

22 July 17

## **COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE**

### **1. Key Meeting Takeaways.**

- Replacement of NGOs Number Plates will be done through the RRC and will be free. Secretariat shared with all members the relevant Circular from RRC. This is a good outcome of NGO Forum engaging with RRC and the Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs and Interior.
- **Early Warning** : Anticipated and ongoing large population movements from Gogrial reported. Displaced moving on foot and likely to impact Wau in the near-term as the IDPS trickle in.
- At the HCT/JMEC Humanitarian Discussions Forum held on 19 July, the government explained that NGOs are not specifically targeted regarding access to fuel in the market. The government has embarked on a crackdown on pseudo-suppliers who had been conniving with some NilePet officials to divert government imported fuel to the black market. NGOs can continue to buy fuel from private suppliers that are duly licensed to import fuel. Please ensure that your supplier has Import Licence to bring fuel in the country. In case of any issue with National Security Officials, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat Director who agreed with the National Security Deputy Director in case issues arise that require his intervention.
- At the HCT/JMEC NGO Forum made clear to all of government that government agencies and entities that wish to communicate with NGOs do so through the RRC that is the NGOs legal government interlocutor. We hope to see that most government communications to NGOs will now be conveyed through the RRC. NGO Forum also highlight that government engagements with NGOs be based on the principles of predictability and dialogue.

### **2. Bureaucratic Impediments.**

#### Latest developments:

- The Secretariat has held a number of preliminary area-based meetings with groupings of NGOs over the last week. Follow on actions with relevant NGOs will be carried forward this week. Relevant NGOs will be contacted for follow on meetings this week to further agree next steps. It is likely that an area-based collective approach will become a common approach for addressing bureaucratic impediments that members face in the fields.

### **3. Security.**

- The key risks to NGOs operating across South Sudan include (not in any priority):
  - o Resumption of 'SPLA / SPLA-IO' fighting across the country.
  - o Road ambushes and robberies - continued insecurity.
  - o Country-wide compound/warehouse intrusions.
  - o Hostage taking.

- o Cattle raiding season

#### 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 Unity-North and UNity-South Skype Groups will go live from 1 August. The procedure for changeover will be as for all other Groups: renaming of profiles and vetting by Forum Security Team before adding members. Only NGOs with representation in the areas will be 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 was launched on 21 July. It has a design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content focused on improving the user experience on computers, mobile and tablets. Please review our website here <http://southsudanngoforum.org/> and other forum products here <http://southsudanngoforum.org/resources/>
- Members as requested to provide alternate (**MTN/Zain**) phone numbers for the various mailing-list contact details. We noticed non-delivery of SMS on **vivacell network** on several SMS tests done earlier in the month.

#### 5. Funding Opportunity.

- Funding opportunities:
  - o The Embassy of Japan will be holding a meeting on 27 July with NNGOs on funding opportunities available to them. **The Embassy reached out to the Secretariat that the meeting will now be restricted to NNGOs only.** Please inform your NNGO partners accordingly. The meeting will likely take place at the NGO Forum Secretariat; an email will be sent out to that effect should that be confirmed by the Embassy.
- Security training: the next SSAFE training is planned for:
  - o 15-17 Aug
  - o 29-31 Aug.

#### 6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- The Security Focal Point is on leave Wednesday 26 July - Monday 21 Aug. Deputy SFP will be main point of contact for all security issues.
- The Information Manager is on leave Monday 24 July - Monday 21 Aug. His roles will be shared between the Director and NNGO Information Officer.
- 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.

- This week the Secretariat will carry forward the discussions on PIT for expats following a preliminary meeting that was held two weeks ago.
- A slot has opened up on the INGO SC. Mr Azam Golam, the CD IMC, is leaving South Sudan at the weekend. We are now accepting nominations not only for this slot but for the

INGO SC for next year. **We will have seven (7) slots out of ten (10) on the SC as NRC and Plan International have only been elected to the SC early this month and Concern as Host Agency sits on the SC.** Thanks for the self-nominations that we have already received that we shall carry forward for the September election of SC members. We shall be receiving nominations from now on till the election of INGO SC members at the CDG meeting of 8 September.

- The Secretariat will be hosting farewell event for Mr Azam Golam, CD IMC, who will leave South Sudan **on 28 July at 4pm**. The Secretariat will provide some drinks and bites for attendees. We encourage members to come and celebrate with Azam as his four years in South Sudan and representation of INGOs on the SC come to an end.

Pius Ojara  
NGO Forum Secretariat Director