

South Sudan Update



1st December 2011

Southern Kordofan Refugees in Unity State, South Sudan

During the past week, there were 445 new arrivals at the Yida site camp. The re-registration of the population is almost complete, initial results indicate that the current population stands at some 17,000 persons. The provision of assistance is ongoing at the site, with food, blankets and dignity kits being provided to the refugees. WASH teams continue to address the water situation; so far 4 boreholes have been constructed and handpumps will be installed shortly. The yield of wells is high.

The security situation in Pariang County remains tense, whilst bombing raids continue in the Jaw area north of Yida. On the 29th November, the Commissioner of Pariang County joined a monitoring mission to Yida, his first visit to the settlement. The Commissioner met with the local authorities and refugee leadership to discuss key issues surrounding security and the modalities of movement from Yida to the three identified relocation sites.

UNHCR also met with the County Commissioner to discuss the relocation, particularly in relation to determining a response for the students at the Yida site who have expressed a strong desire to resume academic activities. Land has been allocated by the Commissioner for the construction of temporary schools at alternative sites. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Education in Bentiu and UNICEF to support this initiative. Works continue for the preparation of the two new sites in addition to Nyeel. Tents have been flown to Unity to receive the first arrivals at relocation sites. A community mobilization campaign and key messages have been developed among agencies working in Yida this week to ensure a concerted and consistent approach by all agencies. Mine survey and demining activities continue along the Bentiu/Panyang road by UNMAC. The presence of recently laid mines on key roads of the county continue to be a serious impediment to humanitarian work and to the relocation exercise.