

JoMUN XV

Forum: Advisory Panel

Issue: Improving conditions for internally displaced persons

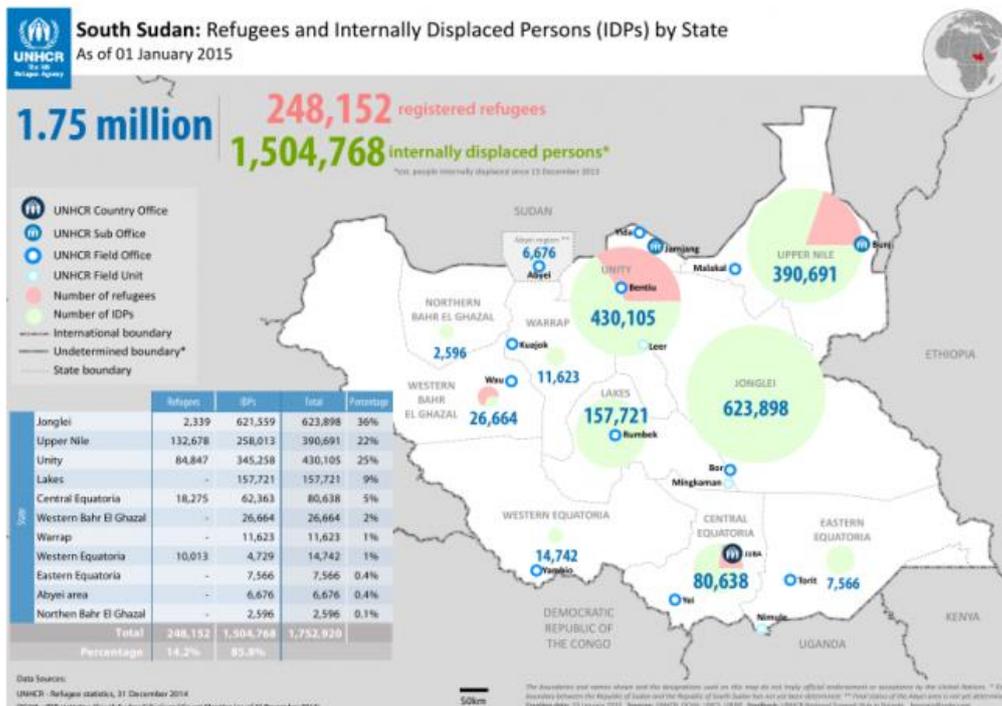
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INTRODUCTION

Opposed to refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) remain in their home country after being forced to flee their home. There is approximately double the amount of IDPs than refugees and this is becoming an increasingly imperative problem. Unlike refugees, IDPs are under the care of their own government and thus there is usually a lack of better protection. Moreover, most internally displaced persons are women and children who live outside the camps; some find shelter in small villages while others flee into the bush. One of the highest IDP is South Sudan where 1 in 3 people have been displaced.

South Sudan is a country located in north-eastern Africa and is bordered by Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. It has been recently deemed the third most fled country in the worlds. After nearly 40 years of civil war, South Sudan officially became independent in 2011 due to the overwhelming votes to break away from Sudan. Subsequently, a new conflict in 2013 arose due to clashes in ethnic groups and has displaced 413, 000 individuals within the first month of the conflict. Recently, in July 2016, violence broke out in Juba and killed more than 300 people and displaced 40,000 individuals. Tens of thousands of individuals sought refuge in UN bases that were turned into displacement camps. The fighting continues to have a detrimental effect on the entire country.



"South Sudan: Refugees And Internally Displaced Persons (Idps) By State, As Of 01 January 2015". ReliefWeb. N. p., 2017. Web. 7 June 2017.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Internally displaced persons (IDP)

People who are forced to flee their household primarily due to violence, yet remain within their country's borders.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)

A political party in South Sudan that led the movement for independence and then became the ruling party. It was initially founded from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) during the Second Sudanese Civil War. As a result of the South Sudanese Civil War (2013-2014), the SPLM further separated due to conflicts into the SPLM-Juba, led by President Salva Kiir, and the SPLM-in-opposition, led by the former vice-president Riek Machar.

The Nuer

One of the largest tribes out of the 60 ethnic groups in South Sudan. They are composed of 27.6% of South Sudan's population and are led by former vice-president Machar. There are similar beliefs and practices between the Nuer and the Dinka.

The Dinka

Another one of the ethnic groups in South Sudan and is composed of 38.8% of South Sudan's population. It is led by President Kiir.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

A peacekeeping mission set up by the UN Security Council Resolution (1996) in 2011 with the initial intention of supporting the Government of South Sudan in peace consolidation for fostering economic development.

