

Nigeria – Crisis

ETS Situation Report #28

Reporting period 1/02/19 to 28/02/19

As global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) in Nigeria, responding with government, private sector and humanitarian partners on the ground to ensure a coordinated response. ETS SitReps are issued monthly.

Highlights

- During the uncertain electoral period, the ETS focused on carrying out preventive maintenance on the communications services deployed in Maiduguri and on providing remote support to services deployed in field locations to ensure their full operability.
- The ETS delivered capacity building activities for local partners in Maiduguri on the installation of satellite communications equipment and on security communications procedures.
- The recruitment of local candidates to strengthen the capacity of the ETS team continued.



The ETS continues to deliver capacity building activities to the entire response community in North-East Nigeria on security communications procedures.

Photo: WFP/ Jorge Tamimo

Situation Overview

Following the postponement of the Nigeria presidential and National Assembly elections from 16 February to 23 February 2018, the security situation remained relatively calm with some localized tensions, especially in Kaduna and Kano.

The security situation in North-East Nigeria remains volatile due to continuous attacks by the Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). During the reported period, as many as 24 people were reported killed due to NSAGs related incidents in Borno and Adamawa States from 11-16 February, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In one incident alone, 11 people were killed in an early morning suicide attack in Maiduguri, Borno State, on 16 February.

As reported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), at least 10,000 Internally Displaced People (IDP) reportedly returned to Rann town, Kala/Balge local government area, from Cameroon on 27 February 2019. These civilians are among 40,386 Nigerians who originally fled Rann following deadly



attacks in December 2018 and January 2019. International and national humanitarian organizations have not been able to return to Rann to provide humanitarian assistance due to ongoing insecurity since 17 January 2019.

ETS Response

- The election period resulted in a restriction of staff movements across North-East Nigeria as part of the security measures imposed by humanitarian organisations. Therefore, the number of field missions was limited so the ETS conducted preventive maintenance works on the security communications services deployed in Maiduguri and supported remotely the services in field hubs to ensure humanitarians could continue using the ETS services to support their operations. ETS communications services have been used by 1,383 humanitarians from 60 humanitarian organisations since the beginning of 2019 across North-East Nigeria.
- As part of the ETS capacity building activities in North-East Nigeria, the ETS trained International Rescue Committee (IRC) staff in Maiduguri on the installation and maintenance of satellite communications equipment. During the reporting period, 16x staff from Street Children in Maiduguri were also trained by the ETS on security communications procedures to be able to confidently conduct daily radio checks and communicate with the Communications Centre (COMCEN) when required.
- To successfully complete the ETS planned activities for 2019, the ETS team continues strengthening its capacity. The recruitment process to identify qualified local candidates for 1x business support assistant, 1x IT operations assistant, 2x security communications assistant and 1x communications assistant is underway. In addition, 1x Stand-by Partner from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) will join the team in early March as security communications specialist and 1x Stand-by Partner from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will join in March as security communications trainer.
- In line with the WFP additional security measures in view of the general elections, the ETS coordinated the temporary withdrawal of the radio operators deployed in the COMCENs in field humanitarian hubs to Maiduguri. After the postponement of the elections to 23 February and 9 March, radio operators will resume their jobs at the hubs after mid-March subject to Security Management Team (SMT) decision.

Planned Response

- The ETS is planning to conduct maintenance missions in Bama, Damasak and Monguno to continue a flawless provision of communications services.

Funding

- The ETS operation in Nigeria in 2019 requires US\$3.4M to maintain the existing services and expand them to 4x planned operational areas. The ETS is currently 23 per cent funded.



Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference covering Bangladesh, Nigeria and Central African Republic operations will be held on 3 April 2019.
- The next local ETS Working Group meeting in Maiduguri is scheduled for 14 March at 15:00 (Abuja time) at the Red Roof base camp (Mala Kachala House).

Information

- ETS Nigeria information can be found on: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nigeria-crisis
- The latest ETS Dashboard displaying where ETS services are available and planned can be found here: www.etcluster.org/document/ets-nigeria-dashboard-february-2019

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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NSAGs	Non-State Armed Groups
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SMT	Security Management Team
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner of Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme



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

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