

Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #94

Reporting period 10/10/16 to 10/11/16

The next ETC South Sudan SitRep will be issued on or around 10/12/16.

Highlights

- Configuration and testing of the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) network infrastructure for the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in South Sudan was completed in Denmark. The import clearance process is complete and the equipment ready for shipment.
- ETC will provide security communications system for humanitarian workers in Pibor county in response to deteriorating security situation.

Situation Overview

Since July over 323,000 South Sudanese have fled the country and numbers continue to grow due to insecurity in many areas. Malaria remains the top cause of morbidity and mortality in South Sudan. Cases of cholera have been confirmed in Bentiu's Protection of Civilian (PoC) camp and suspected cases have been reported in Kurwai, Jonglei and increasingly in Leer County and surrounding areas.

Security in Equatoria states remains volatile, civilian movements are allowed. Over 90 humanitarian staff from Aweil (from seven organizations) and 12 staff from Bor (from two organizations) have relocated. The situation speaks of the constraints of the humanitarian workers in field.

An analogue radio system is currently used across South Sudan among humanitarian actors who are not connected to United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) digital networks. 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, flight monitoring, and deep field communication activities.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is migrating existing analogue networks to DMR which streamlines voice communications in multiple devices, improves tracking system through Global Positioning System (GPS), and allows wider coverage.



Configuration and testing of Digital Mobile Radio network infrastructure in Denmark.

Photo credit: WFP/ETC

ETC Response Activities

- The ETC has moved the Communications Centre (COMCEN) from the United Nations (UN) House facilities for Security Information and Operations Center (SIOC) to a centralized COMCEN.
- Configuration and testing of complete DMR network infrastructure has been completed in Denmark. This equipment has been cleared to be shipped to Juba in early November. A technical mission will follow for the deployment of the digital radio repeaters covering the ETC site in Juba.
- ETC technical staff is currently in Aweil to restore the internet connectivity in the humanitarian hub that was damaged due to lightning.
- Humanitarian Internet Service Provider (HISP) have enabled internet connectivity service for ChildFund Korea which is engaged in educational programs and for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) which is supporting development projects in Bor.

Planned Activities

- The ETC is preparing to conduct an inter-agency practical training for Information Technology (IT) staff from different organizations on the installation of portable DMR devices in mobile vehicles next week. This training will prepare staff for the migration of security telecommunications to the DMR network.
- A technical mission will arrive for the deployment of DMR repeaters in Juba in the last week of November.

Challenges and Gaps

- 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 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 24 November 2016.
- Next Joint Global ETC teleconference will be held on Wednesday 23 November.

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
PoC	Protection of Civilian
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
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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)