

Bangladesh, CAR, Nigeria

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 24/04/19

TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Chair | Caroline Teyssier | (Global ETC), UAE |
| Ericsson Response | Lars Ruediger | Germany |
| NetHope | Dagbjatur Brynjarsson | Iceland |
| | Duncan Drury | USA |
| | Gisli Olafsson | Mozambique |
| UNHCR | Alexander James Thomas | Denmark |
| WFP | Ekue Ayih | Nigeria |
| | Erika Iglesias | Nigeria |
| | Min Sun | Bangladesh |
| | Ozdzan Hadziemin | UAE |
| | Prakash Muniandy | UAE |

Teleconference started at 12:04 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Bangladesh**
 - a. **Country updates**
 - b. **Partner updates**
- 2. Central African Republic (CAR)**
 - a. **Country updates**
 - b. **Partner updates**
- 3. Nigeria**
 - a. **Country updates**
 - b. **Partner updates**
- 4. AOB**

Minutes

1. BANGLADESH

Security situation

- The security situation remains stable.
- Discussions about relocating refugees to Bhashan Char island have been postponed to after the monsoon season.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response

- Security communications
 - The ETS has supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with VHF radio programming and in conducting security communications assessments at IOM's field offices. In addition, the ETS worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on codeplugs standardisation and network configuration.
- Internet connectivity
 - The ETS deployed connectivity services at a new logistics hub in Balukhali and in Camp 12 to assist UNHCR's capacity building activities.
- Services for Communities (S4C)
 - The ETS continues to support 30x Information hubs through the provision of equipment and technical support as required.

2. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

ETC Response

- Following the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission in March 2019, there was a second mission to implement some of the TESS recommendations such as harmonization of codeplugs in HF and VHF radios and training national staff from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to support the security communications network and the needs of humanitarian organisations.
- UN and NGO radio channels were set up in Batangafo. In addition, the ETC has been providing connectivity services to the wider humanitarian community in Batangafo with the support of the Government of Luxembourg and Ericsson Response for a month. These services are expected to be available for an additional period of five months.
- In line with the ETC S4C assessment conducted in early 2019 in collaboration with OCHA, three proposed projects have been put together. These include an Internet café in Bangassou, a basic call centre in Bria and



the roll-out of the ETC connect app in Kaga-Bandoro as a feedback mechanism. A funding proposal to further strengthen the security communications and implement the S4C initiatives was submitted to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for pooled-funds with positive indications.

3. NIGERIA

Security situation

- The security situation remains relatively calm in North-East Nigeria as no significant incidents have been reported. Over the Easter weekend, two humanitarians were killed in Kaduna, close to Abuja.

ETS Response

- Since the beginning of the year, the ETS has provided communications services to over 1800 humanitarians across North-East Nigeria.
- The ETS continues conducting regular maintenance and upgrading missions on the services deployed in 9x common operational areas.
- Following the upgrade of bandwidth in the humanitarian hubs, the ETS is monitoring the performance of the Internet services to ensure the bandwidth agreed with the services provider is in place.
- The ETS engaged with the North East Regional Initiative (NERI) from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) who are working together with the local Mobile Network Operator (MNO) Airtel in restoring GSM services in some locations in North-East Nigeria. By the end of May, the pilot project to restore services in Monguno should be finalised. Dikwa and Damasak have been identified as possible locations to restore services. FHI360 is working on a similar project with OpenCellular and local MNO MTN to restore services in 3x locations in North-East Nigeria -to be identified- but the project is experiencing some delays.
- The ETS has received a contribution of US\$880,000 from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), making the ETS project 78,62% funded (total requirements for 2019 are US\$3.4M).

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:20 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 22 May 13:00 UTC.

Acronyms

| | |
|------|---|
| CAR | Central African Republic |
| ECHO | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations |
| ETC | Emergency Telecommunications Cluster |
| ETS | Emergency Telecommunications Sector |
| GSM | Global System for Mobile Communications |
| HF | High Frequency |



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|-------|---|
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IT | Information Technology |
| MNO | Mobile Network Operator |
| NERI | North East Regional Initiative |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| OCHA | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| S4C | Services for Communities |
| TESS | Telecommunications Security Standards |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDSS | UN Department of Safety and Security |
| UNHCR | UN High Commissioner for Refugees |
| USAID | US Agency for International Development |
| VHF | Very High Frequency |
| WFP | World Food Programme |

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
Global.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP