

Site and Shelter Assessment: UNMISS Compound Bentiu

Summary

Observations

- Severe overcrowding with lack of basic infrastructures
- Settlement is 'organic' and unplanned, little space between shelters, no fire breaks
- Inadequate shelters mostly self-built using local materials
- Site has been levelled, all black cotton soil

Actions

- Site planning advice is needed in order to decongest site and ensure maximum dignity and safety
- Shelter strategy required to define the shelter response and what NFIs are needed
- Distribution of emergency assistance NFIs are needed
- Implement contingency flood mitigation planning for prolonged displacement into the rainy season

Background

This report has been prepared by the South Sudan Shelter Cluster Coordinator, Margo Baars and Technical Support Elizabeth Palmer.

The aim of the mission was to undertake the Inter Agency rapid Assessment of the IDP camp in UNMISS Bentiu. The site was developed for POC in response to the displacement due to the fighting. This report is primarily focused on site density, infrastructure and facilities, and shelter in the site.

Description of sites currently housing displaced people:

The IDP population is separated into two POC sites within the UNMISS base.

1. Vulnerable and Non-South Sudanese Site (Named KATYA)

Informal partially fenced area approximately 1.1 ha (144 x 79m) located directly to the north of the MONBAT compound. This houses two rub halls, only one is currently occupied with approximately 76 displaced people, predominantly foreign nationals. This site has been used to facilitate the extraction of foreign nationals and vulnerable individuals for airlift.

IDPs are sharing this open space with no separation or privacy screens. Latrines are provided outside but washing, changing and laundry facilities are not clear. Cooking is taking place outside the entrance, waste is burnt and an apparent spontaneous communal 'kitchen' is near the entrance, inside.

The current accommodation provided in this site is only meant for 72 hours stay while people are prepared for relocation. It is not suitable for any other purpose in its current form.

The site could potentially be developed for a contingency influx. By sphere standards, this would accommodate 263 people.

2. IDP Site (Names SOLOMON 1 & 2)

Site area 7.24 ha (rough perimeter approximately 204m x 354m) in total, within the site boundary which is formed out of large berm approximately 2m high. A water-filled moat lines the north and west boundaries. Newly created trenches line the east and south boundaries, the soil taken for berms.

The site has been levelled. A perimeter road runs on the inside of the bunds, a main intersecting road divides the site almost at mid point.

The NORTH sector (named SOLOMON 1 = 4.15 ha) of the site is occupied by all the IDPs, approximately **7,500 IDPs (UNMISS estimate, pending confirmation)**. **Current density is 5,5m² / person.**

The SOUTH sector of the site (named SOLOMON 2 = 3.08 ha) has just been completed with levelling. Two interim roads run laterally. Some spontaneous settlement has already begun in this section.

The defensive berms are almost completed around the site perimeter.

The site is due to be decongested by relocating some IDPs to Solomon 2. **The density of the site will reduce to 9.6m²/person.** While this is severely below Sphere standards it should be noted that:

1. The size of the inhabited site is constrained by the protection capacity of the Mongolian Battalion
2. Services for the site in the form of communal and administrative infrastructure can potentially be located to the south and east of Solomon site, outside the primary berms, but still within the UNMISS base and within evacuation distance to the protected zone. More consultation with UNMISS is needed.
3. Sphere standards of 45m² / person are also intended to incorporate areas of communal structures and administration. (Occupancy of the 7.4ha site to Sphere standard would be 1,609 people).

Other infrastructure and services:

- 3 no. double pit latrines have been constructed out of Hesco materials.
- One UNICEF health clinic
- Site management tent
- One site light
- Informal markets
- 5 water points

Site Coordinates Solomon 1 & 2

	Latitude	Longitude
NW Corner	9°20'13.86"N	29°46'59.61"E
NE Corner	9°20'15.82"N	29°47'5.77"E
SW Corner	9°20'3.29"N	29°47'2.99"E
SE Corner	9°20'4.98"N	29°47'9.48"E

Description of UNMISS Base:

The UNMISS base is approximately 154.45 ha (1.5 km x 1 km), situated 3km north of the airport at Rubkona, 3.6km north of the town Rubkona and 9.6km north of the town of Bentiu by road.

