

South Sudan Update



5th January 2012

Blue Nile Refugees in Upper Nile State, South Sudan

The security situation in the Doro camp has improved considerably, after authorities established a military checkpoint on the road leading to the camp. However, the humanitarian community remains concerned about the military presence in Bunj Town and continues to monitor the situation.

As of December 29, the total number of registered refugees in the state was 32,521 individuals. In addition to this, there are an estimated 22,750 unregistered refugees in the county, with approximately 20,000 in El Foj, 2,500 in Jammam and 250 in Doro. This would bring the total registered and unregistered refugee population to 55,271.

At the Doro site, UNHCR held a meeting with community leaders and representatives to discuss a proposal of allocating land to their communities according to their places of origin, so as to salvage community support networks. The idea was welcomed by the representatives who agreed to support this initiative.

In Jammam, UNHCR met with refugee representatives in an effort to persuade refugees currently staying on a site confirmed to be mined to move to a safer one allocated by the Government. The outcome of the meeting, which is corroborated by partners' site assessment, was that the old site is the most appropriate for long term settlement due to the elevation of the site, whilst the new one is more exposed to standing water. However, the new site will be used temporarily (during the dry season), during which period the old site will be de-mined. A formal request to do so has been sent to UNMACC and NPA who have confirmed the prioritisation of Maban County this year.

At least two more locations on the Jammam-Bunj road were also identified as potential settlements to receive the excess of Doro and Jammam's capacity. More in-depth inspection of the locations will take place, particularly involving both Oxfam and IOM to clarify the WASH situation.

In terms of material assistance, UNHCR Malakal has received 13 cargo flights, 10 bringing NFIs from Nairobi and 3 bringing tents from Dubai. In addition, UNICEF has provided 6,000 Kg of soap (10,000 bars) for the refugees in Maban; distribution of the soap is planned for the coming week.

The health situation continues to improve with MSF-Belgium's intervention in Doro camp, covering maternity and in-patient services. In addition, the MSF clinic in El Foj is functional from Monday to Friday, and MSF is recruiting staff to provide in-patient care in Doro.

After several attempts, OXFAM has been able to drill 2 boreholes in Doro camp, with another 2 boreholes planned for the site. As for Jammam, Oxfam intends to start by trucking water to be supplied through bladders, before embarking on drilling. IOM's WASH activities are progressing well with community and resources mobilization for the construction of communal latrines. This week, IOM dispatched assorted WASH-related materials to Maban, which included PVC pipes and empty drums.