

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #18

Reporting period 1/04/18 to 30/04/18

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 vital communications services at the humanitarian hub in Damasak.
- The ETS prepositioned Internet and security telecommunications equipment in Banki, where the next humanitarian hub will be established.
- The ETS is working with local Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to evaluate the technical feasibility of a Closed User Group (CUG) to enhance communication among humanitarians.



The ETS team informing humanitarians in Damasak about the ETS services deployed at the hub and ETS activities available to the humanitarian community in North-East Nigeria.

Photo: WFP/ ETS team

Situation Overview

In early April, a series of fires broke out in and near the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp in Borno's Rann town, injuring 14 people and burning more than 1,000 shelters in the camp, according to local media. Relief agencies are erecting 500 emergency shelters to decongest affected areas and working to address persistent shelter gaps.

The Yobe State Commissioner for Health declared a cholera outbreak in Nigeria's Bade Local Government Area (LGA) at the beginning of April. Health actors recorded more than 340 suspected cholera cases in the state, more than 95 percent of which were from Bade, between 28 March and 16 April.

In anticipation of increased access challenges during the upcoming May-to-October rainy season, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published the 2018 Rainy Season Contingency Planning



for North-East Nigeria on 9 April. It highlights that 407,000 people will be potentially affected during the 2018 rainy season in the three states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

ETS Response

- The ETS completed the deployment of Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in the humanitarian hub in Damasak, the seventh hub in North-East Nigeria, on 27 April. These services will be available to the entire humanitarian community responding in that LGA.
- As ETS services are a key component of the humanitarian hub project in North-East Nigeria, the ETS team participated in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP)/ Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) lessons learned exercise of this project on 11 April. In addition, the ETS attended the handover ceremony of the project from IHP/MSB to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 13 April.
- The ETS is working with local MNOs to evaluate the technical feasibility of a CUG to enhance communication among humanitarians. The CUG consists of a group of GSM mobile telephone subscribers who can make/receive calls and SMS among members within the group at a preferred monthly rate. The aim of this ETS CUG is that most of the humanitarians working in the North-East join it to strengthen coordination on the ground.
- To support decision-making among humanitarians, the ETS gathered information from the main local MNOs to produce coverage maps of their services across Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states.
- In view of the establishment of a humanitarian camp in Banki, the ETS prepositioned the Internet connectivity and security telecommunications equipment in that location to be deployed shortly.
- The recruitment process of 4x local ETS positions (2x telecommunications, 1x Information Technology [IT] and 1x Information Management [IM] assistants) is still ongoing. All applications for local positions were reviewed and final reports sent to the World Food Programme (WFP) Human Resources (HR) department. As applications received do not meet the minimum qualifications, 3x positions will be re-advertised.

Planned Response

- Before the upcoming rainy season, the ETS will replace the tents hosting ETS equipment in Gwoza, Bama and Dikwa humanitarian hubs with solid prefabricated structures.
- Two IT/telecommunications specialists from WFP will join the ETS team on a temporary mission to ensure adequate staffing levels to ensure continuity of ETS activities.

Challenges

- Given the volatile security situation on the ground, no overnight missions are allowed in locations where humanitarian hubs are not completely established. The ETS usually requires 5-day missions on the ground to fully deploy these services in the hubs. The installation of services in Damasak was supported by an ad-hoc arrangement approved by the Area Security Management Team (ASMT) and similar support will be needed to deploy ETS services in Banki and Damasak.



- The delay in the recruitment of radio operators by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) / UN Development Programme (UNDP) remains a challenge as the Communications Centres (COMCENs) deployed by the ETS in the field hubs in Bama, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza and Monguno are not yet operational. In addition, the COMCEN in Maiduguri requires 1x additional radio operator while the COMCEN in Damaturu is in need of 3x additional radio operators to meet the operational needs.

Funding

- The ETS requires US\$5.5 million to carry out its project until the end of 2018. The ETS received a contribution of US\$487,448 from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and now it is 29% funded.
- As part of the allocation received from the Central Emergency Fund (CERF) in July 2017, the ETS completed the final report where the results and activities achieved with CERF funds were outlined.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic operations will be held on 9 May.

Information

- ETS Nigeria information can be found on: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis
- The latest ETS Services map can be found here: https://www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/NGA_ETS_Services_A3L_20180417_0.pdf

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Acronyms

ASMT	Area Security Management Team
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COMCEN	Communications Centre



CUG	Closed User Group
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IM	Information Management
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IT	Information Technology
LGA	Local Government Area
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
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