

South Sudan Update



24th November 2011

Blue Nile Refugees in Upper Nile State, South Sudan

The situation in Maban remains calm, although humanitarian actors remain vigilant considering the military activities along the border with BNS. Bombing continues within BNS in the Yabus and Chali areas, creating anxiety among the refugee population. The total refugee population registered by the 24th November is 9,897 individuals with an average of 650 new arrivals per day (which is lower than the 1200 per day recorded in previous weeks). On the 24th November, the de-mining team leader from Malakal together with UNHCR team in Maban conducted a brief survey close to the refugee site due to the presence of UXOs. Refugees were advised to maintain limited movements in the area, whilst de-mining activities are planned for the coming week. GOAL Ireland conducted rapid assessment on nutrition on children under age of 5. This exercise was also done jointly with Relief International and Samaritan's Purses also present. Three agencies will initiate Health and WASH programmes in Doro next week, thereby greatly contributing to filling the gaps identified in those sectors. More agencies are on stand-by to provide support if required. With the support from the local Government official [County administrator], UNHCR Civil Engineer conducted a quick survey of the settlement and established key points to establish border demarcation of the given settlement for refugees, the area is about 150 acres. NFI distribution continued during the period under review with UNHCR serving the refugee population (8,304 received NFIs to date) and IOM initiating a distribution for the returnees through NPA. Food distributions were interrupted while WFP redeploys food stock from neighbouring warehouses. UNICEF made available a stock of High energy biscuits in Wau to be transported for distribution in Maban. An inter-agency mission conducted in Longichuck county revealed that the previously announced presence of some 4000 new arrivals from Blue Nile in the county is not confirmed. Agencies however remain on alert. Access difficulties to the border area hampered assistance delivery to new arrivals close to the border this week and all efforts are being deployed to facilitate their transfer further inland.