



Evaluation of the Impact of UNMISS Interventions in South Sudan: Operational Challenges and Security Collaboration (2022-2024)

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ABSTRACT

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) continues to play an important role in addressing the ongoing challenges in South Sudan. Between January and March 2024, there were 240 incidents affecting 913 civilians, resulting in 468 deaths, 328 injuries, and numerous kidnappings and cases of sexual violence. In addition to helping to deal with these problems, UNMISS has also been actively involved in the preparation of the upcoming general elections in South Sudan, in December 2024. The mission provides technical assistance, voter education, and support for dialogue among political stakeholders to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections. The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach, and by using Peacebuilding Theory according to John Galtung. The results show that although UNMISS has made various efforts in preventing violence against civilians and facilitating preparations for the general elections, significant challenges still remain. UNMISS has succeeded in reducing incidents of violence in several regions by strengthening the presence of peacekeepers and mediating conflicts between communities. However, these interventions are often limited by operational issues, such as lack of access to remote conflict-torn areas and a lack of resources.

Keywords: *Global Peace Studies, Peacebuilding, UNMISS, United Nation, South Sudan*

INTRODUCTION

UNMISS, or United Nations Mission in South Sudan, is a peacekeeping mission established by the United Nations (UN) to support peace and stability in South Sudan. The mission began operations on July 9, 2011, after South Sudan gained independence from Sudan. UNMISS's main focus is to protect civilians in conflict zones, support transitional political processes, and facilitate post-conflict development and recovery. The study focuses on the period from 2022 to 2024, to evaluate the recent impact of UNMISS interventions in the context of the development of the situation in South Sudan.

This research is important because South Sudan is one of the countries that has experienced prolonged conflicts and severe humanitarian crises, despite significant international interventions such as UNMISS over the past few years, armed conflict and political instability have continued, causing a major impact on the civilian population and peacebuilding efforts in the country. The study of UNMISS and its impact in South Sudan falls into the realm of Global Peace Studies because it is directly related to the theory and practice of global peacebuilding. Global Peace Studies includes the study of how international conflicts can be resolved through multilateral interventions,



diplomacy, and peacebuilding mechanisms. UNMISS is a concrete example of an international intervention designed to facilitate peace and reconciliation in a country experiencing conflict.

Global Peace Studies is important because international conflicts and instability have far-reaching impacts that transcend national borders. Understanding ways to create and sustain peace is crucial to alleviating human suffering, promoting political and economic stability, and supporting sustainable development. Global Peace Studies provides a theoretical framework and methodology for analyzing and designing intervention, diplomacy, and reconciliation strategies that can be applied in a variety of conflict contexts. It also helps in identifying patterns and best practices that can be used to prevent violence and facilitate peace to build a safer and more harmonious world.

During this period, South Sudan faced major challenges in terms of political stability and security. The protracted armed conflict between the government and opposition groups, such as the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM-IO), continues. Data from UNMISS's situation report shows that the level of violence in the country remains high, with violent incidents involving various armed groups occurring frequently in regions such as Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity State. In addition, UNMISS is also involved in security sector reform efforts, including training and restructuring of local security forces. These programs are implemented in several locations, including the capital Juba and areas experiencing high tensions. Data from UNMISS's internal report shows that despite progress in some aspects of reform, many challenges remain, including a lack of resources and poor coordination between various government agencies and international agencies.

Collaboration between UNMISS, local security forces, and local communities plays a crucial role in achieving mission objectives. The study will examine data from various meetings and dialogues conducted at the local level, including reconciliation initiatives in refugee camps such as Bentiu and Malakal. The evaluation will include successes and failures in efforts to build trust among conflicting groups and support a sustainable peace process.

METHODS

The methodology of this study uses a qualitative approach to explore the impacts and challenges of UNMISS interventions in South Sudan. In addition, case studies are conducted to analyze specific events related to UNMISS operations, such as reconciliation programs or recovery efforts. Document analysis is also used to evaluate UNMISS official reports, academic journals, and related documents from local governments and organizations. This data collection technique aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the experiences, perceptions, and dynamics that affect the effectiveness and challenges of the UNMISS mission.



