



**South Sudan Crisis
Situation Report #1
July 12, 2016**

Situation Overview

Tensions in Juba between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)—loyal to South Sudan President Salva Kiir—and First Vice President Riek Machar's forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO), erupted into violence in the past week. On July 7, SPLA and SPLA-IO forces entered into an altercation in the Juba suburb of Gudele. The confrontation culminated in the death of multiple SPLA soldiers and the wounding of one SPLA-IO soldier. Statements from both parties blame the other for opening fire first.

In addition to the widely reported Gudele clash, small arms fire occurred in several locations throughout Juba on the night of July 7. Relief workers reported an increase in harassment by armed combatants at key checkpoints throughout the night. During the clashes, two humanitarian staff were injured in crossfire while trying to seek shelter. The staff were not part of International Medical Corps. Fighting ensued from July 7-11, with heavy small arms fired throughout Juba. Clashes continued as President Kiir and First Vice President Machar made remarks to the press marking the fifth anniversary of South Sudan's independence at the presidential compound. Since July 7, the South Sudan Ministry of Health has declared in a statement that at least 272 have been killed in the outbreak of violence including 33 civilians. The death toll is likely to increase as the Ministry of Health collects data on the deceased from continued fighting that lasted through July 11.

There are reports of masses of civilians seeking protection outside UNMISS base in Topping near the Juba International Airport. Reports indicate that access to protected areas within the UNMISS base is not being granted. Other civilians are seeking shelter within NGO compounds and religious buildings for protection. Others have fled to nearby rural areas.

On July 12, Juba remained relatively calm after President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar announced a ceasefire. Troops have been ordered to cease fighting and return to their barracks. The Juba airport, which remained closed from July 8-11 as government and oppositions fought for control, restarted operations and granted security clearance for charters and commercial flights to depart Juba. Multiple humanitarian organizations and embassies continue to evacuate their staff from the capital while the ceasefire holds. As of July 11, commercial airlines, including Kenya Airways, Rwandan Air, and others have cancelled their flights. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) had also ceased flights given the security situation.

Humanitarian Needs

Since the fighting began on July 7, International Medical Corps has provided emergency health care services at our Primary Health Center (PHC) in Juba, located at the UN Protection of Civilian (PoC) site. International Medical Corps provides emergency, maternity, in-patient, surgical, and primary health care services to the more than 50,000 people seeking refuge in the camp. The facility, which is the only secondary level health facility in the camp, has provided more than 33,000 medical consultations in 2016 to date.



International Medical Corps is acutely aware of the need for humanitarian assistance in the Juba PoC site and is coordinating closely with other humanitarian actors. International Medical Corps is operating the PHC 24 hours a day with ten national staff. International Medical Corps is in constant communication with its staff and will be working to send in a medical team to relieve the current staff. Since July 7, International Medical Corps treated a total of 139 wounded in PoC 1 and 102 in PoC 3. Nine patients have died, and no morgue is available for the deceased—a situation expected to present serious health concerns in the coming days as bodies decompose.

On July 11, the International Medical Corps maternity ward inside the Juba PoC site was hit by shelling, amidst the escalating violence. Since the maternity ward is connected to the PHC, all patients fled, and International Medical Corps' staff carried those who could not flee to the UNMISS Hospital. Three very critical patients who could not be moved remain in the clinic as of July 11.

Due to the flare-up in violence, maintaining operations within the Juba PHC faces major challenges. The clinic has lacked water for four days. The lack of water is tied to the lack of fuel, which is required to run the generators that control the submersible pumps. Additionally, the lack of fuel will also impact International Medical Corps' ability to have electricity in the facility, as well as operate an ambulance. Additional fuel has been requested in the short-term from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). International Medical Corps will attempt to restock its fuel supply or request support from other agencies once coordination mechanisms are restored. Furthermore, stocks of basic pharmaceutical supplies in the PHC are very low. In addition to provisional supplies maintained at the International Medical Corps' compound, MSF and ICRC have also volunteered to provide additional resources. International Medical Corps is waiting for an open route to the PoC to guarantee safe transport of staff and supplies.

In addition to the needs within the PoC, thousands of internally displaced persons have taken refuge from the violence in nearby facilities including the Seventh day Adventist Church compound run by ADRA, Usratuna a local NGO, and areas adjacent to Tongping PoC. ADRA reports 1,500 IDPs have taken shelter within their compound. Exact figures for IDPs in other locations remain unconfirmed. International Medical Corps is working to immediately form a small assessment team consisting of a doctor, nurse, and GBV specialist in order to assess and respond to the emerging needs of the population.

Status of International Medical Corps' Staff

International Medical Corps remains committed to providing humanitarian assistance as the security situation in South Sudan becomes more challenging. On July 11, there was heavy exchange of gunfire outside of the International Medical Corps' compound. All staff are safe and accounted for. However, due to the current security situation, International Medical Corps temporarily relocated staff and maintains emergency staffing levels. From International Medical Corps' Juba team, a core group of four expats remain behind to maintain operations in Juba, as well as to provide support to International Medical Corps' operational sites across the country which continue to run regular operations. Plans to set up a remote management team are in progress.



International Medical Corps' Continued Work at Field Sites

International Medical Corps is operating in seven states across 11 field sites in South Sudan. Overall, the security situation is calm outside of the capital. International Medical Corps field teams continue to provide services while also remaining cognizant of the security situation, and are reviewing scale down and evacuation plans.