

South Sudan Update



14th January 2012

Blue Nile Refugees in Upper Nile State, South Sudan

The refugee population in Maban County, Upper Nile State, continues to grow rapidly as people flee the conflict in Blue Nile State, Republic of Sudan. At the Doro refugee site, there are currently 28,000 refugees, with an average of 200 more arrivals daily. The Jammam site currently hosts 11,000 refugees, with numbers increasing rapidly as efforts continue to relocate those arriving away from insecure locations at the border. A further 15,000 refugees have been identified at other border locations, and up to 25,000 others who have not yet been reached. Over the next 10 days IOM and UNHCR plan to move all the population currently living in El Foj to the Jammam site, away from the border.

Physical security of refugees in settlement sites is of paramount concern, and UNMAC and NPA are working hard to clear the areas of UXOs. Over the next two and a half months, UNMAC is continuing with the deployment of substantial numbers of staff and 2 de-mining machines to carry out activities around Bunj, clearing four identified locations. In Jammam, activities are planned to remove UXOs, with Explosive Ordnance Teams being deployed from NPA. Mine Risk Education is also planned; on 12th January, UNMAC met with UNHCR to discuss the possibility of identifying students for training of trainers activities. In addition, 20,000 Mine Risk Education leaflets are being sent to Maban.

Protection activities during the past week include UNHCR teams undertaking community mobilisation initiatives, ensuring that the communities have an opportunity to raise concerns. Plans are under way to train community watch teams, to enhance the protection environment in refugee areas.

Partners continue to distribute assistance and coordinate activities, with weekly meetings in Juba and Maban. Health partners are active in the county at both refugee sites, as well as in Bunj town. Goal is treating patients coming from the refugee and host community populations in Doro, Bunj and Jammam. The MSF clinic in Doro is receiving OPT consultations, and their maternity facilities are open 24 hours a day, with 2 international staff midwives available. Next week they will begin OTP and INC activities in Jammam, and they are currently providing medical services 3 days per week

in El Foj. MSF has vaccinated 5772 children age 6 months to 15 years in the past week. Samaritan's Purse continues to support the Bunj County PHCC, with surgical interventions including c-sections and trauma response.

In the WASH sector, Oxfam have drilled 4 boreholes in Doro and 2 in Jammam, where they also have a 10,000 litre capacity bladder deployed. Water is also being trucked to the site 5 times per day. MSF has raised concerns that the water table level in El Foj is dropping dramatically, and so Oxfam intends to dispatch a technician to the area to rehabilitate the borehole.

On the 12th January, WFP distributed 1 month food rations to 36,696 individuals at the two main refugee sites; 8,000 in Jammam and 28,696 in Doro. In addition, they are pre-positioning food to ensure continued provision to meet Sphere standards.

UNHCR has been carrying out a large scale airlift operation, with NFIs being flown in from Nairobi and Dubai. All refugees at the Doro site have received an NFI package, and all those at Jammam, including new arrivals, will receive the same assistance.

In order to mitigate the impact of large scale refugee influx of refugees on host community and local environment, refugees are being provided with brick-making machines, which compress mud into building bricks, thereby reducing their reliance on wood and preventing large scale deforestation. In addition, the refugees and host community have held discussions on where are the most appropriate places for the refugees to collect wood to assure peaceful co-existence, and plans for reforestation of affected areas are being developed.