

Civil Affairs Division

FACT SHEET

What is the Civil Affairs Division?

Civil Affairs (CA) is a substantive civilian component reporting to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General.

CA is a reliable bridge between UNMIS and the community.

What is the mandate of Civil Affairs?

UNMIS CA focuses on the following four areas:

- Conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution;
- Support to emerging governance structures at the local level (state and county);
- Support to popular representation and accountability (political space);
- Cross mission support (for example, support to Political Affairs, Rule of Law, Protection, Military and UN Police).

What are the activities of Civil Affairs?

The activities of CA at the field level include:

- Provide analytical information to assist in conflict mitigation, with special focus on root causes, actors, dynamics and interests, and impact of local conflicts on Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation;
- Support and coordinate peace/reconciliation initiatives at the local level in coordination with authorities and tribal leaders;
- Assist in the set up and proper functioning of local government institutions, and coordinate with the UN Development Programme on development of governance structures;
- Regular consultations with political parties and civil society groups at the state level on issues of political participation and representation as well as institutional, legal and capacity challenges.

- Assist in the implementation of UNMIS Quick Impact Projects.

Where is Civil Affairs located?

A team of 52 national and international professionals and 53 national and international UN Volunteers work in field offices in the Three Areas (Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states) and the 10 states in Southern Sudan. Khartoum Headquarters and Juba Regional Headquarters guide and coordinate work in their respective areas.

What are the achievements of Civil Affairs?

Some of the achievements of CA include:

- Mitigation of conflict between the Misseriya and Dinka Ngok in Abyei; Nuba and Misseriya in Southern Kordofan; Murle, Dinka Bor and Lou Nuer in Jonglei.
- Support with logistics and at times mediation of peace conferences between the Rizeigat, Dinka and Misseriya in Aweil in 2008; between Nuba and Misseriya in Abu Junuk (Southern Kordofan) in 2008; Al Farshaya in Southern Kordofan in 2009; Bentiu Peace Conference in 2009; Yiröl Peace Conference in 2009; and multiple peace building initiatives throughout the Three Areas and southern states.
- Design of a comprehensive approach on the issue of popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states.
- Assistance to the Abyei Administration, to Southern Kordofan government and to County Commissioners' Forum in Equatorias.
- Organization of the first Southern Political Parties roundtable on electoral issues in Juba in 2008, then again throughout the 10 southern states in 2009 and 2010.

- Conduct of several CPA awareness workshops at the local level (average one per month).
- Workshop on implementation of the CPA with participation of former Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi, academia, civil society groups and opinion makers in Khartoum (2008).
- Support for issue of border demarcation to Sudanese north-south border committee.

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