

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #16

Reporting period 1/02/18 to 28/02/18

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 the inter-agency security telecommunications network and Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Damaturu.
- The ETS participated in the annual workplan exercise organised in Maiduguri by the World Food Programme (WFP), co-lead of the ETS in North- East Nigeria.
- Given the increasing demand, the ETS is evaluating the quality of the Internet connectivity services provided in the humanitarian hubs operational in Borno state.



Specialists from the ETS deploying the inter-agency security telecommunications network in Damaturu.

Photo: WFP/ ETS team

Situation Overview

The improved security in some areas and favorable seasonal rainfall have increased the supply of staple foods in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, according to a recently released market assessment conducted by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and WFP. However, the assessment found that despite regional improvement, markets remain fragile in many hard-to-reach areas, such as Borno's Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Konduga, and Ngala Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) identified approximately 1.63 million displaced individuals in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe as of early February, an increase of approximately 72,300 people compared to December 2017. The increase is due to ongoing conflict and military operations throughout northeastern Nigeria, as well as increased access and new Internally Displaced People (IDP) arrivals in some areas of Borno, according to IOM.



ETS Response

- At the beginning of February, the ETS conducted a one-week mission to deploy the inter-agency security telecommunications network and the common COMCEN in Damaturu, capital of Yobe state. In addition, the ETS engaged with organisations on the ground to explain the activities the ETS is offering to the humanitarian community in North-East Nigeria to enable their efficient response.
- On 22 and 23 February, the ETS participated in the annual workplan exercise organised in Maiduguri by WFP, co-lead of the ETS in North- East Nigeria. The ETS workplan for 2018 is under review and it was further discussed on 27 and 28 February with WFP management in Abuja.
- The ETS supported the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) in Maiduguri with radio reprogramming activities to ensure the efficient use of the security telecommunications services provided by the ETS.
- The ETS continues providing Internet connectivity in the humanitarian base camp in Maiduguri with the support of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) partners - the Government of Luxembourg and Ericsson in 4x humanitarian hubs: Gwoza, Ngala, Bama and Dikwa. Since the beginning of the operation, 740 humanitarians used the ETS Internet services in Maiduguri. Since January 2018, 87 new humanitarians in accessed the ETS Internet services in Maiduguri. On a weekly basis, 210 humanitarians are using ETS Internet services in Dikwa, 130 in Bama, 70 in Gwoza and 50 in Ngala. This confirms the criticality of the ETS Internet connectivity services deployed in the humanitarian hubs North-East Nigeria where services from local Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are limited or inexistent.

Planned Response

- The ETS is planning a mission to Damaturu in mid-March to continue the upgrade the security telecommunications network to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). These upgrades will allow organisations to benefit from the tracking of staff and vehicles over Very High Frequency (VHF) network features, which increase the safety and security of staff.
- The ETS will carry out maintenance and upgrade missions on the ETS services deployed in the humanitarian hubs Gwoza, Bama, Ngala and Dikwa to ensure an optimal provision of communications services to humanitarians.
- Given the increasing demand, the ETS is evaluating the quality of the Internet connectivity services provided in the humanitarian hubs operational in Borno state. The ETS will enhance the current services and will include additional features such as content filtering and automated user registration.

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 6 March.
- The next local ETS Working Group meeting in Maiduguri will take place on 23 March. Invitation will be sent in due course.

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

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
LGA	Local Government Area
MNO	Mobile Network Operator



OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
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