

*“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”*

Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #3

Reporting period 27/01/12 to 09/02/12

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### **Summary:**

- An ETC assessment mission was conducted by WFP in December 2011 to assess the voice and data connectivity situation and identify gaps to be addressed to meet the requirements of the humanitarian community. The mission visited both existing and new locations.
- Based on the findings, it was decided to deploy an ETC emergency connectivity system in three new locations: Maban, Renk and Yida, and subsequently Pibor was designated an emergency location and was included in the ETC project.
- The emergency deployment team involves multiple ETC partners including, Ericsson Response, Government of Luxembourg (LUX), IOM, OCHA, UNHCR and WFP.

### **Cluster Responsibilities:**

- WFP is leading ETC activities in the Republic of South Sudan with responsibility for coordination, implementation and overall operation support for common ICT services.

### **Achievements:**

- Pibor

Inter-communal conflict has displaced tens of thousands of civilians in the Jonglei state and led humanitarian organisations to increase its support to the affected population. Based on the request from OCHA and the NGOs, the ETC decided to install the emergency.lu and Ericsson Response WIDER solutions in Pibor. The emergency team flew on 30 January to Bor, capital of Jonglei state, to test the equipment before sending it to Pibor.

OCHA ICT officer Samuel Keri Longa and WFP FITTEST, Rob Buurveld flew to Pibor on 3 February with the VSAT equipment. The emergency.lu and WIDER solutions were installed over the week end and the humanitarian community is now able to access Internet at the InterSOS compound. To date, 11 users have been registered.

Therese Lannemo, stand-by-partner from MSB arrived in Juba on 5 February and flew to Pibor on 7 February to support the installation. Samuel Keri Longa, OCHA will provide a hand over to Therese before flying back to Juba on 9 February.

- Renk

WFP and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ericsson Response team, Fei Wang and Erasmo Patrone flew to Malakal with the equipment on 9 February to deploy the emergency.lu and the WIDER solutions in Renk. The team will try to reach the location the next day by car and start the installation at the IOM office over the week end.

- Maban & Bentiu/Yida<sup>1</sup>:

An emergency.lu rapid kit and an Ericsson Response WIDER are in place at the WFP Bentiu office since 8 January and at the UNHCR Maban office since 16 January. WFP staff Michael Ngisiro supports the installation in Bentiu while WFP staff Whitney Mutowo supports the one on Maban.

- Services:

The operational sites have already registered some 302 users from 51 different organizations.

The deployed equipment is split into two complementary solutions:

- The "emergency.lu" composed of an antenna and either a Satellite dish (regular VSAT terminal) or an inflated balloon (rapid kit); and
- The Ericsson Response WIDER, a wireless LAN solution with central globalised management with secure network access monitoring use of internet services that extends connectivity.
- Assembled, the equipment is able to provide Internet Connectivity and Voice telephony services to the humanitarian community.

For security reasons a one-time, online registration is required to access the Internet Café. To register users must show their ID cards to confirm they work for a humanitarian organization. Additional equipment such as printers and scanners will be provided for the three sites in the coming weeks.

## **Challenges and Gaps:**

- Pibor:

Security is a concern in Jonglei state. The team is looking at all options to ensure staff are able to support the installation in a safe manner.

## **Planned Activities:**

- The team will set up the installation in Renk at the IOM office.
- Additional equipment such as printers and scanners will be provided in each of the sites in the coming weeks.

## **Meetings:**

- **Global ETC Information Sharing teleconferences for the Republic of South Sudan are held every two weeks.**

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on **Thursday 16 February** at:

0900 New York  
1400 UTC  
1500 Rome/Geneva  
1700 Juba/Nairobi

Dial-in instructions:

- 1) Call +39 066513 3344
- 2) Enter the personal code 267200 followed by #
- 3) If you are the first caller, a message will notify you. Please remain on the line.

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<sup>1</sup> For security reason, humanitarian organisations cannot access Yida for the time being and most of the staff therefore moved to Bentiu. Therefore it was decided to set up connectivity initially in Bentiu and then relocate the system to Yida when security permits.

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**Acronyms:**

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HEP	ICT Humanitarian Emergency Platform
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Service Provider
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LAN	Local Area Network
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children’s Fund
UNMISS	UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (Satellite ground station)
WFP	UN World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International

**ICT Emergency website (HEP) links:**

- Humanitarian Emergency Platform:  
<http://ictemergency.wfp.org>