

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – Refugee Crisis

ETS Situation Report #52

Reporting period: 01/12/2022 to 31/12/2022

The ETS was activated in Bangladesh in August 2017 in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. ETS Situation Reports are distributed every month.

Highlights

- One new site was added to the ETS data connectivity network in December, to connect a new Nutrition centre in Ukhiya Camp 7. There are now 72 sites connected to the ETS network across Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya, and Teknaf.
- The ETS participated in a high-level visit from the Chief Information Officer (CIO) from WFP headquarters to demonstrate ETS activities and provide updates on the Bangladesh operation.
- The ETS finalized its strategy for 2023 and continued working with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to contribute to the Joint Response Plan (JRP).



The ETS installs a router at an IOM Shelter Management and Shelter Development site in Camp 12. Photo: WFP/ETS

Activities

Coordination and information management

From 6 to 8 December, the ETS participated a high-level visit from WFP headquarters by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Regional IT Officer aimed at demonstrating ETS activities in Bangladesh. The ETS team provided the CIO with updates on services and a visit to ETS data connectivity sites.

The ETS worked with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to finalize the 2023 Joint Response Plan (JRP). The sector will continue working with the ISCG to finalize the strategy.

The ETS met with NetHope on 13 December to collaborate and discuss future projects on delivering ICT training, coordinating on importing and exporting IT equipment, and assessing risk mitigation in the sector.

Data connectivity

Since the beginning of 2022, the ETS has provided data connectivity services to a total of 790 users from 15 NGOs and six UN agencies across three operational areas – Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya, and Teknaf.

In December, one new site was added to the network, connecting a new Nutrition centre in Ukhiya Camp 7. There are now a total of 72 sites connected to the ETS network, exceeding the 2022 goal of 70 data connectivity sites.

13 site visits were conducted for general maintenance of the ETS data network and site equipment installations.

The ETS team is working to reconnect the data connectivity network which has experienced issues since 21 December.

Security communications

In December, ETS security communications services were provided to 865 UN staff members (130 international staff and 735 national staff) through the management of the radio network, utilized by 11 UN agencies throughout the month.

A total of about 5,337 calls were made on VHF handheld radios using the ETS radio network in December, with an average of 177 calls made per day.

The ETS continued to work on the VHF radio network expansion in Teknaf camps. The ETS has agreed on a contract with UNDSS for the completion of the expansion project, and will continue implementation in 2023.

User support

The team resolved 31 issues reported to the ETS helpdesk in December.

Dashboard

See the [ETS Dashboard](#) for an overview of service locations.

Funding

In 2022, the ETS required a total of US\$1.7 million, and was only able to secure 59% funding towards this goal. The 2023 budget requirement for the ETS is US\$1.15 million. The ISCG will fund part of the budgetary requirements for 2023 in response to the decrease in available funding for sectors in the response.

Challenges

After approvals were granted by the Government of Bangladesh for VHF radio use on Bhasan Char island, the ETS is now working on the importation process for telecommunications equipment to install the network.

Funding remains a challenge as it has decreased across sectors for 2023. The ETS has adapted its 2023 strategy and budget to account for the changes in capacity to carry out activities.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **26 January 2023**.

Contacts

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	CONTACT
Paul Wungko	ETS Officer in Charge	Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	paul.wungko@wfp.org
Geneva Costopulos	ETS Information Management Officer	Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org

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

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis

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

Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org