Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #30

Reporting period 11/01/14 to 18/01/14

Author: Julie Vander Wiel, World Food Programme

Highlights

- In Malakal, ETC completed the setup of a mobile data connectivity kit which provides basic internet services to partners.

- The ETC data connectivity hub at the UN Compound in Juba (Tomping) has been completed.

Cluster Responsibilities

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

Achievements

- During this reporting period, ETC travelled to Malakal (Upper Nile) to assess the data connectivity needs. In response to the needs assessment, a mobile data kit was set up within the UNMISS compound where many partners (IOM, OCHA, DRC, WFP) are currently based. Other agencies are serviced by UNMISS or by their own setups that are inside UNMISS compound.

- The ETC data connectivity hub at the UN compound in Juba (Tomping) has been completed and is now providing internet services to aid organizations responding to the IDP situation. The hub will also provide data connectivity backup should their organization relocate to this location.

- The mobile data connectivity kit in Mingkaman (Awerial County, Lakes state) continues to provide basic connectivity services to all humanitarian partners currently operating on the ground in response to the influx of IDPs.

- In Mingkaman, a solar solution has been setup to enable humanitarians to charge communication equipment (i.e. laptops, satellite phones, and mobile phones).

- For the CHF 2014 First Round Allocation, the CHF Advisory Board approved an allocation of US$1.6 million to ETC which will be used to:

  o Provide sustainable telecommunications security, data and voice communication services through pooling optimization, and coordination of existing resources;

- o Deploy experienced technical teams to establish and maintain the installed systems;

- o Provide data connectivity, basic security telecommunications and ensure their 24/7 continuity in terms of electrical power.

Challenges and Gaps

- Security telecommunications in Bor, Malakal and Bentiu were seriously affected due to radio operators relocating out of these locations due to security. A solution is being sought to make these radio rooms operational again 24/7.

- Due to the current situation in country, radio rooms across RoSS are understaffed; radio operator recruitment is currently underway.

- Given the current needs of partners, one key gap is the lack of data connectivity equipment currently available in country for an appropriate ETC response. Humanitarian access into many locations also hampers the Cluster's ability to assess and respond to the needs on the ground.

- There is need to increase surge capacity of ETC to meet the expanded needs due to the current situation.

Planned Activities

- ETC is analyzing the results of the survey circulated to all NGO partners regarding their current telecommunications needs. The findings will be discussed during the next Local ETC Working Group Meeting on 23/01/2014.

- ETC is planning a mission to Mingkaman to relocate the mobile data kit to a more functional area and carryout routine maintenance.

- An additional ETC mission is planned for Yida and Ajoung Thok (Unity) during the week of 27 January to conduct a needs assessment as it has been reported that many partners are now returning to these locations.

Global ETC teleconference

- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 20 January at 2 p.m. (UTC).

Local ETC meeting

- The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 23 January 2014 at 11:00 a.m (local time). at OCHA in Juba.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/countries-south-sudan

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
southsudan.ETC@wfp.org

Acronyms

CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RoSS	Republic of South Sudan
UN	United Nations
UMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
WFP	World Food Programme