

“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”

Republic of South Sudan

Situation Report #9

Reporting period 20/04/12 to 03/05/12

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Summary:

- South Sudan’s relations with Sudan remain tense despite a lull in border violence as international diplomacy continued in search of a peaceful solution.
- South Sudanese troops withdrew from Higlig, however, fighting carried on in the border zone and Sudanese aircraft dropped bombs in Unity State on 20-23 April.
- The ETC continues to provide connectivity services in four locations across South Sudan. ICT technicians remain at each site, despite evacuation of some staff, to provide user support services.

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, 1,535 users from 159 different organizations having been registered to use the ETC services.
- The system in Bentiu (Unity) has been dismantled and returned to Juba. The ETC continues to provide connectivity services to the humanitarian community in Bentiu through alternate means.

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. The project is essential for operations in Bentiu, Malakal and Wau – major coordination sites for the ongoing emergency.

Planned Activities:

- The ETC response solution in Pibor will be dismantled at the end of May and the satellite returned to the Government of Luxembourg. Humanitarian organizations remaining in Pibor after this time are advised to seek other means of connectivity.
- The decommissioned emergency.lu response kit from Bentiu has not yet been returned to the Government of Luxembourg, but is currently stored with WFP in Juba. The results of an ongoing cluster evaluation of ICT needs will determine whether the equipment will remain in Juba for redeployment - given the deteriorating security situation - or return to Luxembourg for refurbishment.

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 Response 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	<i>Supported by Juba</i>	
Renk	Upper Nile	WFP	<i>Supported by Malakal</i>	
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Shantal Boodhun	+211 956803221

For specific ICT contacts, please email: ETC.SouthSudan@wfp.org