Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #15

Reporting period 1/01/18 to 31/01/18

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) deployed Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services at the humanitarian hub in Monguno.

- The ETS extended Internet services to the Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) in Ngala, managed by Logistics Sector's partners, to support humanitarian operations.

- The ETS supported UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in providing training to the newly-recruited radio operators in Maiduguri to ensure they can carry their jobs efficiently.

Humanitarians from IOM using the ETS Internet services deployed at the humanitarian hub in Monguno.

Photo: WFP/ Khawar Ilyas

Situation Overview

The humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria remains severe due to ongoing conflict, continued internal displacement and the unpredictable return of refugees from neighbouring countries. Since late October 2017, large-scale displacements have taken place in Borno State and northern Adamawa State, with influxes of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Pulka, Gwoza, Ngala, Monguno, Askira/Uba, Konduga, Bama and Mafa most notably. In just three months, 28,000 have fled these areas and other locations for various reasons including voluntary relocation, insecurity and poor living conditions.

To improve local coordination and increase the presence of humanitarians where vulnerable populations are living, to date, five remote humanitarian hubs -Maiduguri, Ngala, Dikwa, Bama and Gwoza- offering secure accommodation, Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to aid workers have been

made available. Another four -Monguno, Damasak, Banki and Rann- are expected to be fully operational by March 2018.

ETS Response

- In line with the humanitarian needs and activities outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2018, the ETS is planning to provide shared communications services in 9x common operational areas across Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in addition to the 7x operational areas where ETS services have been already deployed (Maiduguri, Damaturu, Gwoza, Ngala, Bama, Dikwa and Monguno).

- On 24 January, the ETS completed the deployment of security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services for the response community at the humanitarian hub in Monguno. This is the sixth humanitarian hub being established in Borno state to support relief operations in North-East Nigeria. The hub in Monguno will be fully operational shortly.

- On 6 January, the ETS extended the Internet services to the MSU managed by Logistics Sector's partners in Ngala, which is located next to the humanitarian hub. This will enhance the timely delivery of relief items to the affected population. In addition, the ETS carried out maintenance works on the already operational connectivity and security telecommunication services in the hub.

- As part of the upgrade of the existing radio network in Maiduguri to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), the ETS is liaising with humanitarian organisations to start a gradual migration to digital radio. Organisations will benefit from the tracking of staff and vehicles over Very High Frequency (VHF) network features, which increase the safety of security of staff deployed in volatile humanitarian environments.

- In January, the ETS continued its training activities to ensure security telecommunications services are efficiently used. The ETS trained 30x staff, including drivers and security officers, from Save the Children in Maiduguri and 30 inter-agency staff during the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) training conducted in Maiduguri at the end of the month.

- The ETS supported UNDSS in providing training to the newly-recruited 5x radio operators in Maiduguri to ensure they can carry their jobs efficiently.

Planned Response

- The ETS is planning a mission to Damaturu in early February to set up the common Communications Centre (COMCEN) and establish the inter-agency security telecommunications network.

- The ETS is organising a mission to Dikwa to conduct maintenance works on the ETS services deployed in the humanitarian hub. These services are being used by an average of 175 humanitarians on a weekly basis.

Challenges

- The ETS continues working on obtaining the required new radio frequencies for the North-East Nigeria with the relevant authorities.

Funding

- The ETS requires US$6.7 million to carry out its project until the end of 2018. So far, the ETS is 38.8% funded.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Caribbean, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic operations will be held on 27 February.

Information

- ETS Nigeria information can be found on: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis
- The latest ETS Services map can be found here: www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/NGA_ETS_Services_A3L_20180207_HRP_0.pdf.

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Acronyms

DMR   Digital Mobile Radio
ETC   Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS   Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HRP   Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP   Internally Displaced Person
IOM   International Organization for Migration
IT   Information Technology
MSU   Mobile Storage Unit
SSAFE   Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments
UN   United Nations
UNDSS   UN Department of Safety and Security
VHF   Very High Frequency
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