

Nigeria – Conflict

ETS Situation Report #87

Reporting period: 01/03/2024 to 31/03/2024

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

- In March, the ETS received US\$280,000 as part of a multilateral contribution from the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to support the sector operation in north-east Nigeria. The ETS is now 28% funded out of the US\$1.16 million requirement in 2024.
- Planning and preparation is underway to set up services in two new deep field locations—Pulka and Damboa. Technical and implementation guidance on internet and security communications services have been issued to local partners and equipment prepositioned in Maiduguri by the ETS.
- On 14 March, the ETS rapidly initiated back-up connectivity services to support humanitarians after an undersea cable cut impacting the whole of West Africa brought down services at the main Red Roof humanitarian hub in Maiduguri. The seven deep field hubs—Bama, Dikwa, Banki, Gwoza, Ngala, Damask, and Monguno—were impacted by under-performing connectivity as they rely on one VSAT satellite terminal.



The ETS provides connectivity to support WFP SCOPE in synchronizing beneficiary data. Photo: ETS/Oluwashina Oni

Activities

Coordination

In March, the ETS received US\$280,000 as part of a multilateral contribution from WFP to support the sector operation in north-east Nigeria. The ETS is now 28% funded out of the US\$1.16 million requirement in 2024.

As part of the planned service expansion of internet connectivity and security communications services in Pulka and Damboa, the ETS has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure an agreement between the ETS and the hosting partners in the two locations. Following the assessments in these two locations, which were conducted on 20 February in Pulka and 28 February in Damboa, collaboration with UNDSS and UNOCHA, the sector compiled two reports to be sent to partners in preparation for the implementation of services.

Internet connectivity

In March, the ETS provided data connectivity to 1,210 users from 100 organizations—14 United Nations (UN) agencies and 86 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Between 01 to 08 March, the ETS restored internet connectivity at the Red Roof humanitarian hub in Maiduguri by replacing a reported faulty Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) device and reconfiguring one of the two access points. The service is now optimized.

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As part of ETS plans to improve its cybersecurity architecture, the ETS continued to test the newly acquired firewall cybersecurity equipment, which was integrated into the ETS connectivity network on 23 February at Red Roof 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.

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.

The ETS has switched to the new repeater in Maiduguri to launch the recently rolled out code plug which will improve security communications services in north-east Nigeria by providing additional channels and wider range of communications. The system is currently undergoing test transmission and monitoring.

Additionally, the ETS continues reprogramming the radios of humanitarian actors according to the newly rolled out code plug launched on 01 January. In March, the sector programmed five handheld VHF radios—two for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and three for UNOCHA. Also, the ETS also reprogrammed eight mobile base radios—five for UNOCHA, one each for UNICEF, FAO, and UNFPA.

In preparation for the expansion of ETS services in Pulka and Damboa, the ETS is repositioning the required equipment at the WFP warehouse in Maiduguri. The sector has tuned the intended VHF frequencies and programmed repeaters ready for shipment and deployment to the new locations.

The ETS conducted basic radio communications training on 12 March for one UNOCHA staff about to deploy into the deep field.

Services for communities

On 02 March, the ETS received the new equipment to replace the faulty parts of the public announcement system set up in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Bama. The

equipment was damaged in January. The sector is currently engaging with UNDSS, WFP, and camp security to ensure security measures are available for the installation. Once the ETS receives clearance for deployment, the team will complete the installation, test, and hand over equipment to the camp management.

User support

The ETS resolved 91 helpdesk tickets in March.

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 12 common operational areas across northeast Nigeria. Thanks to the multilateral contribution of US\$280,00 received from WFP HQ and US\$50,000 received from the OCHA coordinated Nigerian Humanitarian Fund (NHF) for service expansion, the ETS is currently 28% funded out of this requirement.

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 **25 April 2024**.

Contacts

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www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

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