

Hazel De Wet

Ms. Hazel De Wet is the Head of Office and State Coordinator for Malakal, covering the entire Upper Nile Region in North Western South Sudan. Prior to her appointment as head of office, Ms. De Wet headed the Child Protection section with the UN Mission in Sudan and South Sudan from 2008 to 2014. In total, she carries with her more than twenty-five years of work experience, including eighteen spent working within the United Nations system – in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF and UNAIDS. Ms. De Wet has worked as a diplomat in the Namibian foreign affairs ministry, where she also served as a representative to the UN General Assembly.

As the Head of Field Office in Malakal, Ms. De Wet diligently oversees the operations of nearly two thousand uniformed and civilian staff, tasked with carrying out the mission's mandate in the region. Her open-door policy has enabled the office to remain one of the most innovative, whilst her firm diplomatic skills and professionalism have earned the continued respect and cooperation of local authorities from across the divide, including senior military officials.

In addition to her official duties, Ms. De Wet has privately supported local homegrown initiatives such as the rehabilitation of local orphanages and schools in Malakal – one of the worst-hit regions in the conflict. She has continued to be a champion for children's' rights and championed the clarion call for increased numbers of and support for women in peacekeeping.

Ms. De Wet holds a law degree from the London University amongst other qualifications.