South Sudan Country Report:
Children & Security

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Updated as of 31 January 2017

www.childsoldiers.org

info@childsoldiers.org
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I. BACKGROUND

Map of South Sudan\(^1\)

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Children in South Sudan – Struggle Within Conflict

On 9 July 2011, South Sudan, officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, became an independent nation and Africa’s 55th country. Although South Sudan is the youngest country in the world, it is no stranger to conflict and protracted civil wars. The most recent conflict, which erupted in mid-December 2013, continued in 2015 (despite the signing of a peace agreement), and intensified in 2016, is worsening and is of particular concern for the plight of children. Fighting intensified in South Sudan’s southern regions on the heels of clashes in the capital, Juba, in July 2016. While the conflict was initially sparked by political issues, an ethnic dimension quickly emerged with devastating effects on children.

The use of children remains rampant and is on the rise for the fourth year. Other grave and widespread violations against children are being committed by all parties to the conflict, with a significant rise noted during the second half of 2016. Since 2013, 2,342 children have been killed or maimed, 3,090 children abducted, and 1,130 children have been sexually assaulted. Children are used to fight and perpetrate violence against other children and civilians, or serve as escorts, cooks, and cleaners or to carry heavy loads while on the move. Schools and hospitals also continue to be the subject of attack or use by armed groups or government forces, with 303 incidents of schools or hospitals being attacked or used for military purposes. Children seeking refuge at the United Nations (UN) Mission in Sudan’s (UNMISS) protection

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7 UNICEF Rise.

8 UNICEF Rise.
of civilian (PoC) sites have also been caught in clashes between government and armed groups and some have been killed or maimed.\textsuperscript{9} Explosive remnants of war are also killing and maiming children.\textsuperscript{10}

Witness reported accounts of children being directly targeted in South Sudan are numerous and include children being thrown into burning houses, run over by military vehicles, and hanged from trees during government offensives between May and August 2015.\textsuperscript{11} Girls were reportedly killed if they resisted rape and boys were reportedly castrated and killed after attacks.\textsuperscript{12} The conflict has also forced many children into the bush where there is little access to food and water and where they further face the threat of recruitment. Adolescent girls are also at risk of early and forced marriage as well as sexual abuse and exploitation by armed groups.\textsuperscript{13}

Humanitarian access remains a challenge in South Sudan, with 5.8 million people in need in 2016.\textsuperscript{14} South Sudan is faced with a myriad other challenges arising from underdevelopment, inter-communal violence and cattle raiding, economic decline, disease, and climatic shocks.\textsuperscript{15} It is estimated that 4.8 million people are severely food insecure, with malnutrition rates above the emergency threshold in seven out of ten states.\textsuperscript{16}

\section*{II. SECURITY SITUATION}

\subsection*{1. Context}

A civil war took place from 1956 to 1972 between the South Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLA) and the Government of Sudan, ending with the signing of a peace accord in 1972 which provided

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{10} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 125.
  \item \textsuperscript{11} 2015 SRSG Report, para. 3.
  \item \textsuperscript{12} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 125; 2015 SRSG Report, para. 3.
  \item \textsuperscript{14} UNOCHA, ‘2016 Humanitarian Response Plan: January-December 2016, South Sudan’ (January 2016), p. 7.
  \item \textsuperscript{16} November 2016 UNMISS Report, para. 18.
\end{itemize}
for regional self-government in the southern provinces of Sudan (i.e. Southern Sudan).\textsuperscript{17} Conflict, however, resumed in 1983 when the Government of Sudan unilaterally withdrew autonomy concessions from Southern Sudan.\textsuperscript{18} The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed on 9 January 2005 after a six-year long peace process when the Government of National Unity and an autonomous Government of Southern Sudan were formed in Khartoum and Juba, respectively.\textsuperscript{19} Following the signing of the CPA through 2009, nearly half of the four million civilians internally displaced from years of conflict returned to Southern Sudan.\textsuperscript{20} On 9 July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan seceded from the Republic of Sudan after decades of conflict, becoming the world’s newest country. The UNMISS was also established at this time to consolidate peace and security and promote conditions for development.\textsuperscript{21}

Unfortunately, the CPA did not end ethnically-driven civil wars, insurgencies, and tribal conflicts within South Sudan’s nascent borders. The most recent conflict erupted in mid-December 2013, with clashes in Juba between soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir (a member of the Dinka tribe) and soldiers loyal to former vice-present, Riek Machar, a Nuer and commander and chief of the South Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO).\textsuperscript{22} A cessation of hostilities agreement was reached in early 2014.\textsuperscript{23} UNMISS’ mandate was expanded to protect civilians, monitor human rights, support the delivery of humanitarian assistance and oversee the implementation of the agreement.\textsuperscript{24} Both sides, however, continued to violate the terms of the agreement with devastating effects on the civilian population.


