retained, following sustained advocacy from the international community.

4. In a major Cabinet reshuffle, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, replaced the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, the Minister for Trade and Industry, the Minister for Youth and Sports, the Minister of Finance, the Chief of Defence Forces, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology and other senior officials.



Coinciding with deliberations on the Revitalized Agreement amendments bill, the President removed 57 SPLM/A-IO legislators through two decrees, on 15 and 20 May. On 18 June, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs were swapped in their respective positions. On 3 July, the President also replaced two Commissioners of the National Elections Commission, originally nominated by the First Vice-President, Riek Machar.

5. The Political Parties Council announced that parties intending to contest the December 2026 general elections must register by 30 June. On 15 June, the Chair of the National Elections Commission announced receipt of \$5 million for voter education and \$1 million for voter registration preparations from the Government, confirmed the acquisition of a new permanent headquarters in Juba and instructed that a nationwide assessment of registration centres was to be conducted. On 22 June, the Commission announced that the general elections would be held on 22 December 2026 in all 10 states and three administrative areas, while acknowledging that there remained outstanding legal questions and persistent funding gaps. On 30 June, the Political Parties Council announced that five further political parties had registered, bringing the total to 39, including the “IO Party” led by the Minister of Peacebuilding, Stephen Par Kuol.

6. From 2 to 7 July, SPLM convened a summit in Juba, attended by national- and state-level party leaders, announcing an inter-party dialogue on outstanding electoral issues and resolved to nominate the President for re-election as SPLM Chair and the party’s sole presidential candidate.

7. The Cabinet of South Sudan approved the national budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year in the amount of South Sudan pounds (SSP) 11.335 trillion (about US\$ 2.2 billion) on 3 July, which is 62 per cent higher than the previous fiscal year. Over 90 per cent of the hard-currency revenues of the Government come from oil exports. Agriculture, livestock and mining allocations are being prioritized. The structural focus of the budget targets essential social and economic development, assigning 0.95 per cent of the budget (SSP 107.8 billion) to education, 0.59 per cent (SSP 67.3 billion) to natural resources and agriculture, and 0.30 per cent (SSP 33.7 billion) to healthcare. Parliamentary approval of the budget is pending, with some adjustments in allocations expected.

Regional engagements and developments

8. On 23 April, a delegation of the African Union Peace and Security Council visited Juba and met with the President and other stakeholders to assess the situation. The delegation issued a communiqué expressing concern over the deteriorating political and security conditions, the stalled implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the continued detention of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar. The delegation called for dialogue to ensure inclusive and credible elections in December 2026.

9. On 21 May, the African Union High Representative for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, held talks with opposition and holdout groups in Dar es Salaam. Participants included representatives of SPLM/A-IO, the United People’s Alliance led by Pagan Amum, the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance led by General Thomas Cirillo, the People’s Resistance Front led by Gabriel Changson Chang, and the People’s Coalition for Civil Action. From 17 to 23 June, the African Union High Representative conducted a second visit to Juba, where he met with South Sudanese stakeholders, including the President, ambassadors from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda and international partners engaged in the peace process.

10. On 6 and 7 July, a delegation of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan delegation visited Juba to review the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and electoral preparations. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee (South Africa) expressed optimism regarding an inclusive national dialogue while calling for an improved security environment.

III. Security situation

Greater Upper Nile region

11. In the greater Upper Nile region, the security situation remained volatile due to continued clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO. This was despite a unilateral declaration of cessation of hostilities on 7 May by the Chief of Defence Forces of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

12. In Jonglei State, confrontations between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO continued amid shifting territorial control, with 29 incidents (152 persons were killed, 86 were injured and 22 were abducted) recorded. The SPLM/A-IO advanced into Walgak on 28 and 29 April, before government forces retook the area. Subsequent clashes on 5 July in Walgak, Akobo County, and Pieri, Uror County, resulted in several casualties, including the killing of the County Commissioner of Akobo, heightening tensions between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and armed youth. Clashes were also reported in Motot and Waat on 24 and 25 May, with accounts of human rights violations, including abductions and conflict-related sexual violence. On 27 May, mobilization by Lou and Gawaar Nuer youth triggered the displacement of 3,000 Murle households in Likuangole County.

13. In Upper Nile State, on 21 April, suspected armed youth of the Murle community attacked civilians in Ulang County, killing 26 persons and injuring several others. Clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO in Maban, Tonga and Longochuk Counties resulted in 14 killed and 23 injured, underscoring continued instability and civilian vulnerability.

14. In Unity State and Ruweng Administrative Area, violence involving the National Security Service, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO forces, alongside aligned armed youth militias, persisted, with eight incidents recorded (23 persons were killed, 24 were injured and 9 were abducted). On 25 April, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO clashed in Tong, Rubkona County, resulting in the death of one SPLM/A-IO member and the injury of another. On 28 April, armed youth from Mayom County attacked National Security Service barracks near Toaloar, killing two personnel and injuring one, and seized arms and ammunition. Local authorities announced plans to absorb the Terchuong militia into the community police. Subsequent reports suggested that the militia members may be integrated into the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. On 2 June, armed elements attacked Aliiny County, killing at least 14 civilians, including children, injuring 23 others and prompting evacuations, security deployments and preventive engagements.

Greater Equatoria region

15. Security in the greater Equatoria region remained volatile, driven by a combination of pastoralist-related violence, armed group activities and opportunistic criminality.

16. Despite UNMISS-supported efforts and the peace dialogue held in Rokon at the end of April, nine cattle-related violence incidents involving Mundari and other pastoralist groups were recorded across Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria

States (14 deaths, 1 person injured). On 2 and 3 May, clashes were reported in Terekeka County, Central Equatoria, resulting in 17 civilians killed, the destruction of homes and the displacement of over 6,000 individuals.

