

## Local ETS Working Group - Maiduguri

**Date: 01/07/2021    Time: 10:00**

### Online Meeting

#### Attendance

Chair	Ernest Aho (WFP/ETS Coordinator)
ACF	Victor Yusuf
MERCY CORPS	David Adamu
SI	Abdulbasit Oyenyi
	Louis Mapendo
UNDSS	Adamu Iguda
	John Aniki
	Nwanmaaghyi Ninyio
UNHCR	Sekav Abe
UNICEF	Taiwo Aiyedun
UNOCHA	Bachirou Saladdine
WFP	Burak Sezgin
	Dubem Umeasiegbu
	Oyintare Kalama

#### Agenda

1. Brief update on the latest ETS activities in NE Nigeria
2. Partner updates
3. AOB

## 1. Brief update on the latest ETS activities in North-East Nigeria

### *Security situation*

- The unpredictable security situation continues to affect humanitarian access to operational areas, with a limited number of days approved for field missions.

### *ETS services*

- The ETS provides security communications, Internet connectivity, Information Management (IM) and coordination services to humanitarian responders.
- The ETS provides security communications services in Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola metropolitan areas, and Internet and security communications in the eight humanitarian hubs in Borno State – Bama, Banki, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno and Ngala.
- The ETS is available to provide on-demand training for humanitarian organizations.

### *ETS activities*

- In 2021, the ETS has provided services in eight common operational areas to approximately 2,676 users from 91 organisations (15 UN agencies and 76 I/NGOs) and resolved 454 issues logged by the helpdesk.
- The ETS is operating at half-capacity in Banki and is yet to fix the pending issues due to the limited number of days approved for missions. However, the team will conduct multiple trips to resolve the connectivity challenges.

### *Remote Security Operations Centre (RSOC) project*

- The RSOC project is part of the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) stream 2 VHF standardization project which involves standardizing the security communications system, the procedures, applications and technical layers.
- The mandate of the RSOC is to monitor VHF field movement via the focal point, which is the RSOC in Maiduguri. The RSOC will help monitor the field traffic in all eight hubs.
- The repeaters in all eight hubs, which serve as remote sites, will be linked to the SOC in Maiduguri using the available connectivity network.
- The UNDSS, TESS and ETS will work together to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will aid the operationalization of the RSOC.
- The repeaters will be linked via a Radio Over Internet Protocol (ROIP) device, which will receive signals from a donor radio and transmit to the RSOC over the ROIP connected to the base station.
- The team – split into two groups – will commence deployment to the field from Monday, 5 July 2021.
- Local working group members can indicate interest in the technical details, and the TESS team can organize a capacity building session on how the system works and troubleshooting.

- The UNHCR representative asked about the use of ICOM radios on the RSOC set-up. The TESS representative explained that it is analog channels that will be linked to the SOC in Maiduguri. The UNHCR radios can communicate with the RSOC if they are also on analog mode.
- The UNDSS Senior SOC supervisor explained that there are 11 SOCs in Nigeria, excluding the eight field hubs in Maiduguri and encouraged other organizations travelling to these locations to communicate with the SOC. Technical leads can request the list and contacts of these SOCs from the Maiduguri SOC.
- The ETS telecommunications (TC) specialist asked if there were implications on group talks, and the TESS representative explained that the team would implement the new United Nations Security Communications Systems (UNSCS) standard that does not support group calls but only the broadcast of one to all.

## 2. Partner Updates

### *Solidarités International (SI)*

- The SI team is experiencing challenges in the VHF coverage for long distances and call sign issues that need to be resolved. The ETS TC specialist explained there is a call sign allocation system, and the ETS team will further discuss with SI to resolve these issues.

### *UNDSS*

- The ETS team conducted a mission to upgrade the VHF system in the Damaturu SOC.

### *UNICEF*

- The team would like to know when ETS will share the latest code plug to enable the UNICEF team to programme their radios. The ETS TC specialist explained that the team is currently working on a centralized code plug and will share when finalized.

## 3. AOB

None

## Acronyms

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
FHI360	Family Health International
IM	Information Management
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology



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NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RSOC	Remote Security Operations Centre
SI	Solidarites International
SOC	Security Operations Centre
TC	Telecommunications
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNSCS	United Nations Security Communications Systems
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	UN World Food Programme

All information related to the ETS operation can be found on the ETC website:

[www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis](http://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis)

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

[Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org](mailto:Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org)

**Minutes:** Oyintare Kalama, WFP