

Nigeria – Conflict

ETS Situation Report #86 February

Reporting period: 01/02/2024 to 29/02/2024

Led by the World Food Programme (WFP), the ETS was activated in North-East Nigeria in November 2016 in response to the protection crisis. ETS Nigeria SitReps are issued monthly.

Highlights

- Based on the approved funding allocation by the UNOCHA-managed Nigerian Humanitarian Fund (NHF), the ETS has received US\$50,000 out of the US\$100,000 funding allocated for the expansion of services to Damboa and Pulka in 2024 to support humanitarian actors with critical ICT services. An ICT needs assessment was carried out in both locations in February.
- To optimize internet connectivity services in Banki, the ETS received a new Uninterrupted Power System (UPS) to replace the faulty one which has caused unstable internet services. The new UPS will support the second internet connectivity link, once installed. Humanitarian actors will continue to receive uninterrupted internet services.
- The ETS is monitoring the newly upgraded hybrid solar power system in the hubs in Banki and Monguno. The new system is providing an uninterrupted power supply to the equipment, increasing the availability and reliability of connectivity and security communications services in the two hubs. The power supply was previously a major issue.



The ETS provides connectivity to humanitarians transiting to the deep field at the UNHAS helicopter waiting area in Maiduguri International Airport. Photo: ETS/Oluwashina Oni

Activities

Coordination

The ETS has developed and submitted a strategic document in response to the recent closure of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Borno state and relocation of displaced families to their places of origin by the Borno State Government. The ETS anticipates services expansion by providing security communications and internet connectivity services in the locations where the humanitarian actors will be actively supporting the IDPs after the completion of the camp closure.

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the expansion of services to Damboa and Pulka in 2024 to support humanitarian actors with critical ICT services.

In collaboration with UNDSS and UNOCHA, the ETS completed the ICT needs assessment in Pulka on 20 February and in Damboa on 28 February. The sector is currently compiling two reports to be sent to partners in preparation for the implementation of services.

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Internet connectivity

In February, the ETS provided data connectivity to 1,230 users from 91 organizations—14 United Nations (UN) agencies and 77 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

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The ETS completed the configuration, installation and assembling of the second CrisisNet kits on 19 February. The ETS is currently monitoring the second kit to ensure consistency with the first one. The CrisisNet kit is a portable connectivity solution developed to provide humanitarians with internet connectivity in locations where national networks are absent or non-reliable.

As part of the ETS plans to improve its cybersecurity architecture, the ETS worked with WFP to test the newly acquired firewall cybersecurity equipment, which has been integrated into the ETS connectivity network. On 23 February, the ETS launched the system at the 'Red Roof' humanitarian hub in Maiduguri as part of the first stage of the deployment. The ETS is currently monitoring the performance of the firewall and adjusting the needs based on feedback, before deploying the same solution in seven other locations.

On 14 and 28 February, the ETS set up a temporary connectivity link in the Red Roof hub to ensure humanitarians had access to services amid downtime of the Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is the third incident in one month in which ISP services have been unreliable. The ETS escalated the issue to the ISP and connectivity was restored several hours later. The ETS monitored the connection to ensure it remained stable.

Security communications

The ETS continues to provide security communications services in 10 common operational areas across north-east Nigeria. 1,628 humanitarian staff from 16 UN agencies and 36 NGOs are using the ETS Very High Frequency (VHF) radio services for staff safety and security in the field.

To further improve the security communications services in North-East Nigeria, the ETS continues reprogramming the radios of humanitarian actors according to the newly rolled out code plug launched on 01 January. In February, the sector programmed 67 handheld VHF

radios—seven for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), three for UNOCHA, 19 for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and 31 for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Additionally, the ETS also reprogrammed seven mobile base radios for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The ETS conducted basic radio communications training on 29 February for one UNHCR staff about to deploy into the deep field.

Services for communities

The ETS continues following up with the manufacturer to receive a replacement for the faulty part of the public announcement system, following significant damage sustained to the equipment in January. The faulty part has been repaired and is currently being shipped back to Nigeria for installation. Once the equipment is received, the ETS will complete the installation, test, and hand over equipment to the camp management.

User support

The ETS resolved 91 helpdesk tickets in February.

Additional Information

See the [ETS Dashboard](#) for an overview of service locations.

Click [on this link](#) to be included on the ETS Contact List to receive up to date information about ETS activities, Dashboard, Situation Report and be part of the Local Working Group Meeting.

Funding

In 2024, the ETS in Nigeria requires US\$1.16 million in funding to maintain and expand services in 10 common operational areas across northeast Nigeria. The ETS is currently 0% funded out of this requirement. However, the ETS submitted its funding appeal in an ECHO proposal via WFP. The sector is expecting to receive US\$330,000 to maintain and expand services in North-East Nigeria and will represent 28 percent of the required budget of US\$1.16 million needed in 2024.

Challenges

Pockets of conflict from armed groups in the northeast and northwest of the country continue to be major factors that contribute to instability and may affect ETS mobility.

Meetings

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will be held on **28 March 2024**.

Contacts

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www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis

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