

## **Nigeria – Crisis**

### **ETS Situation Report #8**

**Reporting period 17/06/17 to 30/06/17**

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. This issue is a special SitRep to align ETS's reporting period with OCHA's (natural months). Thus, the next issue will cover the ETS activities in July.

### **Highlights**

- The ETS has started organising training for government counterparts on Information Technology (IT) emergency management and for the entire humanitarian community on digital radio technology.
- Maintenance works were carried out on the analogue repeater in Maiduguri to improve coverage.
- The ETS continues to work on the recruitment of national staff to support the operation in the long-term and radio operators for the Communications Centres (COMCENS) in North-East Nigeria.



ETS services deployed in Ngala will be used by the humanitarian community as soon as the establishment of the humanitarian hub is finalised.

*Photo: WFP/ William Twyford*

### **Situation Overview**

The humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria and the Lake Chad region is one of the most severe in the world today. 8.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017 in the worst-affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, and 6.9 million are targeted to receive humanitarian assistance.

Today there are more than 1.9 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the six states in the north-east. 80 percent of them are in Borno State, the epicentre of the crisis. Insecurity has severely restricted livelihood activities such as farming and trade, worsening an already dire food security situation and leading to heavy inflation of staple food prices. As areas become accessible again, many who sought refuge in neighbouring countries are returning to their areas of origin which is further stretching the emergency humanitarian response in place.



With the onset of the rainy season, recent wind and rain storms have damaged and/or destroyed hundreds of shelters, learning centres and even accommodation infrastructure in some humanitarian camps like Ngala.

## ETS Response

- ETS Internet and security telecommunications services are operational at the humanitarian hub in Gwoza. ETS services were deployed at the hubs in Ngala and Bama but as construction works are not yet completed, these sites are not yet open to the humanitarian community.
- The ETS continues to provide Internet services to the humanitarian community at the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) base camp in Maiduguri. As of the end of June, a total of 334 responders from 33 organisations have used these services with the support of ETC members Ericsson Response and the Government of Luxembourg.
- The ETS conducted maintenance of the radio repeaters installed in UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Maiduguri to improve coverage. Visits to potential radio repeater sites were carried out in Maiduguri as some radio repeaters need to be relocated to improve the overall coverage.
- The ETS is starting to organise several training events for the humanitarian community and governmental counterparts in Nigeria: [ICT4Gov](#), [Let's Comm Digital](#) and radio operator training. These training courses are expected to be delivered in August. The ETS will distribute a questionnaire among potential participants to ensure the relevance of the training content of the training.
- The advertisement for the 18x radio operator positions funded by the ETS for the COMCENs in the North-East was closed on 26 June (5x for Maiduguri, 5x for Damaturu, 2x for Gwoza, 2x for Ngala, 2x for Bama and 2x for Dikwa). The long list is being finalized. It is foreseen the process will be finalised by the end of August.
- The recruitment of 3x national staff (1x Telecommunications operations assistant, 1x IT operations assistant and 1x Business support assistant) to support the ETS operation in the long-term is ongoing.

## Planned Response

- ETS will deploy vital communications services at the humanitarian hub in Dikwa as soon as the construction works are finalised. If a secure space is identified, the ETS will preposition the equipment to be deployed.
- The upgrade of the radio network from analogue to digital in Maiduguri is expected to take place in the second half of July.
- An assessment mission will be conducted in Damaturu to assess the existing security telecommunications infrastructure, current partners on the ground, identification of gaps and required Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services.
- The ETS will train the new 18x radio operators in North-East Nigeria as soon as the recruitment process is complete. The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has submitted a request for radio operator training in Abuja and Lagos.



## Challenges

- The rainy season is affecting the establishment of the humanitarian hubs and the focus is currently on the humanitarian hub in Dikwa to be finalised by mid-July. The establishment of the remaining hubs in Damboa, Damasak, Banki and Biu will take place after the rainy season.

## Funding

- The ETS remains 79% funded. Out of the US\$4.8 million total budget until the end of this year, the ETS has received US\$3.8 million.
- The ETS has submitted a funding proposal to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for US\$476,344.95 as part of the first standard allocation of the Nigerian Humanitarian Funds (NHF).

## Meetings

- The next Global ETS Nigeria teleconference is scheduled for 18 July.

## 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\\_20170606\\_0.pdf](https://www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/NGA_ETC_Services_A3L_20170606_0.pdf)

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## Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IT	Information Technology
NHF	Nigerian Humanitarian Funds
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WFP	UN World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://www.ETCluster.org)

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