

South Sudan Update



8th December 2011

Southern Kordofan Refugees in Unity State, South Sudan

On Saturday 3rd December, the security situation in Jau , on the border north of Yida, deteriorated, with reports of artillery fire raising concerns for the safety of those in Yida. NGO staff evacuated in the early morning of Sunday 4th December and since then continued to operate from the nearby village of Panyang. On 4th December, UNHCR met with the Pariang County Commissioner to prepare for the relocation of the first groups of volunteers in the coming days.

As it is not clear how the military operations will evolve it is important for the refugee community to move from Yida while the situation still allows. A community mobilization strategy was developed and all agencies will contribute to the consultations with the community.

Plans are in place with UNMAC/UNMISS/UNDSS to ensure safe passage of convoys out of Yida/Panyang due to the risk of landmines in the county. Movements are expected to start next week.

The current population in Yida has reached some 21, 300 individuals, with 2325 people arriving during the reporting period. The population verification process initiated in the previous fortnight was interrupted by the evacuation of staff. Repeated evacuations of humanitarian staff in recent weeks have led to multiple interruptions of assistance services including food delivery and health. Services now continue to be provided through daily visits and food is delivered at a distance and transported by tractor to Yida. A way station is being set up in Panyang for refugees who relocate from Yida. Food has also been pre-positioned in Panyang.

At the more durable relocation sites further South, work continues for the provision of services for refugees. Relocation to Pariang is a priority for children of school going age and persons with specific needs. Temporary structures are planned to provide for schooling, and water points have been assessed and repairs will take place this week.