17. Clashes involving the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, the National Salvation Front (NAS) and SPLM/A-IO elements were reported in Yei, Morobo and Juba Counties in Central Equatoria, as well as in Ifwotu County in Eastern Equatoria State. In early May, violence in Juba County resulted in at least 11 South Sudan People's Defence Forces personnel killed and 16 injured, and three casualties for the National Police Service. Abductions and forced recruitment by armed groups continued, particularly along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 85 abductions recorded.

18. In Eastern Equatoria State, tensions escalated around Kassengor payam, Kapoeta East County, a disputed area, between Eastern Equatoria and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, following the killing of the County Commissioner in an ambush on 11 June. The incident, reportedly perpetrated by armed youth from Greater Pibor, triggered security forces deployments, mobilization by youths and subsequent clashes in the county, resulting in the killing of at least one youth.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

19. Intercommunal violence and cattle-related attacks remained the primary drivers of insecurity in greater Bahr el-Ghazal, particularly in Warrap and Lakes States, where recurrent clashes resulted in 217 civilian casualties, cattle raiding and displacements recorded in 15 incidents.

20. Reprisal attacks, cattle raids and localized clashes among Dinka subsections persisted in Tonj South, Gogrial East, Rumbek Centre and along the Warrap–Western Bahr el-Ghazal border. Between 13 and 15 June, these clashes and retaliatory violence resulted in at least 11 deaths, 16 persons injured, an unconfirmed number of cattle raids, and the displacement of civilians. Subsequent violence in Alabek payam and Warrap town, Tonj North County, between 2 and 9 July, resulted in 17 civilians killed, 28 injured and a significant number of cattle raided.

21. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal, violence along the Jur River–Gogrial East border, including the contested Manyang area, heightened tensions between Apuk and Marial Wau communities, with five incidents recorded, resulting in 42 deaths, 29 persons injured and several civilians displaced. Separately, a dialogue supported by UNMISS and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei between Dinka Twic and Ngok Dinka in Wau concluded without agreement, underscoring continued contestation over Aneet and the buffer zone along the Twic–Abyei borders.

IV. Humanitarian situation

22. An estimated 7.8 million people, approximately 56 per cent of the population, are projected to face crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 or above) between April and July, according to the latest IPC analysis. Of these, around 73,000 people are classified in IPC Acute Food Insecurity phase 5 (catastrophe), while Nasir, Ulang, Nyirol and Akobo Counties are considered at risk of famine. Malnutrition levels remain critically high. Since April, 2.2 million children aged 6 to 59 months have been affected by acute malnutrition, an increase of 100,000 cases compared to six months earlier. About 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished. Food insecurity continues to be driven by conflict, displacement, economic decline, climate

shocks, flooding and reduced agricultural production, which undermine food availability and household access to food.

23. More than 420,200 people have been newly displaced by conflict since January. This figure includes over 324,100 people displaced by violence in Jonglei State, of whom 261,570 remained within Jonglei. Nearly 29,000 fled to Mingkaman in Aweril County, Lakes State, more than 27,000 moved to Nasir, Panyikang and Ulang Counties in Upper Nile State, and over 6,000 fled to Juba County. The humanitarian situation in Jonglei, particularly in Akobo County, remains fragile and volatile despite periods of relative calm. Localized violence, sustained protection risks and ongoing displacement continue to drive humanitarian needs. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and partners monitored displacement trends and protection risks, including returns to Akobo, while supporting preparedness and the response.

24. Basic services in Akobo have been severely overstretched. Akobo County Hospital is serving an estimated 267,000 people, nearly five times its intended capacity, while Akobo West has almost no functioning health facilities. Protection concerns remain acute, including reports of child abductions, conflict-related sexual violence, gender-based violence and recruitment into armed groups. By April, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had identified more than 500 unaccompanied and separated children across Jonglei, although actual numbers were likely higher. Partners assessed that internally displaced persons uprooted by earlier conflicts in Uror, Nyirol and Akobo Counties had undergone secondary displacement and were residing with host communities in Akobo East and faced elevated risks of exploitation, abuse and rights violations, while disputes about resources, housing, land and property between displaced persons and host communities were exacerbated.

25. South Sudan continued to face multiple public health emergencies, including an ongoing cholera outbreak, driven by conflict, displacement and increasingly strained and inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, particularly among displaced populations, returnees and refugees. The cholera outbreak is now concentrated in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile States. Over 109,100 cases and 1,717 deaths (case-fatality rate: 1.6 per cent) had been reported across 55 counties in nine states and three administrative areas as at 8 July. In April, a vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 outbreak was confirmed in Maiwut County, while vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 was reported in Juba. A second-round polio vaccination campaign had reached an estimated 809,994 of 877,943 children as at 8 July (92 per cent coverage). Mpox cases also increased, with 128 cases reported since January across nine counties. Although no Ebola virus disease cases were confirmed, South Sudan remains at high risk due to porous borders, cross-border trade and displacement. Fifteen priority counties have been identified for enhanced preparedness and readiness activities. A Government-led Ebola virus disease preparedness plan is in place, and partners are supporting preparedness activities. Measles outbreaks have also been reported across several states.

26. Humanitarian access remained constrained by active conflict, violence against aid workers, bureaucratic impediments, movement restrictions and interference in humanitarian operations, particularly in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria States. At least 26 humanitarian personnel and contractors were killed between April and July. Aid workers also faced abductions, looting and access denials, including incidents in Yei, Morobo, Longochuk, Nasir, Akobo and Ulang. An estimated 10 million people are in need, and humanitarian operations remain critically underfunded, with only \$500 million received as at 15 July, or 34.1 per cent of the \$1.46 billion required under the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.

