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Effectiveness of the Implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced People in Juba City County, South Sudan

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Abstract: This study examined the effectiveness of the implementation of the United Nations guiding principles on internally displaced people (IDPs) in Juba City County South Sudan. The study was guided by Conflict Theory which underscores the systemic inequalities that could incite strife and upheaval (Marx, 1867; Dahrendorf, 1959 and Collins, 2000). The research employed a mixed-methods approach, encompassing surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions, involving a sample size of 220 participants, including 200 respondents and 20 key informants. Study findings revealed that, only 42% of IDPs responded that they were aware about the United Nations principles on the protection of IDPs. 58% of them lacked significant knowledge of their existence. Further, results revealed that, there exists challenges in executing the mandate of UNMISS among IDPs. The challenges included poor government regulations, weak political commitment and lack of peace keeping efforts. The study concluded that, security remains the primary concern for IDPs, with the majority expressing fear of returning home due to ongoing violence, land disputes, and inadequate legal protections. It was recommended that, there is a need to strengthening UNMISS and local law enforcement's rapid response capabilities and community-based security initiatives. The study also recommends enhancing government accountability, participatory decision-making, and legal reforms which will rebuild IDP confidence in state-led reintegration efforts.

Key terms: United Nations Guiding Principles, Internally displaced people, Security, Political instability, Crisis

1.1 Background of the Study

The humanitarian crises that arose from forced displacement across Africa revealed both challenges and successful applications of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPs) (United Nations, 2010). By 2022, the continent had experienced some of the most severe instances of internal displacement, with millions of individuals affected by conflict, environmental changes, and political instability (Mixed Migration Centre, 2022). The UNGPs served as a framework that advocated for the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and ensured their access to protection and assistance (Fagen, 2020). Various countries within Africa illustrated differing levels of success and challenges in implementing these guiding principles.

The situation in Central American countries, particularly in the Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala), spotlighted the forced displacement resulting from violence, poverty, and climate change (UNHCR, 2020). These challenges also highlighted the impact of organized crime and gang violence, which drove many individuals and families to flee. The UNGPs shaped regional responses by advocating for the protection of migrants and refugees, yet significant gaps remained in ensuring safe and dignified conditions for those displaced by these multifaceted crises (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2021).

In Yemen, ongoing conflict led to what became one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions displaced internally (OCHA, 2022). The UNGPs became crucial in the efforts of humanitarian organizations that aimed to provide emergency assistance, shelter, and food security to those affected. However, severe restrictions on access and the prevailing violence complicated the effective implementation of these guiding principles (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Afghanistan presented another stark example of the challenges faced by IDPs. After the Taliban's takeover in 2021, reports emerged of mass internal displacement due to fear of persecution and violence (UNHCR, 2022). The UNGPs were referenced in humanitarian efforts aimed at protecting and assisting IDPs, but the chaotic situation made it difficult to ensure safety and access to essential services.

Regionally, in East Africa, the challenges and successes in implementing the UNGPs became apparent through several case studies. In Kenya, the government, in partnership with international organizations, initiated measures to address the needs of IDPs following ethnic conflicts, particularly in the Rift Valley region (Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, 2019). For example, targeted programs were developed to enhance access to healthcare and education for those displaced. The government's policies supported community dialogue initiatives aimed at fostering reconciliation between different ethnic groups. Despite these commendable actions, many IDPs remained trapped in prolonged situations of displacement due to insufficient political will, limited resources, and challenges related to land restitution (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Numerous IDPs faced difficulties in reclaiming their land, which had often been taken over during violent clashes, severely hindering their ability to resettle and reintegrate into their communities.

In South Sudan, ongoing conflict and civil war resulted in one of the highest rates of displacement globally, with millions forcibly displaced within the country and across borders (UNHCR, 2022). The South Sudanese government faced significant challenges in addressing the humanitarian needs of IDPs, compounded by ongoing violence, political instability, and intercommunal strife. The UNGPs were referenced in attempts to provide humanitarian assistance and support to IDPs, yet the volatile security situation hindered effective implementation. Various NGOs, alongside UN agencies, launched programs aimed at providing shelter, food security, and healthcare. However, insufficient infrastructure, limited funding, and deep-rooted corruption often impeded the delivery of assistance, leaving many IDPs in dire need of support and basic services.

The application of the UNGPs across various contexts—both globally and regionally—demonstrated a mix of successes and failures. Countries such as Uganda illustrated effective implementation strategies that catered to the needs of IDPs, while challenges persisted in nations like Eritrea and the DRC, where political instability and governance issues impeded meaningful progress. The contrasting experiences

underscored the critical need for enhanced political commitment, resource allocation, and collaborative approaches to achieve the objectives outlined by the UNGPs throughout the continent and beyond. Understanding these varied contexts could inform future humanitarian initiatives, assisting in addressing the unique challenges faced by displaced populations across Africa and the world. The complexities of implementing the UNGPs necessitated adaptive strategies that effectively responded to the specific challenges each country faced, emphasizing the importance of learning from past experiences to create effective and sustainable solutions for IDPs in situations of forced displacement.

1.2 Statement of the problem

While internal displacement caused by violent conflict and disasters has been a major humanitarian challenge for centuries, the phenomenon has only started to attract wider international attention relatively recently. National governments have the primary responsibility to protect and assist people who have been uprooted from their homes within their own countries. In practice, though, many Governments did not live up to their responsibilities, were often unwilling or unable to respond to their needs. The humanitarian crises that arose from forced displacement in South Sudan revealed both challenges in the applications of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPs) (United Nations, 2010). In South Sudan, ongoing conflict and civil war resulted in one of the highest rates of displacement globally, with millions forcibly displaced within the country and across borders (UNHCR, 2022). The South Sudanese government faced significant challenges in addressing the humanitarian needs of IDPs, compounded by ongoing violence, political instability, and intercommunal strife. The UNGPs were referenced in attempts to provide humanitarian assistance and support to IDPs, yet the volatile security situation hindered effective implementation. Various NGOs, alongside UN agencies, launched programs aimed at providing shelter, food security, and healthcare. However, insufficient infrastructure, limited funding, and deep-rooted corruption often impeded the delivery of assistance, leaving many IDPs in dire need of support and basic services. Despite the framework provided by the UNGPs, their implementation remained severely lacking. The government's reluctance to facilitate the safe movement of peacekeepers led to substantial delays in humanitarian interventions, thereby restricting IDPs' access to essential services such as healthcare and livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, restrictive measures impacting peacekeeping operations, coupled with the UN's inherent difficulties in safeguarding civilians amid armed conflicts, heightened the risks of violence against IDPs. There is also limited empirical evidence on the extent in which the United Nations' guiding principles have been implemented on the internally displaced people in Juba City, South Sudan. It is against this background that this study intends to bridge this gap.

1.3 Study Objective

The Objective of this study was to evaluate the implementation of the United Nations' guiding principles on internally displaced people in Juba City County, South Sudan.

1.4 Literature review

In this section, theoretical review and empirical reviews will be presented.

1.4.1 Theoretical review

Conflict Theory articulated the premise that societal structures were inherently characterized by inequality, engendering conflicts that often revolved around the competition for limited resources, power, and welfare. Drawing upon the seminal works of Karl Marx (1867) and further elaborated by

notable social theorists such as Dahrendorf (1959) and Collins (2000), Conflict Theory underscored the systemic inequalities that could incite strife and upheaval. In regions beset by violence, such as South Sudan, these intrinsic inequalities could amplify vulnerabilities, creating fertile ground for displacement. The conflict in South Sudan escalated dramatically, displacing millions of individuals from their homes. Research conducted by Collier et al. (2003) elucidated how resource scarcity, particularly in a post-conflict context, fostered heightened competition among diverse groups, thereby exacerbating existing tensions. Systemic issues such as political marginalization, ethnic divisions, and unequal distribution of vital resources played a pivotal role in shaping the ongoing crisis affecting IDPs. The application of Conflict Theory afforded a comprehensive lens to analyze how such disparities manifested in the everyday realities of IDPs, reinforcing the urgent need for both immediate and long-term strategies aimed at safeguarding these vulnerable populations. Moreover, the findings of scholars such as Pritchett and Werker (2012) accentuated the role of governance in exacerbating conflicts, suggesting that poorly structured state mechanisms could lead to disorganized and inadequate responses to displacement. Conflict Theory, therefore, not only framed the experiences of IDPs but also accentuated the critical necessity for evaluating effective governance and conflict resolution strategies that were attuned to the protection of their rights and interests.