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Impact of UNMISS's Intervention In South Sudanese

Sudan has long been a public conversation internationally and nationally due to prolonged conflicts that have resulted in great suffering for its people. Efforts to protect civilians in Sudan are one of the challenges that involve many actors, from the government, insurgent groups, humanitarian organizations, and to the international community. Several programs were formed by the United Nations (UN), namely, UNMIS (United Nations Mission in Sudan) and UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan). The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is a peace mission program formed by the United Nations (UN) with members of the military, police and volunteers. These members are tasked with getting assignments in the Sudanese area, namely North Sudan and South Sudan with the aim of establishing peace supervision related to the ongoing conflict. In addition to conducting supervision, UNMIS is a conflict resolution activity as an intervention party in problems that occur in Sudan. Resolution according to Webster's dictionary according to Levine is the act of unraveling a problem, solving it, and eliminating a problem. According to Morton and Coleman, conflict resolution is a joint problem-solving act. Through these two understandings, conflict resolution is the main solution in realizing peace through UNMIS. This realization was carried out by UNMIS to overcome a conflict problem in Sudan. According to Johan Galtung, there are three stages in resolving a conflict, namely:

Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is known as a tool of conflict resolution attached to the UN program that functions to handle problems related to conflicts in a country. In peacekeeping, there are basic principles as initial guidelines for the procurement of peace missions in the future, namely: a) There is agreement by the disputing parties for the establishment of the mission; b) Not using violence, except in self-defense; c) Membership is voluntary on donations from contingents of neutral countries willing to help; d) Non-partiality; e) Control of peacekeeping operations is fully supervised by the Secretary-General. Based on the above principles, the principles of consent, impartiality, and non-violence are the three main principles in peacekeeping. The implementation of peacekeeping is multidimensional which combines the military, civilian police and other civilian components (intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations) that have different functions.

Peacemaking

Peacemaking is a process that aims to reconcile the political attitudes and strategies of the problematic parties through the stages of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration. The parties to the dispute are brought together to determine the middle point of the problem so that it can be resolved peacefully. There is a meeting, so that there is a third party as a mediator who does not have the right to determine the decisions taken. A



third party acts as a mediator if an unwanted atmosphere occurs in the negotiation process. The existence of peacemaking is a manifestation of idealistic values. The idea of peacemaking is the beginning of the process of realizing peace which begins with a peace meeting. Peacemaking began at the end of World War 1 in 1918 with one of its originators being Woodrow Wilson. The correlation between peacemaking and idealism can be seen from the utopian value of idealism upheld by international relations actors. This happens because peace is one of the goals of international relations.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is the process of implementing social, political, and economic reconstruction in order to create a long-term peace. There is a peacebuilding process, there is a change from negative peace to positive peace so that the community feels the presence of social justice, economic welfare and effective political representation. (Maria fryna angelica andris, 2023)

United Nation Mission in South Sudan United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is a United Nations instrument in carrying out peacekeeping operations where acting as an outside party in mediating conflicts. In this case, it is the vanguard of the United Nations in overcoming the conflict in South Sudan because of the flexibility of its peacekeepers. Based on resolution number 1996 of 2011, UNMISS's mandate is to support the Government in carrying out consolidation actions for peace and promoting long-term national development and economic development, assisting the Government in carrying out its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution and protecting civilians and assisting authorities in developing capacity to provide security, establish the rule of law, and strengthening the security and justice sector in South Sudan. In the process, UNMISS has undergone an update in the mandate of the Security Council resolution number 2155 of 2014 by imposing a peacekeeping operation mandate, namely: protecting of civilian, monitoring and investigating human rights, creating conducive conditions to send humanitarian aid in the process of supporting the implementation carried out by the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH). (Sriyanto, 2023) (Putri, 2022)

Protecting of Civilian (PoC)

