

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #3

Reporting period 6/01/17 to 12/02/17

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

- Inter-agency Internet services were deployed on 12 February at the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) camp in Maiduguri.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) finalised the upgrading of the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Maiduguri and deployed a back-up COMCEN at the IHP base camp there.
- The ETS delivered two radio training sessions in Maiduguri on 14 and 21 January to 37 staff from nine humanitarian organisations.
- The ETS has agreed to take over the management of a secure communications group with Push-To-Talk enabled satellite phones for the humanitarian community in North-East Nigeria.



Installing a satellite kit to provide connectivity services to humanitarian at the IHP camp in Maiduguri.

Photo: WFP/ Krste Ropajkov

Situation Overview

Humanitarian needs continue to increase in North-East Nigeria as people, particularly in areas that became recently accessible, are facing a severe food and nutrition crisis.

Several assessments identified new needs after Internally Displaced People (IDPs) arrived in large numbers at camps in Monguno, Banki, Baga and Rann, all in Borno state. Tens of thousands of the displaced are in urgent need of assistance.

The establishment of a humanitarian base camp and hub project is underway and is led by the Coordination Sector. The base camp is set up in Maiduguri to provide tented accommodation for 100 aid workers. The first



eight of twelve hubs will be located in Gwoza, Bama, Dikwa, Banki, Biu, Monguno, Damboa and Gambara-Ngala, sites that have become accessible in recent months. The project will allow humanitarian workers to better serve the needs of people in the most affected areas.

In line with this project, the ETS will deploy vital communications services in the identified hubs across Borno and Yobe states to support humanitarian operations.

ETS Response

- The ETS deployed a satellite kit at the IHP camp in Maiduguri to provide connectivity services to the humanitarians staying there. This equipment and the ETS Internet services were donated by ETC member, Government of Luxembourg, for six months.
- Given the increasing usage of the Push-To-Talk satellite services by the inter-agency community, the ETS was requested to take over the management of this service from the World Food Programme (WFP), global lead of the ETC. This service spreads over 300,000 km² which covers the north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. The ETS will inform humanitarian organisations on how to join the network.
- A radio repeater was relocated from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) tower to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) server room in Maiduguri. This will ensure that the equipment will be more easily maintained.
- The ETS has supported the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Medecins du Monde in installing a satellite phone base station at their premises.
- The ETS held a meeting with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Communication with Communities (CwC) specialist on 1 February to better understand their plans and activities and identify how the ETS can support.
- A brochure on the ETS services available to the entire humanitarian community was produced. It will be disseminated through OCHA and the Logistics Sector.

Planned Response

- The deployment of the humanitarian hub in Gwoza will start in the third week of February. The ETS is preparing the required equipment for this location.

Challenges

- Staff movements are restricted due to the security situation in North-East Nigeria which impacts the timely delivery of ETS services.

Funding

- The ETS continues to appeal for US\$3.6 million to provide vital communications services until the end of 2017. The ETS is actively seeking funding opportunities at global and local levels.



Meetings

- The next Local Telecommunications Working Group will be held on 21 February.
- The next Global ETS Nigeria teleconference is scheduled for 20 February.

Information

- ETS Nigeria information can be found on: <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis>
- The latest ETS Services map can be found here:
https://www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/NGA_ETC_Services_A3L_20161228.pdf

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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
CwC	Communicating with Communities
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced People
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTA	Nigeria Television Authority
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
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