

20 August 17

## COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

### 1. Key Meeting Takeaways.

- ★ The NNGO SC and INGO SC held a Joint steering committee meeting on 11th August and some of the key takeaways from the meeting include;
  - The Secretariat will work to facilitate cooperation between the NNGO members and the OCHA-NGO liaison officer
  - The Draft Terms of Reference will be advanced as a priority outcome from the Facilitated Dialogue. The proposed Code of Conduct will follow once the TOR is approved.
  - The training workshop for RRC staff provided by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Secretariat was an exercise to build the relationship with RRC rather than indicate ongoing training for government officials.
  - The Joint SC agreed to meet with the UNMISS SRSG on 22nd september and the week of 25th - 27th september. some of the proposed items for discussion include, models for MoUs for NGOs working in the Protection of Civilian sites (POCs), better protection of communities around POCs , confidentiality and discretion when using information provided by NGOs, processes involved for NGOs to request UNMISS Force assistance in the event of potential life threatening situations for NGO staff, How will the Regional Protection Force be deployed and how will it help improve access and bureaucratic issues, What is the role of UNMISS to provide stability and peace.
  - Secretariat to coordinate with OCHA-NGO liaison the drafting of hiring guidelines to be presented to the RRC and Ministry of Labor. This will be presented at the next Joint SC meeting on 25 August.
  - The next Joint SC meeting will be on 25th August. After August, Joint SC meetings will become a standing appointment of the third Friday of each month (15 September, 20 October, 17 November etc).
- ★ World Humanitarian Day was commemorated 18th August in a ceremony organised by UNOCHA. The event was attended by members the humanitarian community including INGOs , NNGOs, UN agencies, embassies and heads of cooperations. Speeches were delivered by representatives of the INGO and NNGOs, the SRSG and acting Humanitarian coordinator. The overarching message message echoed at the event was a call to an end to the ongoing conflict which the message that underpinned all the speeches delivered and reinforced the theme of the day # humanitarians and civilians are not a target. **(see Juba monitor article attached)**
- ★ The new INGO steering committee members are;
  - ACTED - Rob Simpson
  - CARE - Fred McCray
  - GOAL - Teshome Adebabai
  - Plan International - Daniel Muchena
  - NRC - Rehana Zawar
- ★ The next CD monthly meeting is on 1st September 2017 at the Secretariat meeting room

## 2. Bureaucratic Impediments.

**Number plates Update:** A letter reminding NGOs to expedite the replacement of NGO license plates from RSS to SSD was issued on 16th August by the registrar general of RRC. The letter does not indicate any specific deadline however states that the RRC will engage the ministry of interior to provide ample time for NGOs to replace their license plates. *(see letter attached)*

**PIT Update:** There hasn't been any formal response from RRC following their discussion with the ministry of finance on the PIT issue. The secretariat will follow up with RRC on Monday and provide an update. So far the only formal notice from the Ministry of Finance on the issue of PIT is dated March 29th 2017 and addresses the PIT for national staff but not international staff. *(See letter attached)*

### Incident Reporting

- ★ 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 support 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.

## 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 time.
- ★ Cattle raiding and inter-communal fighting is expected to continue - NGOs are not a direct target, but should take extra precautions.
- ★ Unexplained gunfire and broad daylight robberies affecting NGO staff are on an uptick.
- ★ 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

### Highlights

**Central Equatoria:** The security situation remains unchanged with continued armed robberies, targeting and harassment of NGO staff and institutions. General crime around Juba, including robberies in daylight hours, compound intrusions and fines issued by government security officers

**Western Equatoria:** More reports of armed activity around Mundri were received this week when a armed group of men ransacked a health facility which was under construction. NGO staff, community workers and building contractors were held up on 11 August by armed men who proceeded to take medical equipment, phones, clothing and bedding. The building contractors were reportedly abducted by armed group but the circumstances around their disappearance have not been confirmed. While there has been few reports of attempted kidnapping for ransom in parts of South Sudan, this region is more likely to experience coercive recruitment activities.

**Upper Nile:** The Forum has received reports of clashes between the Mabanese and Dinka actors around Adar and Kilo 10. Both locations sit near the nexus of Melut, Balliet and Maban counties.

There were fewer reports of fighting between government and opposition soldiers around Pagak but control of the area remains unconfirmed.

#### **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@southsudanngoforum.org](mailto:Infomgr@southsudanngoforum.org) so that necessary improvements may be made.

#### **5. Training.**

- **Security training:** the next SSAFE training is planned for:
  - o 29-31 Aug.
- There will be NGO Forum-Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility presentation on Aid, Governance (including the new administrative structures) and Livelihoods in Northern Bar el Ghazal on **Friday August 25 at the Secretariat from 10:30am -12:00 noon.**

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

- The Security Focal Point is on leave Wednesday 26 July - Monday 21 Aug.
- Deputy SFP will be on leave from 25 Aug - 17 Sep. SFP will cover during this period..
- The Information Manager is back from leave and resumes his duties from 21 Aug.
- Secretariat Director 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.**

- NGO Forum security cell is working on a guidebook for NGOs that will act as a guidance document for humanitarian safety in the context. First draft that will be shared with NGO security staff in the next couple of weeks to allow for feedback and input into the process before a final draft is released.
- Every Thursday at 13:15 hours, HCT representatives for the NGOs hold a pre-meeting to which all NGOs are welcome. Come and make your voices and concerns heard.
- Elections for Steering Committee members for the period October 2017 to September 2018 will be held on October 6. All positions except for Host Agency will be up for elections. We continue to receive self-nominations from members, including from current Steering Committee members.

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for, Pius Ojara  
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