27. Reductions in the UNMISS budget and operational footprint has significantly affected the humanitarian operating and security environment. There has been a reduction in field-level functions previously provided by UNMISS, including civilian protection, early warning, mediation, coordination with local authorities and facilitation of humanitarian access, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Humanitarian actors and local authorities are increasingly required to absorb responsibilities formerly supported by UNMISS, often without commensurate capacity or resources in dangerous operational contexts.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

Working with the African Union and the regions

28. The United Nations and trilateral partners, which include the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, met four times at the principal and technical levels, and organized two diplomatic discussion forums to strengthen coordination between regional and international institutions and with the Government.

29. The trilateral mechanism (African Union, United Nations and IGAD) intensified engagements in support of the Declaration of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan Plus Summit, particularly in support of efforts by the African Union High Representative for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, with a special mandate on South Sudan, to facilitate a political resolution to the current political and security situation.

Targeted good offices

30. The new Special Representative of the Secretary-General engaged the President and senior government officials, as well as key Member States, regional partners, opposition figures and the African Union High Representative, on the current political impasse, the humanitarian situation and protection of civilians. Government interlocutors consistently emphasized their intention to proceed with elections, while acknowledging challenges related to institutional preparedness, legal frameworks and resource constraints. They indicated readiness to proceed under constrained conditions, including in contexts of insecurity or limited participation. International partners expressed greater caution, highlighting concerns regarding the absence of political consensus, prevailing security conditions and the potential risks of holding elections before these key concerns are addressed.

31. UNMISS also met with senior government officials, community leaders, faith-based actors and peacebuilding institutions at the working level. Discussions with the Administrator of Ruweng Administrative Area (7 April), the Nuer Leadership Peace Forum (8 April) and the Governors of Warrap and Jonglei (12 and 13 July) were focused on protection concerns, de-escalation efforts and implications of a reduced UNMISS presence. UNMISS also met with the South Sudan Council of Churches on 23 April to discuss ongoing faith-based peace interventions and with the Ministry of Peacebuilding on 6 May to explore collaboration on conflict management and reconciliation.

Monitoring

32. The National Constitutional Review Commission completed consultations in 10 States and three administrative areas with support from the Peacebuilding Fund and

UNMISS, but its activities have been paused due to a lack of sustained financing, alongside an ongoing process to delink the constitution-making process and the census from elections. From 15 to 25 June, the Commission, with United Nations support, conducted civic education and public consultation sessions in Juba.

33. Election preparations remained limited, with pending political decisions and legal clarity on types and levels of elections to be held. The National Elections Commission is in discussion with the Ministry of Justice and the parliamentary legal committee on amendments to the National Elections Act, in light of the amendments made to the Revitalized Agreement. The Commission has requested support from the international community and the United Nations to operationalize its newly acquired premises into a functional office.

34. UNMISS monitored developments in the areas of security sector reform, legal reforms, the constitution-making process, census and election preparations and transitional justice mechanisms, with limited to no significant progress to report during the period. Transitional security arrangements remained stalled.

Facilitating dialogue

35. Between 23 April and 11 June, UNMISS facilitated Citizens' Talks for Peace in Yambio, Malakal, Torit, Bor, Pariang, Abiemnom, Wau, Aweil and Kuacjok to promote engagement on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the recommendations contained in the Declaration of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan Plus Summit. The forums established committees to engage authorities on priority actions, guided by an implementation matrix reviewed monthly to track progress and ensure accountability.

36. From 12 to 14 May, UNMISS facilitated a national conference of civil society organizations, during which the discussions were focused on political processes and associated challenges in South Sudan, as well as strengthening collective civil society engagement. The conference culminated in the launch of a national coalition of civil society organizations to advance collective efforts for peace consolidation and advocacy for peace agreement implementation.

37. From 24 to 26 June, UNMISS convened a dialogue on breaking the cycle of perpetual transition with the participation of representatives of academia, civil society, the security sector, political parties, government institutions and faith-based organizations. On 29 and 30 June, UNMISS convened a dialogue for political parties, civil society, academia, women and young people to reflect on the state of South Sudan since its independence. Participants consistently pointed to a lack of political will to engage in genuine dialogue.

38. To foster conditions for peaceful elections, UNMISS convened the National Elections Commission, the judiciary and civil society to discuss effective election dispute resolution. Consequently, the Commission, the judiciary, the South Sudan Bar Association and the University of Juba School of Law, commenced consultations to develop a dispute-resolution mechanism. UNMISS also supported three engagements with the National Police Service, aimed at promoting the impartial and preventive role of security forces during electoral processes. UNMISS also supported the National Elections Commission and its subsidiary bodies in conducting civic education and inclusive participation initiatives countrywide.

39. UNMISS supported parliamentary committees in strengthening oversight through stakeholder dialogues on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; community violence reduction; voluntary civilian disarmament and firearms registration (4 and 5 June); and community safety in nationally protected wildlife areas (18 and 19 June).

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

40. The protection of civilians landscape remains highly fragile, volatile and context-specific, with subnational violence and intercommunal tensions increasingly concentrated in specific hotspots. These dynamics, compounded by localized political and security drivers, continue to generate persistent and geographically dispersed risks to civilians, sustaining recurring patterns of harm and limiting effective mitigation capacity in several areas. Major hotspots during the reporting period included the southern Jonglei–Eastern Equatoria area, the Nyirol–Uror–Ayod belt (northern Jonglei), the Nasir–Ulang corridor (Upper Nile), Abiemnom (Ruweng Administrative Area), the Bundang–Panakuach area (on the border of Unity State and Ruweng Administrative Area), Tonj (Warrap) and Morobo-Yei (Central Equatoria).

