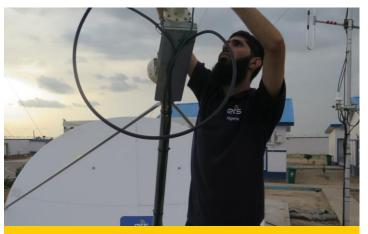## Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #23

Reporting period 1/09/18 to 30/09/18

As global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) in Nigeria, responding with government, private sector and humanitarian partners on the ground to ensure a coordinated response. ETS SitReps are issued monthly.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) expanded its Internet communications services in Maiduguri to cover the second accommodation phase in the Red Roof humanitarian camp.

- The ETS is engaging with humanitarian partners to gather their plans for 2019 as well as their training needs to tailor the ETS response plan for next year.

- The ETS is deploying a 36-metre telecommunications tower in Maiduguri to enhance the coverage of the ETS security telecommunications services.

The ETS conducting maintenance works on the Internet services deployed at the humanitarian hub in Dikwa (Borno state).
Photo: WFP/ Salisu Sheriff

Situation Overview

Since late August, heavy rains across Nigeria have caused large-scale flooding that has left 826,403 affected people. In total, 87 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across 10 states have been experiencing severe floods. On 17 September, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) declared a national disaster in the four worst-affected states (Anambra, Delta, Kogi and Niger) and is leading the overall national response. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is monitoring the situation and will request the support from the sectors if required.

Between 1 January and 10 September 2018, the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control recorded 27,927 suspected cholera cases (compared to 5,264 in 2017) with 517 deaths (compared to 140 in 2017) across 19 states.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), displacement in the North-East has increased since December 2017 due to the volatile security situation in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states. Over 4,000 new arrivals and 707 returnees were recorded between 3-11 September.

ETS Response

- In view of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) exercise led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the ETS is consulting humanitarian partners to gather their plans and identify areas where ETS communications services might be required. In addition, the ETS is collecting the training needs of humanitarians on the ground to tailor the ETS technical radio training to the North-East Nigeria context.

- In September, the ETS conducted maintenance works and completed the require upgrades on the Internet and telecommunications services deployed in the humanitarian hubs in Bama, Banki, Dikwa and Ngala to ensure their full operability. On a daily basis, ETS Internet services are accessed by an average of 29 humanitarians in the field hubs.

- The ETS expanded Internet services in the humanitarian camp in Maiduguri –Red Roof- to cover a newly-constructed area within the hub which will host approximately 80 additional humanitarians. When this area is operational, tentatively in mid-October, the Red Roof will have approximately 180 accommodation spaces.

- In the last week of September, the ETS delivered a radio communications procedures module to over 30 humanitarians from several UN agencies and NGOs during the Safe and Secure Approach in Field Environments (SSAFE) training organised by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in Maiduguri. This training enabled participants to familiarise themselves and practice some key radio procedures such as radio check and communications during convoy missions. During 2018, the ETS has trained over 400 humanitarians from 30 organisations on security telecommunications procedures.

- As part of the ETS Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project in North-East Nigeria, the ETS is liaising with humanitarian organisations in Maiduguri to join the new security telecommunications network. At the end of September, 546 handheld and mobile radios from 12 organisations were registered in the system. The ETS is erecting a 36-metre telecommunications tower in Maiduguri to enhance the coverage of the security telecommunications services and to set up the infrastructure required to rollout the second phase of the DMR project. When completed, humanitarians will have access to advanced DMR features such a private calls, organisation/group calls and increased voice quality, among others.

Planned Response

- The ETS will deploy vital communications services – Internet and security telecommunications- at the humanitarian hub in Rann, as soon as the construction works are finalized by IOM.

- From the end of October until mid-November, the ETS will carry out a Services for Communities (S4C) mission to map the communication gaps of the affected population and evaluate how the ETS can better address them.

- As part of the second phase of the DMR project, the ETS will deploy additional resources in November to build on the existing DMR network in Maiduguri.

Challenges

- The delay in the recruitment of radio operators by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) / UN Development Programme (UNDP) remains a challenge as the COMCENs deployed by the ETS in the field hubs in Bama, Banki, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza and Monguno are not yet operational. WFP, as co-lead of the ETS in Nigeria, is supporting in this recruitment process and has identified 16x short-term candidates joining on 2 October while the UNDSS/UNDP recruitment of the longer-term positions is ongoing.

Funding

- The ETS operation in Nigeria is currently 44 percent funded.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic operations will be held on 7 November.

- The next Local ETS Working Group meeting in Maiduguri will take place on 18 October.

Information

- ETS Nigeria information can be found on: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis

- The latest ETS Dashboard displaying where ETS services are available and planned can be found here: www.etcluster.org/document/ets-nigeria-dashboard-september-2018

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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IT	Information Technology
LGA	Local Government Area
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
S4C	Services for Communities
SSAFE	Safe and Secure Approach in Field Environments
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security

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: Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org