

CONSOLIDATED WEEKLY SITREP
UNJLC PAKISTAN
DATE: 21st April 2006

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2. Air Operations
3. Customs and Immigration
4. Roads
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1. SECURITY

Mansehra

- UNDSS Mansehra has revised its security regulations for the Mansehra region. A police escort is no longer required for travel (north or south) on the Karakorum Highway. However verbal security clearance and a police escort remain applicable for all other roads.
 - UNDSS and OCHA are also recommending a one hour call-in to replace the current 30 minute call-in requirement. This is pending approval from Islamabad.

Muzaffarabad

- A peaceful demonstration was held on April 17th over government compensation.
 - UN personnel were requested to avoid the town during the protest.
 - These demonstrations began in Bagh and appear to be spreading over the affected area.

2. AIR OPERATIONS

General

- UNHAS capacity has decreased once again with the redeployment of one Mi-8 on April 17th. This brings the UNHAS fleet down to 12 helicopters.
 - Contracts for the UNHAS Mi-26 and two Kamov 32s have also been cancelled. These will now be redeployed as of April 23rd.
 - The four DFID Mi-8s will cease operations on May 2nd. After this date, the UNHAS fleet will be reduced to four Mi-8s. This residual lift capacity is under 10% of that available to UNHAS until March 31st.
 - These reductions are both due to a funding shortfall and a decision by ERRA that this is the capacity required to serve the humanitarian mission.
 - Passenger flights will continue but on a much reduced schedule, which will come into effect as of May 1st.
 - Special flights will be implemented on a full cost recovery basis.
 - Air cargo delivery will continue but requests will take much longer to implement. A system of prioritisation will also be examined.

- UNHAS, ICRC, Merlin and MSF have all been encountering difficulties obtaining flight authorisation for areas near the Line of Control.
 - This situation is having a severe impact on operations, including hampering access to agency and NGO medical facilities found in the vicinity of the LoC.

Bagh

- A request to fly cargo into Azad Bara in preparation for IDP returns has been refused by the Pakistan Military.
 - The area in question is inaccessible by other means.
 - The AOC is now examining the issue.

3. ROADS

General

- UNJLC field staff are continuing road assessments to collect priority road GPS data and assist in transport requirements.
 - For maps and detailed road assessments go to www.unjlc.org/pakistan.
 - For the latest road status updates and corresponding maps, see www.unjlc.org/pakistan.

Bagh

- The road from Lasdanna to Haji Pir has been cleared and is considered open to traffic.
 - This route has now been assessed and mapped.
 - Chicotti to Chauki has also been assessed and the GPS points entered into the UNJLC GIS database.

Muzaffarabad

- The Neelum valley road remains dangerous and all movements for UN personnel are restricted as per the protocol issued by UNDSS Muzaffarabad.
 - The road from Patika to Bheri is now open to traffic.
- In the Jheelum valley, the roads from Ghari Duphatta to Galian, Hattian to Chinari and Chikar Khas to Bagh via Sudhan Gali are now open.
- IOM and OCHA and NGOs have requested that information on the Lipa, Panjkot, Chamm and Sarli Bacha roads be considered priorities for assessments and updates over the coming period.

6. LOGISTICS

General

- With the withdrawal of free IOM cargo transport, ATLAS Logistique has agreed to increase its capacity available to the humanitarian community within the budget constraints imposed by ERRA.
 - However, due to donor guidelines it cannot accept shipments of reconstruction materials or goods destined for schools.
 - Agencies and NGOs requiring transportation from ATLAS are encouraged to submit their projections as soon as possible.
 - A UNJLC survey of trucking prices has been published on the website. Names of local transport providers can also be found in the UNJLC 'Yellow Pages', available at www.unjlc.org/pakistan.

- Current activity levels remain low as agencies and NGOs await the approval of ERRA to proceed with project planning.
 - ERRA is proving reluctant to approve common service projects. This could place at risk other projects which have already attracted “in principle” agreement.
 - ERRA has also cut ATLAS Logistique’s project by 30%, which together with IOM no longer offering transport will mean a significant reduction of “free” cargo trucking.
 - UNOPS Remote Reconnaissance Response Teams have not gained approval for continuation.
 - The loss of these teams will reduce the quality and quantity of road information available to UNJLC, and the whole humanitarian community.

Bagh

- Rubble clearing has begun again but lack of coordination has been a problem.
 - There have been cases of one group going to clear approved areas only to find another group had already completed the work.
 - Attempts are now being made to rectify this situation.
- IOM are still moving returnees, and a surge of returns is expected to take place between April 20th and 25th.
 - IOM has advised that it can hire more vehicles to cover these numbers.
 - Final numbers of returnees are proving difficult to pin down, which is hampering transport planning.
 - One planned move to Haji Pir was also cancelled because IDPs did not turn up for medical screening.
 - A request for food provisions for the longer IDP return journeys was turned down.

Mansehra

- Returns in Mansehra are progressing on schedule with approximately 85% of families from ‘official’ camps having already returned home. 90% of these returned to their place of origin.
 - Of the 55 official camps in the Mansehra area of operations, 29 have already been closed and decommissioned, with the land returned to its owners.
 - The remaining 26 official camps are expected to be closed and decommissioned within the next two weeks.
 - Three camps have been identified for ‘residual caseload’. These are Kashtra, Meira and Siran Sialkot.
 - The Pakistan Military is anticipating a maximum total residual caseload of 520 families and has agreed to provide shelter and food to these vulnerable families.
 - The UN, camp management and district authorities are seeking individual and local solutions for these families.
 - Of an original total of 616 spontaneous camps, now only approximately 70 remain.
 - These families are predominately local and have camped on or near their own land. They are now waiting for government compensation to be received in order to commence rebuilding.

Muzaffarabad

- Exact figures of those IDPs to be returned are proving hard to obtain.
 - This is making it difficult to assess the scale, length and remaining time necessary to complete the operation.
 - An IDP return mission to Lipa faced problems on its way back when the majority of the convoy vehicles (4x4) were not suitable to complete the journey.
- ATLAS has been contracted by UNICEF to provide local area cargo transport for UNICEF materials.

7. CIVIL-MILITARY LOGS

Mansehra

- OCHA has confirmed that the Pakistan Military will be handing over its current 'earthquake response' responsibilities to the District Administration as of May 15th.

8. NFI PIPELINE

Nothing further to report

9. WAREHOUSING

Bagh

- WFP has reclaimed a temporary warehouse contracted to UNICEF.
 - WFP Islamabad has now provided clear-set terms for interagency warehousing which should prevent future misunderstandings.

Muzaffarabad

- WFP warehouses remain full and UNDP, UNICEF and Save the Children are all in need of extra storage for contingency and construction materials.
 - WFP is considering moving temporary warehouses from areas where they are no longer used to fill this demand.

10. COMMODITY AVAILABILITY

General

- A survey of construction contractors has been completed for the Bagh area and will be posted on the UNJLC website.
 - A survey for the Muzaffarabad area is also underway.
- For details of suppliers in the affected area see the UNJLC yellow pages at www.unjlc.org/pakistan.

11. OTHER INFORMATION

Batagram

- As of April 17th, UNJLC's Batagram area representative was relocated to Mansehra.

Bagh

- The future of the Bagh base camp has not yet been decided. For now it is still scheduled to close on May 15th, although a request for extension has been submitted.
 - UNICEF has found an alternative site and is planning to move.
 - The UN camp is currently over capacity since many agencies have been sending staff in without consulting camp management.

Mansehra

- UNJLC has reopened its base in Mansehra as of Tuesday April 18th. UNJLC's Batagram and Mansehra operations will now be conducted from the WFP office in Ghazikot.
- A move is underway by agencies to scale down Mansehra-based operations.
 - UNDSS will downsize from three international staff members to one as of May 1st.
 - OCHA will be downsizing from three international staff to two as of April 21st. It will scale down operations through the month of May with emphasis on capacity building within the local administration through a series of training workshops.
 - The agreed closing date for OCHA's Mansehra operation is May 31st.
 - HIC will cease operations as of June 30th following handover to local administration.
 - UNHCR will cease its Mansehra operation by August 31st.