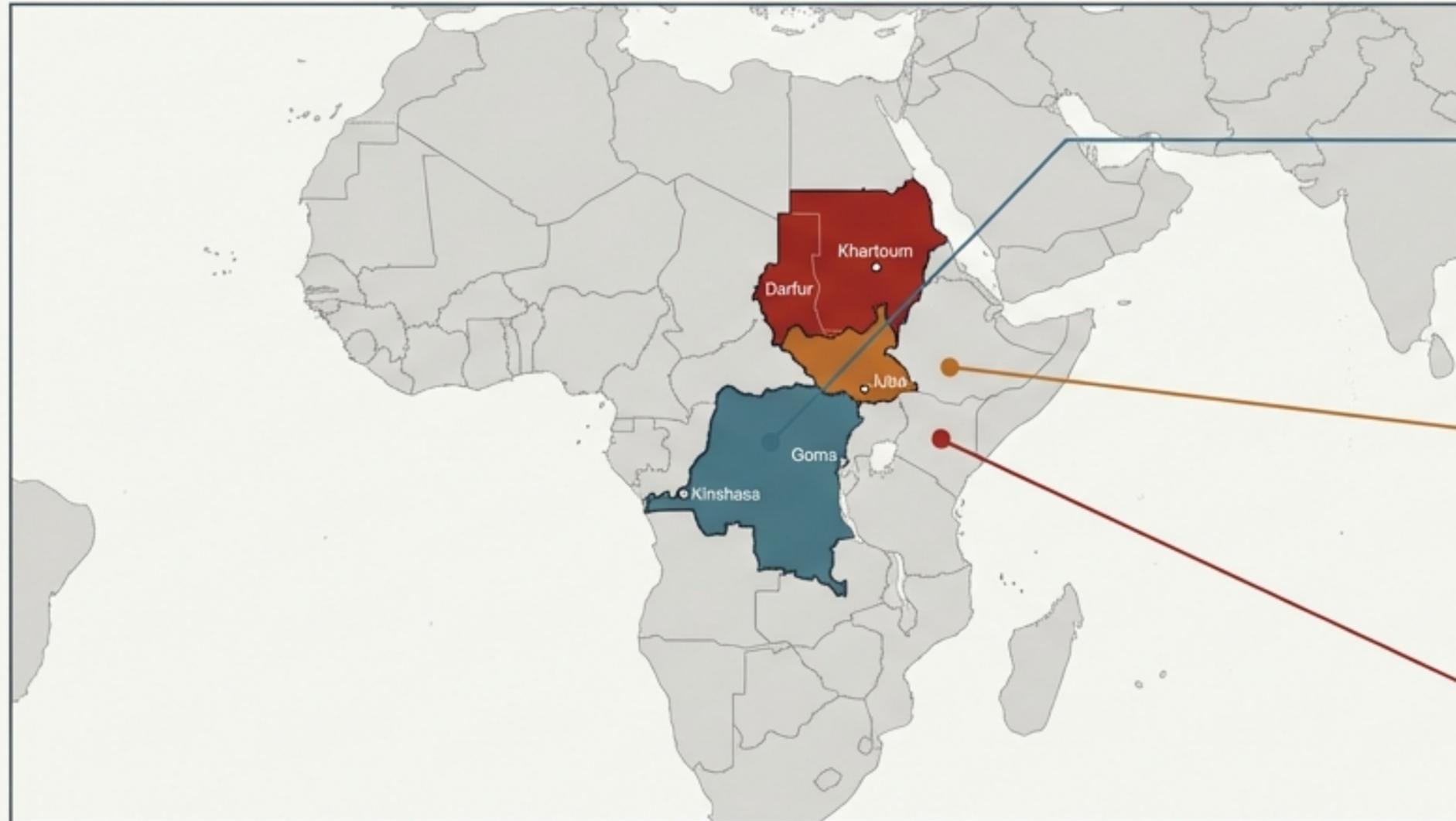


Operations & Security Review



DRC: SANDF MONUSCO WITHDRAWAL

South African National Defence Force (SANDF) confirms expedited withdrawal from MONUSCO force, impacting operational capacity in eastern DRC. Security vacuum concerns persist amidst ongoing conflict.