In order to enforce human rights, Protecting of Civilian, which is stipulated in the Security Council resolution, which is from the aspect of protecting UN peacekeeping operations. In the use of force carried out in UN peacekeeping operations, there are several legal bases, namely regarding expressly permitted under Chapter VII (mandates such as the protection of civilians); or (b), implied under the rubric on the right to self-defence.). Thus, based on the legal authority of a UN peacekeeping operation, to use force and violate the boundaries of the sovereignty of the host country. This reflects the status of the UN as a universal international organization of broad objectives that has legitimacy, and that peacekeeping operations act on behalf of the international community through the UN.



Human rights monitoring and investigation

In carrying out the duties mandated by the Security Council to peacekeepers involves monitoring and reporting on human rights violations within the mission area and reporting, including the authority to investigate human rights violations, assisting national and international efforts to end impunity, supporting the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, including inspections, paying special attention to the rights of women and children, through monitoring, advocacy and other measures such as facilitating access to justice. This mandate also includes support for the development of national human rights institutions and law enforcement, training, and other national officials. This human rights monitoring is carried out in cooperation with the UN police, which also play a role in monitoring abuses of authority by local police or participating in investigations under the leadership of the human rights component. In conducting the UN secretary-general's report, UNMISS is required to give priority to regular monitoring, investigation, verification to report on the human rights situation, including in relation to the implementation of the peace agreement.

Creating conducive conditions for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

In creating these conducive conditions, UNMISS has collaborated with humanitarian partners to create conducive conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the crisis. In this case, there are mission assets and personnel used to support humanitarian agencies to provide assistance safely and provide protection forces for humanitarian convoys on demand. In the implementation of "Jasa Baik", at the request of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, UNMISS was asked to send humanitarian aid. Along with that, humanitarian actors are trying to find alternatives to security management so that they can reduce dependence on armed escort and force protection from UNMISS. In implementing conducive conditions for the delivery of humanitarian aid, UNMISS obtained a humanitarian aid delivery facility, which comes from the United Nations Mine Action Service by appointing 14 technical teams to carry out survey and cleanup operations throughout South Sudan to ensure access in the areas most in need, regularly verifying the safety of the airfield in Malakal and the areas used by the World Food Programme to drop aid food in Bentiu.

Support the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities (CoH)

In making efforts to support the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH), UNMISS acts as a third party that makes efforts in the form of supervision and peace agreements to maintain the relationship between the two parties so that there are no violations in the application of the content of the agreement. With the passage of Security Council resolution 2155 (2014), UNMISS has been mandated to provide site security for monitoring and verification of the mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and to support the work of the mechanism as described in the termination of the hostilities agreement. Where UNMISS troops from



IGAD Union members will operate fully under the command and control of the UNMISS architecture. In this case, the United Nations through UNMISS together with IGAD, works together to conduct personal mediation and try to get a solution to the problem to the conflicting parties, namely the government and SPLA/-IO held several meetings for both parties to discuss the problem. As a result, the Cessation of Hostile was agreed by both parties on January 23, 2015. And in August 2015, the government and SPLA/M-IO signed a memorandum of a permanent peace treaty. (Putri E. F., 2022)

UNMISS (United Nation Missions in South Sudan) interventions have a wide range of impacts. This mission has a positive impact, such as protecting civilians, supporting peace agreements, and delivering humanitarian aid. The mission also had negative impacts, such as an inability to prevent violence, allegations of sexual harassment, unclear mandates, and local grievances. Geographically located in South Sudan is located in the eastern part of the African continent and is nicknamed the "new country" in the region. South Sudan gained independence after seceding from the Republic of Sudan on July 9, 2011, although South Sudan is not fully independent and this is felt by the local people. There are many turbulent internal conflicts in South Sudan, such as the conflict that began with the dismissal of the entire government cabinet between the two largest ethnicities in the region; namely Dinka and Nuer, as well as the existence of armed conflicts that led to attacks on civilians by committing rape and sexual violence against women and the armed groups roamed residential areas and damaged residents' property, recruiting children as their troops. So a referendum on the secession of southern Sudan was held. Through various existing provisions, finally on July 9, 2011, the Southern part of Sudan officially separated from the Republic of Sudan and made its own country under the name of the Republic of South Sudan.

