

Republic of South Sudan

ETC Situation Report #95

Reporting period 01/11/16 to 30/11/16

The next ETC South Sudan SitRep will be issued on or around 10/01/17.

Highlights

- Practical training on the installation of portable Digital Mobile Radios (DMR) on vehicles, based on Let's Comm Digital Training, has been completed in Juba for 20 Information Technology (IT) technicians from various humanitarian agencies.
- DMR equipment including router, access points and repeaters has been shipped to Entebbe, Uganda and was cleared for road shipment to Juba. The equipment is expected to arrive on 1 December in the office of World Food Programme (WFP), lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).

Situation Overview

With current 1.87 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs), 1.1 million refugees in neighboring countries, and 4.8 million people facing food insecurity, humanitarians expect unprecedented levels of humanitarian needs in early 2017. The situation is made worse by poor harvests, sporadic conflict, surging inflation rate and dysfunctional markets.

These increasing humanitarian needs in South Sudan require a more stable communications support in both Internet connectivity and radio telecommunications. ETC is upgrading the inter-agency security telecommunications network into digital system. It is also strengthening the Humanitarian Internet Service Project (HISP) as the long-term solution in data connectivity, as well as brokering the service of the local Internet Service Provider (ISP) with the humanitarian community in deep-field locations. The number of internet local service provider in South Sudan has improved in the recent year.



Training participants learning how to install portable mobile radio in mobile vehicles.

Photo credit: WFP/Diya Alasadi

ETC is currently deploying the Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) backbone infrastructure in Juba, South Sudan. The Inter-Agency Security Telecommunications Network will be bridged with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) digital Tetra network. The upgrade of the system will augment the intermittent or absence of Global System for Mobile (GSM) communications in deep-field locations with improved voice communications in multiple devices, improve tracking system through Global Positioning System (GPS), and allows wider

coverage. Handheld radios are lifeline used for reporting, coordination and emergency response by the humanitarian community. High Frequency (HF) radios are used in coordinating airdrops, flight monitoring, and deep field communication activities.

ETC Response Activities

- Practical training on installation of portable digital mobile radios on vehicles has been completed in Juba. The hands-on training built the participants capacity to install portable mobile radios and it was attended by 20 IT technicians from Oxfam, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Samaritan Purse, UN Women, World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC). This is also part of the capacity-building activities of the cluster in preparation for the DMR system migration, in course of which most of the analogue radio equipment in humanitarian vehicles needs to be replaced.
- The ETC has shipped a radio communications repeater to Pibor County to establish security telecommunications service in response to growing insecurity in the area. The mobile network in Pibor has intermittent limited coverage which has affected humanitarian’s ability to coordinate with security for immediate response and share security related information. The humanitarian organizations inability to effectively communicate has affected the humanitarian security.
- The Humanitarian Internet Service Project (HISP) network in Aweil that was damaged by lightning a couple of weeks ago was restored.
- Radio telecommunications tower assessment and maintenance has been completed in Juba in preparation for the installation of digital repeaters.
- A user management test was carried out in Bentiu to manage the Internet bandwidth and resolve the intermittent connectivity issues. The full scale rollout plan of this initiative is underway.

Planned Activities

- The deployment of DMR equipment will commence on 5 December. DMR is expected to be operational by the second week of December.
 - A technical mission from ETC will install the radio communications repeater to Pibor county by early December.
 - Security telecommunications and HISP will be managed by WFP under inter-agency projects through a cost-sharing mechanism.
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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 Non-Governmental Organisations (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 Information Communications Technology (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 8 December 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
GSM	Global System for Mobile
HISP	Humanitarian Internet Support Project
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
INGO	International Non-governmental Organizations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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)