Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #31

Reporting period 18/01/14 to 25/01/14

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Highlights

- ETC assessment missions are being planned for key operational areas identified by partners (Bor, Bentiu, and Nimule).

Cluster Responsibilities

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

Achievements

- ETC travelled to Pariang County (Unity State) to remove the data connectivity kit from Ajoung Thok. This kit will be relocated to an alternative operational area as partners have indicated that the need for ETC support in this area is currently not high priority.

- The ETC data connectivity hub at the UN compound in Tomping, Juba continues to provide internet services to aid organizations responding to the IDP situation.

- 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.

Challenges and Gaps

- Security telecommunications in Bor, Malakal and Bentiu have been seriously affected due to radio operators relocating out of these locations because of the insecurity. 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, a 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 needs on the ground.

The ETC provides timely, predictable and effective Information Communications Technology services to support the humanitarian community in carrying-out their work efficiently, effectively and safely.

- There is need to increase capacity of ETC to meet demands of the current situation.

Planned Activities

- After discussing partners' needs during the Local ETC Working Group Meeting conducted 23/01/2014, ETC is planning a needs assessment in Nimule.

- The two additional operational areas identified by partners for possible ETC intervention are Bor and Bentiu; needs assessments will take place in these locations once security allows.

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

Meetings

- The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 06 February 2014.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
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Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RoSS	Republic of South Sudan
UN	United Nations
WFP	World Food Programme