1.4.2 Empirical literature review

Evaluation on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in Juba City

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPs) serve as the foundational framework for IDP protection worldwide. However, multiple empirical studies indicate that their non-binding nature significantly limits their enforceability. Ferris (2023), in her study *International Legal Standards and IDP Protection*, conducted a comparative policy analysis on the legal status of the UNGPs across 25 conflict-affected countries. Her findings reveal that while many nations incorporate elements of the UNGPs into national policies, very few establish legally binding frameworks to ensure their enforcement. Similarly, Kälin (2022), in *Legal Gaps in IDP Protection: A Global Perspective*, used case study analysis of IDP crises in Syria, Colombia, and Myanmar. His study found that while these countries have adopted legal frameworks reflecting the UNGPs, enforcement mechanisms remain weak due to political instability and lack of judicial oversight. Kälin suggests that the effectiveness of the UNGPs as legal documents depends largely on national political commitment and legal infrastructure.

Cantor (2023) in *The Role of International Law in IDP Protection* applied a content analysis methodology on national laws governing IDPs across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. His findings indicate that while countries with constitutional provisions on displacement (such as Colombia) effectively integrate the UNGPs into national law, others with ad hoc policies struggle with enforcement. This underscores the necessity for domestic legal anchoring of the UNGPs. Furthermore, Edwards (2024), in *International Accountability Mechanisms for IDP Protection*, examined how international courts and human rights bodies address UNGP violations. His legal review of case law found that while IDP protection cases are increasingly brought before international courts, enforcement remains voluntary, with states choosing whether to comply with rulings.

Africa has attempted to strengthen the UNGPs through the Kampala Convention (2009), which legally binds signatory states to adopt policies aligned with IDP protection. Adeola (2023), in *Regional Approaches to IDP Protection: The Kampala Convention's Role*, conducted policy document analysis across multiple African nations. His study found that while the convention provides a strong legal framework, enforcement varies significantly due to weak judicial systems and limited political will. Similarly, Njoroge (2024), in *African Legal Systems and IDP Rights*, examined court rulings and policy enactments in Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa. His research found that Uganda has successfully embedded IDP protections into national law, whereas Nigeria struggles with enforcement despite policy adoption. His findings highlight the gap between policy commitment and actual legal application.

A report by Amnesty International (2023) titled *Displacement and Human Rights in Africa* analyzed human rights complaints filed by IDPs under the Kampala Convention. The findings indicate that only 30% of IDP-related complaints filed at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights result in meaningful state action, showcasing a significant enforcement gap. Additionally, research by Mohamed (2023), *The Kampala Convention: Legal Progress or Symbolic Commitment?* applied qualitative interviews with African Union officials and IDP advocacy groups. His study suggests that while the Kampala Convention legally reinforces the UNGPs, lack of penalties for non-compliance weakens its impact.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has been instrumental in promoting the UNGPs within East Africa, yet enforcement challenges persist. A study by Ochieng (2023), *Legal Barriers to IDP Protection in East Africa*, applied a comparative analysis between Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. His findings show that while Kenya has enacted IDP-specific laws, Ethiopia and South Sudan rely more on international humanitarian interventions than legally binding statutes. Similarly, a study by Abebe (2024), *Judicial Oversight of IDP Rights in the Horn of Africa*, reviewed legal proceedings and court cases concerning IDP protection. His research found that very few IDP-related cases reach regional courts, indicating a weak legal culture of IDP protection enforcement. Moreover, governments in the region tend to view IDPs as humanitarian rather than legal concerns, leading to delayed or inconsistent policy responses.

A World Bank report (2023), *Institutionalizing IDP Protections in East Africa*, analyzed how governments apply the UNGPs in Uganda, Sudan, and Somalia. The study found that while Uganda has embedded IDP protections into national frameworks, Sudan and Somalia still rely on temporary humanitarian responses rather than long-term legal commitments. These deficiencies in legal enforcement reinforce the need for stronger regional legal mechanisms.

South Sudan has not fully incorporated the UNGPs into its national legal framework, relying instead on international humanitarian agencies for IDP protection. Jok (2023), in *Legal Gaps in IDP Protection in South Sudan*, conducted policy content analysis and found that South Sudan lacks a specific IDP law, resulting in ad hoc responses to displacement crises. Similarly, Lokuji (2024), in *Humanitarian Interventions and State Responsibility in South Sudan*, analyzed governmental policy documents and found that most IDP protections in South Sudan come from external actors such as UNMISS and UNHCR, rather than from national law. An assessment by Mabor (2023), *Customary Law and IDP Protection in South Sudan*, explored the role of traditional justice mechanisms in

handling displacement disputes. His findings indicate that customary law often contradicts international IDP protection standards, leading to legal inconsistencies.

At the local level, a UNHCR (2024) report titled *Legal Challenges Facing IDPs in Juba County* used survey analysis to assess IDPs' access to legal protection. The findings show that most IDPs in Juba lack legal documentation, making them invisible in legal frameworks and excluded from basic services. A study by Akech (2023), *Legal Identity and IDP Rights in Juba County*, used case study methodology to explore how lack of national ID cards affects IDP protection. His findings reveal that without legal recognition, many IDPs cannot access land, employment, or judicial protections. Additionally, a study by Deng (2024), *Gender and Legal Barriers for IDPs in Juba*, applied gender-focused legal analysis and found that women IDPs face greater difficulties in legal claims for housing and security due to discriminatory customary laws.

1.5 Research design and methods

Mixed method approach was used to establish effectiveness of the implementation of the United Nations guiding principles on internally displaced people in Juba City County, South Sudan. Situated in Central Equatoria, Juba County served as the administrative capital of South Sudan. The geography of the area was characterized by the Nile River and fluctuating climatic conditions, significantly impacting the livelihoods of its inhabitants. Juba's location made it susceptible to both natural disasters and socio-political upheaval, factors that compounded the challenges faced by IDPs. The presence of Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites established by the United Nations provided temporary refuge for IDPs, although conditions remained precarious and required constant monitoring (UNMISS, 2022). The limited infrastructure, scarcity of resources, and fluctuating security dynamics continued to pose significant challenges to the safety and well-being of IDPs residing within these sites. As urbanization increased in Juba, it became important to recognize how this affected IDPs. Urban settings offered distinct advantages, such as better access to markets and services; however, they also presented challenges, including potential social tensions with host communities and increased vulnerabilities to violence. As such, the geographical positioning of Juba played a crucial role in understanding the unique challenges faced by IDPs. Flood risks, sanitation issues, and healthcare access within Juba highlighted additional dimensions that compounded the existing vulnerabilities of IDPs. The target population includes internally displaced persons (IDPs), government officials, humanitarian workers, and community leaders in Juba County. IDPs constitute the primary focus group, as they provide firsthand experiences on the effectiveness of current IDP protection strategies. Humanitarian workers and policymakers offer institutional perspectives on IDP interventions. A combination of probability and purposive sampling techniques was employed to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives. The sample size was determined using Slovin's formula, reducing the initial target of 400 respondents to 220 due to logistical constraints. A stratified random sampling approach was used to select IDPs from various camps, ensuring representation across gender, age, and displacement duration. Purposive Sampling: This technique was applied to select government officials, community leaders, and humanitarian actors, ensuring that participants with expertise in IDP policies and interventions were included. To determine the adequate sample size, Slovin's formula was employed, allowing for adjustments based on the margin of error. The formula was represented as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N \cdot e}$$

Where:

n = sample size

(N) = total population size (321,638 IDPs)

(e) = margin of error (0.05 for a 95% confidence level)

Using this formula:

$n = 321,638 / (1 + 321,638 \times 0.05)$

$n \approx 400$

A structured questionnaire was administered to 220 IDPs across various displacement sites in Juba County. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 40 key informants, including representatives from UNMISS, international NGOs, South Sudanese government agencies, and IDP community leaders. Additionally, three focus group discussions (FGDs) were held to capture collective perspectives on IDP challenges and possible policy solutions. Focus group discussions (FGDs) fostered dialogue among IDP participants, enabling a collective exploration of shared experiences. FGDs brought together diverse voices, enriching the data collected by encouraging interaction and collaboration among participants. Quantitative data was analyzed using statistical techniques while qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