In 2014, the South Sudanese government had expressed support for the Declaration of Commitment to end sexual violence in armed conflict. This step is the first step that has brought a lot of praise from the international community. However, a few months after the declaration was issued, the UN Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict took part in reporting back on atrocities against women in the region, even declaring that South Sudan was the most horrific country it had ever witnessed. This torture is also inflicted on minors. There are a lot of inhumane violence, such as witnessing the rape of one's own group, being forced to see heinous torture, such as gouging out the eyes, beheading, strangulation like an animal, and even more heinous is witnessing the burning and even mutilation alive. This has resulted in a massive crisis and the majority of Sudan's population is highly dependent on access to humanitarian aid for survival.(Yordan Gunawan, 2024)

This issue of impunity is one of the ICC's focuses to prosecute individual actors who are considered to have an important role in a country, it is stated in Article 27 of the 1998 Rome Statute, which contains: 1. No individual actor can be immune from applicable national or international law, even if the actor has an important role in a country, or even if the convicted actor is a President of a country. If the actor is proven to have committed a serious offense or crime at the international level, then the individual actor



can be held accountable for his actions and is willing to be tried by the national court if the national court is able and willing to adjudicate, but if the national or domestic court cannot function, the international court can replace the role of the national court. 2. An important position held by an individual actor cannot function if it is proven to have committed violations at the international level.

Therefore, there is an international concern from international institutions or organizations such as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) which plays a role in guaranteeing children's rights, and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) which is obliged to maintain the safety of civilians from the conflict that occurs in South Sudan under the mandate of the United Nations (UN) is also obliged to overcome the Child Soldier phenomenon.

The various efforts that UNICEF and UNMISS have made in tackling the recruitment of child soldiers are as follows: 1. The role of UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund). Stating that when war occurs, children must still be given their rights such as the right to a proper education at school age, and the state is obliged to protect children during war. For this reason, the recruitment of child soldiers participating in conflicts shows that the state does not protect the safety of children during war, because by doing so, children are able to be categorized as combatants, whereas in international humanitarian law, children are legally protected during war and are included in the category of non-combatants. For this reason, some of the roles that UNICEF has carried out related to the phenomenon of child soldiers in the Sudan conflict are to encourage the community to be more concerned, supportive, and protect children's rights; to be an intermediary in terms of the release of child soldiers who have joined armed groups (Maria fryna angelica andris, 2023) 2. The Role of UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) In addition to UNICEF, UNMISS as the agency tasked with maintaining security in Sudan also plays a role in tackling the case of child soldier recruitment. His role began when there was an internal conflict on December 16, 2013 in South Sudan that caused about 4000 children to be forced out of school to be recruited into child soldiers by the conflicting parties. It was also noted that during the civil war in South Sudan, the parties to the conflict had recruited 19,000 children to become soldiers. To address this, UNMISS conducts regular field patrols in conflict-affected areas, collaborates with the Force Commander to collect information related to serious violations committed against children, as well as determine focal points for protection, increased monitoring, and reporting on serious violations committed against children.

The various efforts that have been made by UNICEF and UNMISS are an effort to protect the rights of children in a country in conflict. Corrupt governments, high illiteracy rates, and ethnic discrimination in Sudan and South Sudan are the main factors for the protracted and relentless conflict. Although various efforts to resolve conflicts have been made through various peace agreements, the agreements seem to be black on white, because the parties to the conflict always deny the peace agreements that have been agreed before. The instability of the state over the conflicts that occurred also led



to the neglect of the welfare and rights of citizens, one of which is the rights of children. Children who were supposed to be noncombatants in the war were forcibly recruited to become soldiers. In which 13-year-olds are kidnapped, detained, and forced to join the parties to the conflict. On this basis, as an international response, through UNICEF and UNMISS, various efforts have been made to overcome the phenomenon of child soldiers in Sudan and South Sudan. Children who have been used in war should be provided with psychological services and help in the integrity of the child's social environment. (Haikal Mubarak, 2024)

