

Republic of South Sudan

Local ETC Working Group meeting

Date: 10/09/2015

Time: 10:00 UCT+3

Venue: UNDP office

In attendance:

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|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| ETC: | Nono Kukimunu Sofia Grivet Brancot |
| IMC: | Bilton Muramba |
| Jhpiego: | Dilla Theophelus Simon |
| Mercy Corps: | Moses Jaden |
| OCHA: | Samuel Keri |
| UNDP: | Eric Kivavi |
| UNHCR: | Stephen Nasimolo |
| WFP: | Boster Sibande |

Agenda:

1. ETC response update
2. HISP sites update
3. Roundtable discussion
 - Old Fangak solar power solutions
 - Digital Mobile Radio Deployment –Operational Management Team meeting Briefing
4. AOB
5. Agenda for next meeting

Minutes:

1. ETC response update

- The ETC is currently operating 6x Internet connectivity sites in Bentiu, Nyal and Ganyiel located in Unity state, Old Fangak and Akobo located in Jonglei state and Mingkaman located in Lakes state.
- For the provision of security telecommunications services, the ETC supports 21x repeater sites and 15x Communications Centres, including the 10 state capitals and Abyei.
- With the ETC's support, a new joint Communications Centre (COMCEN) for the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was installed in Juba-UN House last week. This inter-agency project will enhance

communication sharing between the two agencies and therefore allow greater security for humanitarians responding in South Sudan.

- In Akobo (Jonglei State), an ETC mission to enhance radio communications facilities installing a second repeater for NGOs on Channel 9 is ongoing.
 - In August, a new ETC site was successfully established in this strategic location, allowing more than 12 NGOs responding to have access to reliable Internet connectivity supported by solar power.
- The ETC held a one-day and ad hoc security telecommunications training for newly recruited ICT officers in Juba. Further training may be organised as per request.
- The ETC continues to provide radio programming services to humanitarian partners in South Sudan.

2. 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 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, followed by Mingkaman (Lakes state).
 - The HISP equipment for Bentiu has been prepositioned in Rumbek.

3. Roundtable discussion

Old Fangak solar power solutions

- In Old Fangak (Jonglei State), reliable Internet connectivity supported by solar power was established in July.
- Due to power constraints, the ETC is now coordinating with the partners on the ground to deploy a solar powered charging station. The station will allow the humanitarians to safely charge their life-saving devices.
 - The charging station will be powered by two 110x Ampere batteries, for a total of 220x Ampere. It is estimated that up to 20 laptops may be charged daily.

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Deployment –Operational Management Team (OMT) meeting Briefing

- The DMR OMT meeting presentation was shared with all partners.
- The ETC, as the inter-agency coordinating body, will manage the Digital Mobile Radio deployment in South Sudan, based on a cost-sharing mechanism.
- The DMR deployment strategy was presented with the South Sudan OMT to discuss costs, dates and the way forward. The business proposal and the Memorandum of Understanding will be shared with all UN agencies.
- An email will be shared with all partners, specifying the type of DMR devices to be purchased.



4. AOB

- The ETC is organising two Let's Comm Digital training sessions on MotoTRBO Digital VHF radio infrastructure deployment to be held in Juba from 16 to 20 and from 23 to 27 November 2015. According to the needs and prioritising women, 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the Government will be 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. All ETC partners are encouraged to share the survey with their colleagues using ETC services on the ground in 2015. The outcome of the survey will allow the ETC to strategically prioritize deployments and respond more efficiently.

5. Agenda for next meeting

- During the next meeting, the ETC will update partners on the outcome of the meeting with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services (MTPS).

Next Meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on **Thursday 1 October 2015** at 10:00 UCT+3.

Acronyms

| | |
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| 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