

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 Frederic Bertrand	Uganda Democratic Republic of Congo
UNICEF	Simon Genin	United States of America
WFP	Catherine Boyle Jean-Claude Kibonge Karim Kangbeya Moussa Sana Mohamedou Ndiath Sylvain Tiako	South Africa Democratic Republic of Congo Democratic Republic of Congo Senegal Central African Republic 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 Tanganyika 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 Tanganyika, it was recommended to upgrade the COMCEN in Kalemie 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.



RETS 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).

RETS 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

CAR	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
RETS	Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety & Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

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

Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP