NIGERIA

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has not been activated yet in Nigeria. As global lead of the ETC, the World Food Programme (WFP) is coordinating the Emergency Telecommunications (ET) Sector in Nigeria, responding with government, private sector and humanitarian organisations to ensure a coordinated response.

Since the start of the violent conflict in North-Eastern Nigeria in 2009, there are an estimated 2.2 million people displaced and a further 177,000 seeking refuge in the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Seven million people are currently in need of life-saving assistance in the four worst-affected states in the north-east: Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe.

The **Emergency Telecommunications (ET) Sector** in Nigeria is responding with government, private sector and humanitarian organizations to ensure a coordinated response, mainly in the Borno and Yobe states.

Need for Vital Connections

- An **assessment mission** was conducted at the end of August 2016 to determine communications needs, assess infrastructure, identify operational gaps and evaluate response capacity for the provision of emergency telecommunications services in north-eastern Nigeria.

- Sites in Abuja, Damaturu and Maiduguri were assessed and a number of UN agencies, NGOs, and Mobile Network Operators on the ground were consulted.

- There is an urgent need for enhanced **security telecommunications** and **Internet connectivity** services in planned humanitarian hubs in north-eastern Nigeria.

ET Sector Response

On 28 September, an ET Sector Coordinator was deployed to Nigeria to support joint ICT coordination efforts, advocate for activation of the ET Sector and the vital need for shared communications and prepare the roll-out of ET Sector activities across the country.

Challenges

- The security situation remains volatile and unpredictable. While humanitarian access has improved, it is still limited due to the risk of attack.

- Improved coordination, and exchange of information is required as well as potential Internet connectivity requirements for the affected population is highly recommended.

For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Sector in Nigeria, contact: Global.ETC@wfp.org