

14 July 17

COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

1. Key Meeting Takeaways.

- The Resident Coordinator, UN Resident Representative and Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary General, Eugene Owusu, left the country on Friday 14 July following end of his tenure. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) now awaits announcement of new Resident Coordinator.
- The HCT endorsed the suspension of majority of services in one county by one humanitarian actor due to threats to organisational staff. We shall share with members as and when these formal communications are made. To note, recent events appear to indicate a new trend of local threats, by some youth and/or local authorities, being directed to staff of humanitarian organisations.
- The HCT discussed the difficult operational environment for national staff of organisations operating in Bentiu PoC, where at least 96 national staff have had to relocate to the Log Base (Office space for NGOs) due to safety concerns for the last one week. The meeting, noting that the situation reflects the context of Unity State as a whole, proposed that the Head of UNMISS in Bentiu lead engagements with key actors in Unity State.
- HCT is proposing a one-time registration of IDPs at the Juba PoC.

2. Bureaucratic Impediments.

- Latest developments:
 - ❑ On 14 July the Secretariat convened a meeting of members to discuss the PIT for expats. A small team was constituted to identify and follow up on the core issues, including seeking legal advice on the matter as per South Sudan law. Legal opinions (we are expecting 5 by end of this week) received will drive the directions of conversations. Members will be informed of the working group discussions. A Skype group on the same will be created from the members who attended the meeting on 14 July.
 - ❑ Secretariat also convened a meeting of members to discuss the Public Announcement that NGOs are encouraged to import their own fuel. In the interim two-pronged approach was proposed: Firstly, organisations obtain a copy of import licence from the private suppliers that supply their fuel. Security personnel have started to trail fuel suppliers up to NGOs compounds. Organisations that do not have dedicated suppliers may wish to consider talking to those that have so that they may begin to secure fuel supplies from the private companies that have import licence. Secondly, Secretariat was asked to follow up with RRC on issues such as understanding the rationale behind the public announcement, NGOs vehicles existing not only in Juba but also in various parts of the country (what happens to vehicles outside as the Public Announcement seems to focus on Juba), inability of a number of NGOs to import fuel (it is likely that majority of NNGOs would not have the capacity and means to import their own fuel), risks associated with importing fuel, and highlighting NGOs contribution to South Sudan society through provision of services to

the local populations.

3. Security.

- Currently there are 45 INGOs which have provided Baseline Data Matrix details to the SFP for the Saving Lives Together initiative. A good improvement which probably reflects interest in this topic around Independence Day and the recently well-received Forum-led relocation exercises.
- Independence Day in Juba was quiet, but around the rest of the country it is apparent that violence, in various guises, is on the rise.
- The key risks to NGOs operating across South Sudan include (not in any priority):
 - Resumption of 'SPLA / SPLA-IO' fighting across the country.
 - Road ambushes and robberies - continued insecurity.
 - Country-wide compound/warehouse intrusions.
 - Hostage taking.
 - Cattle raiding season.
- Two successful relocations occurred last weekend: 21 Forum members from Pagak, Upper Nile and 14 Forum members from Mayendit, Unity. UNHAS and UNDSS were very supportive of the movements. Unfortunately this means that the areas they were relocated from are deemed too risky at present for humanitarian operations.
- The NGO compound incident in Pibor Thursday this week was an aggravated robbery rather than an 'attack'. However, it was serious enough for the team to move into their safe room and to call for UNMISS military assistance. Further details in the Weekly Security Report.

4. Information / communications.

- The Upper Nile and W BeG Security Skype Groups are now open for changeover. NGOs are encouraged to join, especially field team members.
- The Security Team has started to build an 'NGO Security Guide' which will cover useful topics including generic security and safety information, Security Team services, relocation procedures and useful links.
- A new interactive website will be launched on 21 July. It will have a clean uncluttered design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content focused on improving the user experience.

5. Training.

- Forum training opportunities:
 - NGO Forum and Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility will organise a presentation to NGO Forum members this week on livestock and humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. We shall communicate the date and time once the logistics are finalised.
- Security training:
 - The 4 Juba relocation / evacuation exercises are now complete and were well received. Similar events will be planned for the future.

6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- The Security Analyst will return from leave on Wed 19 July.

- The National NGO Focal Point is away till 22 July on lessons learning on peacebuilding. His roles will be shared between the Director, State Coordination Trainer and NNGO Information Officer.

7. Forward Look.

- A presentation will be made at NGO Forum Secretariat on Livestock and Humanitarian Assistance as a joint initiative of the NGO Forum and the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility. Date and time will be communicated as soon as possible.
- SFP will attend a relocation de-brief on Monday 17 July with UNDSS, UNHAS and OCHA to discuss the Pagak and Mayendit relocations to see if there are lessons to learn and help improve the process.
- Launch of a new website on 21st July

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