At the time of the assessment, protocol for movement along the road is a convoy of 2 vehicles, with a 6pm curfew in place. There is a bridge separating Rubkona and Bentiu.

The site has been well established with a significant berm along most of the perimeter observed along the north and west perimeter. The south and east perimeter were not surveyed due to security concern and lack of time. However, observation of the satellite imagery has identified a distinctive line around the base.

The topography is very level, the accommodation blocks to the south have apparently been raised approximately 1m above the surrounding area to minimize standing water during the rains. The entire area is thought to consist of black cotton soil, but site improvements to roads and the compound are of murram.

Staff accommodation and site infrastructure: UMNIS have a large compound of a variety of containers. Of these, 3 offices previously occupied by UNHCR can be made available for humanitarian accommodation, as well as the availability of shared cafeteria and ablutions. In addition, there is potentially storage available in the form of a large rub hall, rough dimensions 450m², which also has a raised concrete base of an area of approximately 100m², and containers are also potentially available. Allocation of existing storage facilities to the humanitarian response requires further discussion with UMNIS Bentiu.

Shelter:

The shelters in the site are predominantly self-built using a combination of local materials salvaged from the area, namely small timber poles and long grasses, and what people had carried in, such as sheets. 600 plastic sheets have been distributed, allowing beneficiaries to construct traditional shelters that mirror the local vernacular. However, this represents approximately one third of the households.

Shelter sizes vary, some are as little as 4m², average 12m². Occupancy could not be established on this mission. Spacing between shelters is as little as 10cm in some cases, but average 1.5 m in Solomon¹.

IDPs have brought a limited range of NFI with them. The mission was not able to establish the extent of damage and looting of people's homes, though it is clear Rubkona market has been the worst hit for looting, and physical damage to residential areas appears to be limited. Some people indicated they were able to leave the site to access local markets. A market for grass was observed on the roadside just outside the base. Better understanding of local markets and access to those markets by the people in the site is required.

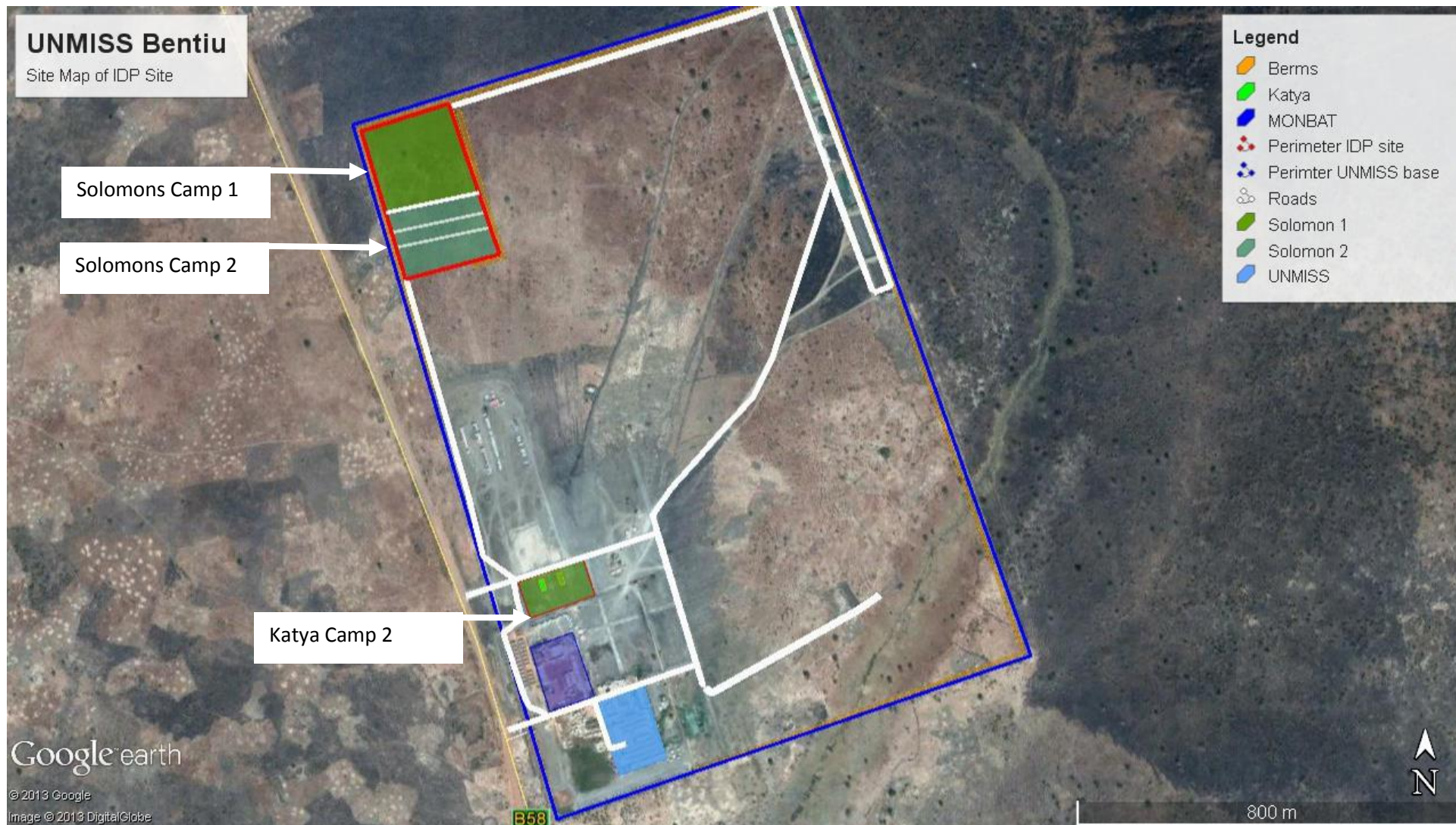
Recommendations for IDP Response:

- Comprehensive site planning is needed to ensure that all sectors are adequately provided for and that the density of the site does not compromise the safety and dignity of the IDPs.
- Spacing between shelters must be increased to meet minimum fire safety requirements with appropriate fire breaks established.
- Sanitation lines and refuse pits are required.
- Comprehensive camp management advocacy must be conducted to minimize open defecation, waste around the camp, fire awareness and preparedness and other fundamental safety practices.
- Firewood will be a significant issue for the site and could lead to conflicts with the surrounding populations as well as protection risks for anyone leaving the site to gather materials.
- The site will take on standing water during the rainy season. Contingency planning for prolonged displacement should include drainage channels dug, raised internal floor levels in the shelters and raised levels around latrines. Resurfacing of the access roads with murram should also be investigated
- A comprehensive shelter strategy is required to ensure adequate shelter for the displaced people. This should take into account the local vernacular and available materials, while also planning for the possibility of protracted displacement into the rainy season. The local market of readily available

materials (grasses) should be encouraged with advocacy for the provision shelter construction and a robust environmental management campaign to protect the areas resources.

- Additional materials may be required to enhance the durability of the traditional shelters.
- Household items are needed, including blankets and nets. The temperature was noted to drop severely at night and the presence of the water-filled berms increases the mosquito presence and malarial risk.

Aerial Photo of site with IDP Camp illustrated:





Berm and water filled 'moat' along west and north boundary edge.



Berm along east boundary newly constructed



View of site from NW corner



Examples of traditional shelter construction out of the long grasses growing locally



Unicef Health Clinic



Informal market



Water Point



Local grasses for construction