\textsuperscript{18} HRC 2016 IDP Report, para. 7.

\textsuperscript{19} HRC 2016 IDP Report, para. 7.

\textsuperscript{20} Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), ‘Sudan: Durable solutions elusive as southern IDPs return and Darfur remains tense – A profile of the internal displacement situation’ (23 December 2010), available http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Africa/Sudan/pdf/Sudan-December-2010.pdf accessed 24 January 2017, p. 10.


\textsuperscript{22} See 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 549.

\textsuperscript{23} Intergovernmental Authority on Development, ‘Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (In Opposition) (SPLM/A (In Opposition))’ (23 January 2014), available http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Agreement%20on%20Cessation%20of%20Hostilities_0.pdf accessed 24 January 2017.

In August 2015, a peace agreement was signed which provided for a power-sharing formula. However, efforts to end the fighting were complicated by an executive order of President Kiir which further divided South’s Sudan’s ten-state system into twenty-eight states, threatening the power-sharing formula agreed upon by the parties. The implementation of the peace agreement is supported and monitored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), China, the EU, Norway, the UK, and the US. Fighting continued notwithstanding the signing of the peace agreement, with both the SPLA and SPLM/A-IO blaming each other for violations. Clashes in the capital caused Eric Machar to flee South Sudan and his former ally was appointed as first vice-president, ‘prompting Machar’s group to call for a return to war’. The agreement remains fragile and its implementation is impeded by political fragmentation, defection of various actors, and increasing polarization. The lack of political agreement has also undermined the mandate of UNMISS and its ability to protect civilians.

Fighting has also erupted along South Sudan’s borders. For instance, fighting between the SPLA and an armed coalition of young fighters along Central African Republic’s (CAR) border at the end of 2015 caused the flight of some 4,800 refugees into parts of CAR where armed groups such as the Lord’s Resistance Army pose serious security and protection concerns.

In particular, Government soldiers have killed, raped, and tortured civilians as well as destroyed and pillaged civilian property during counter-insurgency operations in southern and western South Sudan while both sides committed abuses against civilians around Juba and other areas. Conflict in South Sudan has intensified since July 2016 and continues to be characterized by violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, looting and destruction of civilian and humanitarian assets and the curtailment of freedom of movement.

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27 UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 6.
28 UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 6.
29 UNHCR 2017 RRP, p. 16.
Although the conflict was initially sparked by political issues, it is taking on an increasingly ethnic dimension, with hate speech on the rise. There are fears of an outright ethnic war and a trajectory towards mass atrocity crimes (i.e. genocide) for 2017. As of December 2016, tens of thousands have been killed and three million people have been displaced. An estimated 1.8 million of those are internally displaced, 242,012 are taking refuge in six UNMISS protection of civilian sites, and 1.3 million have fled to neighbouring countries. Although all parties to the conflict have committed patterns of serious and systematic violence against civilians since fighting broke out in mid-December 2013, state actors, however, have allegedly borne the greatest responsibility during 2015 in light of the weakening of opposition forces.

2. State, Non-State, and International Actors

a) State Actors

Government Forces

SPLA, while once a rebel group, is South Sudan’s official military force. The SPLA is primarily composed of soldiers from the Dinka ethnicity and was originally formed from unorganized rebellion groups; however, other armed militias have integrated into its ranks following peace deals. The exact strength of the SPLA is difficult to estimate due to its fluctuating use of militia groups.

Since 2003, the United Nations Secretary-General has listed the SPLA as a persistent perpetrator of the use and recruitment of children. Children are recruited and used on the frontline and recruited to serve as

bodyguards, servants, and cooks for government officials and former commanders, known as ‘commissioners’, who serve a role during war.\textsuperscript{38} Children have been killed fighting on the frontlines under commissioners.

