ETC Situation Report #20

Republic of South Sudan

Reporting period 31/03/13 to 30/04/13

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Highlights:

- Following an assessment in Jonglei State, the ETC Coordinator advised the ETC Working Group that Pibor will soon become a common coordination hub for the Jonglei crisis.

Cluster Responsibilities:

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

Achievements:

- The ETC Coordinator went to Bor, Jonglei State, to conduct a telecommunications needs assessment. The mission was also supposed to include an assessment in Pibor but due to the ambush of the UN military convoy on the road from Gumruk to Bor on 9 April 2013, it was cancelled. UN and NGO staff who work in Bor and Pibor were interviewed about their needs in the area. The following items were identified:
  - Majority of staff stay at the UNMISS compound; the remaining humanitarian workers stay at INTERSOS.
  - INTERSOS has a VSAT that runs on solar power which only provides enough connectively for ten people at a time.
  - The roads will soon be inaccessible due to the rainy season.
  - There is currently only one generator in the INTERSOS compound.
  - Fuel is difficult to get to Pibor.
  - UN movement on the Bor/Pibor road has been suspended until further notice due to 9 April 2013 incident on that road.
- ETC has begun the one-day training sessions on radio usage in the state capitals. There are four modules: Training of Trainers, Radio Operator, Driver, and Humanitarian Staff.
- The ETC Coordinator presented the new strategy to the ETC Working Group and all members endorsed the strategy.
- The "Introduction to IT Emergency Management" course took place in Juba on the 03 – 05 April with 15 IT professionals graduation from the course.
- The ETC team presented the new ETC strategy to the MoTPS and received verbal acceptance of the proposed way forward.

Challenges and Gaps:

- Importation of telecommunications equipment continues to be a concern as significant delays are experienced in receiving tax exemption letters and customs clearance.
- Rains have been reported to have started already in the Equitorias and Jonglei. The road situation will quickly change in the coming weeks if the rain continues.
- The situation around Pibor remains tense and unpredictable. The incident on 9 April 2013 affects the movement of food and other humanitarian supplies into Gumruk and Pibor. All UN movement on the Bor/Pibor road has been suspended until further advise.

Planned Activities:

- The HISP implementation has been delayed to June. HISP will be established primarily in Aweil, Wau, Malakal, Bentiu, and Bor.
- Response kits - As the rainy season is quickly approaching, the ETC Working Group decided to keep the Regular Kit in Maban for the anticipated refugee response and repair the RAPID kit for Pibor response.
- During the second half of the year, LetsComm training will be held again for IT technicians. This training is teaching staff on how to install and maintain radios systems. Two slots for this training will be reserved for colleagues within MoTPS.
- ETC and partners are exploring different options on the best approach to switch from analog to digital radios over the next five years.

Meetings:

The Global ETC Teleconferences on RoSS will be held on an ad hoc basis. Operational updates continue to be shared via monthly ETC SitReps. Local ETC Working Group meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 11am (UTC +3) in Juba.

ICT Emergency website links:

All information related to the ETC response in South Sudan can be found on the ICT Emergency website:

RoSS Page: http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/countries-south-sudan

RoSS Forum:
http://ictemergency.wfp.org/group/ictepr/forum/-/message_boards/category/287645

RoSS ETC e-mail address: SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org

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	+211 922 465 600
			Marta Dabbas	+211 922 465 440
Maban	Upper Nile	WFP	Supported by Juba Team	
Malakal	Upper Nile	WFP	Supported by Juba Team	
Renk	Upper Nile	WFP	Supported by Malakal Team	
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Charles Mandella	+211 955939943
Yida	Unity	WFP	Supported by Juba Team	

Acronyms:

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LetsComm	Let's Communicate Training
MoTPS	Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RoSS	Republic of South Sudan
UN	United Nations
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal