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Republic of South Sudan (RoSS)

ETC Situation Report #52

Reporting period 16/06/14 to 29/06/14

ETC RoSS Sitreps are distributed every two weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 14/07/14.

Highlights

- Wi-Fi internet connectivity is now available to the humanitarian community operating from Ganyiel, Unity State.

- UNESCO Envoy Mr. Forest Whitaker from the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative met with the ETC to determine possibility of future collaboration.

Achievements

- ETC Wi-Fi internet connectivity has been upgraded in Mingkaman, Lakes State. New equipment Response (WIDER IV) from ETC partner Ericsson Response will provide wider internet coverage to humanitarians operating from this area. WIDER is a central globalised management solution that allows the ETC to distribute and manage access to internet services.

ETC Voice and Data solution, with equipment from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response, in Mingkaman, Lakes State.

- At the request of partners, the ETC has successfully installed communications equipment at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) compound in Ganyiel, Unity State. Wi-Fi internet connectivity is now available to the humanitarian community via a voucher-based system. Access to these communications services will enhance the coordination capacity of humanitarian organisations operating in this area.

- The ETC continues to programme radios for the humanitarian community in South Sudan and allocate call signs. During the last reporting period, the ETC programmed over 100 radios for UN Agencies and NGOs. Radio communications is vital for security and coordination, especially in remote areas.

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.

- Vice-President of Ericsson for Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ms. Elaine Weidman-Grunewald, visited the ETC South Sudan operation, meeting with various partners on the ground. The objective of the mission was to assess the impact of the partnership between Ericsson Response and ETC, as well as gather feedback on improving the response. Along with the ETC team, she visited the new installation of WIDER IV at the Mingkaman site.

- UNESCO Envoy Mr. Forest Whitaker from the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative met with the ETC to seek ways in which the ETC could possibly be involved in the creation of skilled capacity programmes in South Sudan.

Challenges and Gaps

- Reports of high-levels of insecurity in Upper Nile State and Unity State continue to cause delays of planned ETC missions to Mayom, Abiemmon and Nassir.

- Procurement of telecommunications equipment continues to be challenging as lengthy import procedures and the volatile security situation frequently cause significant delays.

Planned Activities

- Following the established of Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) as the ETC standard for Digital Radio, an assessment is being carried out across the country to determine the most suitable migration path for South Sudan. Digital radio technology has a number of beneficial features including GPS tracking, private calls, group calls, SMS alerting and broadcasting between sites.

- A temporary solution to Wi-Fi connectivity issues has been installed in Bentiu, Unity State to ensure continued provision of Internet services. Replacement equipment will be installed once it arrives in-country.

- The ETC plans to deploy ETC Response Solution data services in Melut, Upper Nile State, to provide internet access to humanitarian organizations operating there.

- ETC Response Solution kit, comprising satellite equipment from emergency.lu and WIDER from Ericsson Response, is in Juba for testing. Once ready this equipment will be deployed to the field to provide voice and internet connectivity services to humanitarians.

- Currently, all eight planned sites in South Sudan are being provided with ETC internet connectivity: Juba-3, Juba Tomping, Mingkaman Humanitarian Hub, Mingkaman Save the Children Compound, Nimule, Bentiu, Bor and Malakal. The ETC is requesting additional funding to service a further seven common operational sites by the end of 2014.

Meetings

- Local ETC meetings are held every two weeks. The next meeting will be held on **03/07/14**.

- Global ETC teleconferences are held every two weeks. The next teleconference will be held on **07/07/14**.

ETC Services in South Sudan

CITY	STATE	LOCATION	ETC PARTNERS	SERVICES	REPEATER CHANNELS
Abyei	Abyei	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications	3, 8, 14
Aweil	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications • ICT Help Desk	3, 11, 13
Bentiu (Rubkona)	Unity	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio Communications	9
Bor	Jonglei	UNMISS, WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio connectivity	3, 10, 15
Ganyiel	Unity	IRC	WFP	• Internet connectivity	
Juba	Central Equatoria	UNMISS - Tomping, UN House	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications • Coordination & Logistics Hub • ICT Help Desk • Information Management • Radio Training	1,2,3,6,7,8,9,11,13,14,15
Kapoeta	Eastern Equatoria	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications • ICT Help Desk	10,13
Kaya	Upper Nile	UNHCR	UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP	• Radio communications	13
Kwajok	Warrap	UNHCR	UNHCR	• Radio communications	3, 14
Maban	Upper Nile	UNHCR	UNHCR, WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications	3, 9, 10
Malakal	Upper Nile	UNMISS	WFP, UNHCR	• Internet connectivity • ICT Help Desk • Radio communications	3, 6, 7, 9
Mingkaman	Lakes	ACTED, Save the Children	Emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio Communications	9
Nimule	Eastern Equatoria	UNHCR	UNHCR	• Internet Connectivity • Radio Communications	3

Rumbek	Lakes	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications	3, 4, 10, 11, 13
Torit	Eastern Equatoria	UNMISS	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications	10, 12
Wau	Western Bahr El Ghazal	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications • ICT Help Desk	3, 6, 11, 15
Wunrok	Warrap	WFP	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio communications	8, 15
Yambio	Western Equatoria	UNICEF	UNICEF/WFP	• Radio communications	3, 6, 11, 15
Yida	Unity State	UNHCR	UNHCR	• Radio communications	3, 13

Cluster Responsibilities

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is leading ETC activities in RoSS with responsibility for coordination, implementation and overall operational support for common ICT services.

Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ECOM	Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IRC	International Rescue Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
TETRA	Terrestrial Trunked Radio
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme

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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Background on the crisis:
Conflict broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on 15 December 2013 and quickly spread to several other states. Within weeks, thousands of people had been killed or wounded in the violence, and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes. The crisis has led to a serious deterioration in the food security situation, and some 3.9 million people will face alarming levels of food insecurity by August 2014.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated in South Sudan in 2011, following the country's independence, to provide security and data telecommunications and coordination services to the humanitarian community. Since the recent conflict began in December 2013, the ETC scaled up its activities and expanded to new locations in the interior of South Sudan, supporting humanitarian organizations involved in the crisis response through the provision of vital telecommunication services.

Sources: OCHA South Sudan Crisis Situation Report, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)