

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #27

Reporting period 1/01/19 to 31/01/19

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

- In line with the increasing connectivity needs of the humanitarian community, the ETS doubled the bandwidth in all the operational field humanitarian hubs in Borno state.
- To ensure ETS security communications services are efficiently used to support a safer humanitarian response, the ETS trained 120 staff from Save the Children in Maiduguri on security telecommunications procedures.



In 2018, ETS communications services were used by an average of 33 humanitarians in the field hubs across Borno State and by over 100 humanitarians in the hub in Maiduguri on a daily basis. *Photo: WFP/ Erika Iglesias*

Situation Overview

As more people become displaced due to ongoing conflict, North-East Nigeria remains in a humanitarian crisis stemming from the threats made by insurgent groups. According to Amnesty International, at least 60 people were killed following the 28 January devastating attack in Rann, a border town in Borno state where the ETS is planning to deploy services in 2019 to provide the much-needed communications services to the humanitarian community. Aid agencies reported that some 30,000 civilians have fled to Cameroon at the end of January, joining a further 9,000 who fled after a previous attack on 14 January.

On 21 January 2019, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) declared an outbreak of Lassa fever following an increase in the number of cases. From 1 to 27 January 2019, a total of 213 confirmed cases including 41 deaths were reported from sixteen states (Edo, Ondo, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Plateau, Taraba, Gombe, Anambra, Kaduna, Kwara, FCT, Benue, Rivers, Nassarawa and Kogi States) across 40 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The Nigeria general elections are taking place on 16 February 2019, marking the sixth quadrennial elections since the end of military rule in 1999. Humanitarian organisations are working on contingency plans to anticipate and mitigate the impact that potential political turbulence might have on their operations.



ETS Response

- Following the feedback received in the User Satisfaction Survey from humanitarians using ETS Internet services in Borno State, the ETS doubled the bandwidth at the hubs in Bama, Banki, Dikwa, Gwoza, Monguno and Ngala. This upgrade was carried out in line with the evolving needs on the ground and will support the efficient implementation of humanitarian activities. The upgrade at the Damasak hub will be conducted as soon as the hub resumes operations.
- The ETS deployed a second High Frequency (HF) radio antenna in Maiduguri to facilitate the transition to the new HF frequency plan approved by the Nigerian Ministry of Communications.
- The ETS trained 120 humanitarians from Save The Children in Maiduguri on the efficient use of their handheld radios and security communications procedures to maximize their safety when carrying out their jobs in the field.
- In January 2019, ETS Internet services were used by 1100+ humanitarians from 59 organisations across North-East Nigeria.
- The relocation of the ETS security telecommunications and data connectivity equipment currently in the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Maiduguri to a dedicated server room at the humanitarian hub was completed.

Planned Response

- To enhance the safety and security of humanitarians on the ground who rely on radio communications in North-East Nigeria, the ETS continues to update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Emergency Communication System (ECS) jointly with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).
- To support localization of efforts, the ETS will engage with local Internet Service Providers (ISP) to identify a suitable and reliable solution for the provision of connectivity services at the eight humanitarian hubs deployed in Borno State.

Funding

- The ETS operation in Nigeria in 2019 requires US\$3,4M to maintain the existing services and expand them to 4x planned operational areas.
- The ETS received a contribution of US\$411,734 from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With this contribution and carried-over funds from 2018, the ETS is 23% funded.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Bangladesh, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic operations will be held on 6 March 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-february-2019

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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HF	High Frequency
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LGA	Local Government Areas
NCDC	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
WFP	World Food Programme

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