Local ETS Working Group - Maiduguri

Date: 25/03/2021   Time: 10:00

Online Meeting

Attendance

Chair	Ernest Aho (WFP/ETS Coordinator)
NRC	Abdullahi Kabir
PLAN	Imoh Jackson
PUI	David Afolayan
SI	Jonathan Genet
UNDSS	John Aniki
UNOCHA	Blessing Adeleke
UNICEF	Adekunle Oluyomi
WFP	Amana Mbahi
	Burak Sezgin
	Caleb Anwara
	Dubem Umeasiegbu
	Mitilesh Chaubey
	Oyintare Kalama
	Temitope Adesanya
	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

Security situation

- The unpredictable security situation continues to affect humanitarian access to operational areas.

ETS services

- The ETS continues to provide security telecommunications, Internet connectivity, 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 team programs HF/VHF radios and provides technical advice on the procurement of security communications equipment for all humanitarian organizations.

- The ETS provides on-demand end-user training on security telecommunications for humanitarian organisations.

ETS activities

- In 2021, the ETS has provided services in eight common operational areas to approximately 2,168 users from 79 organisations (11 UN agencies and 68 I/NGOs) and resolved 235 issues logged by the helpdesk.

- The contractors have completed installation of the hybrid solar-power system in eight locations – Bama, Banki, Damasak, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno and Ngala – to support ETS infrastructure.

- Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) recommends that HF radios will be phased out by 2025. This information has been shared to guide all users in subsequent procurement of equipment.

2. Partner Updates

World Bank

- When the World Bank resumes its mission to North-East Nigeria, the team will contact ETS to support radio programming in their vehicles.

- The World Bank representative recommended the unification of frequencies for operational vehicles of all UN agencies. He also enquired if this falls within the ETS mandate.

Feedback: It is an ongoing conversation at the Country Office (CO) management level. The ETS has a mandate for North-East Nigeria only.

SI

- The SI Logistics Coordinator made enquiries about the use of ICOM analog radios in Ngala and if this would work on the ETS network.

Feedback: The ETS supports only Motorola radios and does not have the software or programming cable for ICOM radios. However, if the SI team can provide the software and cable, the ETS team can provide support to the SI team.

WFP

- WFP staff are still working from home. The IT team provides remote support to staff to resolve issues.

- The Government has restored the power supply in Maiduguri – this will ease the disruptions experienced in the last two months.

UNDSS

- The Damaturu Security Operations Centre (SOC) operator requested information on the pending upgrade of the VHF radio system in Damaturu. The ETS will work with UNDSS to agree on a date for the missions.

3. AOB

There were further discussions on the use of HF radios.

- A participant asked if ETS has a recommendation of what equipment to procure for new vehicles, considering the phase out of HF.

Feedback: The ETS is not a regulatory body, so the TESS team will recommend the preferred equipment. However, satellite Push-To-Talk (PTT) phones are an alternative for vehicles.

- A Telecommunications officer suggested that the ICRC team share their experience on the recent base station upgrades during the next local working group meeting. The upgrade improved the performance of their HF radios.

Acronyms

ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HF	High Frequency
IM	Information Management
IT	Information Technology
NE	North East (of Nigeria)

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PTT	Push to Talk
PUI	Premiere Urgence Internationale
SOC	Security Operations Centre
TC	Telecommunications
TESS	Telecommunications Security Standards
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