

“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”

Republic of South Sudan

Situation Report #16

Reporting period 14/10/12 to 15/12/12

Author: Katherine Ely

Highlights:

The ETC Emergency Response Solution will continue to provide services in the Maban and Yida common operational areas until 01 May 2013. Support on programming radios for UN/NGOs is on-going.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is gearing up to operationalize a cost efficient Humanitarian Internet Service Provider (HISP).

Cluster Responsibilities:

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

Achievements:

- Following the dismantling of the ETC Emergency Response Solution in Renk, ETC has been working with UNHAS to transport the equipment to Juba for refurbishment. ETC will test the solution and Luxemburg will send the necessary equipment to refurbish the solution.
- The CAP 2013 for South Sudan is now available online at: <http://www.unocha.org/cap/appeals/consolidated-appeal-south-sudan-2012>.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is gearing up to operationalize a cost efficient Humanitarian Internet Service Provider (HISP) solution for NGOs and UN Agencies in the following five state capitals: Aweil, Wau, Malakal, Bentiu and Bor. Humanitarian Organizations will be provided with a dedicated internet connection rate and voice telephony at a lower cost.
- ETC has formed a Task Force to review the National Telecommunications Act and liaise closely with the government to support the procedure.
- The common contingency planning is being revised for 2013 and a first submission was provided by the ETC to be presented to the HCT.
- The solutions in Yida and Maban were scheduled to be dismantled on 15 December 2012. However, based on the feedback received from the Local ETC Working Group and the South Sudan NGO Forum, ETC has agreed in consultation with partners, to extend the services. The ETC Emergency response Solution will be continued to be provided in both Maban and Yida at the UNHCR premises until 01 May 2013.

ETC Emergency Response Solution deployment status:

Location	Deployed on	Expected to be needed until	Hosted by
Bentiu	07 January 2012	Dismantled	WFP
Maban	16 January 2012	01 May 2013	UNHCR
Pibor	05 February 2012	Dismantled	InterSOS
Renk	11 February 2012	Dismantled	IOM
Yida	26 July 2012	01 May 2013	UNHCR

Challenges and Gaps:

- A recent development concerning the halting of tax exemptions on all cargo coming into South Sudan is expected to impact NGOs, UN agencies and Foreign Missions. As such, procurement may be delayed or have a significant increase in costs associated.
- The Ministry of Telecommunications first Ministerial Order (2012/01) and the Telecommunications Act implementation is still unclear. The MoTPS focal point was invited to attend few Local ETC Working Group meetings and informed participants that the by-laws should be in place by the end of the first quarter 2013.

Planned Activities:

- ETC is continuing to coordinate with the Inter-Sector Working Group and the Local ETC Working Group to determine the needs of the humanitarian community.
- ETC will continue to meet regularly with the MoTPS and act as a Focal Point to relay messages on behalf of humanitarian organizations, especially with regards to frequency allocation and the implementation of the bylaws of the National Telecommunications Act. The Local ETC Working Group members will continue to be updated regularly.
- ETC is looking at providing emergency telecommunications services in two common operational areas identified by the humanitarian community as "hot spot" areas (likely Abyei and Pibor). The submitted revision of the Contingency plan is in line with these requirements.
- ETC is bringing the necessary equipment to implement the HISP solution in the identified sites as soon as possible. The establishment of the solution is estimated to begin within the first quarter of 2013.

Meetings:

The Global ETC Teleconferences on RoSS will be held on a monthly basis. Operational updates continue to be shared via monthly ETC SitReps.

Acronyms:

CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team

HISP	Humanitarian Internet Service Provider
HF/VHF	High Frequency/Very High Frequency
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Service Provider
MoTPS	Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RoSS	The Republic of South Sudan
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (Satellite ground station)
WFP	UN World Food Programme
WG	Working Group

ICT Emergency website (HEP) links:

Humanitarian Emergency Platform:

<http://ictemergency.wfp.org>

FORUM: Republic of South Sudan:

http://ictemergency.wfp.org/group/ictepr/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	VSAT	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	Yes
Maban	Upper Nile	UNHCR	3, 9	No	n/a	From Juba	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
Yida	Unity State	UNHCR	3, 13	No	n/a	From Juba	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	MOBILE PHONE
Aweil	Northern Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Malek Ring	+211 955 928 008
Bentiu	Unity	WFP	Supported by Juba team	
Bor	Jonglei	WFP	Rida Shaba	+211 922 465 434
Juba	Central Equatoria	WFP	Haidar Baqir	+211 922 465 540
			Diya Alasadi	+211 922465600
Maban	Upper Nile	WFP	Supported by Juba team	
Malakal	Upper Nile	WFP	Anywar Nicholas	+211 923 819 778
Pibor	Jonglei	WFP	Supported by Juba team	
Renk	Upper Nile	WFP	Supported by Malakal team	
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Palangako Bagi	+211 955939943

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