41. UNMISS peacekeepers continued to patrol the main supply routes and hotspots, to project force and support the protection of civilians, conducting 2,858 patrols, including 165 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel. Patrols were organized in response to specific threats in identified hotspots, reports of potential hostile acts or violations, key leader engagements or to actively maintain a presence in a designated area. The UNMISS force prioritized integrated patrolling, providing protection and mobility to other Mission components and maintained a presence in sensitive areas, such as Akobo, Abiemnom and Leer, despite plans to close the bases in those areas.

42. United Nations police maintained a proactive and flexible field presence through deployments to five company operating bases and 3,870 patrols, including 88 integrated patrols (2,874 patrols involved women police personnel; 39 per cent of the participants were women). The patrols strengthened visibility in protection-sensitive areas, supported early warning, enabled timely threat reporting and enhanced engagement with the National Police Service for coordinated follow-up on security and protection incidents, reinforcing community confidence. Quick-reaction teams remained on standby on 1,409 occasions in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu, with six activations in Bentiu to address security and protection incidents.

43. UNMISS good offices interventions continued to help de-escalate conflicts and protect civilians. On 11 April, following the SPLM/A-IO recapture of Akobo, 35 individuals sought protection at the UNMISS temporary operating base. UNMISS subsequently facilitated the evacuation of eight government medical personnel to Bor town to ensure their safety. On 25 April, in response to intercommunal violence between cattle keepers in Tonj East, Warrap State, which caused more than 50 deaths, UNMISS engaged community leaders, intellectuals and civil society to facilitate a ceasefire and implement the local peace agreement of May 2025, leading to the withdrawal of Luanyjang cattle keepers and helping reduce violence and tensions. In Bor town, after land disputes resulted in seven deaths and 15 persons injured, UNMISS engaged with local peace committee leaders, contributing to de-escalation. From 24 to 26 May, amid escalating tensions in Leer, Unity State, UNMISS engagements with the Government and local SPLM/A-IO leadership contributed to de-escalation between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO, following disputes over administrative authority in Adok Port and the presence of parallel governance structures.

44. UNMISS delivered five quick-impact projects and launched three additional ones, engaging 80 participants across Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Unity States. UNMISS also led five dialogue programmes in support of civilian protection, reaching 900 participants (272 women) across Central Equatoria, Upper Nile, Western Equatoria and Warrap States. Following violent intercommunal clashes in Mundri East, the UNMISS-led tripartite pastoralist dialogue, held on 28 and 29 April, led to

the signing of the landmark Rokon Peace Consensus, a ceasefire, recovery of 147 stolen cattle and pastoralist evacuations. An UNMISS-facilitated civil-military dialogue in Malakal on 16 and 17 April also strengthened trust between civilians and the military, supporting peaceful coexistence and the return of displaced persons.

45. Community-based protection engagements for early warning in Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria States targeted 715 participants (216 women). In Rokon, Central Equatoria State, UNMISS secured participants' commitment to strengthening peace committees and early warning systems to address community conflicts. In Bor, Jonglei State, an engagement with 30 internally displaced persons (17 women) identified gender-based violence and protection risks, informing response planning. In Unity State, UNMISS engagement with youth and women representatives in the Bentiu internally displaced persons camp, from 10 to 17 June, highlighted a decline in gender-based violence, partially attributed to UNMISS initiatives that enabled women to transition into community advocates.

46. From 9 to 11 June in Entebbe, Uganda, UNMISS facilitated a regional benchmarking exercise on gender mainstreaming and inclusivity in South Sudan's organized forces, bringing together senior national officials and experts from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to strengthen the participation of women, accountability and inclusive governance. Within the corrections sector, UNMISS trained 153 officers (42 women) in best practices and created a sustainable training network for prison staff. Infrastructure support, including the handover of a septic tank at Bor Central Prison, improved sanitation and detention conditions.

47. United Nations police conducted 166 activities, reaching 6,558 participants (2,322 women). Of these, 140 activities, engaging 3,132 personnel (829 women), supported the National Police Service's readiness to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, strengthen police-community relations, advance community policing and manage public order.

1. Accountability and rule of law

48. UNMISS strengthened the protection of civilians through support to formal justice institutions and accountability mechanisms. In southern Unity State, where impunity for serious crimes risked fuelling further violence and cycles of revenge, UNMISS supported investigations and mobile court proceedings across four counties. A total of 109 criminal cases were reported to the police, with proceedings resulting in 18 convictions, including in four sexual and gender-based violence-related cases, alongside 12 acquittals and seven dismissals. The arrival of a permanent judge in Unity State in May after a 13-year absence marked a significant milestone that is anticipated to increase public confidence in formal justice institutions by reducing arbitrary detentions and reinforcing deterrence for serious crimes. In Upper Nile State, the renovated Renk County Court was handed over to local authorities.

49. The application of survivor centred and trauma informed approaches by 21 judges (8 women) improved the protection of victims' rights in sexual and gender-based violence proceedings and enhanced judicial handling of medical and psychological evidence. Professional standards within the legal profession were advanced through the validation and initial implementation of the South Sudan Bar Association strategic plan for the period 2025–2030 and the Advocates Code of Conduct, developed with the participation of more than 100 legal practitioners, contributing to institutional integrity, self-regulation and public trust.

