

23 June 17

COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

1. Key Meeting Takeaways.

- Monday 26 June is Eid El Fitr Public Holiday.
- Following Humanitarian Country Team meeting on 22 June WHO met with some of the top leadership at the MoH to discuss key MoH MoUs issues raised regarding fee payment for Dambesh or Landmark Hotels, meals for participants and transportation charges for participants before MoUs can be issued to NGOs and partners working the sector.
- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) update was released on Wednesday. Headline messages included: a) An estimated 6.01 million (50% of the population) people are expected to be severely food insecure in June-July 2017, compared to 5.5 million (45% of the population) people in May 2017. This is the greatest number of people ever to experience severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) in South Sudan; b) Famine is no longer occurring in Leer and Mayendit counties, and further deterioration was prevented in Koch and Panyijiar counties of former Southern Unity State as a result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance delivered to the affected population since March 2017; and c) In June-July 2017, in addition to approximately 45,000 people estimated to be facing Humanitarian Catastrophe², an estimated 1.7 million people are likely to be facing food security emergency (IPC Phase 4) - one-step below Famine on the IPC scale.
- The Steering Committee discussed how to embed NGO engagements into HCT decision making in situations where security and lives of aid workers are threatened or harmed. This is in relation to the HCT Consequences Position Paper which was shared with all members of the Forum. This will be presented at the next CDG meeting on 7 July.

2. Bureaucratic Impediments.

Latest developments:

Following discussion at the HCT meeting on 22 June 22, WHO met with some of the top leadership at the Ministry of Health on morning of Friday 23 June. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Ministry's directives that NGOs books rooms in either Dambesh or Landmark Hotels for their health programming presentation before MoU between the Ministry and NGOs doing health programming can be signed and issued. NGOs were also expected to provide meals for participants and transportation charges for participants. The meeting reach the following agreements:

- All scheduled meetings have been moved out of the stipulated Dambesh /Landmark Hotel to MSH Hall at the MoH or WHO conference hall.
- All meetings on this particular issue will no longer be expected to include meals,

per-diems or transportation fees.

- The Health Cluster will assist the MoH and NGOs to update their information with the MoH. Once this is updated, the schedules will be revised and letters sent out to NGOs.
- All communication regarding MOUs will be copied to the health Cluster so that any issues will be dealt with to avoid delays and anxieties
- MoH will revert to the Health Cluster on the dates to be requested for the use of the WHO conference facility by Wednesday 28 June for facilitation
- The Health Cluster agreed with the Ministry's MoU coordinator to update the partner information so that revision of the scheduled dates are finalized by Tuesday next week for all invitations to be sent out to the partners on Wednesday next week.

3. Security.

- 37 INGOs have provided Baseline Data Matrix details to the SFP.
- Discussions continue with the UN about the permission of national staff members to enter UN bases in times of crisis. Options to be presented to the SRSG by the end of June.
- Sporadic localised fighting could break out between SPLA and SPLA-IO, although it has been quiet last week.
- Cattle raiding, particularly in Lakes is expected to continue - NGOs are not a direct target, but roads out of Rumbek remain dangerous.
- Expect a gradual rise in warehouse / compound break-ins country-wide as people become more desperate for food.
- The general threat of ambushes and robberies on road movement remains high.

4. Information / communications.

- A new interactive website will be launched in mid-July. It will have a clean uncluttered design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content focused on improving the user experience.
- To maintain effective communications, especially for crisis situations, SMS updates will occur at the beginning of every month, starting Monday 3 July. If no test message is received, please contact the Information Manager to update your contact details.
- The reorganisation of Skype Groups will commence from Friday 30 June. All members are expected to transfer to the newly created groups by mid-July.

5. Training.

- Forum training opportunities:
 - o NGO Forum and Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) training on Conflict Sensitivity will take place at the Secretariat on 28 June. NGO Forum members and some donors will attend this training. NGO Forum Secretariat is in consultation with CSRF on how to make this training available to members on a regular basis.
 - o NGO Forum and Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) presentation on Livestock and Humanitarian Aid will take place on 21 July 21. Detail to follow around 10 July.
- Security training:
 - o The Juba relocation / evacuation table-top exercises started on 21 June and will

continue every Wednesday until 12 July. Currently there are only spaces available for 5 and 12 July.

- o Security Focal Point is collecting a database of training providers. If you have any experience with an external agency please forward for inclusion.

6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- A new Deputy Security Focal Point will join the Secretariat on Wednesday 28 June.
- The National NGO Focal Point will be away from 27 June to 22 July on lessons learning on peacebuilding. His roles will be shared between the Director, State Coordination Trainer and NNGO Information Officer.
- The Security Analyst is on leave from 29 June to 19 July.

7. Forward Look.

- NGO Forum Facilitated Dialogue will take place on 28 June 28 at the Secretariat, between 10:00-15:00. The is to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat, Steering Committees, the Host Agency, and Donors as NGO Forum key stakeholders.
- We encourage CDs to self-nominate to be voted on July 7 2017 at the CDG meeting. We have 3 slots opening. Thanks to those who have sent in their nominations.
- A New Members' Brief will take place at 14:00 on Monday 26 June at the Secretariat.
- The Director and SFP will attend the UNMISS Security Management Team meeting chaired by the SRSG next Friday.

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