

Republic of South Sudan (RoSS)

ETC Situation Report #85

Reporting period 01/12/15 to 20/02/16

The next ETC RoSS Sitrep report will be issued on or around 25/03/16.

Highlights

- ETC continues to provide emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community at 22 sites across South Sudan.
- The Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP) is fully operational in Aweil, Malakal, Bor and Mingakaman (Lakes state) serving over 720 users from 48 partner organisations.
- The 2016 ETC South Sudan strategy focuses on ICT coordination and support to the humanitarian community, provision of critical ICT services in emergencies, and capacity-building.

Situation Overview

Since activation in 2011 following the country's independence, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has provided humanitarians across South Sudan with vital telecommunications services. Given the ongoing need for communications services, the ETC is supporting the response community with development and implementation of the Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP), a reliable, low-cost and long-term solution to meet the internet connectivity needs of humanitarian actors in remote and hard to reach locations.

In 2015, the ETC developed and adopted the 'ETC2020' strategy which seeks to ensure that by 2020, all those responding to humanitarian emergencies, including affected populations, have access to vital communications services. The new strategy expands the scope of ETC services and includes working closer with governments and private sector

organisations to broker service provision, enabling more innovative and effective humanitarian assistance. In 2016, ETC South Sudan will coordinate and support the humanitarian community in evaluating expansion of ETC services in accordance with the new global ETC2020 strategy.



Ku-band Communication Satellite Antenna installed in Pibor, South Sudan

Photo credit: WFP/ETC South Sudan

Sporadic security incidents remain observed in many areas in the country.

ETC Response Activities

- ETC maintains security telecommunications infrastructure and services, and continues programming radios based on common standards. To date, over 1,800 radios have been programmed for over 185 humanitarian organizations.
- In Bentiu (Unity State), two VHF repeaters have been installed on the newly constructed 30-metre telecommunications tower, increasing coverage of security communications services.
 - The two new radio channels are assigned for the NGO community and for UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) operations.
- As the emergency phase has passed, the ETC has been able to conclude provision of Internet connectivity services in Nyal and Ganyiel (Unity State); Old Fangak and Akobo (Jonglei State); and Mingkaman (Lakes State).
 - IT, telecommunications and power equipment in some locations has been handed over to lead non-governmental organizations in the areas to support their operations.
 - Equipment from ETC members emergency.lu and Ericsson Response has been demobilised and brought back to Juba and repositioned for the next deployment.
- In Nyal (Unity State), a hybrid solar system to power the ETC Internet service has been successfully installed.
 - The user authentication system has been upgraded, allowing a more regulated and reliable internet service. This measure also allows to manage the system remotely from Juba, for a more efficient user support.
- The Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Office, and the National Communications Authority, are undergoing internal changes. The ETC is reaching out to the newly-appointed focal points in the Ministries to ensure continued collaboration.
- In-line with the ETC2020 strategy, ETC South Sudan is supporting the response community through coordination, building partnership and brokering services. On behalf of the humanitarian community, the ETC is engaging with Mobile Network Operations to explore opportunities to reduce services costs through a shared user group across all networks.

Planned Activities

- At the end of 2015, the ETC was providing shared internet services at six sites across South Sudan. As part of its 2016 strategy, ETC South Sudan plans to shift two sites to HISP and handover management of services at four sites to lead on-site humanitarian organisations.
- The ETC proposes to hold two technical trainings for humanitarian radio operators and two separate training exercises for Training of Trainers (ToT) to support other users.



Challenges and Gaps

- Constraints in funding have caused delays for partners to sign up to the Digital Mobile Radio project and HISP.



The Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP) is a reliable, low-cost and long-term solution to meet the internet connectivity needs of humanitarian actors in remote and hard to reach locations. The ETC is supporting the response community with development and implementation of this inter-agency project.

Connected Sites

- The Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP) has been deployed in four locations across South Sudan – Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Malakal (Upper Nile State), Bor (Jonglei State) and Mingkaman. 48 NGOs have subscribed to HISP with approximately 720 users.
- The migration of connectivity services to HISP is ongoing in Bentiu (Unity State).

Cluster Responsibilities

World Food Programme (WFP) is leading the ETC activities in South Sudan with responsibility for coordination, implementation, overall operational support for common ICT services and driving of ETC2020.

As an inter-agency project, the ETC is supporting the response community with development and implementation of HISP.

ETC Meetings

- Global ETC teleconferences are held monthly. The next teleconference will be held on Thursday 17 March 2016.
- Local ETC meetings are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 31 March 2016.

Useful Links

- [ETC South Sudan Factsheet](#)
- [ETC South Sudan Service Map](#)
- [ETC VHF Radio coverage Map](#)
- [ETC services usage Policy](#)
- [About ETC2020 vision](#)



Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Services
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
SouthSudan.HISP@wfp.org

Background on the crisis:

In December 2013, fighting between different elements of the South Sudan armed forces broke out in the capital Juba and subsequently spread to the interior of the country, especially Jonglei State, Unity State and Upper Nile State. On-going clashes between pro-government and anti-government forces continue to undermine the security situation and have had dire humanitarian consequences.

Since the onset of violence over 1.64 million people have been displaced within South Sudan while 622,400 have fled to neighbouring countries.

The [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster](#) (ETC) has been activated in South Sudan since 2011, providing security and data telecommunications and coordination services to the humanitarian community. Following the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in December 2013, the ETC scaled up its activities and expanded to new locations in the interior of South Sudan, supporting humanitarian organizations involved in the crisis response through the provision of vital telecommunication services.

Sources: OCHA South Sudan Crisis Situation Report, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)