50. Accountability within the security sector was reinforced through a national military justice forum involving over 60 participants (7 women) from military and

civilian institutions, strengthening coordination, due process guarantees and victim-centred responses to sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

51. UNMISS continued to leverage community violence reduction as a strategic tool linking community-level interventions with implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and longer-term peacebuilding. Through coordination with national counterparts and United Nations partners, UNMISS supported the referral of a pilot group of 30 former combatants to vocational training opportunities and supported 110 former combatants, including 80 women, through livelihood assistance in agriculture, small business development and commercial driving.

2. Mine Action Service

52. The Mine Action Service conducted explosive ordnance disposal, survey, clearance and risk mitigation activities amid continued insecurity, intercommunal tensions and population movements, responding to legacy explosive ordnance contamination and new contamination from ongoing conflict. These efforts supported proactive force and United Nations police deployments, enabling patrols and operational movements into high-risk areas in Jonglei, including the critical Bor–Pibor supply route and the Yuai landing site, and in Upper Nile, supporting early warning, community engagement and conflict monitoring.

53. The Mine Action Service responded to 460 requests, including from local communities for explosive ordnance disposal support, addressing immediate threats to civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel. Clearance operations at bases slated for closure in Abiemnhom, Akobo and Leer ensured environmental compliance.

54. Survey and clearance operations enabled the safe use of approximately 9.85 million m² of land in Upper Nile and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, creating the conditions required for the safe and dignified resettlement of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees. Explosive ordnance survey and clearance in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap States enabled the construction of basic civilian infrastructure in areas affected by intercommunal tensions. Operations also facilitated access to eight agricultural sites and 12 waterpoints, while explosive ordnance risk education reached 38,040 individuals, including internally displaced persons and refugees.

C. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

55. UNMISS continued to provide security for humanitarian assistance delivery through the protection of convoys. The UNMISS force conducted 74 long-duration patrols, 390 short-duration patrols and 1,121 force protection tasks to help create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers.

56. The UNMISS force enabled the delivery of humanitarian assistance via force protection for humanitarian actors to safely deliver aid, security for convoys along main supply routes, and security and mobility for Operation Lifeline along the Nile River. With the onset of the wet season, UNMISS continued to maintain proactive airfield security to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance by air, as well as security at food storage sites. UNMISS provided protection for three World Food Programme convoys, 100 vehicles from Bor to Pibor and back to assist in delivery of 2,000 tons of humanitarian supplies.

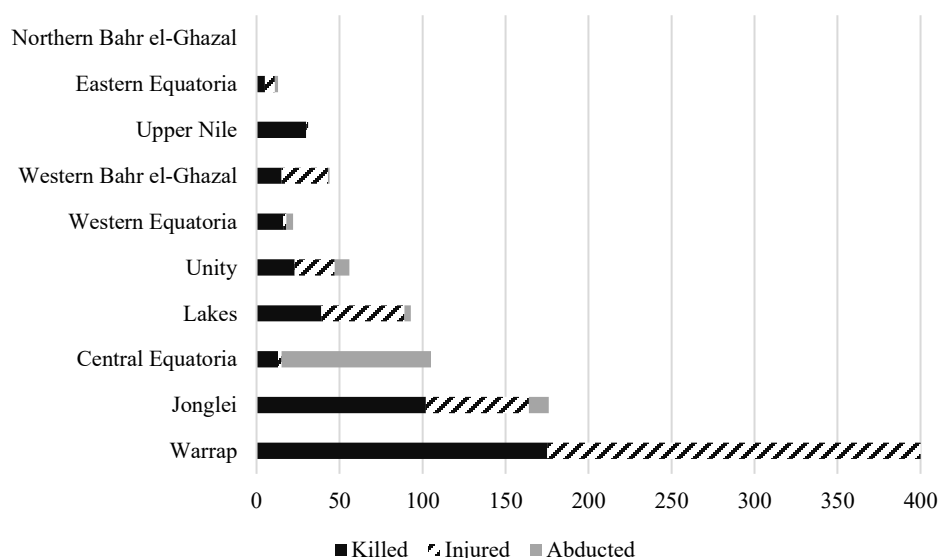
57. Sustained UNMISS advocacy in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, with communities and SPLA-IO, enabled the Mine Action Service to overcome a deadlock that had persisted since November 2024, resulting in the clearance of 250,000 m² and the safe renovation of education facilities.

58. To enable a safe environment for humanitarian efforts, UNMISS supported a bilateral initiative to address illegal checkpoints along the White Nile corridor in Jonglei State, while providing technical advice and coordination for Peacebuilding Fund-supported livelihood and youth initiatives for former combatants and at-risk youth.

D. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

59. UNMISS documented and verified 107 incidents of human rights violations and abuses affecting 940 civilians (833 men, 54 women, 17 girls, 36 boys). A total of 418 civilians were killed (373 men, 25 women, 6 girls, 14 boys), 400 were injured (365 men, 14 women, 6 girls, 15 boys) and 122 were abducted (95 men, 15 women, 5 girls, 7 boys) (see figure below). Community-based militias and/or civil defence groups were responsible for 57 per cent of the incidents, while 35 per cent were attributed to conventional parties to the conflict and other organized armed groups (17 to government security forces, 10 to SPLA-IO, 8 to NAS) and 8 per cent to unidentified and opportunistic armed elements. Twenty-three incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention affecting 43 individuals (36 men, 3 women, 1 girl and 3 boys) were documented. Central Equatoria was the State most affected by violence involving the conventional parties (of 14 incidents: 21 per cent were attributed to government security forces, 29 per cent to SPLA-IO and 50 per cent to NAS), while Warrap was the State most affected by intercommunal violence.