SOUTH SUDAN: UNMISS PATROL REDUCTION

UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) cuts patrols by up to 70% due to resource constraints and severe logistical challenges, limiting civilian protection efforts.

SUDAN: DIPLOMATIC & CONFLICT DEVELOPMENTS

Diplomatic channels report direct contact with rebel leadership in Goma. Escalation of conflict continues in Darfur, with new humanitarian access hurdles reported.

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT: Peacekeeping capacity faces critical strain as SANDF announces MONUSCO withdrawal and UNMISS cuts patrols by up to 70%, while diplomatic channels open directly with rebel leadership in Goma.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW: A SYSTEM UNDER STRESS

STRATEGIC SHIFT (DRC)



South Africa confirms withdrawal of 700+ troops from MONUSCO by end of 2026.

Marks the end of 27 years of continuous SANDF deployment.

Driver: Domestic budget constraints and need to "realign resources" away from UN mandates.

OPERATIONAL CRISIS (SOUTH SUDAN)



UNMISS forced to cut protection patrols by 40–70% due to budget reductions.

Coincides with surge in violence in Jonglei: 280,000 newly displaced.

Risk: Security Council warns of return to 2013/2016 violence levels.

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY (SUDAN)



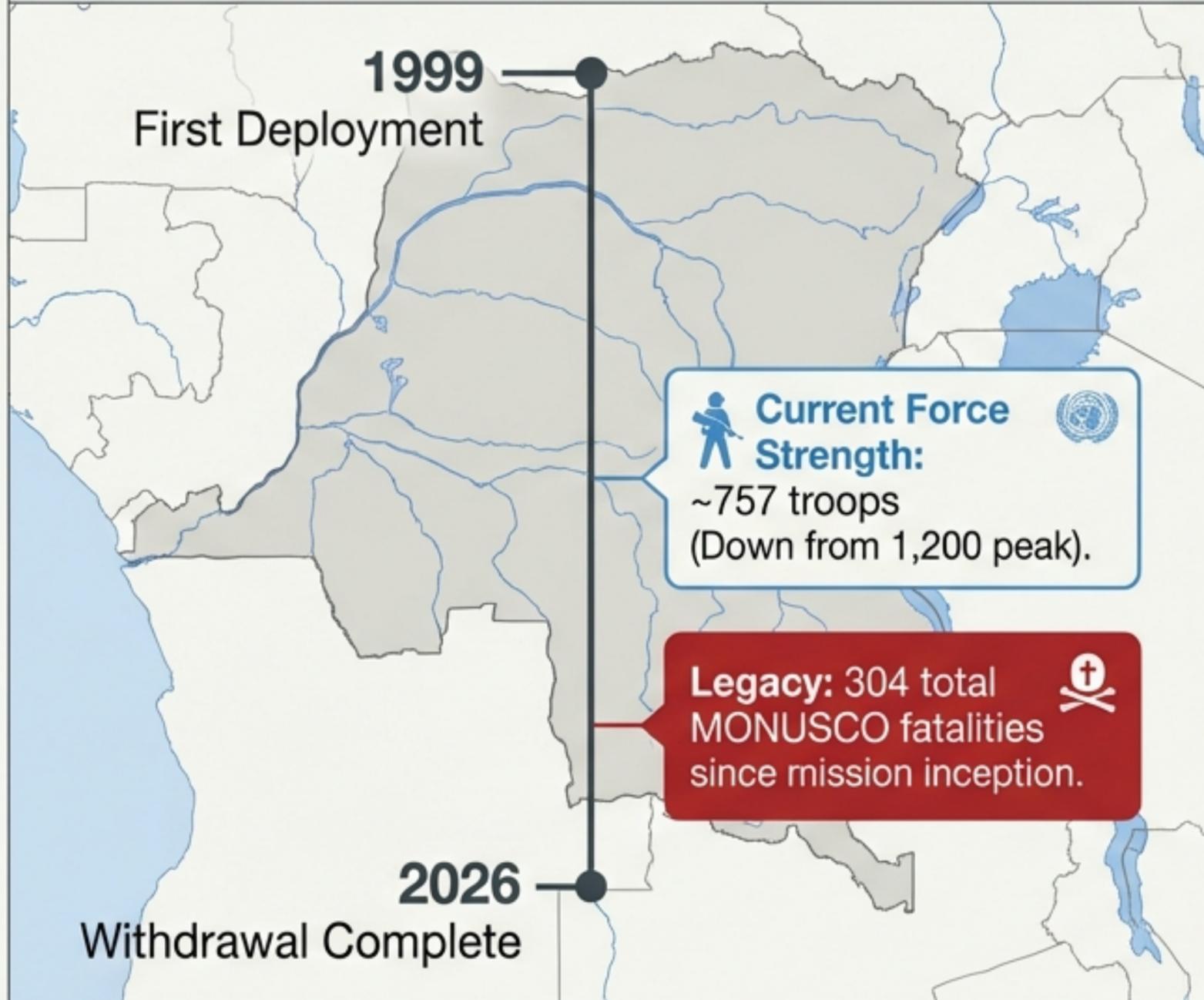
'Quintet' calls for urgent Ramadan Truce as airstrikes intensify.