1.6 Study findings

Response Rate

The researcher targeted a sample size of 220 respondents, employing both probability and non-probability sampling procedures. The targeted respondents were from PoC 1 and PoC 3 in Juba County, Central Equatoria State. A total of 220 respondents (166 males and 54 females) were interviewed regarding their gender. Among them, 71% of the total 157 (119 males and 38 females) respondents were from PoC 1, while 29% of the total 63 (47 males and 16 females) were from PoC 3. Key informants and focus group discussions were included in the analysis. To clarify, 20 key informants were targeted from organizations assisting internally displaced people, which included both NGO staff and government officials, and 8 groups were selected for focus group discussions in PoC 1 and PoC 3. Each discussion group consisted of 10 individuals, resulting in a total of 80 participants. Among them, 8 community leaders were interviewed as part of the research. In PoC 1, 10 females were represented, accounting for 32.3%, while 21 males represented 67.7%. In PoC 3, 13 females accounted for 43.3%, while 17 males represented 56.7% in the group discussions. Here, the researcher distributed 220 questionnaires in PoC 1 and PoC 3, with all questionnaires carefully administered while conducting the FGDs and KIs. None of the 220 questionnaires were deemed invalid in PoC 1 and PoC 3 in Juba County, Central Equatoria State. The study achieved a high response rate, ensuring data reliability and representativeness. Out of the 220 targeted respondents, 198 successfully participated, resulting in a 90% response rate. This level of participation surpasses the 70% benchmark recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) for survey reliability, signifying that the collected data is robust and reflective of the IDP population in Juba County. Several factors contributed to the high response rate. Community engagement played a crucial role in ensuring participation, as advance communication with IDP representatives-built trust and facilitated data collection. Additionally, collaboration with local humanitarian organizations proved beneficial in mobilizing respondents and providing logistical support. The research team also ensured inclusivity by translating survey instruments into local languages, thus eliminating language barriers that could have hindered response rates. However, despite these measures, security concerns and logistical difficulties in certain Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites slightly affected participation, as some respondents were unavailable due to displacement-related uncertainties.

Table 1: Response Rate

Gender	POC 1 Frequency	%	POC 3	%
Male	119	71%	47%	29%
Female	38	17%	16	7%
Total	157	100%	63	100%

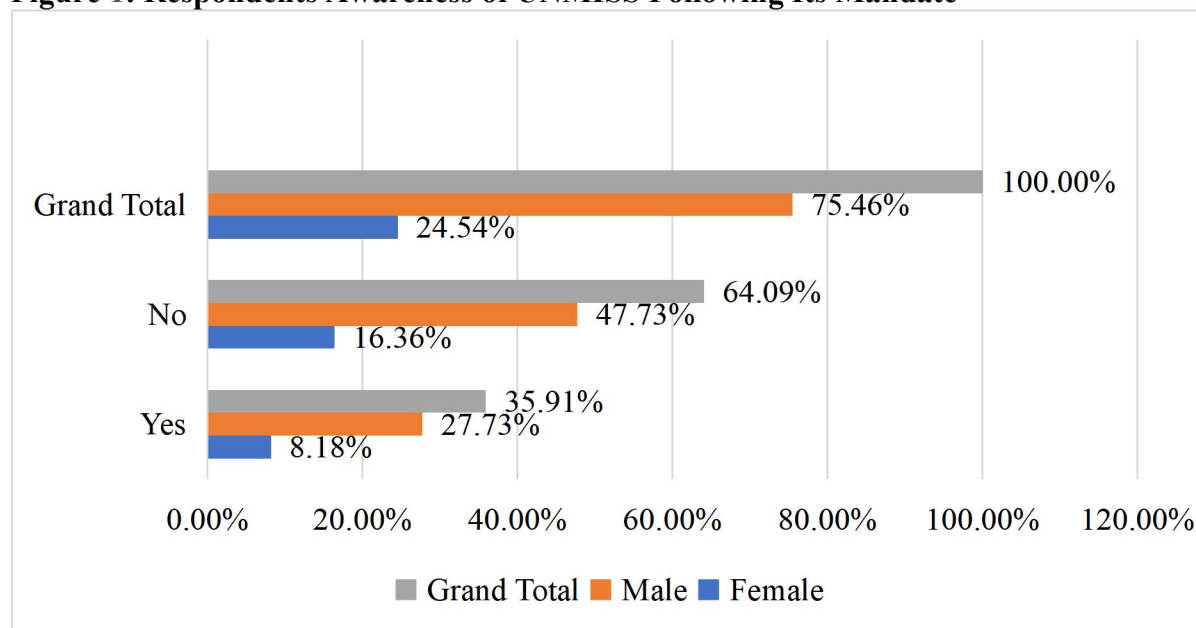
Source: Generated from primary data (2023)