In 2012, South Sudan’s government formally committed to an Action Plan with the UN to end the recruitment and use of children aged 18 years or less within the SPLA.\textsuperscript{39} In 2013, the SPLA forbid the recruitment and use of children within any operations, resulting in the release of more than 1,000 children. However, the absorption of former rebel groups in 2014 (\textit{e.g.} the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army-Upper Nile Faction (SSDM/A) and the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA)) has allowed children to enter the SPLA. Some children who fought with the SPLA received salaries irregularly.\textsuperscript{40} In 2015, South Sudan re-committed to action plans with the UN to end the recruitment and use of children. However, heightened conflict resulted in setbacks and reversals on commitments made to end violations.\textsuperscript{41} Recruitment is also reported among the South Sudan National Police Service and the South Sudan Wildlife Service.\textsuperscript{42} Patterns of sexual violence persist among the SPLA and are reported to be a ‘manifestation of a lack of discipline and lax command and control’.\textsuperscript{43} For instance, Government soldiers reportedly raped hundreds of displaced women and girls from the Nuer tribe near the main UN base in Juba.\textsuperscript{44}

b) Non-State Actors

There are a number of non-state actors and clan militias. The following will, however, only highlight a number of the key armed groups. It is important to note in this regard that new armed groups (\textit{e.g.} General Martin Konji and Major General Johnson Olony) and youth militias continue to emerge.


\textsuperscript{40} We Can Die Too, p. 2.

\textsuperscript{41} 2015 SRSG Report, para. 32.


\textsuperscript{44} 2017 Human Rights watch Report, p. 250.
**SPLM/A-IO**

Former Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar created an oppositional force, SPLM/A-IO, to ‘liberate’ South Sudan from President Salva Kiir. The SPLM/A-IO is composed of almost entirely Nuer soldiers that have defected from the SPLA and other government forces, which may consist of around 10,000 troops.\(^{45}\) Other anti-government forces that have merged into the SPLM/A-IO include the White Army, a SSLA faction, and some Darfuri militias in northern Unity State. The White Army is a group of Nuer armed youth, generally between 12 to 18 years of age. They too have been listed by the UN Secretary-General as a party to the conflict that recruits children.\(^{46}\)

SPLM/A-IO remains listed by the Secretary-General for its use and recruitment of children. Children are recruited by the SPLM/A-IO in Unity State, where much of the fighting has taken place as well as Joglei and Upper Nile State. In May 2014, the SPLM/A-IO signed an agreement to immediately end all grave violations against children.\(^{47}\) This has, however, not ended the recurrent attacks and grave violations. The recruitment and use of children is an ongoing issue throughout the SPLM/A-IO and allied militias, notwithstanding a January 2016 action plan signed by the SPLM/A-IO to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children as well as sexual violence against children.\(^{48}\) Undertakings have also been made to prevent conflict-related sexual violence by senior officers at the end of 2015.\(^{49}\)

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\(^{46}\) 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 123.


\(^{48}\) 2016 SRSG Report, para. 40.

SSDM/A

The SSDM/A has a complicated relationship with the government SPLA, lacking full integration and with each having an independent command structure.\(^5\) However, the SSDM/A and SPLA continued to coordinate operations against the SPLA-IO in the Upper Nile.\(^5\) Further complicating this relationship are allegations that the SSDM/A forces under Johnson Olonyi – one of the SSDM commanders who received amnesty and integrated into the SPLA after a 2014 deal – recruited and utilised children.\(^5\) The SPLA denied allegations claiming that Johnson Olonyi is a part of the SPLA, arguing that the SSDM/A have not been fully integrated into the SPLA proper.\(^5\) Olonyi fought alongside government forces until his defection in April 2015 when he began fighting against them. Olonyi is alleged to have started a new armed group.

