

Local ETS Working Group - Maiduguri

Date: 25/02/2021 Time: 10:00

Online Meeting

Attendance

Chair	Ernest Aho (WFP/ETS Coordinator)
IOM	Timothy Anko
PUI	David Afolayan
UNDSS	John Aniki
	Nwanma Ninyo
UNOCHA	Blessing Adeleke
UNICEF	Adekunle Oluyomi
	Taiwo Aiyedun
	Abraham Ondoma
WFP	Ahmed Yusuf-Maiinji
	Bhawana Upadhyay
	Burak Sezgin
	Caleb Anwara
	Dubem Umeasiegbu
	Mitilesh Chaubey
	Okeke Nwakaego
	Oyintare Kalama
	Unity Oware
World Bank	Chris Nna Igwuilo

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

- The new ETS Coordinator – Ernest Aho – was introduced to the Local Working Group.
- The ETS continues to provide security telecommunications, data connectivity, voice, Information Management (IM) and coordination services to humanitarian responders.
- The ETS provides security telecommunications services in Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola metropolitan areas, and Internet and security telecommunications in the eight humanitarian hubs in Borno State – Bama, Banki, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno and Ngala.
- The ETS provides on-demand operational training on security telecommunications for humanitarian organisations.
- In 2021, the ETS has provided services in eight common operational areas to approximately 1,927 users from 76 organisations (11 UN agencies and 65 I/NGOs).
 - 115 issues were resolved by the helpdesk.
- The contractors have completed installations of the hybrid solar-powered system in seven locations – Bama, Banki, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza, Monguno and Ngala – to support ETS infrastructure. Installation activities in Maiduguri are ongoing.
- The ETS team will request basic information on Internet Service Providers (ISPs) used by organisations from the Local Working Group. This information will help humanitarian organisations make informed decisions.
- The ISP will conduct scheduled maintenance in Maiduguri and other humanitarian hubs in the coming weeks.

2. Partner Updates

IOM

- Connectivity challenges were being experienced in the humanitarian hubs due to power shortages. However, the subsequent installation of the hybrid solar-based power solution by the ETS has resolved these connectivity issues.

UNOCHA

- The OCHA team sent a request last week to the ETS team to troubleshoot a malfunctioning HF radio in one of their vehicles.

Feedback: The ETS Telecommunications (TC) specialist requested the OCHA focal point to bring the vehicle for an assessment after the meeting.

UNDSS

- The Damaturu Security Operations Centre (SOC) operator requested information on when the ETS team will upgrade the VHF radio system in Damaturu. The ETS plans to visit Damaturu for the upgrade in March, pending security clearance.

WFP

- WFP staff are still working from home. The IT team provides remote support to staff to resolve issues.
- The main challenge for staff in Maiduguri is the power shortage situation – most staff are utilizing alternative power sources for their work devices.
- One of the Cambium radio point-to-point links is faulty. The team is working to resolve this issue.

World Bank

- The World Bank representative made enquiries about the continued use of HF radios on vehicles and project sites to enable their team to make informed decisions during procurement.

UNICEF

- The UNICEF representative made enquiries about the newly installed UNDSS repeaters in Enugu and Kano states. Specifically, the representative asked if existing systems will be connected to these new repeaters or if they will be required to work independently.
- He also suggested the need for a unified VHF system so that UN agencies can easily communicate when they travel to other locations.

Feedback: The ETS TC specialist explained that all UN agencies should use the same frequencies. However, in these additional locations, UNDSS will decide how to collaborate with other UN agencies. Regarding concerns about UNDSS coverage in Abuja, UNDSS has identified a site to install a new repeater to extend coverage. This installation will be carried out soon.

3. AOB

There will be a bilateral meeting after the Local working group meeting to discuss the use of HF radios and the way forward.

Acronyms

DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector

HF	High Frequency
IM	Information Management
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
NE	North East (of Nigeria)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PUI	Premiere Urgence Internationale
SOC	Security Operations Centre
TC	Telecommunications
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
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

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

Nigeria.ETS@wfp.org

Minutes: Oyintare Kalama, WFP