Number of victims by State and type of violation



60. UNMISS documented and verified four incidents of infringement on fundamental freedoms affecting five civilians. These cases involved the arbitrary arrest of a civil society actor, incommunicado detention of members of parliament and death threats against a former government official, reflecting the crackdown on government critics and shrinking of civic and political space.

1. Children and armed conflict

61. UNMISS verified 220 grave violations against 135 children (116 boys, 19 girls). Of these, 99 children (93 boys, 6 girls) were recruited and used, 27 children (23 boys, 4 girls) were killed (15) and maimed (12), and 9 girls were raped. Seventy-five children (66 boys, 9 girls) suffered from multiple violations. UNMISS verified attacks on hospitals (3) and schools (2) by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (3) and SPLM/A-IO (2), and the denial of humanitarian access (5) by the SPLM/A-IO (1) and unidentified perpetrators (4). Further, UNMISS verified the military use of one school and one hospital by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

62. Violations occurred in Upper Nile (69), Unity (43), Jonglei (26), Western Equatoria (30), Central Equatoria (25), Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (12), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (10), Warrap (3), Eastern Equatoria (1) and Lakes (1), and were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (163), SPLM/A-IO (9), the National Security Service (3), the National Police Service (4), joint SPLM/A-IO and NAS forces (2) and unidentified perpetrators (39), including by explosive ordnance (18), unknown armed groups (18) and crossfire between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO (3). Ultimately, 78 children (75 boys, 3 girls) were released from the South Sudan People's Defence Force (73), SPLM/A-IO (3) and unidentified perpetrators (2) in Upper Nile (33), Unity (24), Western Equatoria (9), Jonglei (7), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (3) and Central Equatoria (2).

63. UNMISS-supported joint verification missions to Upper Nile, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Ruweng Administrative Area resulted in 53 boys being verified, separated and formally released from the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. They were handed over, through the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, to UNICEF and child protection partners for family tracing, psychosocial support and reintegration services.

64. The Mission supported the Government in convening the fourth national child protection conference on strengthening accountability and preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed actors. During the conference, the Government emphasized having a zero-tolerance policy towards the recruitment and use of children. The event brought together 150 participants (46 women), including government officials, community members, protection partners and government security forces.

65. UNMISS also raised awareness on child protection in 46 sessions provided to 3,899 participants (1,148 women), including 2,865 community members (962 women), 952 members of the government security forces (164 women) and 57 government officials (16 women). UNMISS also specifically trained 747 participants (152 women) on child protection practices, including 409 members of the government security forces (51 women), 207 community members (73 women), 129 government officials (28 women) and two members of SPLM/A-IO.

2. Conflict-related sexual violence

66. UNMISS documented and verified 30 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 39 survivors (22 women, 15 girls, 2 men), aged 8–55 years. Of those, 31 survivors received medical care and 6 were referred for psychosocial support. A total of 9 incidents were reported to the National Police Service. Those incidents were recorded in Central Equatoria (18), Unity (3), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (3), Western Equatoria (3), Jonglei (2) and Warrap (1). Alleged perpetrators included unidentified armed elements (11), South Sudan People's Defence Forces (9), SPLM/A-IO (4), community-based militias (2), the National Security Service (2), the National Police Service (1) and NAS (1).

67. In April, a two-day survivor-centred United Nations action lab, facilitated by United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and UNMISS, brought together stakeholders involved in monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements and civil society actors to strengthen coordinated survivor-centred prevention efforts. The lab supported the contextualization of the Framework for the Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence, an early warning indicators matrix and a toolkit for a survivor-centred approach to conflict-related sexual violence initiatives.

E. Cross-cutting issues

1. Women and peace and security

68. UNMISS gender advisers and the South Sudan Women's Coalition, signatory to the Revitalized Agreement, convened over 100 women leaders across political signatories and civil society, on 11 and 12 May in Juba, to further the implementation of the 35 per cent women's quota in the public sector.

69. UNMISS gender advisers also supported the Female Journalists' Network to equip 60 women media personnel, parliamentarians and political party leaders with knowledge and skills in public speaking and digital outreach for a peaceful political transition.

70. Women for Change and the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network, in collaboration with UNMISS, convened a dialogue with women leaders and parliamentarians, political party representatives, civil society activists and women with disabilities, on 22 and 23 June in Juba. It concluded with the establishment of a cross-party women's forum and the adoption of a declaration.

2. Climate and peace and security

71. The early onset of rains and inflow of water from surrounding lakes and river catchments caused flooding in Upper Nile and Jonglei States and in Bentiu, Unity State, leading to destruction of farmlands, lost crop harvests and damage to a 15-km dyke.

72. UNMISS observed that farmers sowed crops earlier this farming cycle due to the early start of rains. A long dry spell followed, destroying standing crops, disrupting pastoral migratory routes and stirring farmer-herder conflict in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and herder-herder conflicts in Warrap. Upon the onset of flooding, cattle raiding and retaliatory violence were observed in Lakes State.

73. UNMISS continued to mobilize community-led flood response efforts with women-led civil society in Upper Nile State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, supported a reactivated national flood taskforce and state flood committees, and provided five training sessions on climate and peace and security to the anti-cattle raid team of the National Police Service.

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

74. UNMISS recorded 86 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement, of which 84 involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, affecting UNMISS patrols. In addition, between 16 March and 15 April, UNMISS recorded 61 incidents, 58 of which involved movement restrictions that had not previously been reported. In April, UNMISS was additionally forced to cancel a logistics convoy from Pibor to Akobo, due to denial of access by the SPLM/A-IO. On

28 May, a patrol team travelling from Wau to Gedi to assess the humanitarian and human rights situations was denied access by members of the SPLM/A-IO.