Drone strikes hit schools in Al-Rahad and WFP warehouses in Kadugli.

Status: 30 million people in need of assistance.

THE END OF AN ERA: SANDF EXITS THE DRC

DATA & TIMELINE



NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

Strategic Rationale

President Ramaphosa cites the need to “consolidate and realign resources.”

SANDF facing severe budget constraints and ageing equipment. Domestic demands (border safeguarding) are taking priority.

Impact Analysis

Leaves South Africa with no external peacekeeping deployments for the first time in over two decades.

Government insists it will maintain peace efforts via SADC and African Union partnerships rather than UN mandates.

REALPOLITIK IN GOMA: UN MEETS M23 ON REBEL GROUND



THE EVENT

Feb 12-13, 2026: Acting Head of **MONUSCO** lands in Goma—occupied by **M23** since Jan 2025—to meet rebel leadership.

THE AGENDA

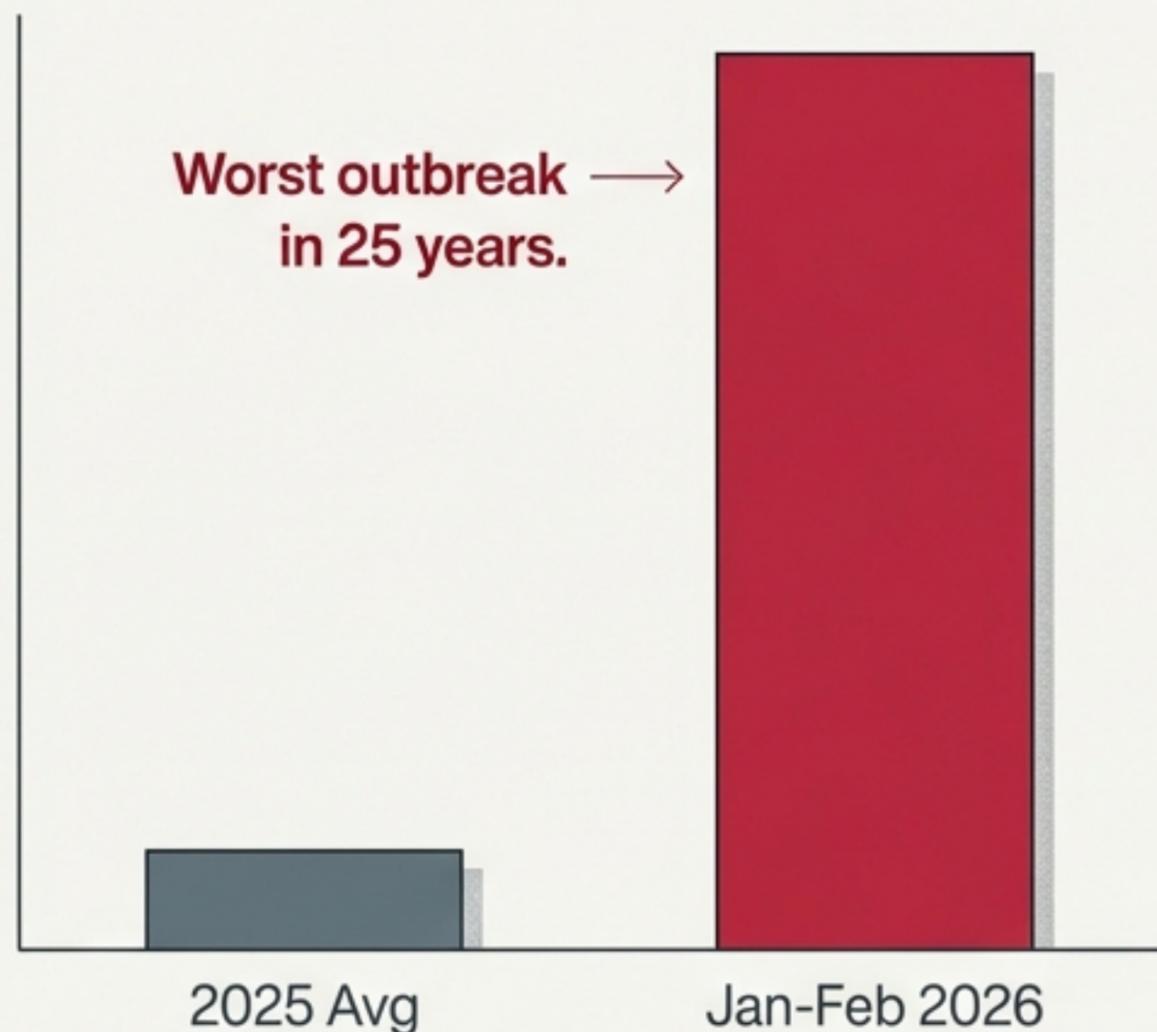
Establishing a **ceasefire** monitoring mechanism under the **Doha process**. Rebels promised “full security” for UN verification teams.

