DRC, CAR, Nigeria, RETS
Global ETC Teleconference
Date: 06/06/18       TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance
Chair         Caroline Teyssier (Global ETC), United Arab Emirates
UNHCR         Abdala Khalil Uganda
             Frederic Bertrand Democratic Republic of Congo
UNICEF        Simon Genin United States of America
WFP           Catherine Boyle South Africa
             Jean-Claude Kibonge Democratic Republic of Congo
             Karim Kangbeya Democratic Republic of Congo
             Moussa Sana Senegal
             Mohamedou Ndiath Central African Republic
             Sylvain Tiako Nigeria

Teleconference started at 12:04 UTC

Agenda
1. Central African Republic (CAR) update
   a. Refugee Emergency Telecommunication Sector (RETS) update - Refugee influx from CAR in Chad
2. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) update
   a. RETS update - Refugee influx from DRC in Uganda
3. Nigeria update
   a. RETS update - Refugee influx from Cameroon in Nigeria
4. AOB
Minutes

1. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Security situation

- The security situation remains unstable in Bambari. Some humanitarian staff have been relocated. The situation in Kaga-Bandoro is being monitored.

ETC Response

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) equipment to provide Internet connectivity services and security telecommunications in Alindao is stuck in Bambari due to recent security incidents. The ETC expects to move this equipment to Alindao in the second week of June.
- The deployment of ETC services in Bangassou is pending, as the premises of the hosting agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), are not ready.
  - The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) is planning to extend their radio communications services in Bangassou and will use same location as the ETC (IOM).
- The Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project has been on hold because no funding was received from humanitarian organisations. Some UN agencies start having funding for this and the project is going ahead.
  - The ETC will request additional licences to the relevant authorities for the implementation of the DMR project.

RETS update - Chad refugee emergency: influx from CAR

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has allocated US$250,000 to provide Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in the Gorei area, specifically in Amboko, Gondje, Doholo and Dosseye refugee camps. The installation of services will start immediately.

2. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

ETC Response

- The ETC conducted an assessment in the provinces of South-Kivu and Tanganika provinces in the first half of May to identify evolving communications needs.
  - The recommendation for South-Kivu was to deploy an inter-agency Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Baraka and Uvira. In addition, the installation of a radio repeater in Lusenda – covering Mboko - was recommended to provide security telecommunication services to humanitarians.
  - In Tanganika, it was recommended to upgrade the COMCEN in Kalemi upgrade radio room and to set up COMCENs in Nyunzu and Kabalo.
- In the Kasai region, the ETC has a minimum security telecommunications infrastructure operational in Kananga, Tshikapa and Mbuju-Mayi.
RET update - Uganda refugee emergency: influx from DRC

- n/a

3. NIGERIA

Security situation
- The security situation across North-East Nigeria has been relatively calm but continues to be volatile.

ETS response
- The ETS facilitated a meeting between humanitarian organisations and the international Internet Service Provider (ISP) that the ETS is using in Borno state to discuss the communications needs of different organisations.
- Two ETS team members are in Banki until 9 June to deploy Internet and security telecommunications services at the humanitarian hub for the use of the humanitarian community.
- As the rainy season is approaching, most of the ETS operations during that period will be focused on maintaining existing infrastructure and services across North-East Nigeria.
  - The ETS team transferred all ETS equipment (server room and COMCEN) to solid prefabricated structures in the hubs in Gwoza, Bama and Dikwa.
- The Humanitarian Hub Task Force agreed to extend the opening timings of the hubs in North-East Nigeria from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 14.00 to 17:00 so humanitarians can access longer the Internet services provided by the ETS.
- The ETS obtained nine High Frequency (HF) radio and 18 Very High Frequency (VHF) radio licenses from the Nigerian Ministry of Communications Technology. This allows the ETS to go ahead with the setup of the planned full DMR network for North-East Nigeria. The ETS is in contact with the supplier to program the radio repeaters accordingly.
- In May, the ETS team visited the hubs in Bama, Monguno and Ngala to carry out maintenance works on the Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services deployed in the hubs to ensure their full operability.
- Two IT and telecommunications experts from the World Food Programme (WFP) joined the ETS team in Maiduguri on a temporary assignment to support operations on the ground.
- The 19x radio operators positions - sponsored by the ETS - to man the COMCENs across North-East Nigeria have been readvertised by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) / UN Development Programme (UNDP).

RET update - Nigeria refugee emergency: influx from Cameroon

- n/a

4. AOB

- n/a

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:29 UTC
Next Joint Global ETC Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 11 July 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMCEN</td>
<td>Communications Centre</td>
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<td>DMR</td>
<td>Digital Mobile Radio</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>ETC</td>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
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<td>ETS</td>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Sector</td>
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<td>HF</td>
<td>High Frequency</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>ISP</td>
<td>Internet Service Provider</td>
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<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
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<td>MINUSCA</td>
<td>United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic</td>
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<td>RETS</td>
<td>Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector</td>
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<td>UN Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>VHF</td>
<td>Very High Frequency</td>
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<td>World Food Programme</td>
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All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://www.ETCluster.org)

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [Global.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Global.ETC@wfp.org)

Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP