

South Sudan Update



20th January 2012

Southern Kordofan Refugees in Unity State, South Sudan

Heavy bombing in the north of Unity State was heard at night from Pariang town, particularly on the 14th and 15th January. The proximity of the Yida refugee site to the border remains a concern; during the reporting week, the organised relocation of the refugee population at Yida began, with 311 students who had fled with their teachers from residential schools in Southern Kordofan being moved to Pariang with the teachers and school administrative staff. As it is the school holiday period for South Sudanese students, school facilities in Pariang are available for Nuba refugee children to access for the coming months, whilst a more permanent solution is finalised.

In addition to the organised convoy from Yida, refugees have been moving southwards spontaneously during the reporting period. A group of refugees who had relocated to Pariang have expressed an interest in moving to the Nyeel site. Partners are planning to assist the movement of a group of 200 families; plots have been demarcated at the Nyeel site in preparation for their arrival and the reception centre at Nyeel is ready to receive these them. At Nyeel 3 long houses have been constructed, to be used as community centres.

In Yida, assistance continues for the remaining population. On the 17th January, WFP trucks arrived at Yida, ensuring ongoing food distribution at the site. WFP has dispatched warehouse and commodity management tools, such as empty bags for reconditioning, sifters, stock cards and cardboard boxes, to support their activities in Yida.

In Pariang, Care continued to work on establishing two hand pumps at the refugee site. Intersos distributed buckets, cooking sets, sleeping mats and blankets to refugees. UNHCR is currently buying soap at the local market until stock is sent from Bentiu. The Care mobile health clinic continues to treat patients and provide medicines in Pariang both to the refugee and host communities. A mobile clinic also travels to and from Yida.

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Blue Nile Refugees in Upper Nile State, South Sudan

During the reporting week, a UNHCR/RI mission took place to New Guffa and subsequent to this initial assessment UNHCR estimates there are some 5000 refugees there. UNHCR is concerned that relocation of refugees from this area to the Doro and Jammam sites be undertaken quickly to mitigate threats of cross border violence which in combination with the effects of the rainy season would hamper delivery of humanitarian assistance. Another mission is planned soon to discuss these issues further with the population.

Refugees continue to be relocated away from the El Foj border areas by IOM. In the coming week, more trucks to support movement are expected to arrive. With increased capacity, completion of the movement from El Foj is in less than 30 days. Work will then begin on movement of some population from Doro, which is overcrowded, to an alternative site. MSF indicates that refugees arriving in El Foj are no longer waiting in scattered settlements in the village, but go straight to the departure point where they board UNHCR trucks for Jammam.

Due to the movement away from El Foj, MSF has reduced frequency of mobile clinics to El Foj, in order to concentrate on Jammam, where the refugees are being relocated. IOM will provide medical personnel during the movement from El Foj to Jamam, whilst UNHCR will provide an ambulance along with protection and community services staff to monitor the movement.

Away from the border, in response to the growing populations in Jammam and Doro, partners are examining two additional sites, Fekaj and Banketa. UNHCR sites planners have visited the areas with local community leaders, and de-mining teams are due to arrive to carry out surveys.