REGIONAL HORIZON

- **Angola Proposal:** **Ceasefire** effective Feb 18, 2026.
- **Kinshasa:** Accepted “in principle”.
- **M23:** Claims they were “not invited” to discuss the date.

THE HUMAN COST OF STALEMATE IN NORTH KIVU

CHOLERA RESURGENCE IN NORTH KIVU



KEY STATISTICS

1,300+

Suspected Cases
(Jan-Feb 2026)

35

Deaths YTD

2025 Total: 71,000 cases.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

 UN CERF allocated \$750,000 for immediate response.

 **Obstacles:** WASH services “gravely underfunded.” Access to treatment centers blocked by conflict lines.

 **MONUSCO Action:** Deploying aerial reconnaissance to Uvira to support ceasefire.

SOUTH SUDAN: UNMISS AT THE BREAKING POINT

THE CRUNCH

SURGING VIOLENCE

Jonglei Crisis: 280,000 displaced.

350 attacks on aid workers (2025).

98,000 cholera cases nationwide.



Protection patrols cut by 40%.

70% reduction where bases closed.

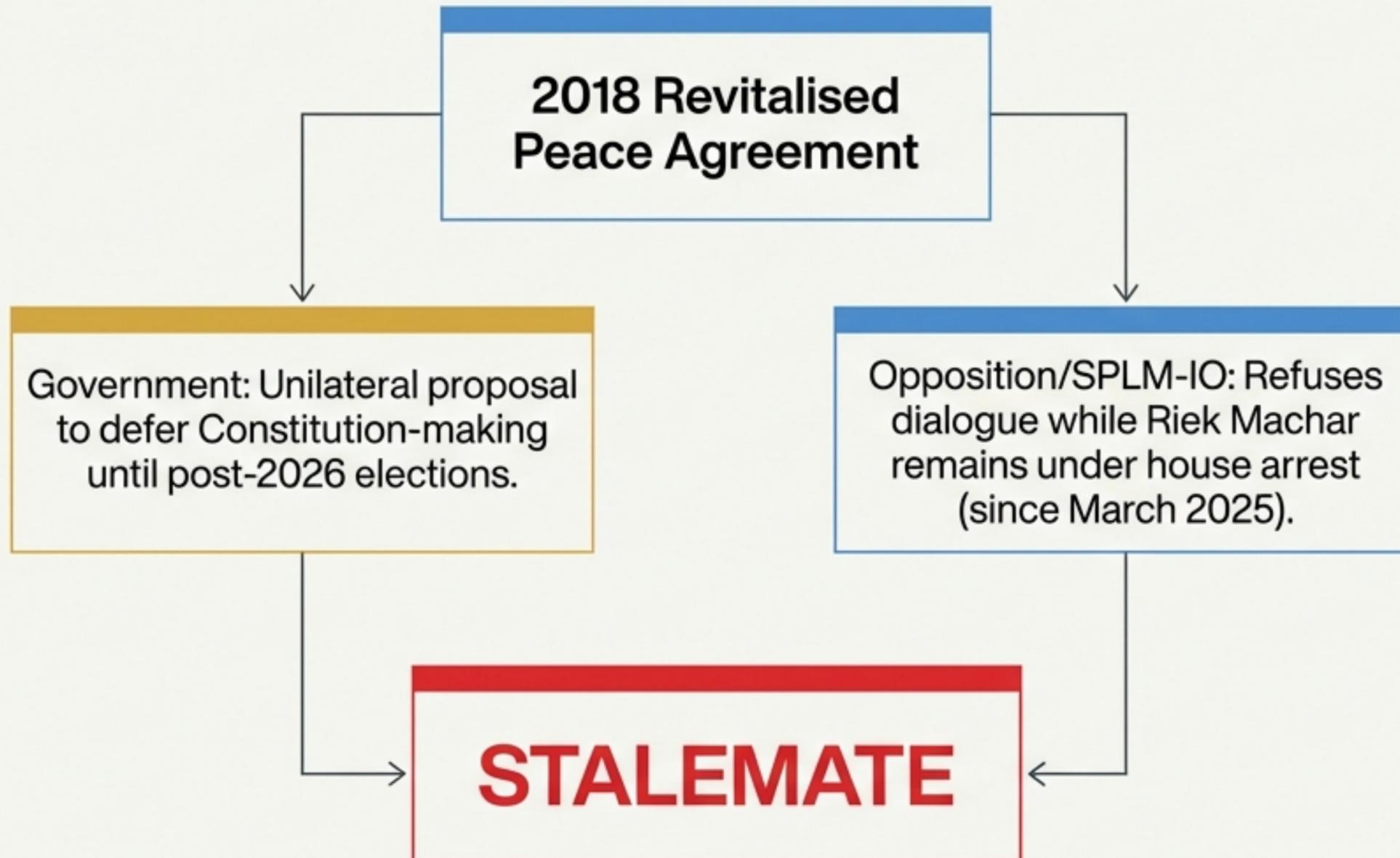
Cause: Severe budget cuts.

SHRINKING CAPACITY



“The presence of UNMISS continues to matter a lot... [but] cost-cutting measures have reduced protection patrols.” — **Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Peacekeeping Chief.**