75. Regarding the abduction and subsequent killing of an UNMISS personnel member in Wau in December 2025, as noted in the last report (S/2026/316), an alleged perpetrator was arrested by the Government. However, despite formal requests during this reporting period, UNMISS did not receive any update on accountability measures taken.

76. The overall security environment affecting United Nations personnel remained challenging during the reporting period. There were 67 incidents involving stop-and-hold measures, demands for payment, harassment, intimidation or the temporary detention of United Nations personnel. On 27 April, at Gangura police post in Western Equatoria, security forces personnel threatened and denied access to an UNMISS team on an official mission with an acknowledged sharing of information document. On 7 July, a United Nations security management system team travelling on the Torit–Magwi Road was denied passage due to enforcement of a state insurance levy requirement. On 19 June, an UNMISS patrol could not proceed through a checkpoint in Wau despite holding a valid sharing of information document.

77. Mission facilities experienced 58 perimeter breaches or attempted intrusions. Thirty-one small-arms fire incidents were reported within a few hundred metres of United Nations premises, significantly fewer than the 90 recorded in the last reporting cycle. Thirty incidents of robbery or theft targeting staff and contractors, including home break-ins and assaults, were recorded. Fourteen roadside or riverine attacks targeted United Nations convoys. One contracted driver suffering multiple gunshot wounds on 28 April in Duk County, Jonglei. An armed robbery in Mundri West on 29 May involved staff being held at gunpoint and robbed of personal belongings, during which one contractor sustained injuries. Another ambush of a – vehicle contracted by the United Nations security management system in Duk County on 9 July resulted in the deaths of two individuals, including one foreign national.

78. UNMISS continued to engage the Government on a directive, issued in March 2026, requiring that fuel imports be sourced exclusively through a single designated supplier under the Government-to-Government agreement between Kenya and South Sudan.

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

79. The number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 1,625, comprising 672 international staff members, (32 per cent women), 953 national staff members (18 per cent women), 282 international United Nations Volunteers (37 per cent women) and four national United Nations Volunteers (50 per cent women).

80. United Nations police strength stood at 1,178 (of an authorized 1,260 personnel), comprising 515 individual police officers (35 per cent women); 638 personnel in formed police units (31 per cent women); and 25 government-provided personnel (of an authorized 88 personnel) (40 per cent women).

81. UNMISS troop strength stood at 9,176 military personnel (of an authorized 12,500 personnel): 104 military liaison officers (40 per cent women); 239 military staff officers (20 per cent women); and 8,833 military contingent personnel (8 per cent women).

82. In accordance with applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 April and

1 July, 26 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. One allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse was recorded. All identified victims of previously reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse continued to receive support from the Senior Victims' Rights Officer in South Sudan.

VIII. Implementation of continued cost-cutting measures and new mandate

83. With the impact of cost containment measures, the Mission has initiated reviews, including the mandated military and police capability study, as well as a technical realignment exercise, to ensure that it can deliver effectively on its mandate.

84. UNMISS is progressively pivoting toward a more mobile, geographically driven model focused on the primacy of politics, prioritizing high-risk areas in support of the protection of civilians and strengthening the linkage between early warning and operational responses.

85. The Mission completed the closure of the Akobo base in June and extended its presence in Abiemnom and Leer, with consideration given to security developments and heightened humanitarian needs.

IX. Performance optimization

86. UNMISS conducted 68 environmental risk assessments and 11 rapid environmental screenings to mitigate the Mission's environmental footprint.

87. The UNMISS force component completed 27 planned evaluations in three sectors, finding its units trained and operationally ready.

88. United Nations police conducted seven performance assessments and evaluation inspections of four formed police units in Juba, Bentiu and Malakal, finding its units operationally effective and in compliance. Inspections continued to identify expired anti-riot ammunition, necessitating targeted performance improvement plans.

X. Observations and recommendations

89. I remain deeply concerned about the continued strains on the broad political consensus underpinning the Revitalized Agreement. Persistent delays in the implementation of key provisions, together with contested amendments of the Agreement, have further complicated the transition process and risk deepening divisions among the parties. I therefore call upon the parties to engage in good faith through the Agreement's established mechanisms to resolve differences, rebuild confidence in the transition framework and preserve the integrity of the Agreement.

90. I note the Government's stated intention to hold elections in December 2026. However, progress on key outstanding issues identified in my letter to the Security Council dated 8 April 2024 ([S/2024/297](#)) – including institutional preparedness, adequate resourcing and the creation of a conducive civic and political environment – remains limited. Furthermore, important transitional benchmarks, including the deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces and the strengthening of political consensus, remain outstanding. Political commitments must be matched by inclusive and tangible progress. The scope of the elections must be clarified to ensure a more coherent and predictable process.

91. I call for an immediate and sustained cessation of hostilities as a matter of priority. Preventing further escalation is essential to protecting civilians and preserving gains achieved since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement. Recent calls for restraint, including the unilateral declaration of a cessation of hostilities by the leadership of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, must be consolidated to build confidence. The parties should fully utilize the agreed cessation of hostilities and defence mechanisms and demonstrate genuine political will and commit to a coordinated end to the hostilities. Confidence-building measures, including addressing issues related to political detainees and resuming broad-based dialogue, will be critical. All actors should refrain from rhetoric or actions that could heighten tensions.

92. I remain extremely concerned regarding the grave humanitarian situation in South Sudan. Continued insecurity, displacement and localized conflict are compounding vulnerabilities, while economic pressures, including limited fiscal space and disrupted livelihoods, erode coping capacities. These dynamics reinforce one another, with increasing instability. I call upon all parties to refrain from actions that worsen civilian suffering and to ensure safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, in line with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

93. I also remain deeply concerned by the high number of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, as well as attacks on humanitarian workers, including United Nations staff. I reiterate my call upon the Government to hold accountable the perpetrators of serious human rights violations and breaches of humanitarian law, in accordance with national and international legal frameworks.