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE

South Sudan has a long history of conflict which has given rise to the displacement of multiple individuals. There were periodic civil wars in different parts of countries which were primarily due to the economic, political, religious and cultural marginalization of peripheries by the Khartoum government. In 1955, the first Sudanese civil war commenced due to tensions between the northern part of Sudan and the Southern part of Sudan that demanded more regional autonomy. This conflict ended in 1972 with the Addis Abeba agreement and a promise to the South for autonomy. In 1979, the discovery of oil in the south fueled dispute as well as the implementation of the Islamic Sharia law by President Nimiery. In the same year, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was established by John Garang and their conflict with the central Sudanese government started the Second Sudanese Civil War which lasted from 1983 to 2005. The war resulted in approximately four million people being displaced in southern Sudan. The war ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 which resulted in the independence of South Sudan. However, tensions grew between the leaders of the SPLA with the increased responsibility of governing and resulted in the political struggle between President Kiir and former vice-president Machar.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

The Republic of South Sudan

There is conflict within the country between the President Kiir and the former Vice-president Machar which has resulted in the displacement of multiple people. Moreover, conflict in the South Kordofan and the Blue Nile between SPLM-North and the Sudanese government has given rise to the displacement of over 400,000 civilians according to the UN.

Sudan

Oil revenue has contributed to the tensions between Sudan and South Sudan to which most of the oil is located in South Sudan and pipelines and refineries are located in Sudan. On March 2013 Sudan and South Sudan reached an agreement to repress the oil-related conflicts. Sudan also enforced a ban on humanitarian assistance for the conflict in the South Kordofan and the Blue Nile since they were allied with South Sudan.

The United States of America

The United States have provided significant humanitarian aid to the numerous South Sudanese displaced person. They recognized South Sudan as an independent stat on July 2011 and helped create the 2005 CPA. In 2013, the United States supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and this in August 2015 the Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan was signed. Furthermore, they led an international push to organize additional UN peacekeepers to Juba after the violence in July.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

They aided internally displaced persons during the fighting in Juba which forced 36.000 people to flee their homes. UNMISS have 10.140 people living in their bases and in August 2011 sent in peacekeepers to Jonglei state of South Sudan to support the government in peace efforts. Furthermore, UNMISS have overflight surveillance to provide information on the situation in observed areas.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR aims to protect the rights and security of people who have been forced to flee. They work closely with governments in conflicted countries to aid not only refugees but internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless people, and asylum-seekers.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

January 2011	Voting of full independence from Sudan begins with the majority voting in favour.
January 2012	South Sudan shuts down all oil production due to a conflict with Sudan on the issue of oil transportation fees.
July 2013	President Kiir dismisses Vice President Machar and the entire cabinet.
December 2013	President Kiir believes that the vice-president Machar is planning a coup and the vice-president denies this. Consequently, Civil War breaks out which displaces more than 2.2 million people and the vice president Machar flees the country.

January 2014	Attempt at a ceasefire in which a peace agreement is signed in Addis Ababa. However, three days later, this agreement is violated and government forces attack rebel groups.
August 2015	Due to threats of UN sanctions, a peace deal is signed. Vice-president Machar returns to South Sudan.
July 2016	This peace agreement is violated as troops from the Nuer tribe and the Dinka start shooting each other in the streets. Thus, refuelling the war.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS

S/RES/1999) Security Council (2011)

Recommendation to the General Assembly for the Republic of South Sudan to be admitted as a Member of the United Nations.

(S/RES/1996) Security Council (2011)

Establishment of UN Mission in Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

Adopting Resolution 2223 (2015) Security Council

This is aimed to resolve the attacks on camps and encourages the implementation of a Peace Accord.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

In January 2005, the SPLM and the government of Sudan signed a peace agreement to end second Sudanese civil war. It was aimed at solving the conflict over the oil revenues and this accord resulted in the scheduling of a referendum on Southern Sudanese independence. The CPA has led to the constitutional revisions such as the establishment of a Bill of Rights and fundamental freedoms. However, the agreement started to disintegrate as in October 2007, the SPLM accused the government of Sudan of violating the CPA. Subsequently, some of the terms in the CPA haven't fully been implemented.

Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS)

On the 17th August 2015, the agreement was signed by President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Here, the UN was involved in the hope of peace and stability to end the civil war that had broken out in December 2013 in South Sudan; President Kiir claimed Machar was attempting a coup against him. However, in July 2016 there was a violent outbreak between the different ethnic groups in Juba, thus breaking the ARCSS.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Cooperating with South Sudan's national government

The main difference between IDPs and refugees are that IDPs are under the jurisdiction of their national government and thus reduce the infringement of the country's sovereignty. Moreover, the willingness of the South Sudan government to acknowledge the IDPs situation is questionable, therefore, encouragement of the government and opposition forces to protect the IDPs is essential.

Humanitarian Assistance

IDPs often lack necessities such as shelter, water, food and education. Thus, re-establishment of public infrastructures that were destroyed during the fighting is crucial. This includes reconstructing medical centres to provide basic medical supplies. Working with NGOs to improve the living conditions of IDPs; if this means relocation this should be up to the IDP.

Protective legislations for internally displaced persons

Drafting protective legislation should be a long-term aim in order to protect IDPs. Use the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to ensure the assistance during displacement as well as during resettlement. Moreover, ensure that the government is not obstructing humanitarian assistance from assisting IDPs.

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APPENDIX OR APPENDICES

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>

Overview of the situation in South Sudan and has a detailed timeline of significant events.

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/south-sudan/>

This has all the UN Security Council Resolutions on South Sudan.

<https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/south-sudan/quick-facts-what-you-need-know-about-south-sudan-crisis>

Has facts on the IDP in South Sudan as well as a summary of the situation in South Sudan.