

8 October 2017

## **COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

- The NGO Forum's Annual General Meeting of INGOs took place last Friday October 6 at which new Steering Committee members were elected. We thank all members who attended the AGM for the positive, respective and constructive engagements at the meeting.
- The Forum would like to congratulate Anne Reitsema CD Medair, Frederick McCray CD CARE, Robert Simpson CD Acted, Rehana CD Norwegian Refugee Council, Anna Trzcinska CD Johannitter, Simon Juach of CCM Italia, Ranjan Pouyal of Oxfam, Randhir Singh of American Refugee Council, and Deirdre Keogh of Save the Children International upon being elected as Steering Committee members for the INGOs for the year 2017/2018. We thank all organisations that sent their representatives to the AGM. The Forum is grateful to UAP with moral support from JAM, for generously hosting the AGM and catering for meeting's needs. We shall share key messages from the AGM in next week's updates.
- The new Humanitarian Coordinator chaired his HCT meeting in his capacity last Thursday on October 5. Key highlights from this fairly open discussions with the new Humanitarian Coordinator included the following:
  - ❑ The need to coordinate efforts and commitment in delivering humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, including with relevant authorities, which means dialogue among humanitarians as well as with authorities in solving problems that emerge;
  - ❑ The narratives about humanitarian delivery in South Sudan needs to keep a strong focus on the beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance as part of accountability to the people in need as well as the health and safety of humanitarian workers;
  - ❑ It is important to talk about and communicate what humanitarians are achieving. In this respect, the Forum shall begin to engage members to highlight some monthly achievements, perhaps beginning by focusing on key sectors like health, food security and livelihoods, and WASH where results are easy to collate;
  - ❑ For the 2018 HRP process the clusters will need to define the needs and priorities and also involve the line ministries--members' active participation in the clusters' meetings will contribute to this effort; clusters encourage to strengthen communications between national level and field level clusters.
- The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan kick-off workshop will take place on Wednesday October 11 at Juba Grand. The half-day workshop is envisaged to bring together the Humanitarian Country Team, the Inter-Cluster Working Group, Line Ministries and other relevant authorities. See attached agenda for the workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss and agreed on the following:
  - ❑ Strategic Objectives, outcomes and indicators
  - ❑ Prioritisation of the humanitarian response;
  - ❑ Response Strategy, including operational modalities;

- ❑ Linkages/complementarity with development plans (i.e. UNCT Interim Cooperation Framework);
- ❑ Cross-cutting operational considerations, such as cash assistance, and cross-cutting issues, such as Accountability to Affected People.

## HRP Timelines 2018 Updates

- Please find attached the timelines for the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan.

## 2. Bureaucratic Impediments

- The Ministry of Finance has issued a circular regarding the payment of PIT at national and state levels. While the circular is a step in the right direction, there are still more that need to be addressed and clarified including further clarity on how taxes remitted at the state level are received, recorded, and how tax clearance is provided. The Fiscal Taskforce will follow up on these issues.
- The Forum continues to support members, quite a bit on a case by case basis, in addressing some of the challenges members face in the operational delivery of humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese populations in need. In view of this, **we continue to ask members to report incidences to the Secretariat either through the the Security Incident Form available on the Forum's website**, or through emails, directly reporting in person to the Forum Secretariat or through the Steering Committee members for prompt follow up.

## 3. Security

### Key risks. (not in any priority):

- Continued clashes between SPLA and opposition forces in different parts of the country.
- Cattle raiding and inter-communal fighting, especially in Lakes and Warrap areas.
- Warehouse / compound break-ins due to the declining economic situation and shortage of food.
- General threat of ambushes and robberies on road movement remains high - in all areas.
- Prevalent crime in Juba - national staff in particular can be targeted.

**Highlights.** The key issue this week was the clash between government and opposition forces in and around Waat, Jonglei. While there are conflicting reports it appears that the casualties from the fighting have been heavy, but no real progress from either side has occurred. The ground in the area remains wet so any heavy equipment movement would be very challenging in any case.

### Field outreach.

- DSFP will continue his security outreach programme as follows:
  - 9-11 Oct **YEI**
  - 22-24 Nov **KAPOETA**
  - 27-27 Nov **KUAJOK**
  - 4-6 Dec **AWEIL**

The aim is to facilitate networks at field level, encourage best practice and better engage NGOs.

- The NGO Safety and Security Guide has now been published. All CDs and Security Advisers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with its content.

#### **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/>

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

- **NGO Forum/CSRF** Conflict Sensitivity M&E training will take place on Thursday October 26 at the Secretariat from 09:30-16:30. Only 25 participants are taken for training and all slots are now filled.
- **Security training:** Women's Safety Awareness course at UNMISS Tomping:12-13 October.

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

- The Security Analyst is on leave until Monday 23 October.

#### **7. Forward Look.**

- Secretariat will finalise the ToR for the CD Survey for this year; we thank members who shared their feedback on the ToR. 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.
- For 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- JAM has offered to host the next CDG meeting on November 3 at their offices in UAP Building where we had the AGM.

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