ROOT CAUSE: SOUTH SUDAN'S POLITICAL DEADLOCK

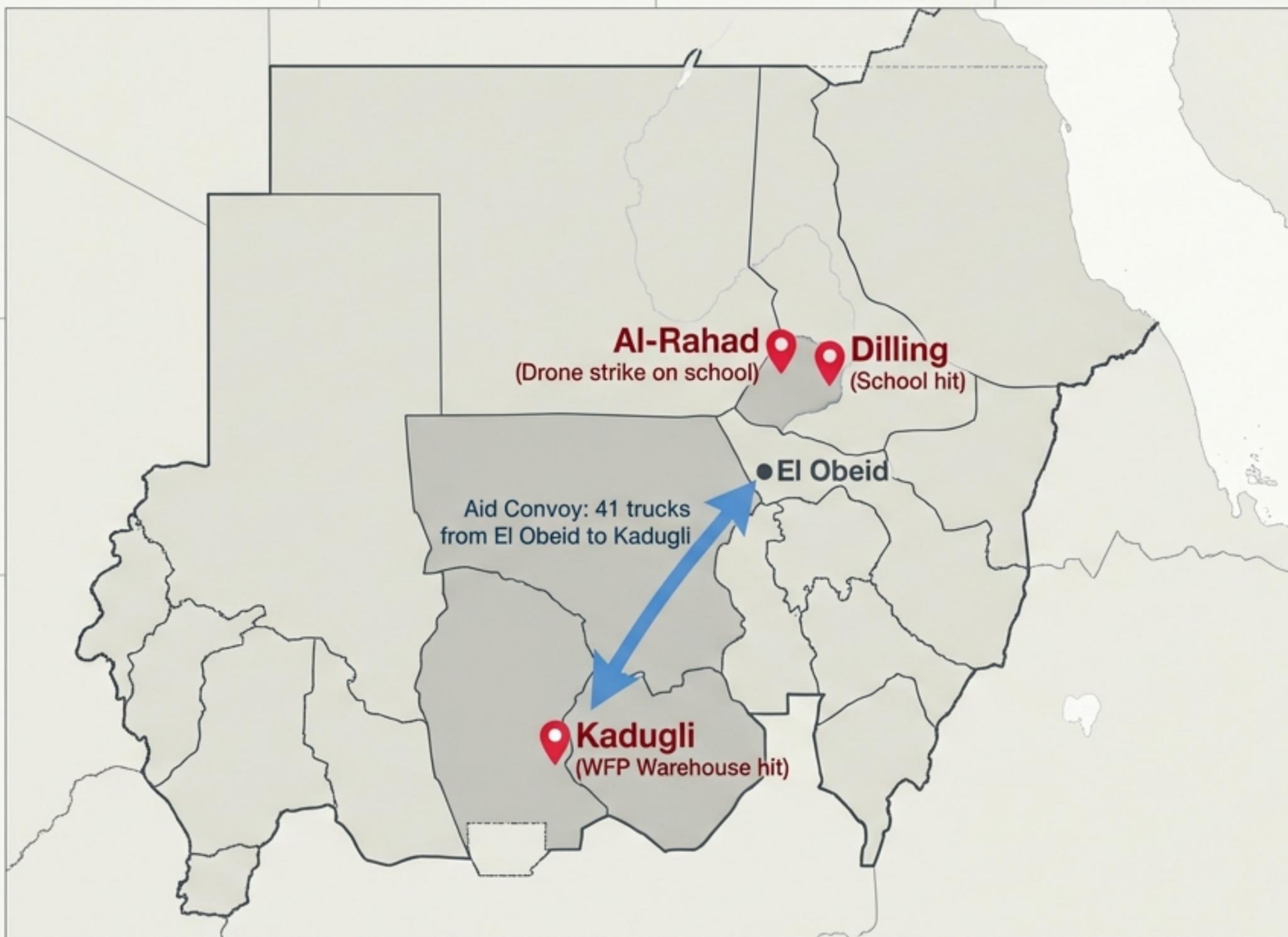


Security Council Briefing (Feb 10, 2026)

- Warning of a return to 2013/2016 violence levels.
- “No military solution” exists.
- Government demands to close UN bases in Wau and Bentiu would “severely threaten” protection mandates.



SUDAN: THE WAR ON CIVILIANS INTENSIFIES



The Quintet Statement (Feb 11, 2026)

Members: UN, AU, IGAD,
EU, Arab League.

- **The Ask:**
Immediate Ramadan Truce.
- **The Warning:**
Kordofan region risks becoming “another El Fasher” (site of mass atrocities).

GLOBAL RADAR: SECURITY COUNCIL & PERIPHERAL UPDATES

MID-FEBRUARY 2026 SCHEDULE

FEB 12 

VOTE: 1988 Sanctions (Afghanistan)

Renew sanctions mandate, address humanitarian concerns.

• **FEB 13** 

BRIEFING: Syria (Political/Humanitarian)

Special Envoy & OCHA to report on current situation.

• **FEB 18** 

BRIEFING: Middle East (Palestinian Question)

Focus on West Bank land control and settlement activities.



KOSOVO (UNMIK)

SRSB Peter Due meets Pristina Mayor Përparim Rama (Feb 12)

Focus on inter-community trust building and cooperation.



GLOBAL POLICING

UN Security Council Police Summit (Feb 5)

Outcome: Urgent need for stronger support for police units in peace ops.



STRATEGIC HORIZON: ADAPTATION IN A CONSTRAINED ERA



Traditional Peacekeeping

Heavy “Blue Helmet” footprint, static bases (MONUSCO exit, UNMISS patrol cuts).



Hybrid Engagement



Regional enforcement (SADC), high-level direct diplomacy with non-state actors (UN meeting M23 in Goma).

WATCHLIST BOX (LATE FEB 2026)

- **Feb 18:** Will Angola-proposed ceasefire in DRC hold despite M23 exclusion claims?
- **South Sudan:** Negotiations on closure of Wau and Bentiu bases.
- **Sudan:** Monitoring adoption of Quintet’s ‘Ramadan Truce’.