**Nigeria**

**Telecommunications Working Group**

**Date: 21/11/16 Time: 11:00 (Abuja)**

**Attendance**

ET Sector CoordinatorPastor Lovo (WFP) Abuja

Plan International Ayan Badji Abuja

UNDSS Israel Oye-Lawrence Abuja

UNHCR Abe Sekav Maiduguri

UNICEF Ade Oluyomi Abuja

WFP Nono Kukimunu Maiduguri

 Suzanne Fenton Dubai

WHO Andrew Kimani Abuja (Chairman)

 Festus Akinsola Abuja

 James Aladesuyi Abuja

# Agenda

1. **Review minutes**
2. **Update from ETS Coordinator**
3. **Update from participants**
4. **AOB**

**Review minutes**

* The name of Ministry of Telecommunications as used by previous ETS Coordinator, should be amended to Ministry of Communications.

**Update from ETS Coordinator**

* The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) has now been officially activated in Nigeria.
* US$1.2 million as requested in the initial SO has been received from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The SO has been released early.
* The ETS has ordered US$500,000-worth of equipment to develop the security telecommunications network in Maiduguri and Damaturu, and to provide Internet connectivity and electricity in 3x humanitarian hubs in the deep field. This equipment is expected to arrive in Abuja in the next couple of weeks.
* The ETS is currently working on the budget revision. The ETS will increase the budget to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services in humanitarian hubs across three states: Borno (Maiduguri), Yobe (Damaturu) and Adamawa for the whole of 2017.
* ETS Coordinator is working with the Logistics Sector to see how ETS can secure storage space in Abuja before equipment is deployed to the field.
* A telecommunications specialist will arrive in Abuja in next week. He will work on enhancing the telecommunications network in Abuja while waiting for the new equipment to arrive. Then he will go to Maiduguri to enhance the network there and establish a Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Damaturu. He will also be responsible for training and writing SOPs. ETS Coordinator will share his workplan/itinerary with Andrew for the purpose of sharing knowledge.
* ETS Coordinator is following up with the letter sent to the Ministry of Communications to request radio licences for UN and NGO community, and to include additional frequencies. There may be a need to do a full presentation for the ministry. Hopefully, by the end of this week there will be more specific news on this.

**Update from UNDSS**

* A letter was sent to Ministry of Interior to ask permission for the UN to host its repeaters on the Police radio masts facility in Abuja and elsewhere in the country. No response has been received yet. **ACTION: Israel to follow up with Ministry of Interior this week. Next week, he will write a new letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs to confirm the laid-down procedure for correspondence from the diplomatic community.**
* Work needs to be carried out on the UNDSS Abuja COMCEN but there are financial issues. **ACTION: TWG Chair to present budget to Chief Security Adviser (CSA) and discuss modality for presenting this to SMT for funding.**

**Update from WHO**

* WHO is pursuing possibilities of hosting its repeaters in Abuja. **ACTION: Festus will send letters to Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) in Abuja by Wednesday. By the end of the week, Festus will report on potential commercial mast host companies.**

**Update from Plan International**

* Plan is opening a new office in Maiduguri and asks if there is a platform where we can see ISP providers. Andrew said the TWG will help her locate the necessary information from the ICT network working under the Operations Management Team (OMT).

**AOB**

* CSA noted that there are issues with VHF in some areas in Maiduguri. Maybe WFP repeater can be moved to NTA tower in Maiduguri to see if coverage improves. **ACTION: Team to follow up with Government to use the NTA mast and power equipment from NTA.**
* Iridium PPT usage is extremely costly.It was suggested that if more people use the network, it may be possible to negotiate with the supplier to reduce the amount. **ACTION: Nono Kikumunu to request Cyprien of WFP to consolidate the information on behalf of TWG members with the aim of negotiating a better deal.**

**Next meeting will be held on 5 December at 11:00 Abuja time at WHO office, Rivers House.**

**Acronyms**

ETS Emergency Telecommunications Sector

FITTEST Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team

HC Humanitarian Coordinator

HCT Humanitarian Country Team

IT Information Technology

MoT Ministry of Telecommunications

NGO Non-Government Organization

NTA Nigeria Television Authority

SIDA Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

UN United Nations

UNDSS UN Department of Safety and Security

UNHCR UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF UN Children’s Fund

VHF Very High Frequency

WFP World Food Programme

WHO World Health Organisation

WIDER Wireless Local Area Network in Disaster Emergency Response

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ET website:

<https://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:** Suzanne Fenton, WFP.