In this South Sudan case, Human Rights Watch immediately took action, one of its steps in addressing crimes against humanity and sexual violence that occurred in Sudan was to send a summons to President Omar Al-Bashir to be tried in the International Criminal Court (ICC), Human Rights Watch's role here is an effort to urge the president of South Sudan to be tried within the scope of the ICC because only the ICC has jurisdiction and also the authority to prosecute it in the scope of the international world. The conflict in South Sudan and its countermeasures. The religious conflict was caused by Omar Al-Bashir's own desire to make Sudan an Islamic state, which received direct criticism and rejection from the predominantly Christian population of South Sudan. The emergence of conflicts in Darfur over the uprisings of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/A), as well as the instability of the country that led to various peace efforts through peace agreements, even disarmament are not able to ensure that in the future conflicts will not recur.

The disintegration also has no impact on the creation of peaceful regional conditions, because conflicts continue to occur, both within the internal scope of the country, such as the conflict in 2013 between President Salva Kiir Maryadit and Vice President Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon which divided the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as the Sudanese army into 2 groups, namely those loyal to the president and those loyal to the vice president. for Machar's dissatisfaction with Kiir's leadership which was considered to have failed to make South Sudan a better country. As well as the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, such as the one that occurred in 2011, between the SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), as well as the conflict over the Heglig region dispute in 2012 (Ahmad Fuadi Tanjung, 2024) (Ziko Aditya Bangsawan, 2022)

The impact of interventions on the socio-economic conditions of communities in South Sudan is both positive and negative. The positive impact is that humanitarian assistance including food, water, shelter, medical care and education, infrastructure development such as roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, strengthening local capacities such as government, health and education, and peace processes such as the Juba peace agreement signed in 2020 are the result of intensive diplomatic efforts by regional and international actors. Meanwhile, the negative impact is the dependence on foreign aid, corruption, militarization, exploitation of natural resources, and also environmental impacts such as pollution and deforestation. It is important for external actors to work closely with the government and civil society to ensure that their interventions are sustainable and beneficial to the people of South Sudan (izzaty, 2023).



Evaluation of changes in the level of local security before the intervention in South Sudan are: experiencing a very tragic civil war for more than 20 years that resulted in the deaths and displacement of millions of people, local security is so poor that it increases crime, inter-group violence, and human rights violations increase, then basic infrastructure is destroyed due to war and also the rule of law is weak and corruption is everywhere. However, after international interventions helped end the war and build peace, the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMISS) has been mobilized to protect civilians and help build institutional capacity, distribute humanitarian aid affected by the conflict, and also work to rebuild infrastructure and strengthen the rule of law.

Operational Challenges Faced By UNMISS

UNMISS is a United Nations peace mission established by the United Nations Security Council with Resolution 1590 on March 24, 2005. The mission was established to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement on 9 January 2005. The mandate of UNMIS expires on 9 July following the completion of the interim period established by the Government of Sudan and SPLM at the time of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005. A 1996 resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on July 8, 2011 concluded that the situation facing Sudan continues to pose a threat to stability and security around the world. Therefore, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) was established on July 9, 2011 with more than 2,000 people from all over the world, 203 military observers, 64 staff offices, and 378 UN police. UNMIS also has the task of providing humanitarian assistance and human rights protection in Sudan. As a representative of the UN, UNMIS has operational challenges in carrying out its mission. An example of the challenge that UNMIS faces in its mission is the armed conflict between UNMIS and local Sudanese groups. Then there are obstacles in the management of resources for Sudanese people's assistance (UNMIS United Nations Mission in the Sudan, n.d.)(Soemantri, 2019).

In carrying out its mission, UNMISS experienced armed and security conflicts between local armed groups and UNMISS. One of the armed conflicts was the Juba Crisis on July 10, 2016. The clashes in Juba in 2016 were one of the incidents of armed clashes that occurred in South Sudan, involving UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) and local armed groups. Juba is the capital of South Sudan. In July 2016 South Sudanese armed groups fired on a UN base in the form of a population shelter. Most of the armed conflict occurred near the main UNMISS base resulting in more than 200 shots. In the conflict, there were 37,000 refugees taking refuge in the base and some peacekeepers left their posts to fight the rebels, while other peacekeepers helped civilians trying to enter the base's borders. This conflict also concerns the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) and the opposition army. Due to the attack on the population shelter, the UN urges all parties to respect the UN presence and demand any deliberate action targeting the UN and its personnel (Sihombing, 2016)(Under Fire: The July 2016 Violence in Juba and UN Response, 2016).



In addition to the challenges of armed conflict, there are obstacles in the distribution of logistics and support to the Sudanese people. The UN states that since the civil war began, at least 50,000 people have been killed. In addition to murders, there have also been cases of theft, eviction of civilians, and demolition of houses by both the government and the opposition. A total of 1.25 million people are said to be on the brink of starvation according to food and security analysis conducted by the United Nations and South Sudan's National Bureau of Statistics (Firda Rosyana RA, 2019).

The cause of the constraints of support and assistance for the Sudanese people is the delay in the arrival of additional troops and the lack of military assets. In the Juba crisis, on July 10, 2016, some UNMISS soldiers fled to the UNMISS central base to avoid armed conflict. The delay in the arrival of the Additional Forces caused difficulties in protecting civilians and providing necessary humanitarian assistance such as clothing and food. The lack of Military Assets is a related concern in generating significant security, and also adds to the logistical burden. Juba crisis is also one of the obstacles in the distribution of food aid. Food Program Worldwide (WFP) halted food distribution at one of three shelters in Juba after the UNMISS community shelter was attacked. In Bentiu, biometric registration was collected for a total of 53,000 refugees at shelter sites (Under Fire: The July 2016 Violence in Juba and UN Response, 2016)(Council, 29 April 2015). UNMISS has an important role in helping the conflict in South Sudan. Even so, UNMISS has not yet fully carried out its role. In carrying out its mission as a hand of the UN, UNMISS still faces obstacles such as being hit by an internal armed conflict with Sudan's own group and obstacles in the distribution of aid and food.

Unmiss's Collaboration with Security Forces And Local Communities

Collaboration between UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) and local security forces is important in maintaining peace in South Sudan. One of the key aspects of this collaboration is partnering with local security forces, such as the South Sudan Armed Forces (SPLA) and the national police. UNMISS provides in-depth training on human rights, international humanitarian law, to ensure that local security forces understand the rights of civilians. In addition, UNMISS supports security by helping the South Sudanese government formulate more effective and responsible policies and strategies (Taskiyah et al., 2021).

After partnering with local security forces, UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) conducts training and coordination of security operations, consisting of several phases carried out to increase effectiveness in protecting civilians and carrying out peacekeeping missions. UNMISS provides training and workshops to local security forces to improve their ability to maintain security and deal with conflict situations, including preparation for elections, confiscation of weapons, and improvement of operational skills. In close coordination with local police, UNMISS supports ceasefire and regulatory transition mechanisms, which involve monitoring and verification of peace agreements



and supporting the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) through surveillance and peace agreements (Taskiyah et al., 2021).

Political engagement with parties to the conflict to prevent violence and ensure the protection of civilians in accordance with the law. By implementing structured training and coordination of security operations, UNMISS can enhance security and stability in South Sudan and assist in post-conflict recovery and development processes (Katangga, 2016). One example of a successful collaboration between UNMISS and local security forces that has succeeded in improving security is in Bentiu, Unity state, South Sudan. Bentiu has long been a conflict-prone region due to clashes between armed groups and violence against civilians. However, through strategic collaboration between UNMISS and local security forces, the security situation in Bentiu is starting to show significant improvement (Taskiyah et al., 2021).

