

06 August 17

COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

1. Key Meeting Takeaways.

- Robert Simpson (CD of ACTED), Randhir Singh (CD of ARC -American Refugee Council), Teshome Adebabai (CD of GOAL), and Fred McCray (CD of CARE International) were elected to the SC at the CDG meeting held on August 4.
- Rehana Zawar, CD NRC, is the new Chair of the HRWG following the departure of Azam Golam.
- Bureaucratic and Access Impediments Report is being finalised. Once that is done we shall share it members. It will not be published.
- In light of challenges faced by humanitarians at Aweil Airport, UNDSS will be at the Airport whenever there will be UNHAS. Could organisations sending teams to Aweil through UNHAS or charter flights inform UNDSS accordingly using the following contacts: 0912139479; 0922777785; 0922777765 and 0912062525
- Whenever humanitarians face challenges, especially from security personnel at the Airport, could they inform the UNDSS Emergency Response Team through the following mobile: 0912139479; 0922777785; 0922777765 and 0912062525.
- The PIT WG will try to map out timelines and processes on PIT for expats as well as engaging RRC on Country Agreements for NGOs.
- Once the Information Manager returns on August 21, Skype Group for CDs will be constituted. There is also likelihood that the Information Manager might be able to do this before his return.
- SC members Focal Points: HRWG, Rehana Zawar of NRC; UNMISS, Robert Simpson of ACTED; SSHF, Deirdre of SCI; Finance WG, Yvonne (DCD) of Concern. We shall communicate the substantive SC Focal Points for UNHAS WG and ICWG in the next bulletin.

2. Bureaucratic Impediments.

Latest developments:

- ★ We request members to use the Incidents Reporting Form available on the Forum website to report any bureaucratic and access impediments experiences. Some issues have been reported have they have taken hold on NGOs. Transparency in reporting will initiate timely efforts in addressing matters that arise promptly. The Secretariat intends to start a bi-weekly review of incidents reported to inform considerations for a collective response.
- ★ The Secretariat will be following up with RRC the following matters: request for a circular regarding payments of PIT for national staff at national and state levels, NSS seeking accommodation at NGOs compounds and CID demanding additional documentation for carrying of bulk cash to the fields even after RRC has given clearance. We shall update members accordingly of any development in these respects.
- ★ Requests by authorities to NGOs: Could members let authorities who make requests to them that they direct all requests to through the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator?

3. Security.

The key risks to NGOs operating across South Sudan include (not in any priority):

- ★ Fighting can be expected to continue between SPLA and SPLA-IO at any me.
- ★ Cattle raiding and inter-communal fighting is expected to continue - NGOs are not a direct target, but should take extra precautions.
- ★ Continued warehouse / compound break-ins country-wide as people become more desperate for food and possibly fuel.
- ★ The general threat of ambushes and robberies on road movement remains high
- On 1 August, a National Security Service officer reportedly told the property manager of an NGO compound that he must be given a room to live in. It soon emerged that a similar demand had been made to other NGOs who complied. Representations to government officials by the NGO Forum confirmed that compounds occupied by NGOs are under no obligation to provide accommodation to NSS personnel. This matter is being followed up and has already been raised by the Secretariat with RRC for clarification.
- Rising tensions between the Maban and Dinka communities in Upper Nile escalated to a point where NGOs relocated Dinka staff from Bun on 4 August. Mabanese youth reportedly entered an NGO compound and established a checkpoint to track the locations of Dinka staff members. The issues is believed to be related to proposed changes to administrative borders but there have also been unconfirmed rumours of clashes between armed Mabanese and Dinka actors.
- A senior SPLA officer reportedly died on 4 August from an unidentified illness in Wau secondary to food served at a UNMISS workshop. He, and a large number of other SPLA soldiers, had participated in a workshop the days preceding and there was some confusion regarding the cause of his death. Investigations are reportedly ongoing but the situation has since reportedly calmed following high tensions earlier

4. Information / communications.

- Information Manager is on leave until August 21. Please contact the Information Officer or Secretariat in case of inquiries.
- New website has been launched. Please continue to review and share your feedback with the Information Manager through the email address, Infomgr@southsudannngoforum.org so that necessary improvements may be made.

5. Training.

- Security training: the next SSAFE training is planned for:
 - 15-17 Aug - Already communicated to the security working group and CDs via email
 - 29-31 Aug.
- Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) in conjunction with the NGO Forum will be making a presentation on the impact of the 28/32 state decrees on governance and aid sometime the week of 21 August. Secretariat will communicate the exact date and time in the course of the week. In the meantime, members who are interested should contact Ranga Gworo on rgworo@csrf-southsudan.org
- CSRF is interested to develop a cohort of conflict sensitivity advocates/practitioners amongst the NNGO community, especially those that are downstream partners for CSRF donors (UK, Switzerland, and Canada). This will involve participation in an 8-months programme that will commence with an initial 2 day training in the week of 28 August at NGO Forum Secretariat. We ask members with NNGO downstream partners to inform

them accordingly and asking interested organisations to contact David Otim on dotim@csrf-southsudan.org

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.
- Secretariat will be on R&R and leave from August 12-Sept 11. In his absence, Hafeez Wani, the NNGO FP will be the Acting Director.

7. Forward Look.

- Jonglei North and Jonglei South Skype groups go live on 08 August.
- Secretariat is accepting nominations to the Steering Committee for the new year beginning in October. All positions are up for elections except for the Host Agency (Concern Worldwide). Elections are planned for October 6, 2016. We are grateful for nominations received already. Form shared with all members last week.
- Constituency lists will be shared with members in the new week.
- Every Thursday at 13:30hours, HCT representatives for the NGOs hold a pre-meeting to which all NGOs are welcome. Come and make your voices and concerns heard.

Pius Ojara
NGO Forum Secretariat Director