Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #88

Reporting period 01/05/16 to 31/05/16

The next ETC South Sudan Sitrep report will be issued on or around 30/06/16.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has completed the shipment of emergency.lu satellite kits to the two re-opened humanitarian hubs in Leer and Koch counties.

- 25 ICT technicians from various UN agencies, NGOs and government agencies completed the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) training in Juba. Two five-day training courses were held.

- Humanitarian Internet Support Service (HISP) is serving 65 humanitarian organizations with roughly 720 users in five sites, including Aweil, Mingkaman, Malakal, Bor and Bentiu.

Situation Overview

In 2016, ETC services in Mingkaman, Aweil, Malakal, Bor and Bentiu has fully migrated to 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.

The ETC will re-deploy the emergency.lu equipment and renewable energy solutions to provide power and connectivity in the new humanitarian hubs in Koch and Leer counties. .

Security telecommunications systems will be upgraded from the current analogue network to modern digital technology. The ETC will also bridge the existing radio networks between Interagency Telecommunications network, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to strengthen the security monitoring system.
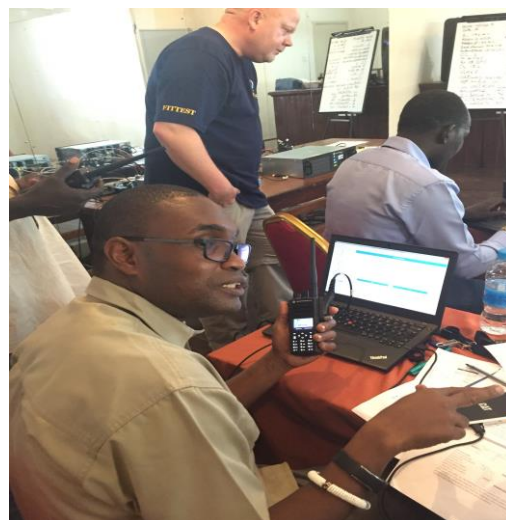
Participants actively engaged on handheld radio exercises during the Let's Comm Digital Training conducted by FITTEST

Photo credit: WFP/Ruby Senin

The ETC provides timely, predictable and effective Information Communications Technology services to support the humanitarian community in carrying-out their work efficiently, effectively and safely.

ETC Response Activities

- The ETC has completed the delivery of emergency.lu satellite kits to two re-opened humanitarian hubs in Leer and Koch counties. A mission to install the equipment will follow awaiting the availability of the renewable energy solution that will provide power support for the equipment.

- The relocation of the humanitarian hub in Malakal and all HISPsites to the new humanitarian hub less than a kilometre away was also completed. New NGOs were added to join HISP network in Malakal which, to date, makes the users to approximately 235 humanitarian workers.

- Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) training for 25 ICT technicians from various UN agencies, NGOs, and Government agencies in Juba has been concluded. The successful completion of the training is expected to increase the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) skill levels of the IT and Telecommunication technicians who participated.

Planned Activities

- The ETC is planning a mission to Leer and Koch to install a rapid deployment kit that includes a mobile satellite crisis communication system. This equipment will be used to provide Internet connectivity to the humanitarian hub managed by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

- The ETC is planning the expansion of HISP services to include voice calls and internet bandwidth management with a global service provider to enhance resource utilization by organizations using the service.

Challenges and Gaps

- Implementing the ETC 2020 strategy which focuses on supporting the response community through coordination, building partnership and brokering services remains a challenge due to limited investment in vital communication infrastructure to support the humanitarian response in the country. The lack of a local service provider to meet the humanitarians with their telecommunications needs is reality challenge.

HISP

SouthSudan.HISP@wfp.org

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

- HISP has been deployed in five locations across South Sudan – Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Malakal (Upper Nile State), Bor (Jonglei State), Mingkaman and Bentiu. 720 users from 65 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have subscribed to HISP in total so far.

Cluster Responsibilities

WFP is leading ETC activities in South Sudan with responsibility for coordination, implementation, and overall operational support for common ICT services and driving ETC2020.

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

ETC Meetings

- Global ETC teleconferences are held monthly. The next teleconference will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2016.

- Local ETC meetings are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 June 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

DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
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
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