

## **Bangladesh, CAR, Nigeria**

### **Global ETC Teleconference**

**Date: 06/02/19**

**TIME: 13:00 UTC**

#### **Attendance**

Chair	Salma Farouque	(Global ETC), Italy
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger Martin Falebrand	Germany Sweden
UNHCR	Alexander James Thomas	Denmark
UNICEF	Antonio Gomes Shahid Khan	USA Senegal
WFP	Moussa Sana Min Sun Mohamedou Ndiath Prakash Muniandy	Senegal Bangladesh CAR UAE

Teleconference started at 13:05 UTC

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Bangladesh**
  - a. Country updates
  - b. Partner updates
  - c. AOB
- 2. Central African Republic (CAR)**
  - a. Country updates
  - b. Partner updates
  - c. AOB
- 3. Nigeria**
  - a. Country updates
  - b. Partner updates
  - c. UNHCR's RETS update
- 4. AOB**

## Minutes

### 1. BANGLADESH

#### Security situation

- The security situation has remained calm since the national elections at the end of December 2018.

#### Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response

- Security communications
  - As part of the upgrade of the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio network in Cox's Bazar, VHF repeaters were upgraded and new radio antennas were installed in two sites for the Communications Centre (COMCEN) to communicate clearly with camp areas. Two additional sites will be upgraded in March.
  - The ETS was working on code plugs and call sign standardisation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- Internet connectivity
  - The ETS deployed an access control mechanism to manage the Internet connectivity services in Madhu Chara camp. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) in that area will be changed to a more cost-efficient ISP.
- Services for Communities (S4C)
  - On the ETC Connect App, which serves as a feedback mechanism, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is not taking part in the trial as the app is not fitting their requirements and currently only WFP is using it.
  - Regarding the Radio Naf project, there are some coverage challenges in the Kutupalong area as there is no reception in the valley. The ETS will discuss with relevant authorities the deployment of a repeater in that area.

### 2. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

#### Security situation

- There have not been any security incidents since the beginning of the year across CAR. The situation in Bambari, previously volatile, is now stable.



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## **ETC Response**

- The ETC conducted an S4C assessment at the end of January to map the communications needs of the affected populations. As part of this mission, the ETC S4C advisor and ETC Coordinator visited Bangassou, Bria and Kaga-Bandoro. The mission report, including recommendations, is being finalised.
- An inter-agency Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission is ongoing in CAR to evaluate the security communications infrastructure across six locations - Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro. The TESS mission delegates met with UNDSS, the ETC Working Group and the UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT). After the mission, finishing in mid-February, recommendations will be made to the Security Management Team (SMT) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to implement a suitable and effective communications solution.
- Equipment from ETC partners Government of Luxembourg and Ericsson Response to provide Internet connectivity services in Batangafo arrived in country and is planned to be set up by mid-February. Both partners will provide remote support to the local ETC team during the deployment of the data connectivity solution.
- The ETC continues to provide Internet connectivity services in Bangassou at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) premises to the entire humanitarian community. The extension of services to a church used by humanitarians is ongoing.
- In Alindao, the ETC Internet network was breached and ETC connectivity services were temporary interrupted. The ETC will identify a more secure location to relocate the ETC equipment and services.
- The ETC will conduct assessment missions in Amada-Gaza, Berberati, and Gamboula in February to evaluate the communications needs of the humanitarian community in these locations. The ETC Coordinator will identify potential organisations which can host ETC equipment and services.

## **3. NIGERIA**

### **Security situation**

- The security situation remains unpredictable in view of the ongoing election period (February 2019).

### **ETS Response**

- The ETS doubled the bandwidth at the hubs in Bama, Banki, Dikwa, Gwoza, Monguno and Ngala. This upgrade was carried out in line with the evolving needs on the ground and will support the efficient implementation of humanitarian activities. The upgrade at the Damasak hub will be conducted as soon as the hub resumes operations.
- The ETS deployed a second High Frequency (HF) radio antenna in Maiduguri to facilitate the transition to the new HF frequency plan approved by the Nigerian Ministry of Communications.



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- The ETS trained 120 humanitarians from Save The Children in Maiduguri on the efficient use of their handheld radios and security communications procedures to maximize their safety when carrying out their jobs in the field.
  - In January 2019, ETS Internet services were used by 1100+ humanitarians from 59 organisations across North-East Nigeria.
  - The relocation of the ETS security telecommunications and data connectivity equipment currently in the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Maiduguri to a dedicated server room at the humanitarian hub was completed.
  - The ETS is in the process of identifying two Stand-by Partners (SBP) to join the team and support the implementation of security communications activities.

### **RETS response in Chad to influx from Nigeria**

- The security situation around Dar es Salaam settlement in Baga Sola, Chad, where UNHCR-led Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS) is operating, is volatile.
- RETS deployed the Government of Luxembourg 'emergency.lu' solution in Baga Sola, Chad, to provide Internet connectivity services to organisations responding to the humanitarian and protection needs of people fleeing violence in North-East Nigeria. Baga Sola and the surrounding district currently host 15,000 Nigerian refugees. Shared Internet services are being provided to 45 users from four partner organisations across the district.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:24 UTC

**Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 6 March 13:00 UTC.**

## **Acronyms**

CAR	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HF	High Frequency
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
RETS	Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector
S4C	Services for Communities
SBP	Stand-by Partner
SMT	Security Management Team
TESS	Telecommunications Security Standards
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees



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UNHCT	UN Humanitarian Country Team
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](http://www.ETCluster.org)

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:

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**Minutes:** Erika Iglesias, WFP