Cox's Bazar – Refugee Crisis

ETS Situation Report #11

Reporting period 17/10/18 to 30/11/2018

Following the increased needs to support the humanitarian efforts in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, World Food Programme (WFP), in its capacity as global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), is supporting the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) by addressing common Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs. Through the establishment of the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) WFP and its partners ensure a coordinated ICT response and support to those working on the provision of life-saving assistance to the affected populations.

Highlights

- The ETS provided radio training to drivers from four agencies to ensure the safety and security of humanitarians on missions to the field.

- The ETS also trained humanitarian personnel managing the information hubs on the usage of ETS equipment installed in the hubs.

ETS IT Assistant Arman Ullah demonstrates how to set up and use information hub equipment to partners in

Situation Overview

Anxieties and concerns arose across all camps, in anticipation of the repatriation plan agreed upon by the Bangladesh and Myanmar Governments that was due to start on 15 November. There was increased military presence in some of the camps as well as reduced uptake of services. On 15 November, the Bangladesh authorities were present and prepared with a number of buses and supplies to facilitate the voluntary repatriation from Camp 22. However, none of the refugees came forward with the wish to voluntary repatriate, and instead many refugees gathered to express that they could only repatriate once certain conditions, including security from violence, basic rights, and citizenship was granted to them by the Government of Myanmar. The authorities kept the voluntary repatriation option open during the whole day, but withdrew in the evening.

ETS Response

- Driver's HF radio operation trainings were conducted for four agencies. As there are no immediate plans to reinvest in the HF network, the existing infrastructure will be utilized where possible. The HF network remains as third means of emergency communication.

- 71 percent of the information hubs' equipment has been handed over to partners for 29 information hubs; 29 percent is available for handover to IFRC (for 1 information hub when construction is completed) and UNICEF (when MOU is signed). Power solutions have been prepositioned for emergency purposes.

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) partners and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) staff managing information hubs were trained on the usage of the information hub equipment installed by the ETS.

- The ETS and WFP IT are conducting Internet connectivity assessments across all the camps.

Planned Response

- The ETS plans to expand the existing VHF radio network so that there is an additional channel for NGOs and UN to use operationally.

- The team will continue to follow-up on Radio Naf's procurement of equipment.

Funding

The ETS in Cox's Bazar is 69.7% funded out of the US$1,201,115 requested to cover its activities until December 2018.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint Teleconference on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar will take place on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 12:00 UTC.

Information

Information on the ETS in Cox's Bazar can be found on: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis
The latest ETS Services map can be found here: https://www.etcluster.org/document.

Key ETS Contacts

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All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: www.ETCluster.org
For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
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