

## SOUTHERN SUDAN GIS PARTNERS MEETING

### MINUTES – 22.10.08

**Date:** 22 October 2008 – 1500  
**Location:** OCHA Conference Room, UN OCHA Compound

**Next meeting:** TBA

#### 1. Introduction/Background

UNJLC welcomed all partners to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. There has been formal and informal meetings between GIS partners, but for quite long time has been suspended due to lack of initiatives. Thus, UNJLC South Sudan decided to take one step forward and bring all GIS community together to discuss continuing the meeting on a regular base. The meeting was arranged with specific objectives of electing partners that will chair and secretariat future meetings.

#### 2. Presentation by OCHA IMU

Joe Crowley, Head of OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU), gave a brief presentation. The IMU has many functions; of key relevance for this forum is the GIS component in support of humanitarian activities including:

- Map products that are distributed through their map shops (approximately 1300 maps available)
- Manage website: Sudan Information Gateway (<http://www.unsudanig.org>) where all products are available for download.
- Chair Sudan Interagency Mapping (SIM) group; this is a virtual group set up to promote coordination among GIS actors (<http://www.unsudanig.org/sim>).

One participant asked if there are updated maps on the road conditions in Southern Sudan. UNJLC did comprehensive road mapping in Southern Sudan last year with partners and the info on the main corridors is updated on the Transport Overview Map. For any specific information on secondary roads or current conditions, partners should visit the UNJLC office.

There was mention of the change in boundary lines and that the maps provided by the UN are not updated accordingly. Joe explained that the boundaries on the map of Sudan come from the government and we cannot change them unless officially provided with updated information.

#### 3. Presentation by UNDP

UNDP gave a briefing on their Threat Risk Mapping Analysis (TRMA), which was initially established to provide a basis for supporting the CPA and to make UNDP programmes conflict-sensitive. The TRMA will be used to identify and visualize risks and threats to human life, livestock and livelihood.

Rationale for the Mapping: Provision of human security and stability as a pre-condition to early recovery and development.

UNDP is developing a comprehensive database of information for mapping across all sectors that will take key data from stakeholders for analysis. The steps involved will include:

- 1) Information collection and participatory mapping
- 2) Analysis and programming support

### 3) Capacity building and coordination

The maps can then be used to clearly identify high-risk areas and what the gaps are for mitigating threats.

## 4. Discussion

The group had a discussion session on the follow points:

### **Future meetings:**

The group agreed to have the meeting once a month. It is also decided that UNOCHA to chair the meeting and UNDP- TRMA to co-chair the meeting. Furthermore, in the future there will be a rotating role among UN agencies, INGOs and Government ministries and commissions. The secretary role for the meeting to be assigned in the next meeting.

### **Undertaking an interagency data inventory:**

It was brought to the attention of the group that UNDP – TRMA has already started the work of doing GIS data inventory but OCHA – IMU also had already done work on it. Thus, OCHA – IMU is willing to share the information with TRMA. At later stage all the information will be gathered in a data pool and partners will have access to the inventory. In the meeting, the establishment of the information management working group (IMWG) was mentioned. The group has not yet been established but is on progress. The establishment of the IMWG will lead to the set up of the common information sharing platform.

### **Keeping track of all the data collection and standardizing data collection procedures:**

Standardizing data collection procedures were among the topics discussed in the meeting, the group sees the advantage of using common procedures but since every agency have its own procedures, brining all together and merging them into one is a matter of time. UNDP-TRMA mentioned that this will be one of the tasks for new Information Management Working Group(IMWG) due to establish. UNJLC-GIS unit promised to present its standard data collection sheets to the group for next meeting.

### **Initiatives in building capacity/internships to support GIS capacity development for GoSS:**

Participant from the Commission of Census and Statistics mentioned that the commission is involved in building GIS capacity to five people. The fund came from European Union (EU) through FAO. It was also mentioned that there are three staff from Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) seconded to the Norwegian Forestry Group (NFG). Furthermore, UNJLC has also been involved in building GIS capacity to Ministry of Transport & roads (MoTR).

## 5. AOB

Representative from UNDP – TRMA project invited GIS users group to a workshop that will be held between 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> of December 2008. This workshop is planned by University of Bern, cde (center for development and environment) of Switzerland. Presentation on the newly released topographic base map, September 2008, is expected in the workshop.

The group raised the issue of having an overlap in GIS tasks among partners. The UNDP- TRMA is working in identifying possible task duplications among partners. UNDP TRMA will follow up this issue.

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