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)

In 2015, the LRA, a Ugandan-based armed group led by Joseph Kony, continued to operate in eastern regions of the CAR and enslave, among others, South Sudanese boys and girls who are used as cooks, porters, concubines, and combatants.\(^5\) It also continued to abduct and force girls into marriages and force children to commit atrocities against civilians. While the LRA is not listed by the UN Secretary-General as a party that recruits and uses children or commits other grave violations in South Sudan, the group is active and listed in relation to CAR and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This of course is of particular concern for South Sudanese children fleeing into CAR or the DRC.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

The JEM – a Darfur-based armed group and ally of the government – has also been reportedly involved in the conflict in South Sudan despite its repeated denial of such accusations. JEM has assisted government forces in offensives and has been sighted within South Sudan, contributing to its instability.\(^5\) JEM has committed grave violations against children despite the group’s 2010 Memorandum of Understanding, and


\(^{51}\) The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 2.

\(^{52}\) The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 7.

\(^{53}\) The Conflict in the Upper Nile State, p. 7.


the 2016-18 Action Plan with UN’s Mission in Darfur to put an end to the use and recruitment of children.\textsuperscript{56} Notably, JEM was listed in the UN Secretary-General’s most recent report for the use and recruitment of children and has recruited children from South Sudan and used in combat in Darfur and South Sudan.\textsuperscript{57} JEM has also targeted and used numerous refugee camps to recruit and use children in their ranks.\textsuperscript{58} With the heightened conflict in South Sudan and JEM participating in hostilities, it is likely that cross-border children recruitment will increase. In 2015, UNMISS reported three incidents of sexual violence by JEM, affecting 12 children.\textsuperscript{59}

c) International and Regional Actors

**UNMISS**

The UN Security Council established UNMISS in 1996 to support South Sudan’s government in peace and security consolidations and develop an effective and democratic government that has positive relations among its civilians and neighbouring countries. On 27 May 2014, UNMISS’s mandate was changed to enhance the mission’s capacity to protect civilians, (and children in particular), provide humanitarian aid, monitor and report human right violations (to inform preventative action against children), and help in peace-building discussions.\textsuperscript{60} Today, UNMISS’ force stands at 17,000 troops, 2,001 police personnel, and a civilian component.\textsuperscript{61} A total of 60 countries contribute to UNMISS, including India, Rwanda and Nepal as the three biggest contributors.\textsuperscript{62} Notably, Kenya pulled out its troops from UNMISS in October 2016 after the UN Secretary-General fired the Kenyan Force commander, following a report of an investigation into the failure to properly respond to the July crisis in Juba.\textsuperscript{63}

\textsuperscript{57} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 140.
\textsuperscript{58} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 140.
\textsuperscript{59} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 142.
\textsuperscript{63} 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 553.
UNMISS serves an important point of protection as well. As noted above, nearly 200,000 people currently seek refuge in several PoC sites on UNMISS’ bases, which are not intended or prepared to host large numbers of people long-term. Those sites too have been under attack since the beginning of the conflict. The first serious incident was committed by approximately 2,000 armed youth that opened fire on the Akobo UNMISS base in Jonglei State. As recently as February 2016, fighting broke out in the Malakal PoC which has had a significant impact on humanitarian operations. Incidents of rape, attempted murder, assault, theft, smuggling of alcohol, possession of drugs, and drunk or disorderly conduct have been reported at these sites.

**UN Human Rights Mission to South Sudan**

The United Nations Human Rights Council established a human rights commission in South Sudan in March 2016 with a one-year mandate to monitor the human rights situation and the promotion of transitional justice. The Commission will submit a written report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session.

**Ugandan People’s Defence Forces (UPDF)**

The UPDF participated in support of the Juba government until its withdrawal on 23 October 2015. Initially deployed in 2013, the role of the UPDF in South Sudan upset many amongst the Nuer population.

**Sudan**

Following the 2005 CPA, Khartoum supported emergent anti-government elements in South Sudan. The International Crisis Group notes that ‘Khartoum appears to play both sides by simultaneously giving support

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to the armed opposition in South Sudan, partly to counter Uganda and partly because Sudanese rebel groups are fighting alongside the South Sudanese government, and serving as a mediator at the peace talks’. 59

III. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Recruitment and Use of Children

Government and rebel forces actively recruit and use children in South Sudan and have done so since the beginning of the conflict. 70 Children are, however, more likely to fight as part of locally organised armed groups or community defence forces rather than in formal forces. Approximately 17,000 children have been used in the conflict as of December 2016, 71 with tens of thousands more at risk of recruitment. 72 The UN verified 159 incidents of recruitment and use, affecting 2,596 children in 2015. 73 Notably, 70 per cent of all cases were attributable to the SPLA, other government security forces and allied forces, including the Cobra faction of the SSDM which was integrated into the SPLA in 2015. 74 In August 2016, children were forcibly recruited by politicians in Unity State and used by opposition fighters in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. 75