94. I also welcome the continued regional engagement in support of the peace process and commend the African Union, including the leadership of the African Union High Representative, Jakaya Kikwete, whose engagement offers an opportunity to advance dialogue. All partners should align efforts under the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan Plus initiative and reinforce a unified regional and international approach in support of an inclusive peace and political process, with a view to fostering a consensual way forward. I call upon the international community to support these efforts, including by urging the parties to adhere, in letter and spirit, to the Revitalized Agreement as the only pathway to credible elections, without which the risk of renewed conflict will remain high.

95. The actions of the parties in the coming period will determine whether South Sudan advances towards a peaceful conclusion of the transition or returns to further instability and fighting. A renewed commitment to the peace process, together with a willingness to compromise, is essential to reduce tensions and rebuild trust. I urge the parties to rebuild trust and engage in sustained dialogue as a matter of urgency. The coming months will be decisive for preserving gains and laying the foundations for an inclusive transition.

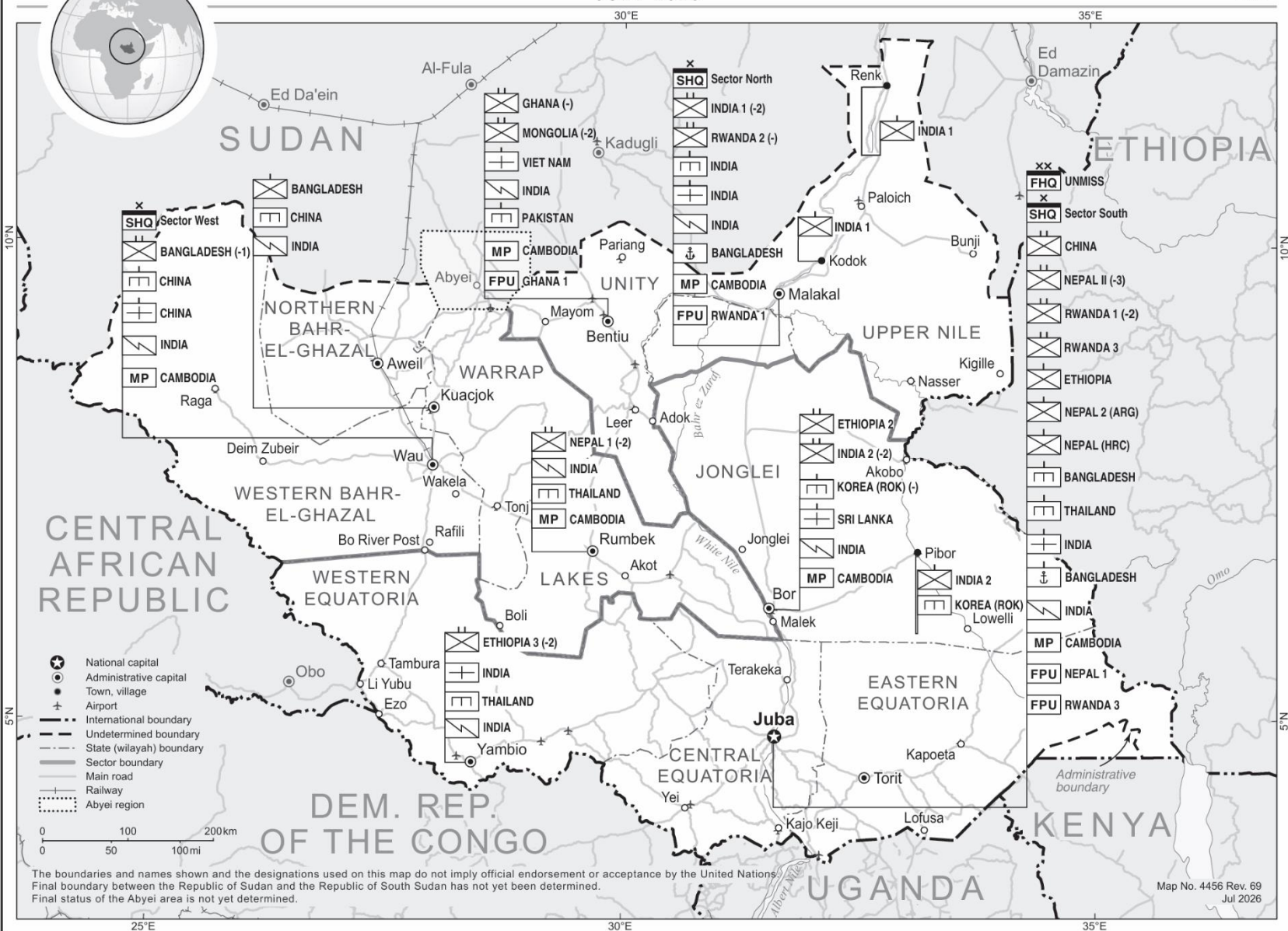
96. I wish to express my appreciation to troop- and police-contributing countries for their continued commitment to the mandate of UNMISS, often under challenging conditions. I also thank regional and international partners whose sustained engagement is essential to achieving lasting peace.

97. I commend the efforts of United Nations personnel, under the leadership of my Special Representative, and the dedication of humanitarian actors delivering life-saving assistance. Their contributions remain indispensable to protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian assistance, and advancing peace and stability.

UNMISS

JULY 2026

UNITED NATIONS
Geospatial



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.