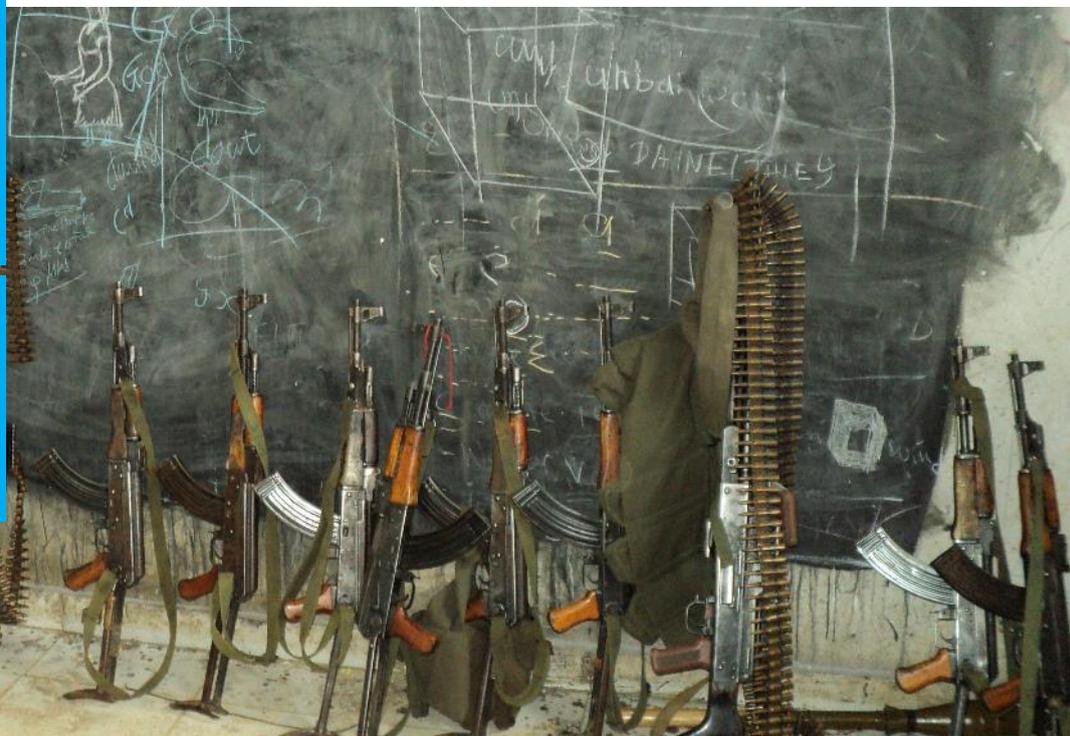


The Crisis in SOUTH SUDAN

*Monitoring, reporting
and responding to
grave child rights
violations in South
Sudan.*



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The Current Situation:

Since the eruption of conflict in South Sudan in December in 2013, the UN has received over 1,300 reports of grave violations committed against children throughout the country by the parties to conflict. From 15 December 2013 to September 2015, 1,359 incidents were reported affecting 56,747 children, of which 973 incidents have been verified, affecting 29,272 children. To date, these incidents (verified and unverified) include:

- The killing of 1,353 children and injuring of 325 others
- 263 incidents of recruitment affecting between 15,000 and 16,000 children
- 113 incidents of military use and attacks on schools, affecting 36,748 children
- 33 schools still being used by parties to the conflict
- 41 incidents of attacks on medical clinics and health centres
- 159 incidents of sexual violence affecting 702 children
- 130 incidents of abduction affecting 1,446 children
- 293 incidents of denial of humanitarian aid

The abuses documented by the UN constitute serious violations of international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and international humanitarian law. UN investigations show that children have been targeted and killed for their ethnic background or for the political affiliation of their relatives or community members. Children have routinely been abducted from their homes, their schools, and their communities and forced to join the fighting forces, where they inevitably become not only the victims of grave violations committed against them, but also perpetrators of a multitude of crimes against the civilian population.