It is important to recognise that not all children are forcibly recruited. In South Sudan, only one-third of the boys forced to fight in South Sudan are recruited forcibly and violently. 76 Some boys feel a ‘strong sense of responsibility to defend their communities and cattle from attack’ 77 and others are vulnerable in PoC sites, with boys as young as 11 years old reportedly leaving to join armed forces. 78 Some children, however, join ‘willingly’ so to protect themselves from being killed and the vulnerabilities associated with a particular ethnicity or allegiance. 79 Only a small proportion of children in South Sudan are reported to have joined in order to access food or money. 80 Parties to the conflict continue to take advantage of the vulnerability of

69 Sudan and South Sudan’s Merging Conflicts, p. ii.
71 UNICEF Rise.
72 We Can Die Too, p.1.
73 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 123.
74 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 123.
76 We Can Die Too, p. 20.
77 We Can Die Too, p. 21.
78 We Can Die Too, pp. 21, 30.
79 We Can Die Too, p. 20.
80 We Can Die Too, p. 21.
displaced and refugee populations to recruit children. Some children are held at gunpoint, detained, or abducted. An estimated 20,000 unaccompanied minors living in refugee camps are vulnerable to recruitment.

Children over the age of 14 form the majority of the children recruited and used in South Sudan and reportedly receive the same treatment as adult soldiers, forced to walk long distances for days and without adequate food. Children under the age of 14 often serve as bodyguards and cooks. Children forced to fight often come from poor rural areas where many, if not all, children do not have birth certificates. The release of children has followed a number of peace deals in recent years ending insurgencies. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports that a total of 1,932 children have been released by armed forces and armed groups in 2015 and 2016. Unlike in some other countries, children do not experience stigmatisation in South Sudan.

2. Trafficking and Child Labour

South Sudan is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Within Sudan, women and girls from rural areas or who are internally displaced are particularly vulnerable to domestic servitude, where they are sexually abused and exploited. Orphan children are also particularly vulnerable to trafficking in South Sudan. Child prostitution is also reported, with South Sudanese girls – some as young as 10 years old – subjected to sex trafficking in brothels, hotels, and restaurants. South Sudanese child refugees are also particularly vulnerable to abduction for sex or labour trafficking. Government officials are reportedly complicit in the facilitation of sex trafficking. Many children working in construction, shoe shine, car washing, rock breaking or begging are subjected to forced labour.

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81 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 18.
83 We Can Die Too, p. 2.
84 We Can Die Too, p. 4.
85 UNICEF Rise in child recruitment South Sudan.
86 We Can Die Too, p. 21.
90 2015 TIP Report, pp. 204, 311.
South Sudanese children are vulnerable outside its borders. In Kenya, children are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.\(^{92}\) Within South Sudan, women and girls from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and the DRC are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking.\(^{93}\)

### 3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Government forces and armed groups in South Sudan continue to employ sexual violence as a tactic of war in a widespread and systematic manner that ‘points to ethnic and political undertones’.\(^{94}\) Although the majority of cases are committed by SPLA and associated militia,\(^{95}\) Dinka youth, armed cattle keepers (including elements of the White Army), members of the South Sudan National Police Service, the Justice and Equality Movement, and Nuer deserters from the SPLA and LRA are reported to be among the alleged perpetrators.\(^{96}\) It is reported that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are carried out ‘with a brutality that points to its ethnic, as well as political, undertones’.\(^{97}\) Women and girls account for 95% of the cases of sexual violence. Boys are also victim of sexual and gender-based violence. Reports of boys being sexually mutilated following attacks by the SPLA and associated groups are prevalent.\(^{98}\)

The UN has documented the following forms of sexual violence committed in the context of the conflict: rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, abduction, castration, forced nudity and forced abortion.\(^{99}\) Rape, including gang rape, has been part of an intentional strategy to terrorise and punish the population.\(^{100}\) Girls as young as nine years old have been reportedly forced into marriage as compensation for inter-clan killings, where they are further subjected to slavery and servitude.\(^{101}\)

