

## **Cox's Bazar – Refugee Crisis**

### **ETS Situation Report #13**

**Reporting period 01/01/2019 to 31/1/2019**

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**

- Following critical upgrades of the ETS' Information and Communications Technology (ICT) at Madhu Chara logistics hub since December 2018, the network speed and user experience has noticeably improved.
- The ETS has upgraded the Very High Frequency (VHF) repeater installation in Kutupalong and Dumduniah, improving the coverage and performance of the current UN common security telecommunications network to the largest camp locations.
- Radio Naf has completed works to their station, a project funded by ETS. While coverage has improved in the camp, gaps still exist especially in Kutupalong megacamp.



The ETS has upgraded the VHF security telecommunications network covering the camp areas

### **Situation Overview**

The security situation in the camp areas have relaxed a little bit since the National elections have taken place, however, some intra-community incidents including protests have been occurring targeting NGOs but so far has not affected UN operations.

## ETS Response

- The Internet network changes at Madhu Chara logistics hub have resulted in a much-improved service for all humanitarian using the network.
- The VHF network has been upgraded with replaced link antennas and larger feeder cables to significantly increase and improve coverage.

## Planned Response

- The ETS will check the coverage of the UN Very High Frequency (VHF) network and determine whether it would be possible to reduce the number of towers used to provide the same coverage whilst also adding more channels in the operational areas.
- The ETS is waiting for UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to provide guidance on the operational area location names.
- The ETS conducted a needs assessment in the humanitarian camps and found that a large number of sites required internet connectivity services.

## Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint Teleconference on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar will take place on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 13:00 UTC.
- The next Local ETS Working Group meeting has been scheduled for 26 February 2019.

## Information

- Information on the ETS in Cox's Bazar can be found on: [www.etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis](http://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](http://www.ETCluster.org)  
For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:  
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