

Cox's Bazar – Refugee Crisis

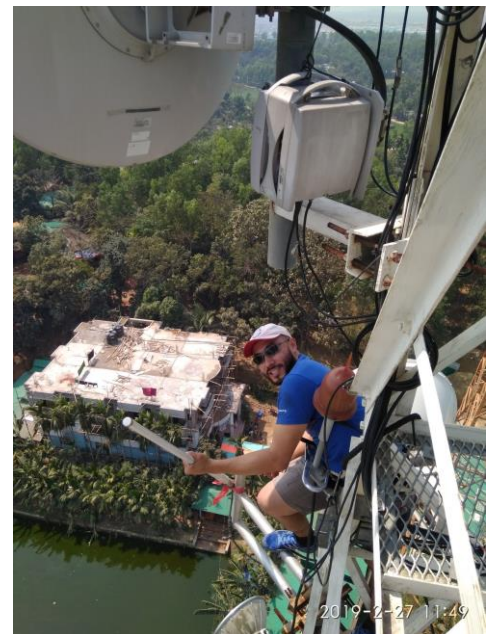
ETS Situation Report #14

Reporting period 01/02/2019 to 28/02/2019

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

- The Global ETC Preparedness Officer conducted a mission to Bangladesh to support the operation and to discuss new potential activities with stakeholders.
- The ETS team conducted a number of visits to information hubs to provide technical support to improve the robustness and reliability of services for users.



The ETS Coordinator working on the link antenna at the Kutupalong repeater site

Situation Overview

An estimated 574,000 people in camps close to Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar are facing the upcoming cyclone seasons with only flimsy shelters to protect them, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). These people urgently need sturdier shelters to protect them from extreme temperatures, monsoon downpours and the two cyclone seasons that hit Bangladesh each year.

The 2019 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis seeks to raise US\$920 million this year to meet the significant needs of more than 900,000 refugees from Myanmar and over 330,000 vulnerable Bangladeshis in host communities.



ETS Response

- The Global ETC conducted a short mission to Bangladesh to support the ETS operation in Cox's Bazar. During the mission a number of meetings with stakeholders in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar were held to review ongoing ETS activities and discuss potential new projects.
- Technical support was provided to two information hubs using power solutions from ETS.
- In anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season, and the possibility of lightning strikes, good quality grounding kits have now been installed at a number of repeater sites.
- The ETS has been reprogramming WFP vehicle radios to ensure correct selcall assignment.

Planned Response

- The ETS will check the coverage of the UN Very High Frequency (VHF) radio 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 the 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 7 March 2019 at 13:00 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
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