Effectiveness of the UN Guiding Principles on IDPs

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPs) serve as a global framework for protecting the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), emphasizing state responsibility, humanitarian assistance, and durable solutions. This section evaluates the extent to which the UNGPs have been implemented in Juba County, focusing on their effectiveness in providing legal protection, access to services, and long-term reintegration strategies for IDPs. The researcher aimed to evaluate whether the respondents were aware of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and its adherence to its mandate concerning the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs). The findings indicated that 105 males and 36 females believed that UNMISS effectively followed its mandate. In contrast, 61 males and 18 females expressed disagreement regarding the mission's implementation of its responsibilities.

The responses reflected a mixed perception of UNMISS among the respondents, which could be attributed to various factors. Supporters of UNMISS may have perceived improvements in safety and access to humanitarian services facilitated by the mission, thus affirming their belief in its effectiveness. Conversely, those who disagreed might have experienced ongoing insecurity or a lack of adequate humanitarian support, leading to skepticism's regarding UNMISS's operational effectiveness. These findings are significant, as they illustrate how the perception of an international peacekeeping mission can vary widely among affected populations. They align with previous research conducted by Hamer (2014), which highlighted that the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions is often judged based on the lived experiences of the individuals they aim to protect. Furthermore, similar sentiments were noted in the OCHA report (2023), which emphasized that the delivery of humanitarian assistance must be continually assessed to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations are adequately met.

Overall, the mixed responses regarding UNMISS's mandate fulfillment underscore the complexity of peacekeeping operations in conflict zones and the necessity for ongoing evaluation and adaptation of strategies to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and protection efforts.

Figure 1: Respondents Awareness of UNMISS Following Its Mandate

Source: Generated from primary data (2023)

Findings indicate that awareness of the UNGPs among IDPs and local authorities is limited, hindering their full implementation. Only 42% of IDP respondents reported having heard about these principles, while a significant 58% lacked knowledge of their existence. This knowledge gap suggests that awareness campaigns and legal literacy programs are necessary to ensure IDPs can advocate for their rights effectively. Although South Sudan has ratified several international instruments on IDP protection, challenges remain in translating these commitments into enforceable domestic policies. Government institutions responsible for IDP affairs often lack the capacity and resources to implement UNGPs effectively. Bureaucratic inefficiencies and weak governance structures have further contributed to inconsistent enforcement of IDP protection policies in Juba County.

A key informant in POC 1 stated that UNMISS operated under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to ensure effective, timely protection of civilians under threat. This was demonstrated in 2013 when many civilians fled to the POCs of Juba, Bor, and Bentiu, where UNMISS provided safety and life-sustaining assistance to civilians in the POCs. FGD participants in POC 1 on October 9, 2023 stated that UNMISS advised, offered technical support, and coordinated with regional actors to implement the revitalized agreement while assisting women, youth, civil society, and other marginalized groups to participate in the peace process. However, other respondents disagreed with this statement, arguing that UNMISS did not follow its mandate of protecting and providing humanitarian assistance, further asserting that assistance in the various POCs was inadequate. They claimed that the POCs had turned into civilian traps, and UNMISS did not act, leaving many civilians vulnerable. The researcher analyzed that UNMISS's response to the situation, referring to various respondents in the FGDs and KIIs conducted within the two POCs, indicated dissatisfaction with UNMISS's mandate in Juba, Central Equatoria State. This research echoed findings in a UN document, where representatives of over 50 countries convened in San Francisco, California, on April 25, 1945, to begin crafting the UN Charter, which was ultimately approved on June 25, 1945.

This ties back to the violent incidents in South Sudan since 2013, which involved ethno-political disputes and competition among political elites for control over power and resources, leading to the deterioration of national identity and state institutions. The findings also aligned with the advice of Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), which stated that a response rate of 20% or more is adequate for research to provide an acceptable and dependable representation of population opinions. The researcher achieved a response rate of 48% and 28% through effective data collection procedures, particularly by providing respondents with study instruments to complete at their convenience.

Table 2: Challenges UNMISS Faces in Executing Its Mandate on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons

Challenges UNMISS face in executing mandate on protection of internally displaced persons	F	%	M	%	Grand Total	%
Government Restriction	34	15%	72	32%	106	48%
Inadequate resources and poor leadership with regard to their mandate		0%	18	8%	18	8%
Protection of civilians	18	8%		0%	18	8%
Weak Political Commitment and lack of Peace to keep	2	1%	76	35%	78	35%
Grand Total	54	25%	166	75%	220	100%

Source: Generated from primary data (2023)

The research study revealed that the primary challenges faced by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in executing its mandate to protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) were government regulations, accounting for 48% of the total responses, and weak political commitment and lack of peacekeeping efforts, which made up 35%. The researcher collected information on the difficulties encountered by UNMISS in carrying out its mandate to protect IDPs. These challenges included government restrictions, insufficient resources, ineffective leadership, inadequate civilian protection, and weak political commitment. The responses of 34 females and 72 males revealed that government-imposed restrictions on UNMISS were a significant concern during the implementation of protective measures for IDPs at the POCs in Juba.

Interestingly, 18 males reported facing obstacles due to insufficient resources and ineffective leadership concerning UNMISS's mission. Conversely, 18 females affirmed that some protection was available within the POCs. Additionally, a total of 78 individuals, comprising 2 females and 76 males, believed that the issues in South Sudan stemmed from insufficient political commitment and a lack of peacekeeping efforts. The research also highlighted the challenging dilemmas faced by UNMISS in addressing IDPs who committed offenses under its authority. The mission was left with questions about which legislation should be enforced to combat or prevent crimes within civilian protection sites. However, if UNMISS were to enforce South Sudanese law without official authorization or implicit authority as an occupying force, it might be argued that UNMISS lacked the legal foundation necessary for constructing a criminal judicial system inside the POCs. The findings of this research

corroborated earlier findings from the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), emphasizing that IDPs living in camps often lack adequate physical protection. Specifically, camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda are known to pose heightened risks of sexual assault against women and coerced child soldier recruiting. In regions such as Darfur, Sudan, and Chad, there have been instances when camps were targeted by individuals seeking retribution against the families of rival tribes or who wished to expel fighters hiding among IDPs.

In practice, providing physical protection for peacekeepers can be hindered by various factors, including inadequate resources, lack of motivation, and an inability to perform assigned tasks. Additionally, their actions may be perceived as biased toward one party in the conflict, requiring greater efforts to achieve sustainable peace rather than merely maintaining it. The response rates of 48% and 35% align with the guidelines established by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), asserting that a response rate of 20% or above is adequate for research to offer a credible representation of the population's opinions. The data collection garnered response rates of 48% and 35%, which were relatively high.

The computed χ^2 value for the perceptions of effectiveness indicated a p-value of 0.02, suggesting a statistically significant relationship between gender and perceptions of UNMISS's effectiveness ($p < 0.05$). This suggests that male and female respondents perceive the effectiveness of UNMISS differently, highlighting the necessity for gender-sensitive considerations in peacekeeping initiatives.

1.7 Conclusion

The findings indicate that security remains the primary concern for IDPs, with the majority expressing fear of returning home due to ongoing violence, land disputes, and inadequate legal protections. Despite UNMISS's presence, IDPs highlighted gaps in internal security within PoCs, exposing them to gender-based violence, theft, and communal conflicts. Findings from the study confirm reluctance among different stakeholders in implementing the United Nations guidelines on IDPs in Juba City County.

1.8 Recommendations

The following recommendations were suggested as points of action by different stakeholders for the effective implementation of the United Nations Guidelines on the Internally Displaced people in Juba City County. Security Enhancement: Strengthening UNMISS and local law enforcement's rapid response capabilities and community-based security initiatives is critical. And Strengthening Governance and Trust: Enhancing government accountability, participatory decision-making, and legal reforms will rebuild IDP confidence in state-led reintegration efforts.

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