Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #1

Reporting period 23/10/16 to 24/11/16

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.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) was officially activated in North-East Nigeria on 23 November.

- Initial funding has been received from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) which the ETS has used to purchase security telecommunications and Internet connectivity equipment.

- Regular Local and Global ETS Nigeria meetings are being held to identify gaps, challenges and activities, and to ensure a coordinated response.

Situation Overview

The conflict in North-East Nigeria, provoked by Boko Haram, has resulted in widespread violence, displacement of people and an escalating humanitarian crisis.

Since the start of the conflict in 2009, it is estimated that more than 20,000 people have been killed and around 2.1 million people have been forced to flee their homes, some to the neighbouring countries of Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

The ETS will concentrate its efforts in the states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa to support the wider humanitarian response with the provision of lifesaving communications services. In these states, around 15 million people are directly affected and in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

WFP food distribution at Buni Yadi.

Photo: WFP/Florence Lanyero

ETS Response

- ETS is convening regular inter-agency Telecommunications Working Group meetings and Global ETS teleconferences to ensure a coordinated response and to avoid duplication of efforts.

- The Telecommunications Working Group, with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Officers in Niger, Cameroon and Chad, has finalized the radio frequency plan for Nigeria which includes the possibility for short-range cross-border communication between the four countries.

Planned Response

- The ETS plans to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services in 11x sites across three states in North-East Nigeria: Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

- The ETS is requesting the creation of a combined United Nations (UN) and Non-Government Organisations (NGO) radio license, with additional frequencies from national authorities to facilitate the expansion of the security telecommunications network on a countrywide level, including potential cross-border communications.

- A telecommunications specialist will arrive in Abuja at the end of November. He will work on enhancing the telecommunications network in Abuja while waiting for the new equipment to arrive. Then he will go to Maiduguri to enhance the network there and establish a Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Damaturu.

Challenges

- Timely access to operational areas where humanitarian hubs will be deployed, due to limited staff movements for security and transport reasons, is expected to present a significant challenge to ETS activities in 2017. This constraint could result in the risk of delays in the planned delivery dates.

Funding

- The ETS has conducted a budget revision to request additional US$6 million to provide vital communications services in 11x sites through to the end of 2017.

- The ETS has received initial funding of US$1,136,078 from SIDA which ETS has used to purchase security telecommunications and Internet connectivity equipment.

Meetings

- The next Telecommunications Working Group is scheduled for 12 December.

- The next Global ETS Nigeria teleconference is scheduled for 8 December.

Information

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

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Acronyms

ETC   Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST   Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT   Information and Communications Technology
OCHA   UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SIDA   Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
WFP   UN 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