



22 October 2017

## COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

### 1. Key Takeaways.

- **National NGO Expo** will take place from **Thursday October 26 to Saturday October 28** at **Nyakuron Cultural Centre**. We invite and encourage all members to come and support our NNGOs colleagues and also to get to know them and what they do.
- Handover from old to new Steering Committee (SC) members took place on October 16. The new SC members have assumed full responsibilities. To remind members, the new SC members for 2017/2018 are: 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.
- For this quarter, **INGOSC primary representatives at the HCT** are: Anne Reitsema, [cd-southsudan@medair.org](mailto:cd-southsudan@medair.org); Fred McCray, [fred.mccray@care.org](mailto:fred.mccray@care.org); Rehana Sawar, [rehana.zawar@nrc.no](mailto:rehana.zawar@nrc.no); and Fiona McLysaght, [southsudan.cd@concern.net](mailto:southsudan.cd@concern.net). In case there are issues you would like to see raised or brought to the attention of the HCT you may reach any of these or Secretariat Director at [coordinator@southsudanngoforum.org](mailto:coordinator@southsudanngoforum.org).
- NGO Forum SC representation at various working groups or committees will be shared in the coming week.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator was in Bentiu on Friday October 13 and visited PoC site as well as IDPs in host communities where aid workers are delivering services to the population. He met with various groups including youth and women groups as well as humanitarian workers. Key considerations which were discussed at the HCT included the following:
  - Beyond Bentiu Project is working
  - There is need to promote peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities;
  - Aid workers need to engage on 'beyond humanitarian emergency' in their responses so that stabilisation interventions join up with emergency response; and
  - There exist the need for facilities outside the PoC for provision of basic services to communities

## 2. Bureaucratic Impediments

- A number of member organizations are under increasing pressure to pay PIT for national staff at state levels. The Forum has advised relevant organizations facing a lot pressure from state governments to pay at state level while the Fiscal Taskforce will work with the Humanitarian Coordinator to address the matter with the Minister of Finance and Planning for clear formal guidance and clarification.
- Human resource- and new fees-related issues in Renk, Northern Upper Nile State, have been brought to the attention of RRC for tackling. The Forum will be following up on these issues with RRC in the new week.
- The Forum is engaging with RRC to meet with the relevant Directorate of NSS to discuss some of the NSS-related or associated issues that NGOs have faced in the last few months. In case you have some NSS-related issues that you have not brought to the attention of the Secretariat, please could you let the Secretariat know as soon as possible. This will help inform and shape nuances of discussions that we shall have some time in the coming week.
- Secretariat sent out communications to members asking members to share with the Secretariat **lists of bureaucratic and access impediments encountered this year**, together with relevant formal communications/circulars where applicable. We are finalizing the list of challenges that NGOs have faced this year at national and state levels. We thank those who have shared with us relevant cases that they have encountered.

## 3. Security

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

- 'SPLA / SPLA-IO' clashes
- National staff targeted by criminals
- Traffic incidents and harassment persist in Juba
- Country-wide compound/warehouse intrusions
- Road ambushes and robberies - continued insecurity
- Unresolved inter-communal issues

**Highlights.**

- IGAD Revitalisation consultation continues. The IGAD led team is looking to reinstate the 2015 peace accord (including an unconditional permanent ceasefire) with a two-month timetable for the HLRF (High Level Revitalisation Forum) and consultation with the various parties. There are conflicting views on the process with the armed and unarmed opposition issuing joint statement on the matter.

- Government rejects talking to individual opposition groups, asking the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to have the opposition groups to organise and unite their ranks under one body.
- Fighting continues between government and opposition forces around Waat, Jonglei.

#### **Field outreach.**

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

The aim of the outreach engagements is to facilitate networks at field level, encourage best practice and better engage NNGOs.

- 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://southsudannngoforum.org>).
- The document portal now updated for better accessibility of documents. Please follow the link <http://docs.southsudannngoforum.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@southsudannngoforum.org](mailto:infomgr@southsudannngoforum.org)).
- Updated list of all CD contacts can be found here <http://southsudannngoforum.org/contacts/>

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

- **Conflict Sensitivity M&E training** will take place on Thursday October 26 at the Secretariat. All slots are filled. This is an NGO Forum and Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility joint initiative.

#### **Security training:**

- **SSAFE**
  - 14-16 Nov
  - 28-30 Nov
  - 12-14 Dec

- MAG's Explosive Hazards Awareness Training
  - Recognizing types of threats (landmines, cluster munitions, etc.)
  - Areas in which ERW can be found across South Sudan
  - Clues and indicators of ERW presence
  - Impact of ERW
  - Preparedness measures for working in potentially contaminated areas
  - What to do if you find an ERW
  - Risk awareness training handouts, leaflets and posters

Date: Friday 27th October 14:00 to 18:00 in Juba

Registration: Sign up on DOODLE: <http://tinyurl.com/ybjrod4d>

OR email Kamihura.Ahmed@maginternational.org

## 6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- The Security Analyst is on leave until Monday 23 Oct.
- The SFP is on leave until 29 Oct. Meanwhile the D-SFP holds the brief.
- The Information Manager is on leave until October 31; however he remains reachable online.

## 7. Forward Look.

- Conflict Sensitivity M&E training will take place on October **26 at the Secretariat.**
- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator would like to meet with the **CDs of NGOs** delivering nutrition programming at the Secretariat on **Wednesday October 25 from 3:30-5:00pm.**
- 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.
- **National NGO Expo will take place from 26th to 28th October 2017.** All invited and encouraged to attend.
- **We encourage members to share with the Secretariat operational and access challenges that they face** so that matters may be brought to the attention of relevant authorities.
- The Forum will share the revised constituency lists and leads in the new week. Please print and know your constituency members and constituency lead once the list is sent out.
- 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.

Pius Ojara

NGO Forum Secretariat Director