

Republic of South Sudan

Local ETC Working Group meeting

Date: 13/11/2015

Time: 10:00 UCT+3

Venue: IMC office

In attendance:

ETC: Richard Egwangu
Sofia Grivet Brancot

ARC: John Ohisio

CRS: Butrus Mbibi

IMC: Bilton Muramba

IOM: Anjo Pelovello
Akim Bosco
Samuel Bidal

MEDAIR: Coen Gorter
Taban Baya

Mercy Corps: Moses Jaden

MTPS: Jose John Dolo
Polow James

OCHA: Samuel Keri

SCI: Rose Donje
Thomas Obulejo

UNDSS: Sakhile Mahlangu

UNFPA: Ayub Maswa

UNICEF: Joseph Odwogo

WFP: Deborah Bongiri
John Mawa
Palangakp Bagi
Solomon Welle
Tenson Majaraunga

Agenda:

1. Security update
2. ETC response update
3. HISP deployment update
4. Roundtable discussion
 - Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Deployment Presentation
 - Let's Comm Digital Training final updates
5. AOB
6. Agenda for next meeting

Minutes:

1. Security Update

- A security update was provided to attendees by a UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) officer.

2. 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, to align with UN standards, the construction of a 30-meter telecommunications tower was completed, for radio infrastructure to be installed on it. The radio coverage has therefore significantly improved for all humanitarians in this area. An additional radio repeater for UNHAS operations will be installed aswell.
 - Due to the volume of security telecommunications needs and the high turnover of staff in this area, the ETC is planning a new mission to provide radio training and technical support.
- In Ganyiel (Unity state), the ETC has assessed the need for radio communications in this key humanitarian site. As the necessary equipment arrived this week, a radio communication deployment mission is planned by the end of November.
 - All humanitarians responding in this area will also be provided with ICT Helpdesk support and the status of all ETC services, including the solar power system efficiency, will be assessed.
- In Nyal (Unity state), a mission to deploy a solar system to power the ETC Internet services is planned.
- In Old Fangak (Jonglei State), an ETC mission to deploy a solar charging station and increase the overall power capacity is planned. 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.

3. HISP sites update

- As a phase-out strategy, the ETC is focusing on the implementation of the Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP), a reliable and efficient 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 Mingkaman, HISP engineers are currently installing the new system as all humanitarians are being consulted and their specific needs addressed.
 - In Bentiu, in coordination with the Logistics Cluster, the 30-meter inter-agency telecommunications tower has been successfully erected in the new humanitarian operating hub as the satellite dish is being relocated.

4. Roundtable discussion

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Deployment Presentation – Solomon Welle, DMR Project manager

- The presentation on DMR has been shared with all participants.
- During the meeting the DMR equipment and its benefits were explained to all participants.
- In view of the upcoming Digital Mobile Radio deployment for South Sudan and aligning to the ETC global standards, all humanitarian agencies planning to purchase security telecommunications equipment are advised to order the following Motorola **VHF** digital models:
 - Portables: DP 4801
 - Repeaters: DR 3000, 25 W, SLR 5500 50 W
 - Mobiles: DM 3600, DM 4401, DM 4601, DM 4400
- Following agreements with Motorola, the ETC will share clear information with all partners on the options of the Buy-back system – by handing back the outdated analogue radios, humanitarian organisations will have a discount on the purchase of new digital radios.

Let's Comm Digital Training final updates

- 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 total of 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and the Government have been invited to participate.
 - 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.
 - The training Agenda and all administrative information have been shared with the participants.

5. AOB

- In Bentiu, humanitarian organisations have reported WiFi interference with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
 - A ETC mission, organised for the coming week, will assess this situation and liaise with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Bentiu to provide joint support to all humanitarian partners.
- In 2016, the ETC strategy will focus on supporting the humanitarian community through coordination, building partnerships and brokering services. Although maintaining its key function of provider of last resort, strategically repositioning equipment for fast deployment, the ETC will hand-over the management of its ongoing internet services to identified on-site lead organizations by the end of 2015.
- A [User Feedback Survey](#) is being shared online with all ETC partners. The outcome of the survey will allow the ETC to strategically prioritize deployments and respond more efficiently.

6. 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).
- A representative for the MTPS will be invited to attend the next Local ETC Working Group meeting.



Next Meeting

The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will be held on **Thursday 03 December 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
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: SouthSudan.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Sofia Grivet Brancot, IM Officer, ETC