

South Sudan Update



1st December 2011

Blue Nile Refugees in Upper Nile State, South Sudan

The security situation in Bunj town is relatively calm. However, there have been reports during the week of bombing at the Yabus border areas, and the presence of military personnel has increased in Bunj town creating concern over the preservation of humanitarian space in and around the refugee settlement. In addition, humanitarian actors are concerned by the discovery of a mine infested area 2.5 km away from the Doro site. Mine risk education is being conducted at the site and mine marking/ demining is being prioritized by demining agencies. As of 29th November, the total registered refugee population was 13, 730 individuals, with a continued average of 650 persons per day. The UNHCR team in Maban also conducts protection monitoring activities in border areas to observe the continuing influx. 2,500 persons have been identified on the move to Doro. Transport is provided to the most vulnerable identified on the way

During the week, the provision of assistance to refugees has continued. NFI distributions took place. On the 25th November, a distribution of soap was carried out as part of hygiene promotion at the site. Food distribution remained interrupted this week while WFP redeploys stocks from neighbouring warehouses and Juba. This is a priority and food stocks are expected before the end of the week. UNICEF also contributed 1.9 MT of high energy biscuits from its stock in Wau to be airlifted to Maban. MSF set up its primary health care clinic for Doro site, taking over from RI. A mobile clinic will also soon be dispatched to rove around border areas to assist new arrivals. Medical screening of all refugees is carried out upon arrival at the settlement and all necessary vaccinations are administered. MSF is also prioritizing the digging of emergency latrines as a stop gap measure pending the arrival of Oxfam and Goal WASH teams.

In addition to the refugees in Maban, there are also a number of returnees living in the refugee settlement. During a meeting with the returnees who originated from Maban, chaired by the County Administrator in charge of refugee affairs within the Maban County, it was agreed that the Authorities will approach the local Chief to allocate land for this group, in order for them to settle permanently.