



Southern Sudan – Malakal Crisis
OCHA Situation Report No. 5
Reporting Period 1st – 2nd March 2009

Situation

1. On the 24th of February 2009 at around 08:20 hours, conflict arose between the SPLA forces and SAF-JIU leading to heavy exchange of gunfire around Malakal town until around 15:00 hours. The situation caught the civilian population and the humanitarian community by surprise as most people remained indoors or trapped in their offices. Following the cessation of hostilities a total of 110 UN and NGO staff were relocated to UNMIS compound and 103 were temporarily relocated to Juba/Khartoum on 26th February, 2009. OCHA/RCSO and UNJLC are working closely in coordinating Humanitarian assessments and monitoring the situation.
2. On the same day (24/02/09) the Government of Southern Sudan Vice President arrived in Malakal around 17:00 to resolve the conflict. This was followed by the arrival of the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) and the UNMIS regional coordinator on the 25th of February 2009. Their meetings led to the withdrawal of the military from both sides to the barracks leading to the establishment of a buffer zone patrolled by UNMIS.

NOTICE BOARD

- ✚ **Notice 1:** Inter-Agency assessment continues as well as situation monitoring.
- ✚ **Notice 2:** All humanitarian agencies planning to send staff to Malakal should clear with UNDSS and the Head of OCHA who is in the field (Malakal) and can be reached on pendletonj@un.org, +8821643338075, +8821621117239, and 256477111583.
- ✚ **Notice 3:** Inputs for sitreps can be emailed to OCHA (chatora@un.org, CC: pendletonj@un.org).

Recent Developments

- 1) The security situation is generally calm and continues to improve with evidence of normal activities taking place in town. Joint initiatives by the state Government security committee and the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) are being implemented. The UNMIS force protection continues to patrol the buffer zone while the Joint Patrolling Unit commenced patrolling in town. However, law and order situation needs improvement considering that looting is still being reported.
- 2) The Troop Contributing Contingent (TCC) - (UNMIS) continues to secure UN assets at the Airops complex, the aviation fuel complex and WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR ware houses North of town as well as WFP & UNICEF offices and guesthouses South of the town.
- 3) A UN flight with force protection onboard relocated 4 international NGO staff (3 males and 1 female) from Tonga to Malakal.
- 4) Relocation of goods from the UN ware houses to UNMIS compound is in progress. However, storage facilities remain a challenge.
- 5) Solidarity NGO water bowzers managed to supply water to the refugee camp hosting Ethiopians with escort from the UNMIS force protection team.

Humanitarian response

1. Following the assessments conducted, there is no significant number of IDPs found. However, there are reports from Jonglei RCSO suggesting that about 852 IDPs (unverified) from Malakal registered by the SSRRC in Khorfulus County. On 2nd March 2009, a local NGO operating in Baliet County informed UNMIS PoC that 700 IDPs arrived in Baliet Town as a result of the fighting in Malakal (from 24-25 February 2009). On 2 March 2009, a total of 3,500 litres of pure drinking water was delivered at SOS Children Village by UNMIS Military as a result of UNMIS PoC continued engagement and advocacy with UN Military.



2. A cumulative total of 66 people were treated at Malakal hospital and the total deaths confirmed from the 24 – 28 February stood at 31 civilians. This figure excludes those who died and were immediately buried as suggested by reports from Assossa community where a shell is reported to have killed about 7 people instantly.
3. On the 2 March an inter-agency assessment team flew to Lela, Mak Shellac, way Shellac and Waialua south as well as surrounding areas. Details of the assessment will be in the next sitrep.

Findings from warehouse assessments

An inter-agency team conducted warehouse assessments over the weekend in order to get first hand information on the level of loss and stock availability. The information collected from the assessment will be useful input for emergency response planning. The assessment team was led by UN OCHA and comprised of UNJLC, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, UNRCSO, UNHCR and WVI.

- ❖ UNICEF has 8 rubhalls and 21 containers which were stocked with educational materials, NFIs, WASH materials, medicines, bicycles and motorbikes. Only one rubhall with educational materials, plastic sheeting and mats was looted. It was estimated that half of the stock in that warehouse was looted, including a bicycle and two motorbikes (stock to be confirmed).
- ❖ UNHCR has one warehouse (rubhall) in the area which was stocked with NFIs (soaps, blankets, cupboards, office materials etc). Food items (Salt, Oil, and Sorghum). Half of the stocks in this warehouse were looted.
- ❖ WVI have one warehouse (rubhall) in the area, with a stock balance reported of 390 NFIs kits, 600 mosquito nets, and 300 cooking pots from the CPP, as well as ECHO funded commodities, NFI's 260, 250 buckets, 450 bucket lids, and 173 cooking sets. All the commodities were looted. The warehouse is now empty.
- ❖ FAO has 1 rubhall, though it had been broken into, it is not likely stocks were taken, due to the nature and weight of items (FAO, to confirm stock, balance)
- ❖ WFP warehouse compound consists of eight (8) rubhalls, of which none had been entered, though it's been reported that three (3) motorbikes and two (2) cycles were stolen.
- ❖ Medair (CPP, partner) reports that none of their NFI/ES stocks were looted; hence stock balance for medair is NFI 428 kits

Humanitarian Coordination

RCSO, OCHA and UNJLC are coordinating assessments and humanitarian response with UN agencies and NGOs present. While the UNMIS – TCC is providing force protection during assessments.

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Disclaimer: This report is a consolidation of information from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, UNMIS, NGOs, GoSS-SSRRC and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified and does not represent the official position of the United Nations. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: chatora@un.org or pendletonj@un.org.