

“Providing emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community”

Republic of South Sudan

Situation Report #12

Reporting period 15/06/12 to 12/07/12

Author: Katherine Ely

Summary:

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster continues providing data connectivity services to the Humanitarian Community in Renk, Maban, Pibor, and Bentiu while assessing user interest in view of the Humanitarian Internet Service Provider (HISP) project implementation.

Cluster Responsibilities:

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

Achievements:

- The IT office kit ordered from WFP Somalia office is currently en route to RoSS and will be part of the ETC contingency stock.
- Consultations with the Local ETC Working Group regarding implementation of the HISP project have taken place. Malakal has been identified as the highest priority however discussions are ongoing with humanitarian organizations’ managers regarding second priority to be Aweil or Bentiu.
- A HISP assessment survey is currently being conducted. NGO/UN agencies have been requested to send their feedback on the program and interest in subscribing by location to SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org by 15 July. ETC has to date received significant positive response to the survey.
- An ETC mission was recently deployed to Yida to assist agencies with VHF Frequency usage and compliance.
- In Maban, ETC staff are assisting Save the Children with the installation of their VSAT. UNHCR and RI have already set up their own VSAT.
- UNHCR has installed a repeater in Bunj (Maban) providing security communications services. A radio room will be installed at the new UNHCR compound.
- ACTED has installed one repeater in Jemam (Maban) with the assistance of ETC staff.
- In Renk ETC support services are extended until the end of September. There are reports of humanitarian organizations departing the area.

- Additionally, Abyei has been identified by the HCT as a potential location for NGO/UN assistance. Therefore, the ETC is looking to supply Agok with a solution should it be prioritized (using the stock dismantled from Maban).

Challenges and Gaps:

- The ETC Solution in Maban was scheduled to be removed at the end of June however it has been extended for an additional month due to significant need. It is now scheduled to be dismantled at the end of July.
- There are significant challenges with shipping and customs clearing delays with importing contingency stock. Additionally, due to the onset of the rainy season ETC is facing significant logistical challenges once the equipment is in country because of poor infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Telecommunications has indicated via newspaper advertisement that they will be requiring all VSAT users (UN and Foreign Missions exempted) to be registered with the authorities. ETC is currently following up and will continue providing information to Local ETC Working Group Members.

Planned Activities:

- Following the agreement of the last ETC WG meeting and based on the assessment mission in Yida, Pibor will be dismantled on 15 July. The stock will be moved to the UNHCR compound in Yida to respond to the emergency there. The ETC solution in Yida will remain for three months.
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- The Let's Com training will take place in Juba. Registration is now closed and humanitarian organizations technical staff will be confirmed their participation on 15 July. With agreement from the local ETC Working Group, the training has been postponed to August. The Local ETC Working Group participants requested the ETC Coordinator to look into the possibility of cost-recovery sessions to extend the training and allow more participation.
- The ETC response solution in Pibor is coming to a close on 15 July. Following the dismantling of the solution, the equipment is to be moved to Yida and will be installed by ETC.

Meetings:

The Global ETC teleconferences on RoSS will be held on an as-needed basis. Operational updates continue to be shared via monthly ETC SitReps.

Acronyms:

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Service Provider
HF/VHF	High Frequency/Very High Frequency

ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IT	Information Technology
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)-NGO
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NVPF	Non-Violent Peace Force-NGO
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RoSS	The Republic of South Sudan
RI	Relief International
SP	Samaritan's Purse
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMISS	UN Mission in South Sudan
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		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	No	n/a	Yes	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

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	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	Paulos Negassi	+211 956378711

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