

“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”

Republic of South Sudan

Situation Report #8

Reporting period 06/04/12 to 19/04/12

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Summary:

- Further cross-border air strikes by Sudan and the military takeover of the Heglig oil field by South Sudanese forces raised fears of a return to unrestrained hostilities.
- Despite three air strikes over the past week in Bentiu (Unity) international agencies are carrying out day-to-day activities and will remain in the area as long as it is safe to do so. The ETC continues to provide connectivity services in this area.

Cluster Responsibilities:

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

Achievements:

- The ETC response solution, composed of the emergency.lu and Ericsson Response WIDER systems, continues to provide free internet connectivity and voice telephony services in Maban (Upper Nile), Pibor (Jonglei) and Renk (Upper Nile).
 - To date, 1370 users from 154 different organizations having been registered to use the ETC services.
- The system in Bentiu (Unity) is being dismantled and will be returned to the Government of Luxembourg. The ETC will continue to provide connectivity services to the humanitarian community in Bentiu through alternate means.
- The ETC response solution in Pibor now has an air-conditioner which prevents the system from overheating. This means that connectivity services can now be provided whenever the generators are running.

Challenges and Gaps:

- The ETC remains critically underfunded. With the recent decision by the Humanitarian Country Team to move to ‘Crisis Response’ mode, funding is desperately needed to provide ICT services to expanding humanitarian operations.
- The HISP (Humanitarian Internet Service Provider) project to provide reliable long-term services at lower running costs to the relief community has not yet begun due to lack of funding.

Planned Activities:

- The ETC response solution is only a temporary resolution to connectivity issues in remote locations. The equipment in Pibor will be decommissioned in May 2012.

Meetings:

Global ETC teleconferences on RoSS will be held on an as-needed basis. Operational updates will be shared via bi-weekly ETC SitReps.

Acronyms:

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HEP	ICT Humanitarian Emergency Platform
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (Satellite ground station)
WIDER	Ericsson Wireless Local Area Network in Disaster Emergency Response
WFP	UN World Food Programme

ICT Emergency website (HEP) links:

Humanitarian Emergency Platform:

<http://ictemergency.wfp.org>

FORUM: Republic of South Sudan:

http://ictemergency.wfp.org/group/ictopr/forum/-/message_boards/category/287645

Status Matrix:

LOCATION	STATE	AGENCY	REPEATER CH.	TEL. LINES	RADIO ROOM	ICT SUPPORT	CONNECTIVITY	STAFF TRAINED
Aweil	Northern Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	11, 13	No	24/7	Yes		Yes
Bentiu (Rubkona)	Unity	WFP	6, 7, 9	No	24/7	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Juba	Central Equatoria	WFP	1,2,6,7,8,9,13,14,15	No	24/7	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Malakal	Upper Nile	WFP	6,7,9	No	24/7	Yes	VSAT	
Maban	Upper Nile	UNHCR	3, 9 (planned)	No	n/a	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Pibor	Jonglei	UNMISS	9	No	n/a	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Renk	Upper Nile	IOM	n/a	No	n/a	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Rumbek	Lakes	WFP	10, 11, 13	No	24/7	No	VSAT	Yes
Torit	Eastern Equatoria	UNHCR	10, 12	No	24/7		VSAT	Yes
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	6, 11, 15	No	24/7	Yes	VSAT	Yes
Yambio	Western Equatoria	UNICEF	6, 7, 9	No	24/7		VSAT	Yes

Staff in the Operation:

This list below shows the key people involved in providing and supporting inter-agency ICT services.

LOCATION	STATE	AGENCY	NAME	EMOP MOBILE
Aweil	Northern Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Malek Ring	+211 955 928 008
Bentiu	Unity	WFP	Whitney Mutowo	+211 922 465 568
Bor	Jonglei	WFP	Rida Shaba	+211 922 465 434
Juba	Central Equatoria	WFP	Arthur Sawmadal	+211 922 465 466
			Haidar Baqir	+211 922 465 540
			Blessing Dzambo	+211 956 414 072
Maban	Upper Nile	WFP	Whitney Mutowo	+211 922 465 568
Malakal	Upper Nile	WFP	Caroll Katshuki	+211 956 814 950
			Anywar Nicholas	+211 923 819 778
Pibor	Jonglei	WFP	Christopher Alagna	+211 922 465 584
Renk	Upper Nile	WFP	Therese Lannemo	+211 922 465 596
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Paulos Negassi	+211 956 378 711

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