

Local ETS Working Group - Maiduguri

Date: 10/05/19 Time: 10:00 (Abuja)

IHP Base Camp, Red Roof, Maiduguri, Borno State

Attendance

Chair	Khawar Ilyas (WFP/ ETS Coordinator a.i.)
ACF	Sulaiman Abaniwonnda
IOM	Ogun Adedapo
	Timothy Anko
IRC	James Mshelia (online)
MSF	Mohammed Musa (online)
NRC	Amana Hassan
	Hauwa Adamu
OCHA	Blessing Adeleke
PUI	Samuel Olowolayemo
SCI	Abraham Aikhionbare (online)
SI	Abdulbasit Oyeniyi
UNICEF	Taiwo Aiyedun (online)
WFP	Dubem Umeasiegbu (online)
	Erika Iglesias

Agenda

- 1. Brief update on the latest ETS activities in NE Nigeria**
 - a. New Frequency Plan**
- 2. Partners updates**
- 3. AOB**

1. Brief update on latest ETS activities in NE Nigeria

- The ETS continues providing vital communications services to humanitarian organisations in North-East Nigeria, as well as coordination and information management services.

- Internet connectivity and security communications services are available in eight hubs in Borno state- Maiduguri and seven field hubs- and Damaturu is covered by ETS communications services. In 2019, the ETS is expecting to expand its services to Adamawa State.
- The ETS is the provider of last resort- it deploys equipment and infrastructure to provide communications services to humanitarians, not to replace local providers.
- The ETS Coordinator explained that a new HF Frequency plan is in place to comply with the frequency licences granted by the Ministry of Communications. Organisations can liaise with the ETS anytime to reprogramme their equipment accordingly.
- The ETS started engaging with the MNOs in North-East Nigeria to update the coverage maps. Airtel has restored voice services (not 3G) in Monguno.
- The ETS has launched a Vacancy Announcement for an Information Management assistant to assist the team in Maiduguri. Deadline for applications is 17 May. [Information on how to apply](#) will be sent by email to the ETS local Working Group members. Attendees were encouraged to disseminate the vacancy among their networks to identify qualified females.
- The ETS will try to share in advance the mission plan for field locations so organisations on the ground can request training/support from the ETS.

2. Partners' updates

Premiere Urgence International (PUI)

- PUI is experiencing challenges with HF communications when trying to contact Monguno office from Maiduguri. They confirmed they have their own frequency licences and two base stations. The ETS can send a team to PUI office to check the installation and the programming of the radios. PUI has to send an email to Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org to formalise the request.
- The ETS Coordinator suggested to have an additional means of communications for long range such Iridium PTT satellite phone (which comes with a monthly cost of \$62 to the service provider) to complement HF.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- OCHA is awaiting management approval for the recurrent costs for Iridium PTT. They also asked for technical training on programming handheld radios.
 - The ETS is working on technical and non-technical training packages such installing docking units in vehicles and offices and installing radio bases on vehicles.
 - LGA coordination meetings are taking place in the field humanitarian hubs. The ETS is planning to reach out to the LGA Coordinators through OCHA to understand if there have any challenges in conducting coordination activities.
 - The ETS Coordinator mentioned that UNDSS will open a COMCEN and an office in Yola. The ETS will engage with UNDSS in Yola for the provision of security communications services. WFP is planning to set up an office in Yola too.

Solidarites International (SI)

- SI are using ICOM VHF radio technology. For communications with their offices in the field, they use Internet. The ETS offered assistance in case long-range communications are required.
- There were discussions about extending connectivity to the MSU in Monguno. The ETS asked SI to check with Logistics Sector if they still require connectivity at the MSU.

Action Against Hunger (ACF)

- ACF is using Thuraya phones and HF for long-range communications. ACF suggested that, due to the high staff rotation, logistics and staff involved in operations should be included on technical ETS training. Next month the ETS will go to Damaturu and the team can check ACF's communications systems there.
- ACF is procuring Motorola HF radio equipment. The ETS Coordinator asked ACF to share the specifications to see if that equipment can be programmed and integrated with Codan.
- The ETS mentioned there is 1x analogue repeater in Damasak but simplex covers most of the town.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

- NRC is using UHF. This is not the standard ETS communications but the ETS can look into supporting if needed.
- NRC is facing some challenges with their management to approve the activation of Iridium PTT services.
- The ETS Coordinator asked NRC to share the training needs for the radio operators.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- IOM is procuring communications equipment for the bunkers in the hubs. IOM contracted a company to install it and the ETS will configure it.
- The ETS encouraged IOM to share contacts of local service providers which could be used at the Red Roof and field hubs.
- The ETS Coordinator mentioned that a training of trainers could be delivered to IOM staff if required.

Medicins Sans Frontières (MSF)

- MSF's VHF radio coverage in Maiduguri and Ngala is good. They are using Thuraya and BGANs when they are experiencing problems with HF communications.

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF has HF radios to be configured- will send the request by email to the ETS.
- UNICEF will contact the ETS to conduct possible workshop / end-user training.

- UNICEF enquired about ETS PTT coverage in Abuja. The PTT coverage that the ETS offers in North-East Nigeria also covers Abuja and bordering towns with Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- WFP is experiencing challenges with HF communications. In some cases, VHF can be used for long range when used in simplex mode with a good antenna.
- WFP advised the ETS to negotiate very well the terms and conditions with local services providers in the hubs, especially when it comes to last mile Internet access.
- WFP equipment installed on vehicles needs to be reprogrammed to comply with the new HF frequency plan.

3. AOB

- NSTR.

Next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place in May, date to be confirmed.

Acronyms

ACF	Action Against Hunger
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HF	High Frequency
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGA	Local Government Area
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MSF	Medicins Sans Frontieres
MSU	Mobile Storage Unit
IT	Information Technology
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PTT	Push To Talk
PUI	Premiere Urgence International
UHF	Ultra High Frequency
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WFP	UN World Food Programme

VHF

Very High Frequency

All information related to the ETS operation can be found on the ETC website:

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis

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

Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org

Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP.