

Back from Wau, UN South Sudan envoy says security improved, people returning home

14 September 2017 – The security situation north-western South Sudan has improved with displaced people returning home, the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the African country has said, holding the situation in Wau as a ‘model’ for other parts of the country where displacement rose so far this year.

‘I am pleased to see that the local authorities, the police and National Security have worked to improve the security environment,’ the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to South Sudan, David Shearer, [said](#) while visiting Wau.

‘This collaboration could represent a new model for the return of displaced people,’ he said.

‘It is important that people return to their homes voluntarily,’ Mr. Shearer added, ‘and for that to happen they need to feel safe and confident about their future.’

The number of displaced people living in the UNMISS Protection of Civilians (POC) site has fallen from 38,000 to 32,500 over the last two months, he noted, adding that ‘many of those people have returned home to cultivate their land.’

Tens of thousands of people fled violence in April amid revenge attacks between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and the SPLA-In Opposition fighters.

Speaking to reporters earlier today in Juba, Mr. Shearer credited more active patrolling by National Security and the police in Wau for helping to stabilize the area.