In 2012, UNMISS and local security forces launched a joint patrol operation around the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Bentiu. The operation aims to reduce violence and ensure protection for refugees who are often targeted by attacks. The results of this collaboration are very positive. This success not only provides a greater sense of security for the local population, but also creates a stronger foundation for long-term stability in the region. Case studies in Bentiu show that collaboration between international and local forces can be key in creating sustainable peace and security, especially in areas prone to conflict and violence (Cahyati, 2017).

Relationship with Local Communities

UNMISS has implemented various community development and community dialogue programs aimed at increasing the participation of local communities in the peace and development process. One of the key initiatives is the organization of workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in Unity and Ruweng states. In this program, participants are taught essential skills in building coalitions, which allows them to be more effective in supporting their communities. In addition, UNMISS also launched the Community Violence Reduction project which aims to reduce violence and promote the reintegration of former combatants into society (Ranjitraj, 2024).

The role of local communities is crucial in supporting UNMISS's mission in South Sudan, as they are key actors who understand the social, cultural context, and specific challenges faced on the ground. Local communities help UNMISS by providing critical intelligence information on potential security threats and conflict dynamics in their region, enabling missions to respond more quickly and appropriately. In addition, the active participation of indigenous leaders, youth and women in various dialogue and reconciliation programs facilitated by UNMISS helps build trust and promote peace (Katangga, 2016).

Cooperation between UNMISS and local communities is also seen in infrastructure development projects, where communities contribute through local labor and



knowledge. In this way, they feel owned and responsible for the development outcomes, which increases the sustainability of the projects. This collaboration creates a mutually beneficial relationship, where UNMISS receives support and legitimacy from the local community, while the local community benefits directly from the programs run (www.voaindonesia.com, 2024).

Peacebuilding Initiatives

To realize sustainable stability and security, UNMISS conducts various peacebuilding initiatives in South Sudan by involving local communities. Developing infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and clean water facilities is the main focus. In addition to improving the quality of life, the project provides jobs for local communities, helping to reduce poverty and increase economic stability. In addition, UNMISS held discussions involving indigenous leaders, women, and youth to ease ethnic tensions and conflicts between communities. These discussions help build mutual understanding and resolve conflicts constructively. In addition, UNMISS has skills training and economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups such as former combatants, youth, and women (www.voaindonesia.com, 2024).

UNMISS also implements skills training and economic empowerment programs, aimed at vulnerable groups such as former soldiers, youth, and women. The program helps the community to develop technical and entrepreneurial skills to start a small business, which provides a small step towards a positive economy. They also held a briefing focused on the importance of education, health, and the role of women in community development, with counseling on the importance of sending children to school and maintaining family health. To help victims of violence and trauma, UNMISS provides psychosocial support services through cooperation with non-governmental organizations and local agencies. These services include counseling, and rehabilitation programs to help everyone recovering from the effects of violence and conflict (www.voaindonesia.com, 2024).

CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study confirm that UNMISS has played an important role in efforts to maintain stability in South Sudan, especially in preventing the escalation of the conflict and providing technical support for political processes such as elections. However, the study also shows that significant operational challenges, including resource constraints, logistical issues, and limited access to conflict-affected areas, have hampered the overall effectiveness of the mission. In addition, the ongoing political instability in South Sudan exacerbated the situation, preventing UNMISS from fully achieving its set goals.

Collaboration between UNMISS and local and regional actors, while important, is still marked by tension due to differences in interests and approaches to conflict resolution. An inclusive approach involving local communities and improved coordination between



various stakeholders are needed to ensure the long-term success of this mission. Using a qualitative approach based on John Galtung's theory of peacebuilding, this study emphasizes the importance of adaptive and contextual solutions in dealing with complex problems in the field. UNMISS needs greater flexibility and resources to adapt to operational challenges, as well as strengthen more effective collaboration mechanisms to achieve sustainable peace in South Sudan.

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