

## Cox's Bazar – Refugee Crisis

### ETS Situation Report #16

Reporting period 21/05/2019 – 30/06/2019

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. ETS Bangladesh SitReps are produced monthly.

### Highlights

- The ETC met with a high-level delegation from the Government of Luxembourg during a visit to Cox's Bazar and explained the importance of the information hubs in the refugee camps.
- The ETS successfully upgraded the Internet connectivity services in the offices in the Modhu Chara Logistics hub.
- The ETS discussed with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) the details of the potential communications tower sharing costs and equipment.



The ETS Coordinator meets with the Government of Luxembourg's Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs.

*Photo: ETS Bangladesh*

### Situation Overview

Over the past year and a half approximately 900,000 stateless Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar to Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas sub-districts in Bangladesh where the majority live in 34 camps. As the monsoon season approaches, humanitarians are working hard to mitigate the risks of monsoon rains, such as flooding and landslides.

The Emergency Telecommunications Sector continues to coordinate and actively work with the entire response community and the government to provide vital telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to humanitarians to support the overall response.

## ETS Response

- The ETS met with the Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs from the Government of Luxembourg and the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands during a high-level visit to Cox's Bazar. During the visit, the ETS Coordinator explained the importance of the information hubs in which the ETS has installed critical communications equipment. The main focus of this visit was the camp Information Hubs which are supported by the ETS.
- The ETS continues to liaise closely with the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the local military commander to prepare for potential landfalls in the camps that may be caused during monsoon season.
- The ETS upgraded the Internet connectivity services in the Modhu Chara Logistics Hub. The team also explored the options to expand this connectivity to more completely cover the logistics hub work areas.
- The ETC and UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) are finalizing the details for the recruitment of a UNDSS telecommunications technician.
- A new ETS Coordinator joined the team during the reporting period, having received a full handover from the previous coordinator.

## Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint Teleconference on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar will take place on **Wednesday 24 July 2019**.

## Information

- Information on the ETS in Cox's Bazar: [www.etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis](http://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/bangladesh-refugee-crisis)
- The latest ETS Services Dashboard can be found here: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/ets-bangladesh-dashboard-april-2019>



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## Key ETS Contacts

### [Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org](mailto:Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org)

LOCATION	NAME	TITLE	
Cox's Bazar	Habib Shashati	ETS Coordinator	<a href="mailto:habib.shashati@wfp.org">habib.shashati@wfp.org</a>
Cox's Bazar	Ray Worner	Information Management Officer	<a href="mailto:ray.worner@wfp.org">ray.worner@wfp.org</a>

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:  
[Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org](mailto:Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org)