

Cox's Bazar – Refugee Crisis

External ETS Situation Report #30

Reporting period 01/02/2021 to 28/02/2021

Following the increased needs to support the humanitarian efforts in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, World Food Programme (WFP), in its capacity as global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), is supporting the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) by addressing common Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs. Through the establishment of the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) WFP and its partners ensure a coordinated ICT response and support to those working on the provision of life-saving assistance to the affected populations.

Highlights

- The ETS team is now providing data connectivity to 288 users in 34 sites and security telecommunications services to 860 users from 12 UN organizations.



The ETS continues to conduct maintenance activities in Shamlapur Camp-23.

ETS Activities

- The ETS is providing security telecommunications services to 860 users across 12 UN agencies/funds/programmes.
- Partners plan to install solar solutions in 17 sites to power the ETS connectivity infrastructure. This ensures no interruption to connectivity when power outages occur and also helps reduce the carbon footprint in the operation.
- The ETS team is now providing data connectivity to 288 users in 34 sites including retail outlets, logistics hubs, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) treatment centres and a residential hub where humanitarian staff reside.
- The ETS in coordination with UNHCR will provide data connectivity services to staff in the Camp In Charge (CIC) government offices. UNHCR will provide the equipment and the ETS will install the equipment and ensure user access controls are implemented.
- Regular operations regarding maintenance, assessments for future activities to continue data connectivity services are continued in the camps.
- The ETS Bangladesh purchased cyclone-resilient towers that are pending the permission to be imported in Bangladesh will soon be shipped to Dubai.
- The ETS procurement plan for the first half of 2021 has been approved by management.

Challenges

- Low stock of equipment. Procurement process has started (with local suppliers) to scale up the operations but might take longer time than expected for the items to be delivered.
- Due to COVID-19 several staff have been isolating. Only one staff remained in the field for several weeks to support IT emergencies.
- Permission to import telecommunications equipment, use additional radio frequencies and erect the cyclone-resilient towers is still pending government approval.

Funding

For 2021, the new requirements are US\$3,878,072. No new funding has been received yet so the ETS is operating with carryover funds from 2020.

Key Information

- All information on the ETS response in Cox's Bazar can be found [here](#).
- The latest ETS infographic is also now available and published on the website.
- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Bangladesh.ETS@wfp.org

Contacts

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