

“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”

Republic of South Sudan

Situation Report #6

Reporting period 09/03/12 to 22/03/12

Author: Mariko Hall

Summary:

- Humanitarian partners are focused on Jonglei State, where heavy inter-communal attacks broke out on 9 March in areas bordering South Sudan and Ethiopia, and where a disarmament campaign began on 12 March.
- Partners continue to respond to multiple ongoing humanitarian emergencies across South Sudan, while simultaneously working to preposition emergency supplies in hard-to-reach areas before the rainy season begins in April/May.

Cluster Responsibilities:

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

Achievements:

- ETC provided free training covering VHF and HF radio operation, theory, and basic maintenance for 289 members from 72 humanitarian organizations across Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Juba, Malakal, Rumbek and Wau.
- The HF selcall in RoSS has changed due to the separation. An ETC mission deployed to Kapoeta, Malakal, Rumbek, Wunrok – locations where there is no ICT presence - to assist organizations in reprogramming base stations and vehicles with HF radio. Reprogramming in all other locations will be carried out by local ETC or WFP ICT Officers. UN HF Radio Scanning channels are also being changed to avoid conflict with the North Scanning channels.
- 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 Bentiu, Maban, Pibor and Renk. For security reasons a one-time, online registration is required to access the Internet Café in all locations. To register, users must show their ID cards to confirm they work for a humanitarian organization.
 - BENTIUI (Yida¹): solution installed in the WFP office with technical support from WFP.
 - MABAN: solution installed in the UNHCR office with technical support from WFP.
 - PIBOR: solution installed in the InterSOS compound with technical support from RedR Australia.
 - RENK: solution installed in the IOM office with technical support from MSB.

¹ For security reasons, humanitarian organizations are currently unable to access Yida. As a result, many humanitarian staff have moved to nearby Bentiu. It was therefore decided to set up connectivity initially in Bentiu and then relocate the system to Yida when security permits.

- The number of users of the ETC response solution is still increasing with a total of 1012 people from 107 different humanitarian organisations having been registered and authorized to use the ETC services.

Challenges and Gaps:

- Operating hours remain restricted due to the temperature in Pibor. Gas for the airconditioner has arrived. InterSOS is organizing a technician to install it. Once the airconditioner is operational, the opening hours of the internet café will be extended.
- The HISP (Humanitarian Internet Service Provider) project has not yet begun due to funding issues. An assessment and project proposal have been completed however the ETC was unsuccessful in attaining funding from CHF and CERF as funds were mainly earmarked for critical lifesaving projects. There has been no funding yet for projects in CAP.

Planned Activities:

- The ETC will provide free training covering VHF and HF operation, theory, and basic maintenance for the humanitarian community in Torit week beginning Monday 26 March. Training schedule and contacts are available on the HEP website: http://ictemergency.wfp.org/group/ictopr/forum/-/message_boards/category/321764
- Dismantling of the Bentiu GATR balloon from the Government of Luxembourg will start on April 15. Contact has been made with EMC to have a separate inter-agency LAN for Bentiu ETC operations, pending funding.

Meetings:

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on **Wednesday 11 April** at:

1000 New York
1400 UTC
1600 Rome/Geneva
1700 Juba/Nairobi

Dial-in instructions:

- 1) Call +39 066513 3344
- 2) Enter the personal code 267200 followed by #
- 3) If you are the first caller, a message will notify you. Please remain on the line.

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	InterSOS	9 (planned)	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	Caroll Katshuki	+211 956 814 950
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
Maban	Upper Nile	WFP	Whitney Mutowo	+211 922 465 568
Malakal	Upper Nile	WFP	Anywar Nicholas	+211 923 819 778
Pibor	Jonglei	WFP	Christopher Alagna	+211 922 465 584
Renk	Upper Nile	WFP	Therese Lannemo	+211 922 465 596
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	Blessing Dzambo	+211 922 465 427

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

Acronyms:

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HEP	ICT Humanitarian Emergency Platform
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAN	Local Area Network
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (Satellite ground station)
WIDER	Ericsson 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