## Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #26

Reporting period 1/12/18 to 31/12/18

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

- During 2018, ETS communications services have been used by 2,931 humanitarians from 106 United Nations (UN) agencies, local and international Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) across North East Nigeria.

- Maintenance and upgrade missions were carried out on the ETS services deployed in the hubs in Bama, Gwoza and Monguno to ensure its fully operability.
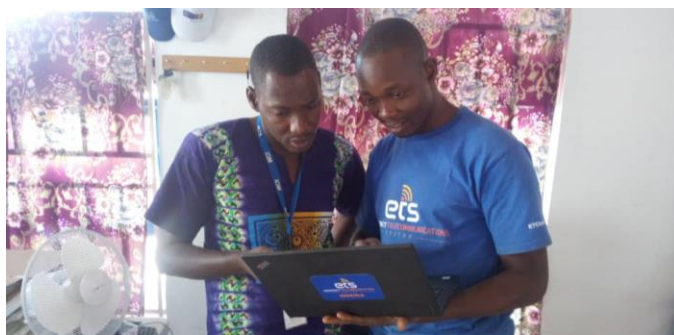
ETS IT specialist explaining to the IOM hub manager in Bama the user management system installed to manage Internet connectivity services.
Photo: IOM/ Auwal Dalhatu

Situation Overview

Deteriorating security conditions in North-East Nigeria continue to hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the crisis-affected areas. On 6 December, violent clashes between armed opposition groups and Nigerian security forces killed an unconfirmed number of displaced people in Rann, Borno State, according to UN agencies. The fighting also destroyed a medical clinic and prompted the temporary relocation of humanitarian staff to Borno's capital of Maiduguri.

As reported by Action Against Hunger, on 26 December, non-state armed groups attacked a military base in Baga, close to Lake Chad in Kukawa Local Government Area (LGA), forcing as many as 40,000 people to flee to safety in Monguno and more than 25,000 to flee to Maiduguri.

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon, issued a press statement stating that 260 humanitarians were withdrawn from three local government areas (Monguno, Kala/Balge and Kukawa) affected by the conflict since November 2018, having a direct impact in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of people. This is the largest withdrawal of humanitarians since the international response scaled up in 2016.

ETS Response

- The ETS continued to provide shared communications services in nine operational areas in North-East Nigeria, namely Bama, Banki, Damasak, Damaturu, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno and Ngala. During 2018, 2,931 humanitarians from 106 organisations used the ETS services in the eight established humanitarian hubs in Borno state.

- During the reporting period, the ETS conducted maintenance and support missions on the services deployed in Bama, Gwoza and Monguno. All humanitarian hubs have now a unified access management system to facilitate the log in process of ETS Internet services' users.

- The ETS team started relocating the security telecommunications and data connectivity equipment currently in the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Maiduguri to a dedicated server room at the humanitarian hub.

Planned Response

- To enhance the safety and security of humanitarians on the ground relying on radio communications in North-East Nigeria, the ETS jointly with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) will update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Emergency Communication System (ECS).

- In line with the increasing connectivity needs of humanitarians operating in remote field locations, the ETS will double in the coming weeks the Internet bandwidth in all seven field humanitarian hubs in Borno state.

Funding

- The ETS operation in Nigeria in 2018 is 44 percent funded.

- The ETS submitted a joint funding proposal with the Logistics Sector and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) to support the delivery of logistics services, reliable telecommunications services and air service operations that facilitate timely and effective humanitarian assistance.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Bangladesh, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic operations will be held on 06 February 2019.

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-december-2018

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Acronyms

COMCEN   Communications Centre
ECHO   European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECS   Emergency Communications System
ETC   Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS   Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IOM   International Organisation for Migration
LGA   Local Government Areas
NGO   Non-Governmental Organisation
SOP   Standard Operating Procedure
UN   United Nations
UNDSS   UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHAS   UN Humanitarian Air Service

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