

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #2

Reporting period 25/11/16 to 5/01/17

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

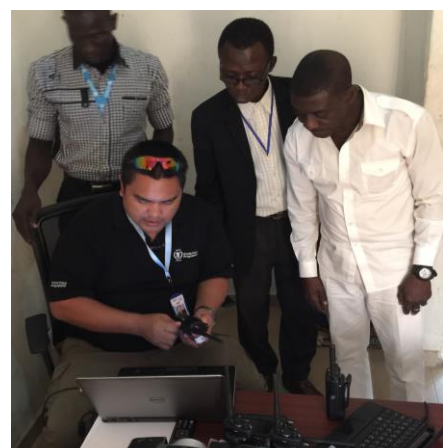
- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) is working closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the deployment of six humanitarian hubs in North-East Nigeria.
- The ETS delivered radio training to five UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) radio operators on 21 and 22 December. These radio operators are currently managing the UNDSS Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Maiduguri.
- The ETS is getting ready to provide services at the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) camp in Maiduguri with capacity for 120 humanitarians. In addition, the ETS completed the installation of a COMCEN at this camp.

Situation Overview

The conflict in North-East Nigeria has left 5.1 million people across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in a food and nutrition crisis. Millions have already escaped violence with up to 77 per cent of internally displaced people seeking refuge in host communities.

On 2 December 2016, the Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017 was launched in Abuja jointly with the Federal Government of Nigeria, the United Nations (UN), and 75 partner organisations. Seeking US\$1 billion, the HRP focuses on 8.5 million people in urgent need of assistance, and aims to provide 6.9 million of these with life-saving humanitarian support, across the north-eastern states.

The ETS will concentrate its response in the states of Borno and Yobe to support the wider humanitarian response with the provision of lifesaving communications services. In these states, the ETS will deploy services in 8x common operational areas.



The ETS telecommunications specialist delivering radio training to UNDSS staff in Maiduguri.

Photo: ETS Nigeria



ETS Response

- Following discussions with UNDSS and the rest of the UN agencies operating in Nigeria, it was agreed to migrate to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) in 2017. The ETS is working on an inter-agency standard DMR code plug.
 - The digital radio technology provides wider coverage reaching organisations operating in remote locations.
 - The ETS is currently re-programming the radio equipment of the UN agencies operating in Maiduguri.
 - The ETS will support UN organisations through this migration process and will continue assessing the security telecommunications requirements of the entire humanitarian community.
- An ETS telecommunications specialist arrived in Maiduguri on 15 December. He delivered radio training to five radio operators from UNDSS on 21 and 22 December which included analogue and digital radio technologies.
- The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) approved the installation of a radio repeater on the NTA tower in Maiduguri. This will improve the coverage of the security telecommunications network in that area.
- ETC member, Government of Luxembourg, will provide Internet services at the IHP camp in Maiduguri. The ETS has finalised the installation of a stand-by COMCEN at this camp which will be used by UNDSS while their COMCEN is being revamped.
- A meeting took place with the focal person in the Ministry of Communications to follow up on the request for a radio license with additional frequencies to facilitate the expansion of the security telecommunications network on a countrywide level.
- The first batch of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment to deploy services in the two hubs has arrived in Abuja. Half of this equipment has been already transported to Maiduguri.

Planned Response

- The ETS will liaise with the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) community through the INGO Forum coordinator about the ETS activities in North-East Nigeria and will explain how ETS services and support can be requested.
- The ETS will engage with the OCHA's Communicating with Communities (CwC) Working Group to determine the need for possible Services for Communities projects.
- An ETS Information Technology (IT) specialist will join the operation in January to support the team in deploying Internet connectivity services at the identified common humanitarian hubs.
- A dedicated ETS Information Management Officer will be deployed to Maiduguri in January for one month to support the ETS response.



Challenges

- Staff movements are restricted due to the security situation in the North-East Nigeria and this impacts the timely delivery of ETS services.
- The ETS is following up through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the official permission required to deploy vital communications services in the humanitarian hubs.

Funding

- The ETS has conducted a budget revision to request an additional US\$3.6 million to provide vital communications services in 8x humanitarian hubs plus the two capital cities of Maiduguri and Damaturu until the end of 2017.

Meetings

- The next Local Telecommunications Working Group will be held in January 2017, exact date TBC.
- The next Global ETS Nigeria teleconference is scheduled for 16 January.

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

Key ETS Contacts

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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
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