Republic of South Sudan

Local ETC Working Group meeting

Date: 01/10/2015   Time: 10:00 UCT+3   Venue: IOM office

In attendance:

ETC:	Richard Egwangu
	Sofia Grivet Brancot
IMC:	Bilton Muramba
MEDAIR:	Coen Gorter
Mercy Corps:	Moses Jaden
IOM:	Abdullahi Santur
	Anjo Pelovello
	Akim Bosco
WFP:	Solomon Welle
	Ashraf Abushady

Agenda:

1. Security update
2. ETC response update – Focus on Bentiu mission
3. HISP deployment update
4. Roundtable discussions
    - *Presentation on "Satellite Tracking Systems"*
5. AOB
6. 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 22x repeater sites and 15x Communications Centres, including the 10 state capitals and Abyei.

- In Bentiu (Unity state), the ETC guarantees a constant presence providing on-site ICT support and system monitoring services to all humanitarians.

- In Bentiu, a comprehensive one-week security telecommunications mission was concluded. Six training sessions were facilitated and over 150 humanitarians trained, including radio operators. Technical support was provided to all agencies, their radios programmed and accurate call signs allocated as needed.
  - o In response to the assessed needs in Bentiu, the ETC will install an additional radio repeater for the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to enhance the emergency response in this area.
  - o To align with UN standards, a new radio tower will be constructed in the coming week to enhance the radio communication coverage for all humanitarians in this area.
  - o Due to the volume of security telecommunications needs and the turnover of staff, the ETC is planning a new mission to provide radio training and technical support.
- In Nyal (Unity state), a mission to install a solar system to support the ETC internet connectivity equipment is planned for next week.
  - o The ETC has identified the shift to renewable solar power in all its sites as the most suitable solution to support the humanitarian community responding to the ongoing crisis in South Sudan.
- In Old Fangak (Jonglei State), an ETC mission to deploy a solar charging station and increase the overall power capacity in being planned for next week. The station will allow humanitarians currently suffering from power constraints to safely charge their lifesaving devices. In July, reliable Internet connectivity, powered by renewable energy, was established for all NGOs responding in this area.
- 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 Malakal, a mission to deploy a user authentication system is planned for next week. This measure will allow more regulated and reliable internet connectivity services, addressing the issue of unauthorized use of the internet services.
- The next HISP sites will be Bentiu, followed by Mingkaman (Lakes state).
- In Bentiu, an on-site HISP assessment was successfully concluded last week, involving all organisations responding in this area and evaluating their needs.
  - o Following the arrival of the equipment, the HISP installation for Bentiu will be carried out in the coming weeks with the plan to have HISP services fully operational by the end of October.

3. Roundtable discussion

Presentation on "Satellite Tracking Systems" – Ashraf Abushady, WFP GIS Officer

- The presentation on "Satellite Tracking Systems" is available at: https://prezi.com/fj7uvh8s-k69
- In addition to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) systems, the satellite tracking system has the advantage of being less visible and track the individual beyond areas where radio coverage is available.

4. AOB

- The ETC, as the inter-agency coordinating body, will manage the DMR deployment in South Sudan, based on a cost-sharing mechanism.
  - The DMR deployment strategy was presented to the South Sudan Operational Management Team (OMT) to discuss costs, dates and the way forward. The business proposal and the Memorandum of Understanding is being shared with all UN agencies.

- The ETC is hosting two Let's Comm Digital training sessions on MotoTRBO Digital VHF radio infrastructure deployment. The training will be facilitated by WFP FITTEST and take place in Juba from 16 to 20 and from 23 to 27 November 2015. A maximum of 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the Government will be invited to participate. Expressions of interest may be sent to SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org.
  - Participants need to have a technical background in VHF/UHF radio communications. All training materials are in English only and, given the technical nature of the content, students must have strong English skills to successfully complete the course.
  - The course equips staff with the skills and knowledge to be able to design, implement and maintain DMR networks, including intensive hands on training in the installation and configuration of handhelds, mobile radios and repeaters.

- 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.

- Due to the scaling down of the response operations, the Local ETC Working Group meetings will be held monthly, on the first Thursday of the month.

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 Working Group meeting will be held on **Thursday 05 November 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
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