

Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #93

Reporting period 10/09/16 to 30/09/16

The next ETC South Sudan SitRep will be issued on or around 31/10/16.

Highlights

- The final sites assessment for repeater installation of Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project was completed in September. This will be integrated with the existing digital network of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), facilitating seamless security communications between the two networks.
- The ETC response are suspended in Leer and Koch counties for lack of access due to insecurity.

Situation Overview

Security situation in South Sudan remained volatile with the continued fighting in Greater Equatoria. Security telecommunications plays a major role in humanitarian coordination. There are three main security telecommunications networks existing in South Sudan. The Tetra network managed by United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the Digital Private Mobile Radio (DPMR) network by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the inter-agency network managed by ETC in South Sudan, used by the remaining 154 humanitarian organizations.

An analogue radio system is currently used across South Sudan among humanitarian actors not connected to Tetra and DPMR network. In field locations where Global System for Mobile (GSM) communications are not available, radios are used for reporting, coordination and emergency response. High Frequency (HF) radios are used in coordinating airdrops, flights monitoring, and deep field communication activities.

Lack of vital infrastructure to support telecommunications system in the country requires that ETC designs the radio installation with direct power support through generators as well as with renewable energy system as backup. This setup has been adopted as standard in the analogue radio system in South Sudan.

Currently, ETC is moving from analogue to digital radio technology system. The migration intends to streamline voice communications in multiple devices, improve tracking system through Global Positioning System (GPS), and wider coverage. In this process, the existing networks in the country will be interconnected for easy access.



ICT staff setting cable underground for Bor sub-office, South Sudan.

Photo credit: WFP/Blessing Dzarbo

ETC Response Activities

- The ETC is currently implementing the phase I and II of the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project:
 - Out of 21 UN agencies operating in South Sudan, there are 18 who signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project. Approximately 75% of the cost shared for Phase I and II of the implementation have been received from the signatories as to date.
 - An external technical officer has arrived in Juba and completed his mission to conduct a final survey of sites for the digital radio repeater installation. The mission also included meeting with United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to finalize the discussion on identified sites for the repeater.
 - Analogue radio system will be gradually phased out during Phase I and II of DMR implementation in Juba, Bentiu and Bor. The rest of the country however, will remain using the analogue system until later stages of DMR migration (Phase III to V).

Planned Activities

- The ETC response in Leer and Koch remains in the planned activities. Government of Luxembourg expressed its willingness to provide voice services in addition to internet connectivity for humanitarians in Leer and Koch. Both locations are remote, not supported by any coverage of local communications except for Satellite phone service, which is very expensive to sustain.
- Radio training will be conducted in South Sudan for end-users from humanitarian agencies in November as part of the preparation for the DMR system migration.

Challenges and Gaps

- The high demand for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) helpdesk support throughout South Sudan has exhausted the capacity of ICT staff currently present in the country. Local IT staff to support the daily needs of users requires additional trainings related to ICT functions.
- Lengthy importation process for ICT equipment has in several instances which affects the timeline of shipment of the needed equipment in the country.



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 solution is working as normal in all five locations across South Sudan – Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Malakal (Upper Nile State), Mingkaman, Bor and Bentiu. In total, 14 accounts are subscribed to by UN agencies, 40 accounts subscribed to by International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and 11 accounts for national NGOs. There are currently 720 HISP users in total. HISP sites were not impacted by the recent fighting.

Cluster Responsibilities

WFP, global lead of the ETC, 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

- Local IT Task Force meetings are currently held every Monday. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 October 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

COMCEN	Communications Centre
DPMR	Digital Private Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
INGO	International Non-governmental Organizations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
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 ETC 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)