

South Sudan Update



24th November 2011

Southern Kordofan Refugees in Unity State, South Sudan

The security situation at the Yida refugee site is increasingly tense. After the bombing on 10th November the rate of new arrivals to the site has dropped substantially, ranging from 50 to over a hundred per day, compared with up to 300 per day the previous month. Food rations have been distributed until 30 Nov. Two additional wells have been drilled by agencies on site following the transport of a rig by helicopter by the UN last week. Three more wells will be drilled next week, including one for the cattle of the local community. There are no queues for water collection currently. Two additional health staffs have been sent to the site, and medicine stocks have also been re-supplied. Three months advance stock will be positioned to avoid shortages due to access limitations. The health clinic saw about 1600 patients between the 10th and 21st November. A second clinic is also planned for in the coming weeks as well as secondary referral services. A verification exercise of population figures was initiated this week by agencies on the ground. While the exercise is still, in progress, initial indications as of 24 Nov, provided a figure of some 16,000 to 17,000 persons currently in Yida. Final results will be available in the next update. Of the children who went missing after the bombing, many have reported back to the site. Protection partners continue to work closely with the refugee community to support the tracing of those that are still missing. With the end of the rainy season, the temperatures at night are dropping, so protection partners have distributed blankets to the most vulnerable persons in Yida. Because of the security risks associated with a border location there is no formal education at the Yida site, but instead recreational and psycho-social activities appropriate for a transit site. Services such as schools, agricultural support and vocational training will be provided in alternative sites in safer locations. A community mobilization plan is being devised among agencies working in Yida to prepare for the movement of the first groups of volunteers. UNHCR held discussions with community leaders this week about security at Yida. While one relocation site is ready to receive refugees, UNHCR and partners continue to prepare another two sites to provide options. The recent discovery of mines on two key roads of Pariang county pose further challenges to the relocation and humanitarian work in the county. UN Mine Action started surveying the Bentiu- Panyang road on Monday. Air transport arrangements for goods and people are being worked on to avoid the risk of mine in the meantime.