

South Sudan

Local ETC Working Group meeting

Date: 07/07/2015

Time: 15:00 UCT+3

Venue: UNHCR office

In attendance:

Chair:	Nono Kukimunu
ETC:	Solomon Welle Sofia Grivet Brancot
IOM:	Akim Bosco
Medair:	Andrew Damant
Mercy Corps:	Moses Jaden
OCHA:	Thomas McKnight
UNHCR:	Stephen Nasimolo

Agenda:

1. Security update
2. ETC response update
3. HISP sites update
4. Roundtable discussion
 - *UNHCR security telecommunications presentation – Stephen Nasimolo, ICT Officer*
5. AOB
6. Agenda for next meeting

Minutes:

1. Security Update

- A security update was provided highlighting the challenges of responding in the conflict-affected states.

2. ETC response update

- The ETC continues to support 24x repeater sites and 15x communications centers, including the 10 state capitals and Abyei, for the provision of security telecommunications services. On-site as well as remote ICT support services are being provided to 9x data connectivity sites across the country.
- In Bentiu (Unity State), a two-week mission to provide on-site ICT support to all humanitarians is ongoing. The ETC guarantees a constant presence in this area to promptly respond to the high emergency telecommunications needs.

- ETC partner, emergency.lu, donated new internet connectivity equipment for the South Sudan operation. This equipment, currently in Bentiu, will replace equipment previously provided.
- In Nyal, local authorities requested the ETC to ensure that communications services are provided for humanitarian purposes only.
 - The ETC will therefore deploy a user authentication system to be strictly managed by NGO partners on the ground.
- In Koch (Unity State), most ETC equipment, including a solar hybrid system, has been reportedly looted.
 - Once humanitarians resume their operations in this location, the ETC will carry out a service deployment assessment mission.
- In Yida (Unity State), a mission to restore internet connectivity that has been unstable for the past two weeks, has been successfully concluded.
 - As most organisations in Yida are now managing their own data connectivity needs, the ETC plans to deactivate its data connectivity service in the coming month.
- Concentrating its efforts on providing emergency response telecommunications services to priority locations identified by the Inter-Cluster Working Group, the ETC will carry out a deployment mission to Old Fangak (Jonglei State) this week.
- In Akobo (Jonglei State), the deployment of emergency telecommunications services is vital due to the growing number of humanitarians responding in this remote yet strategic location.
 - A ETC deployment mission to Akobo is planned for the coming week.
- In Mingkaman (Lakes State), ETC internet services are currently unstable at the ACTED humanitarian hub. A mission to fully restore equipment is planned for tomorrow. In the meantime, humanitarians may access ETC internet services at the Save the Children compound.
 - A mission is planned to install the new emergency.lu internet connectivity equipment donated to the South Sudan operation, which will replace the one previously provided.
- The ETC, as the inter-agency coordinating body, is providing security telecommunications presentations to the humanitarian community South Sudan, stressing the urgency to migrate to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) technology.
 - Last week, meetings were held with the NGO Forum and UNHCR. This week, the ETC will present its projects to UNICEF.

3. HISP sites update

- The implementation of HISP services has been fully completed in three sites: Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Malakal (Upper Nile State) and Bor (Jonglei State).
- A total of 30 organisations are connected to HISP, including six in Aweil, 14 in Malakal, and 10 in Bor.
- In Bor (Jonglei State), ETC internet services have been deactivated as the HISP cost-sharing internet service has been fully activated, effective as of 01 July.
- The next HISP sites will be Bentiu and Mingkaman.

4. Roundtable discussion

UNHCR security telecommunications presentation – Stephen Nasimolo, ICT Officer

- The presentation was shared with all ETC partners.



5. AOB

- The ETC is organising two Let's Comm Digital training sessions on MotoTRBO Digital VHF radio infrastructure deployment to be held in South Sudan in November 2015. According to the needs and prioritising women, 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the Government will be invited by the ETC to participate in the training. Expressions of interest may be shared by writing to SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org.
- A defined deployment plan for migration to Digital Mobile Radios will be provided to all ETC partners.

6. Agenda for next meeting

- As most ETC partners provide ICT emergency equipment to mobile teams deployed in the deep field, it has been proposed to have a dedicated technical knowledge-sharing meeting.
 - All agencies should bring equipment currently used by their mobile teams, such as portable solar panels and back up batteries, and hold a brief presentation on the challenges and benefits experienced through the use of the different technologies.
 - The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) ICT colleagues will also be invited to participate and share their technologies.
 - This initiative could lead to further dynamic inter-agency knowledge sharing discussions and cooperation.
 - As a long-term plan, the ETC would like to organise an emergency telecommunications response event, allowing all ICT colleagues to present their technical response solutions to the broader humanitarian audience.

Next Meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on **Thursday 23 July 2015** at 10:00 UCT+3.

Acronyms

AOB	Any Other Business
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
DPMR	Digital Private Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WFP	World Food Programme



All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
<http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2014/ross>

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

Minutes: Sofia Grivet Brancot, IM Officer, ETC