

South Sudan Update



15th December 2011

Southern Kordofan Refugees in Unity State, South Sudan

The security situation in Yida remains a concern, as fighting continues along the border. On the 13th December, there were aerial bombings in Jau Payam and shelling in Kurajjit. Due to the uncertainty of how the military operations will evolve, the humanitarian community remains committed to supporting the voluntary movement of the refugees to safer areas away from the border. IDPs from Jau who have made their way to Pariang are also receiving assistance.

After the evacuation of agency staff from Yida on the 4th December, the potential for re-establishing a presence at the site is being examined, contingent on capacity for evacuation. However, agencies have continued to operate out of the nearby village of Panyang, commuting daily into Yida. Food and blanket distributions have taken place, and health provision continues, although with reduced capacity. In the coming week, the number of health personnel will be increased, with staff from CARE and MSF returning to the Yida site.

The voluntary movement of refugees remains a priority, with a number of sites being made available for relocation. The potential for utilising the assistance of UNMAC demining vehicles to ensure safe convoys of assistance materials to Yida, and refugees away from Yida, is hoped to be explored this coming week, mobilising those who are willing to begin moving to the alternative sites. One site is ready to start receiving returnees, whilst the second is currently being rehabilitated. In addition, Panyang will be used as a Way Station, ensuring that the refugees receive assistance on their journey out of Yida. Some refugees have already left Yida and made their way to Pariang, where they are receiving support and assistance from UNHCR.