

3 September 17

COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

1. Key Meeting Takeaways.

- ★ **HCT** - The key takeaways from the HCT meeting on 31st August were;
 - The Taxation Task Force was set up with 2 representatives. Care International Country director will represent NGOs and the second slot will be occupied by the NGO Forum secretariat Director
 - A Presentation on Operational Issues arising from ICWG was made, including ranking system to prioritise UNHAS flight locations and Cholera preparedness and response
 - Protection Cluster provided a presentation on movement of IDPs from Melut to the communities.
- ★ **Heads of Cooperation meeting** - The meeting took place on 30th August, during which the NGO secretariat represented by Hafeez Wani provided a briefing of the key bureaucratic impediments facing NGOs (*see **bureaucratic impediments section below***) and UNOCHA represented by Ian Ridley provided a briefing of the humanitarian development nexus. Here below are some key highlights of the meeting;
 - Ian emphasised the need to focus on causes of impediments to humanitarian activity and not the effects.
 - He cited that the constitution of South Sudan actually gives the state governments the power to increase PIT so it is imperative to collectively figure out where the gap in the legislative environment may be.
 - The RRC has amended the NGO registration fees for INGOs to 2000USD
 - Ian advised that the humanitarian family in South Sudan needs to adopt theories based on practice and understand that the humanitarian redline is something aid workers may not be able to draw.
 - UNOCHA will produce some research material catering to the cost of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan.
- ★ **Mark Green visit** - Newly appointed USAID administrator, Mr. Mark Green visited South Sudan and met with president Salva Kiir on 1st September in Juba. He also visited Wau and met with Humanitarian agencies. [see article: [U.S. warns South Sudan: Continued chaos is not acceptable, aid may be pulled](#)]

2. Bureaucratic Impediments.

- ★ **Number Plates** - The advice from the RRC registrar's office regarding the return of confiscated number plates and letter from the ministry of interior still stands however there hasn't been any official letter shared with the NGO secretariat to date. The secretariat will continue to follow up the issue with RRC.
- ★ **PIT** - The joint steering committee agreed with the advice of the minister of labor regarding

a letter of appeal addressed to the ministry of finance copying RRC, Ministry of humanitarian affairs and ministry of labour citing the reported cases of PIT challenges experienced by NGOs at state level and national level. The letter will be delivered within the week of 4th september.

3. Security. A generally quieter week.

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 prevalent - NGOs are not a direct target, but should take extra precautions.
- ★ Crime is prevalent in Juba - national staff in particular can be targeted.
- ★ 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 - in all areas.

Highlights

Juba: the Government cracked down on crime in Juba and arrested several members of the military and police who were expected of perpetrating recent crimes. Hopefully this will have a positive impact on the number of reported incidents across the city.

The SFP is investigating moving the Weekly Security Brief to Fridays at 1330. This will allow for attendance at the UNMISS JOC coordination meeting and also free up the Secretariat's meeting room for a larger window in the week if NGOs want to use it for workshops / training etc. However, the Weekly Brief will remain unchanged for next week.

4. Information / communications.

- **Labour Rates Outside the POCs Survey.** All agencies providing services in this areas should participate here (<https://goo.gl/forms/ju4D0fyQtDMGUCOX2>). The survey is intended to contribute to the OCHA database in the three categories of workers (Unskilled, Semi-skilled and Skilled human resources).
- Security Test SMS will be carried out on Monday Sep 4. Members who didn't receive SMS last month are requested to forward their alternate numbers (MTN/Zain) to be included into SMS database.

5. Training.

- **Security training:** the next SSAFE training is planned for 5-7 Sep - attendees have been notified.

6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- The Deputy SFP will be on leave from 25 Aug - 17 Sep.

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

7. Forward Look.

- CD survey findings will not be included in the agenda of the AGM because there isn't sufficient time to conduct a CD survey ahead of the AGM, however once the CD survey is done, the report shall be shared with the entire membership before offices close in December. The findings of the CD survey will also be included in the NGO Forum Annual report.
- CD Survey – A third party will carry out the CD survey as proposed by the former information manager citing better methodology and analysis. One of our donors had also questioned the objectivity of the survey findings considering it's always been led by the secretariat.
- 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 6th October. 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.
- Next CD meeting will be on 8th September 2017
- Next Annual General meeting will be on 6th October 2017
- Next South Sudan National NGO expo will be in October 2017 (exact dates will be circulated)

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