

UN gearing up for humanitarian response in Abyei

Khartoum 18 May 2008 – The UN is gearing up to meet the pressing humanitarian needs of thousands of Sudanese who were forced to flee their homes in Abyei area after fighting flared up there over the past few days.

“Many thousands of those people have been repeatedly displaced and have just come back home this year to be forced to flee again at a time when they were planning to till their land for the next planting season,” Ms. Ameerah Haq, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Sudan, said today.

Ms. Haq, who also serves as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, said UN assessment teams are currently surveying the needs, especially medical care, water, food, and shelter.

The exact number of those displaced from Abyei area is not yet determined but is in the range of 30,000 to 50,000 people.

The fact that the rainy season has started brings additional threats of malaria and other diseases for the vulnerable displaced population, especially children.

For further information, please contact:

1-Orla Clinton
Head Advocacy and Public Information/RC/HC Spokesperson
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Khartoum, Sudan
Email: clinton@un.org Skype: orlaclinton
Tel. +249-91-2-174454 (mobile)

2-Mr Kouider Zerrouk, UNMIS Deputy spokesperson
Tel: 0918504927
zerrouk@un.org