

This update is produced by OCHA South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 15 to 19 December 2013.

Highlights

- Fighting which started in Juba on 15 December has spread to several locations around South Sudan, in particular to Bor, Jonglei State.
- An estimated 34,000 people displaced by the violence have sought refuge in UN bases in Juba, Bor and Bentiu.
- On 19 December, inter-agency teams carried out humanitarian assessments in eight locations in Juba, preparing to support the ongoing response to urgent needs among displaced communities.

34,000

Estimated number of people taking refuge in UNMISS bases in Juba and Bor

300

People admitted to hospital with injuries in Juba

14

Locations where fighting, civil unrest or heightened tension has been reported

Situation overview

Heavy fighting between different elements of the South Sudan armed forces broke out in Juba in the evening of 15 December, and continued until around noon on 17 December. Over the course of the armed violence, an unknown number of people were killed and over 300 people admitted to hospital with injuries caused by the fighting. The total number of casualties is likely much higher, as civilians' access to medical facilities has been seriously constrained by the insecurity. Some 20,000 people have sought refuge in the two main bases of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMISS) in Juba. Others may also have been displaced to other locations around Juba. As of 18 December, the security situation stabilized somewhat in Juba, though tension remained high and the people sheltering in UNMISS bases remained too fearful to return to their homes.

On 18 December, reports emerged of violence spreading to other parts of the country. Ongoing clashes between security forces in Bor, Jonglei State, displaced around 14,000 civilians to the UNMISS base. Sporadic fighting has also been reported in Akobo, Gumuruk, Likuangole, Pibor town, Pochalla and Waat. The situation is also tense in several other states, including in Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Several hundred people have also sought refuge at the UNMISS base in Bentiu, Unity State. Furthermore, the consequences of violence in Jonglei have spilled over into Lakes State, with reports of displaced people arriving in Awerial County.

Conditions for displaced people in Juba and Bor are challenging. In UN bases, some people have been able to construct basic shelters with available materials, but many have no or limited access to shelter. While some displaced groups have been able to move in and out of the bases during day-time to restock on food and other supplies, many others are concerned with the protection risks associated with leaving the base. Protection of civilians remains a major concern in all areas affected by the current spate of violence.

Starting on 18 December, access to displaced people in Juba began to improve, with aid agencies able to travel around Juba. In the areas of Jonglei where insecurity is ongoing aid agencies are confined to their bases. Ongoing

clashes between the security forces in Bor, Jonglei State, displaced around 14,000 civilians to the UNMISS base. On 19 December, some 70 humanitarian personnel were evacuated from Bor to Juba, with evacuation of another 75 planned for 20 December.

Humanitarian response

On 19 December, several initial rapid needs assessments were carried out in Juba, in areas with groups of displaced people and in neighbourhoods which were affected by the fighting. Inter-agency assessments teams visited the UNMISS base in Jebel area (Juba 3); the UNMISS base in Tomping; Juba Teaching Hospital; and five neighbourhoods around town. The assessments in UN bases covered food security and nutrition, health, protection, shelter and NFI and WASH. The preliminary findings are: immediate need of site planning and management, emergency latrines, hygiene promotion, water purification/storage, provision of emergency food (sugar/CSB++), and primary health services and nutrition screening. Partners have begun responding to the most urgent needs, and responses are ongoing. The assessments around Juba neighbourhoods focused primarily on protection and found some areas of Juba deserted but no concentrations of displaced people. Further assessments are planned for 20 December.

As the situation of civilians sheltering in UNMISS bases has become protracted, clusters are mobilizing to provide technical advice and appropriate supplies to help UNMISS provide life-saving services (including water, shelter and emergency healthcare) in the bases, in line with the UNMISS protection of civilians mandate.

In the health sector, the main hospital in Juba (Juba Teaching Hospital) is operating at full capacity, with 220 patients admitted as a direct result of the violence. Aid organizations have provided emergency supplies, including surgical supplies and reproductive health kits to the hospital since 17 December.

For further information, please contact:

Tapiwa Gomo, Head of Communication, gomo@un.org, mobile +211922406079

Amanda Weyler, Reports Officer, weylera@un.org, mobile +211922473115

Website www.unocha.org/south-sudan | **Facebook** UNOCHA South Sudan | **Twitter** @OCHASouthSudan