

17 September 2017

## **COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

#### **HCT**

##### **Key highlights from SRSG**

- As the dry season gets closer, it is likely that the security situation will deteriorate
- Revitalisation of the peace agreement is something the SRSG encouraged everyone to get behind. The question is how much the government is willing to compromise.
- IGAD is leading the peace agreement revitalisation agenda; however there is still more work to be done in terms of who will be invited to the table, time lines etc.
- The national dialogue process is picking up momentum.
- The SPLM reunification process has only been partially successful and the region has expressed their frustration with the SPLM factions. However this process places the government in a stronger position.
- UNGA - There will be two side events on South Sudan at the UN General Assembly. The first event will be opened by the first Vice president HE, Taban Deng Gai and the second event will be chaired by the UN Secretary General and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the main focus will be on revitalisation of the peace agreement.

##### **Other HCT takeaways**

- ICRC has suspended all road movements in the Equatorias until the investigation into the killing of their staff is completed.
- A small working group of HCT members was formed to discuss the Equatorias and generate some actionable resolutions for the HCT. Part of the tasks will include revisiting the strategy paper on the Equatorias, assess if any more partners can be included in the strategy and agree on how to scale up interventions in the Equatorias.
- The Humanitarian needs overview and Humanitarian Response Plan process will kick off in the week of September 17. There will be no changes in the tools and templates previously used. The time lines have been shared with the ICWG and is circulated through the clusters.

##### **ICWG Takeaways**

- Fighting in Koch & Pagar - Southern Unity/Koch partners should meet on Monday September 18th Sept discuss the renewed needs and agree next steps.
- Looting - The HCT already endorsed a paper guiding response in the event of looting of NGO assets however it has been noted that operationalisation of the paper is still a challenge.
- The Undersecretary of Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management convened a meeting attended by NGOs and UN to discuss flood response. The agencies didn't raise any objection to responding with life saving support.

- Partners in Aweil North met and agreed to use resources currently available to respond to the vulnerable communities affected by the flooding. The communities requested support in form of mosquito nets, shelter, WASH. There was no request for food aid.
- However, ICWG questioned whether responding to this flood now means flood response is part of the plan given that flood preparation is the responsibility of the government since it is a predictable occurrence that happens every year. The fear is that this pattern could reinforce aid dependency.
- The ICWG is working on a flood response paper directed to the government. WASH and NFI clusters will arrange a meeting based on the flood response paper and invite other clusters for their input.
- Feedback from HCT: issue of work permits for NGO staff was discussed; there was also a read out from the HCF given; the proposed input from HCT for the GA side event – points on humanitarian situation /constraints; the HOMs -possible to issue a demarche followed up by a note verbale.
- New HC will arrive in the country on September 21. HCT has not had an HC since early July.

#### **HRP Timelines 2018**

- The timeline for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been circulated to the ICWG
- The intention is to keep the HRP as light as possible and based on the same activities and templates while building on what has been done so far.
- The zero draft of the HMO will be ready by mid november which should be completed by early december in time for the GHO launch.
- OPS registration is ongoing and CHF will be running a series of workshops on how to register and get involved in the HRP process.

**Note:** Following our CD Weekly Update last week which was informed by RRC public statement, we would like to inform members that AECOM is now registered with RRC and issued with a registration certificate.

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

- Members have reported that RRC has been prompt in issuing requisite letters for NGO staff local travels that have been helpful in facilitating movements within the country.
- Number plates - No complaints registered this week. It appears the directives issued last week is being enforced adequately.
- Work permits at JIA - No complaints registered this week. It appears the directive issued last week is being enforced adequately. Members should however note that when entering South Sudan on a new passport, visas on old passport will be cancelled and the affected staff will be asked to pay a fee for entry visa, either \$50 or \$100 depending on the nationality.

#### **3. Security**

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

- With dry season expected to start soon, fighting maybe expected to continue between SPLA and opposition forces as has been the pattern over the last few years.
- Cattle raiding and inter-communal fighting is prevalent - NGOs are not a direct target, but should take extra precautions.
- Continued warehouse / compound break-ins continue to be an issue of concern country-wide due to shortage of food and possibly fuel.
- The general threat of ambushes and robberies on road movement remains high - in all

areas.

- Crime is prevalent in Juba - national staff in particular can be targeted.

### Highlights

- **ICRC ambush Mundri, WEQ:** on Fri 8 Sep an ICRC convoy was ambushed in Kotobi south of Mundri by unknown armed group. A national staff driver later died in hospital as a result of gunshot injuries.
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- **Aburoc relocation:** On Mon 11 Sep thirty three humanitarians (a mixture of NGO and AFP staff) were relocated from Aburoc, Upper Nile as a result of fighting just south of the locality. A WFP helicopter diverted from a task in Jonglei, refuelled in Malakal and managed to extract all personnel in one lift back to Malakal. Coordination was conducted by SFP NGO Forum.
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- The Weekly Security Brief will change to 1330 on Fridays - **commencing 6 October**.
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### **4. Information / communications.**

- Cluster Meetings calendar is now available from our website frontpage (<http://southsudanngoforum.org>).
- The document portal now updated for better accessibility of documents. Please follow the link <http://docs.southsudanngoforum.org/> to access circulars, government acts and other documents. To access meeting minutes and security reports from the portal please ask for a login details from the Information Manager ([infomgr@southsudanngoforum.org](mailto:infomgr@southsudanngoforum.org)).
- Updated list of all CD contacts can be found here <http://southsudanngoforum.org/contacts/>
- All of the Security Skype Groups are now operative, with most working well. State / Area Groups are being used to share information about convoys and route trafficability as well as the security situation, which is of real benefit to the NGO community. The SFP will issue regular updates and reminders regarding members' protocols and the soon to be released NGO Security and Safety Guide will also contain information about their use.

### **5. Training.**

- **NGO Forum/CSRF** Conflict Sensitivity M&E training will take place on Monday September 25 at the Secretariat from 09:30-16:30. Only 25 participants are taken for training. The same training will also be conducted on Thursday October 26. Interested participants for the training should contact Mr David Otim of CSRF on [<dotim@csrf-southsudan.org>](mailto:dotim@csrf-southsudan.org). Participants will be taken on a first come first serve basis.
- **Security training:**
  - SSAFE course at UNMISS Tamping: 3-5 October.
  - Women's Safety Awareness course at UNMISS Tamping: 12-13 October.

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

- Secretariat Director has returned from his R&R and leave last week.
- The Deputy SFP will return from leave on 17 September.

## 7. Forward Look.

- Secretariat is developing the ToR for the CD Survey for this year.
- 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 Team will produce a Safety and Security NGO Guide for publication in October.
- 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 INGO 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 ask members to submit self-nominations from members, including from current Steering Committee members. We thank all those who have submitted their nominations.
- Next Annual General meeting will be on 6th October 2017.
- Next South Sudan National NGO Expo will be from 26th to 28th October 2017.
- Registration for new members for the NGO Forum for 2017 is closed. Interested new members will have to wait till January when registration for 2018 will be opened.
- Joint Steering Committee met on September 15 and going forward Joint Steering Committee meetings will take place every 3rd Wednesday of every month beginning in the month of October.

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