The scale of sexual violence is shocking, with more than 1,300 reports of rape, including gang rapes, in Unity State from April to September 2015 alone.\(^{102}\) Armed groups allied to the Government are being

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\(^{92}\) 2016 TIP Report, p. 225.
\(^{93}\) 2016 TIP Report, pp. 165, 342.
\(^{94}\) 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 58.
\(^{100}\) 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 59; UNHRC 2016, paras. 41-42.
\(^{102}\) UNHRC 2016, para. 29.
allowed to rape women in lieu of wages, while opposition groups also prey on women and girls. Intoxicated SPLA soldiers are also alleged to have committed sexual assaults and ‘assigning’ women to fighters.\textsuperscript{103}

Women and girls continue to be harassed near UNMISS PoC sites and some have reported to have been raped while leaving the site to pursue livelihood activities.\textsuperscript{104} This has spread fear among the internally displaced female population, impeding livelihood activities as women restrict their movement.\textsuperscript{105} Within the PoC sites, rape, attempted rape, and unsafe, self-administered abortions, have been also reported.\textsuperscript{106}

Sexual violence in South Sudan is also reported during inter-communal clashes. Remedies for sexual crimes committed are rarely forthcoming as claims of sexual violence are ‘trivialized’ by law enforcement officials and the community, with survivors often forced to marry perpetrators as a ‘remedy’.\textsuperscript{107} Women from neighbouring countries with allegiances to parties to the conflict have also been raped. As well, those fleeing violence to neighbouring countries, many of them unaccompanied minors, report sexual assault, teenage pregnancies and forced marriage.\textsuperscript{108} As refugee camp populations continue to grow in neighbouring countries, so too have incidents of sexual violence. Girls as young as nine years old have also been subjected to forced marriage.\textsuperscript{109}

4. Education

South Sudan is home to the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world as a result of conflict.\textsuperscript{110} The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that the education of 967,000 children has been affected by conflict and displacement.\textsuperscript{111} More than half of primary and lower secondary age children do not have access to an education as schools continue to be the subject of attack and military use.\textsuperscript{112} Schools have been destroyed and damaged and supplies have been looted by military forces.\textsuperscript{113} Since 2013, there were 303 incidents of attacks on, or military use of, schools or hospitals. In June 2015, South

\textsuperscript{103} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 59.
\textsuperscript{104} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 60; UNHRC 2016, para. 35.
\textsuperscript{105} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 60.
\textsuperscript{106} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 60.
\textsuperscript{107} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, paras. 11, 48.
\textsuperscript{108} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 7.
\textsuperscript{109} 2016 TIP Report, p. 342.
\textsuperscript{111} 2016 HNO, p. 17.
\textsuperscript{112} 2016 HNO, p. 17; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 126.
\textsuperscript{113} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 126; UNHRC 2016, para. 47.
Sudan committed to prevent attacks on schools and military use of schools and endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration. This, however, has not ended the use of schools for military purposes by the SPLA and other government security forces, who were responsible for the majority of incidents of attack and use in 2015.\textsuperscript{114}

South Sudanese child refugees in neighbouring countries similarly face challenges accessing education.

### 5. Access to Healthcare

Hospitals continue to be the subject of attack and military use in South Sudan. In 2015, eleven attacks on hospitals and health facilities were verified.\textsuperscript{115} Displacement has also had dire effects on thousands of people living with HIV whose life-sustaining treatment has been interrupted without possibility of resumption.\textsuperscript{116} A cholera outbreak for the third year in a row, as well as diseases endemic to South Sudan, continue to cause death and illness.\textsuperscript{117} The lack of reproductive health care makes unsafe abortions the leading cause of maternal mortality in South Sudan.\textsuperscript{118} Malnutrition rates are above the emergency threshold in seven out of 10 states.\textsuperscript{119}

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\textsuperscript{114} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 126-127.
\textsuperscript{115} 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 126.
\textsuperscript{116} 2016 HNO, p. 4.
\textsuperscript{117} November 2016 UNMISS Report, para. 18; 2016 HNO, p. 23.
\textsuperscript{118} 2016 SG Sexual Violence Report, para. 17.
\textsuperscript{119} November 2016 UNMISS Report, para. 18.
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**ANNEX I: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
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<td>CPA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Peace Agreement</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>JEM</td>
<td>Justice and Equality Movement</td>
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<td>LRA</td>
<td>Lord’s Resistance Army</td>
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<td>MSF</td>
<td>Médecins Sans Frontières</td>
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<td>PoC</td>
<td>Protection of Civilian</td>
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<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>SPLA</td>
<td>South Sudan People’s Liberation Army</td>
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<td>SPLM</td>
<td>South Sudan People’s Liberation Movement</td>
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<td>SPLM/A-IO</td>
<td>South Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in Opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSDM/A</td>
<td>South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army-Upper Nile Faction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSLA</td>
<td>South Sudan Liberation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMISS</td>
<td>United Nations Mission in Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPDF</td>
<td>Ugandan People’s Defence Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX II: KEY FACTS

South Sudan in a Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Sudan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate:</strong> hot with seasonal rainfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terrain:</strong> plains in the north and center rise to southern highlands along the border with Uganda and Kenya. The White Nile flows north out of the uplands of Central Africa. A more than 100,000 sq km fed by the waters of the White Nile known as the Sudd that dominates the centre of the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Border countries:</strong> Central African Republic (1,055 km), Democratic Republic of the Congo (714 km), Ethiopia (1,299 km), Kenya (317 km), Sudan (2,158 km), Uganda (475 km)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coastline:</strong> 0 km (landlocked)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population:</strong> 12,530,717 (July 2016 est.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Median age:</strong> 17.1 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages:</strong> English (official), Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants), regional languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, Shilluk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnic groups:</strong> Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa, Kuku, Murle, Mandari, Didinga, Ndogo, Bviri, Lndi, Anuak, Bongo, Lango, Dungotona, Acholi (2011 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religions:</strong> animist, Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital:</strong> Juba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major urban areas:</strong> Juba 321,000 (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP:</strong> $2.628 billion (2015 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP per capita:</strong> $1,700 (2016 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population under age of 25:</strong> 65.18% (2016 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment (ages 15-24):</strong> 18.5% (2015 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child labour (ages 10-14):</strong> 45.6% (2015 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal age of conscription:</strong> 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

Sanctions regime – Resolution 2206 (3 March 2015)

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

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

UN Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) – Established by Resolution 1996 (8 July 2011), and mandate extended and adjusted by Resolutions 2057 (5 July 2012); 2109 (11 July 2013); 2132 (24 December 2013); 2155 (27 May 2014); 2187 (25 November 2014); 2223 (28 May 2015); 2241 (9 October 2015)

South Sudanese Child Protection Legislation

| National | ▪ National Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (2011)  
▪ South Sudan Child Act (2008)  
▪ SPLA Act (2009)  
▪ Police Service Act (2009)  
▪ South Sudan Human Rights Commission Act (2009) |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
▪ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 30 April 2015)  
▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 30 April 2015)  
▪ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded 30 April 2015)  
▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded 30 April 2015)  
▪ Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols (acceded 25 January 2013) |

South Sudan – January 2017
ANNE III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS

1899-1955
Northern and southern Sudan are subject to Anglo-Egyptian rule.

1956
Sudan becomes an independent country.

1956-1972
First civil war erupts between northern and southern Sudan.

1978
Oil is discovered in southern Sudan.

1983
Second civil war between northern and southern Sudan breaks out.

1986
Sudan experiences a state of emergency due to drought, grasshopper and locust infestation, and ongoing civil conflict.\textsuperscript{121}

1989
Sudan falls under the military control of Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

1990
A major earthquake strikes the region, approximately 100km northeast of Juba, killing 135 and injuring at least 800 people.\textsuperscript{122}

1991
Around 2,000 Dinka civilians are massacred in Bor, mainly by Nuer fighters.

1993
Earthquake hits Khartoum and volcanic activity is reported in Omdurman.


1995
Sudan is accused of attempted assassination on Egyptian President Mubarak.¹²³

1998
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) responds to Southern Sudan’s widespread famine.¹²⁴ A Khartoum pharmaceutical plant is attacked by US missile for alleged manufacture of chemical weapons. New constitution is endorsed.

