

South Sudan

Local ETC Working Group meeting

Date: 20/08/2015

Time: 10:00 UCT+3

Venue: UNICEF office

In attendance:

ETC:	Nono Kukimunu Sofia Grivet Brancot
ACF:	Taban Kennedy
IMC:	Bilton Muramba
MEDAIR:	Andrew Damant Coen Gorter
Mercy Corps:	Moses Jaden
OCHA:	Samuel Keri
UNICEF:	Joseph Odwogo Pawan Tuladhar
WFP:	Chidi Enechuku Solomon Welle

Agenda:

1. Security update
2. ETC response update
3. HISP sites update
4. Roundtable discussion
 - Presenting the ETC Response Solution, with technologies from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response
 - Ministry of Telecommunications Meeting – Defining a Joint Agenda
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 is currently operating 7x internet connectivity sites across the country, prioritizing Unity and Jonglei states. For the provision of security telecommunications services, the ETC supports 21x repeater sites and 15x Communications Centres, including the 10 state capitals and Abyei.
- In Bentiu (Unity state), a comprehensive radio training exercise will be provided to humanitarians responding in this location. Partners have identified emergency telecommunications awareness as a priority in Bentiu.
 - Responding to the assessed needs, the ETC also plans to install an additional radio repeater to enhance communication capabilities among the humanitarians responding in this area.
- In Akobo (Jonglei State) the ETC successfully established a new site, based in the Save the Children (SCI) compound, allowing more than 12 NGOs responding in this strategic location to have access to reliable Internet connectivity supported by solar power. The ETC technician on the ground is working on connecting the International Medical Corps (IMC) compound, located at a further distance from the other NGOs, to the ETC Internet service.
 - The ETC is also planning a mission to enhance radio communications facilities and provide radio training to all humanitarians responding in this area.
- The ETC continues to provide radio programming services to humanitarian partners in South Sudan.

3. HISP sites update

- In 2015, the ETC is focusing on the implementation of the Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP), a reliable and long-term solution based on a cost-sharing mechanism to meet the Internet connectivity needs of humanitarian actors in remote and hard-to-reach locations.
- The implementation of Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP) services has been fully completed in three sites: Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Malakal (Upper Nile State) and Bor (Jonglei State).
- In Bor (Jonglei state), most HISP partners were unable to fully access the service due to network interferences. A team, comprising two senior engineers, assessed the issue, restored connectivity and met with the partners. The service is now fully operational for all users.
- The next HISP sites will be Bentiu and Mingkaman (Lakes state).
 - The new HISP equipment arrived in Juba and clearance is now pending. The implementation is planned for early September.
 - The equipment for the towers in Mingkaman and Bentiu is being delivered to both locations.

4. Roundtable discussion

Presenting the ETC Response Solution, with technologies from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response

- The presentations of the ETC Response Solution was shared with all partners.
- The ETC Response Solution, with technologies from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response are currently located in Bentiu and Mingkaman. These will be shifted to new prioritised locations as soon as HISP will be implemented in these two sites.
 - In Pibor (Jonglei state), the ETC installed an emergency.lu internet response solution, which was donated to UNICEF. This installation will allow to share internet connectivity with all humanitarians responding in this area.

- The ETC Response Solution registration system grants immediate 24-hour access to the Internet service. However, for long-term Internet access, activation is available by registering the credentials automatically received by email.
- The ETC Response Solution supports the connection of only one device per registration as a standard procedure. It is however possible to connect further devices on an ad hoc basis.

Ministry of Telecommunications Meeting – Defining a Joint Agenda

- The ETC is arranging a meeting with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services (MTPS) in South Sudan.
- All ETC partners agreed to bring relevant five main topics to the attention of the MTPS: the ETC Strategic Plan; the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) migration; the National Communication Authority (NCA) responsibilities; the new telecommunications equipment procedures- taxation, clearance and loss; and the registration procedures and use of Thuraya satellite phones.

5. AOB

- In Old Fangak (Jonglei State), the ETC site, established in July, is providing Internet connectivity to all humanitarians responding in this area.
 - Partners identified the need for a solar power system to charge electrical devices in this area. To overcome these needs, the ETC suggested installing a solar power charging station.

The ETC will identify a partner on the ground to host the equipment and support with the management of the services.

- NGOs responding in Old Fangak reported that the local authorities have collected all Thuraya satellite phones. More clarity on this situation is needed.
- The ETC is organising two Let's Comm Digital training sessions on MotoTRBO Digital VHF radio infrastructure deployment to be held in Juba in mid-November 2015. According to the needs and prioritising women, 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the Government will invited to participate in the training. Expressions of interest may be sent in writing to SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org.
- A quick online [User Feedback Survey](#) has been shared with all ETC partners. The outcome of the survey will allow the ETC to strategically prioritize deployments and respond more efficiently.
- The ETC will organise an ad hoc security telecommunications training for newly recruited ICT Officers in Juba. The syllabus is being defined according to the participants needs. All interested ICT Officers are encouraged to participate.

6. Agenda for next meeting

- During the next meeting, the ETC will update partners on the outcome of the MTPS meeting and with the Operational Management Team on DMR deployment.

Next Meeting

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



Acronyms

AOB	Any Other Business
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MTPS	Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN	United Nations
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:
SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Sofia Grivet Brancot, IM Officer, ETC