

Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #89

Reporting period 01/06/16 to 30/06/16

The next ETC South Sudan SitRep will be issued on or around 29/07/16.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has met with two local service providers to expand its database of local service providers in South Sudan.
- The ETC provide support to secure connectivity service for New People's Aid (NPA) with a local service provider for their sub-office in Old Fangak. The support that the ETC is providing to help humanitarian find appropriate local-based solutions has been appreciated by the humanitarians.
- Recruitment of three radio operators and four Information and Communications Technology (ICT) technicians is underway.

Situation Overview

ETC internet services in Mingkaman, Aweil, Malakal, Bor and Bentiu have fully migrated to the Humanitarian Internet Support Project (HISP), a co-shared, reliable, low-cost and long-term internet connectivity solution. This system aims to sustain the connectivity requirements of the organizations given the funding constraints of the cluster. It has generated a lot of interest within the humanitarian sector especially in the areas outside the Juba capital.

State capitals where humanitarians are operating and are not covered by HISP but there is WFP presence, have access to Internet connectivity through an inter-agency link. Humanitarians will be operating in proximity to the humanitarian hub and share the cost of the maintenance of the inter-agency link with subscribers.

The ETC has completed the delivery of emergency.lu satellite kits in 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.



Logistic officer coordinating airdrops operation through ETC radio telecommunications system in Thanyang, Rubkona County, Unity State, and South Sudan.

Photo credit: WFP/Alejandro Guzman

ETC Response Activities

- Procurement of the equipment such as digital repeater, solar power system support, and repeater duplexer for the Phase I upgrade of the inter-agency security telecommunications to digital is underway. Migration will be divided into phases, and Phase I will include Juba, Bentiu, Malakal and Bor.
- A telecommunications specialist went on mission to Malakal to conduct routine maintenance of the security telecommunications system and an assessment of the inter-agency Communications Centre (COMCEN) relocation to the new humanitarian hub.
- The ETC team in South Sudan always participate in Global and local ETC meetings every month to ensure proper coordination of its activities with its regional and global partners.

Planned Activities

- The two prioritized sites of Leer and Koch shall be scheduled for installation of the rapid deployment kit with power support using a renewable solar energy solution. The lead agencies, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and World Relief (WR), respectively, shall maintain and manage the equipment in the humanitarian hubs.
- The ETC is planning the expansion of services of HISP 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

- Access to power remains a major challenge in many areas of ETC operations in South Sudan. Only one per cent of the country has access to electricity which is mainly through generators run by fuel. Mobile phone coverage is still not available in affected areas outside Juba where the majority of humanitarian actors are operating.



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. In all five sites, 14 subscription account used by UN agencies, 40 accounts subscribed by International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and 11 accounts for national NGOs have subscribed to HISP for 720 users.



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 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 Wednesday 13 July 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
WR	World Relief

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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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)