1999
State of emergency is declared after a power struggle in the National Assembly. Oil exports begin.

2000
Omar al-Bashir is re-elected for another five-year term.

2001
Memorandum of understanding is signed by Sudanese leader (Hassan Al Turabi) and southern SPLA leader (John Garang). Al-Turabi is arrested. Sanctions against Sudan are imposed by US for terrorism and rights violations.

2002
Ceasefire agreement is signed between the Sudanese government and SPLA.

2003
Rebels in the western region of Darfur declare Khartoum is neglecting their region. Al-Turabi is released from prison and bans against his party are removed.

2004
Sudan is affected by an outbreak of locusts. Army personnel in the western region of Darfur are increased to suppress rebels. Pro-government Arab Janjaweed militias attack and kill non-Arab villagers in Darfur.¹²⁵ Al-Turabi, army officers, and opposition politicians are detained for an alleged coup plot. Darfur killings labelled as genocide by US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

2005

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

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

June: Al-Turabi is released from prison.

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

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

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

2006

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

2007

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

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

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

2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

2009

MSF provides around 129,000 consultations; however, many emergency intervention projects are closed because four staff members are kidnapped.\(^ {126}\)

January: Al-Turabi is arrested.

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

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

August: UN military commander states Darfur war is over.

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

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

2010

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

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

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

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

2011

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

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

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

May: North Sudan takes control of Abyei.

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

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

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

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

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

2012

January: More than 170,000 people flee to Jonglei State because of inter-communal clashes. Oil production in South Sudan is shut down.127

February: Due to Sudan shutting down South Sudan’s oil export pipeline, South Sudan halves public spending on all but salaries of consequence.

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

July: South Sudan’s first anniversary.

August: Around 200,000 refugees flee to South Sudan to escape the battle between the Sudanese army and rebels in southern Sudan.128

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

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

December: The SPLA shoots down a UNMISS helicopter.

2013


March: Agreement is reached between South Sudan and Sudan to resume oil supply.
May: An outbreak of meningitis and polio affects South Sudan.
June: Finance Minister Kosti Manibe and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor are dismissed over a multi-million dollar financial scandal.
July: Vice-President Dr. Machar and the entire cabinet are dismissed by President Salva Kiir.
September: A measles outbreak occurs in Upper Nile State.129
December: Civil war erupts between President Salva Kiir and Dr. Machar. Thousands of civilians are killed and displaced. Eleven SPLM members are arrested and Dr. Machar flees to the bush. The UPDF army is deployed to South Sudan.

2014
January: CoH agreement is signed and broken by both parties. Dr. Machar is charged with treason. Seven of the eleven SPLM detainees are released.
February: Cluster bombs are found on the Bor-Juba road.130 Ethnic fighting erupts in UNMISS PoC camp in Malakal.
April: Unity State is bombed by the Sudanese air force. UNMISS PoC base in Bor is attacked by Dinka Bor youth. Charges against the four SPLM detainees are dropped.
May: CoH agreement is re-signed and broken by both President Salva Kiir and Dr. Machar. United States sanctions are imposed against rebel commander Peter Gadet and SPLA commander Marial Changuong. President Salva Kiir announces a delay in the 2015 election by two years. A cholera outbreak affects Central Equatoria State.
July: The UN Security council defines South Sudan’s food crisis as the worst in the world. EU sanctions are imposed against South Sudanese military leaders.131
August: CoH agreement is signed and broken by both opposing parties. A UNMISS helicopter is shot down.
October: Canada imposes sanctions against rebel commander Peter Gadet and SPLA commander Marial Changuong.132

2015
March/April: UNICEF negotiates the release of 1,757 children held by armed groups.133

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

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

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

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

2016


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

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

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

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

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

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ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

Amnesty International, ‘Nowhere safe: Civilians under attack in South Sudan’ (9 May 2014).


Human Rights Watch, ‘We Can Die Too: Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in South Sudan’ (December 2015).


International Crisis Group, ‘Sudan and South Sudan’s Merging Conflicts’ (29 January 2015).

UNHCR, ‘South Sudan Regional Response Plan: January – December 2017’ (December 2016).

UNICEF, ‘Rise in child recruitment as conflict in South Sudan enters fourth year’ (14 December 2016).


United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, ‘Parties to the conflict in South Sudan renew their commitment to end recruitment and other
grave violations against children’ (11 May 2014).


United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report’ (June 2016).