Since Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1379 (2001), the Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict (CAAC) includes specific information on grave violations perpetrated against children and monitoring "lists" naming offending parties in situations on the agenda of the Council and in other situations of concern. The Secretary-General's 2005 report on children and armed conflict identified the SPLA, along with the SSUM, SLA, JEM, and Janjaweed as groups that recruit and use children in armed conflict. The intention of the UN is to halt child recruitment and other grave violations by engaging and maintaining dialogue with parties and by developing action plans. Following the eruption of conflict in December 2013, the 2013 Secretary-General's report listed the SPLA also for killing and maiming and the SPLA-in-Opposition (SPLA-iO) and allied groups for recruitment and use and killing and maiming. The White Army was listed for recruitment and use.

Monitoring and Reporting
Mechanism (MRM) to
document **SIX** grave abuses
committed against children.

ONE

Killing and maiming of children

TWO

Recruitment or use of children
as soldiers

THREE

Sexual violence against
children

FOUR

Attacks against schools or
hospitals

FIVE

Abduction of children

SIX

Denial of humanitarian access
for children

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Currently there are **15**
situations of concern
around the world
implementing the MRM.

Actions on the establishment and implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in South Sudan:

A multi-agency MRM sub-task force for South Sudan working under the Sudan country task force was established to deal with issues both on a technical and a higher, political level. This was turned into a full-fledged MRM Country Task Force when South Sudan became independent on 9 July 2011. In order to support the Country Task Force on a technical level, a working group for the MRM was established in March 2012.

On 20 November 2009, the SPLA made a commitment to the UN to implement an action plan for ending the recruitment and use of children as soldiers as required by Security Council Resolution 1612, which establishes the monitoring and reporting mechanism and calls on armed forces and groups that violate children's rights in situations of armed conflict to develop and implement action plans to end abuses against children.

In November 2011, the SPLA started working with the UN to revise the 2009 Action Plan, taking into account Security Council Resolutions 1882 and 1998, which further strengthened the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism. The revised Action Plan, with an increased focus on accountability, was signed 12 March 2012 with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict as witness. In 2013, the SPLA made a request to extend the Action Plan for another period, and the following year, on 24 June 2014, the Minister of Defence and the SPLA signed a deed of re-commitment with the UN to continue the activities to end grave child rights violations.

In September 2014, the revised Action Plan was endorsed, outlining the actions to be taken. UNICEF, together with the broader United Nations system, continues to monitor and report on grave child rights violations and support the SPLA's efforts to end them. Together, the UN and the SPLA have launched the *Children, Not Soldiers* campaign to raise awareness against using children in armed forces and armed groups; conducted joint assessments to vacate schools reported to be used by the military; and assisted in the release of children from armed groups.

Following the signed peace agreement between the leader of the South Sudan Democratic Army – Cobra Faction and the Government of South Sudan in May in 2014, UNICEF and partners have participated in the release of 1,755 children from the Cobra Faction for its full integration into the SPLA. UNICEF and partners have been providing psychosocial support and a comprehensive, long-term socio-economic reintegration package for the released children and for vulnerable children from the local communities.

Additionally, in March 2015, the UN received reports of at least 74 boys being screened out from recruitment campaigns by the SPLA-iO. The UN and partners are working with focal points for child protection in the SPLA-iO to formalize and strengthen the efforts being undertaken to release children and to prevent further recruitment and use.

Despite the advances to end grave child rights violations by both parties to conflict, the UN continues to observe first-hand the use of children for military purposes—not only as fighters but also as body guards and domestic workers—and it continues to receive reports from witnesses and survivors of other grave child rights violations, particularly in the most conflict-affected areas in the Greater Upper Nile region.

More information on the situation in South Sudan and UNICEF response, including the latest situation reports, can be found at www.unicef.org/appeals/south_sudan.html

For more information on MRM issues, please contact:

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MRM Results

(as of September 2015)



1,359

Incidents of grave violations, of which

973

were verified, affecting



29,272
children

15,695
boys

13,491
girls and

86

children whose sex is unknown

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194 UN and NGO partners have been trained on MRM in 2015



unicef 
unite for children