

Nepal Earthquake Emergency - ETC

Transition Plan – September 2015

1. Background

Following a 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal 81km northwest of the capital, Kathmandu on 25 April 2015, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated after the first quake to provide vital communications services to support implementation of life-saving aid operations.

Humanitarians need reliable communications services to be able to communicate and coordinate their relief operations. Lack of telecommunications and internet services, particularly in remote and mountainous areas, have hampers rescue and relief efforts.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is nominated co-lead of the ETC in Nepal alongside the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC).

2. ETC Response

In support of the Nepal earthquake emergency, the ETC has:

- Provided shared internet connectivity services to the response community in 24 sites across three field common operational areas and Kathmandu since the beginning of the response, using ETC equipment such as VSATs, wireless links or local Internet Services Providers (ISP);
- Established security communications networks in 3 sites for the use of the response community, including UN agencies, NGO and other humanitarian organizations;
- Coordinated ICT activities with partner organizations, local commercial actors and government authorities;
- Built capacity within the technical humanitarian community to ensure sustainability of deployed services and solutions;
- Collaborated with Nepali authorities and implemented capacity building efforts to support the current emergency and build resilience for future disasters.

3. Transition of ETC services

Deactivation of services depend on the humanitarian community's requirements, field presence, availability of services provided by the local commercial entities, as well as resources available within the partner organizations / agencies (customers). The ETC is only activated to respond temporarily to common ICT gaps in

a country who required emergency assistance. Common operational areas where ETC provide services are defined by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

The ETC team assessed the requirements, partners/users plan and restoration status of local infrastructure beginning of September in order to put recommendations to the local ETC working and finalize the transition plan. Since national commercial providers are being restored and available in the common operational areas, ETC team does not foresee needs for extension of ETC Internet services. Other services such as Coordination of the response or ICT helpdesk will phase out along with the services. Security communications services is carried out by UNDSS and extension of VHF radio network established for the response will be handed over to UNDSS.

Therefore, the ETC plans to phase out ETC services starting end of September as originally planned for the response. Below are the services timeframe and recommendations for partners/users longer term requirements. This will also be presented to ETC Co-leads and the HCT for final endorsement.



TRANSITION PLAN

Type of Services	Locations	Sites	Timeframe	Recommendations and plan for partners/users beyond timeframe
Coordination	Kathmandu	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	15 October	Cluster Coordination will be handed over back to the pre-Earthquake telecommunications cluster in the course of October. Cluster is co-led by MoIC and WFP (Head of ICT). ETC envisions de-activation of the current ETC in the course of October.
Internet Connectivity	Arughat Bidur Dunche Kathmandu Chautara	NGO Hub NGO Hub IFRC UN Reception Centre (Tribhuvan International Airport) Lalitpur - UN House/ OSOCC IFRC Save the Children / Nepal Red Cross	Decommissioned prior 2 September	No-applicable
	Gorkha	Deurali, Logs Base/Save the Children Gorkha City, Sub-OSOCC	30 September	Partners/users that stay beyond September are being advised to setup their own Internet connectivity and ETC is assisting and advising, while on the ground.

	Charikot	IHP camp NGO hub/Plan International Sub-OSOCC/Save the Children IOM Samaritan's Purse MSF Office MSF Field Hospital Logs hub Red Cross WFP	15 October	Partners/users that stay beyond September are being advised to setup their own Internet connectivity and ETC is assisting and advising, while on the ground.
	Chautara	IHP camp Humanitarian Hub (IOM, OCHA, UNDP) WHO/DHO	15 October	Partners/users that stay beyond September are being advised to setup their own Internet connectivity and ETC is assisting and advising, while on the ground.
	Kathmandu	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	30 September	Partners/users that stay beyond September are being advised to setup their own Internet connectivity and ETC is assisting and advising, while on the ground.
ICT Helpdesk	Gorkha Kathmandu	Deurali, Logs Base/Save the Children Gorkha City, Sub-OSOCC HSA	30 September	ICT helpdesk will be closing along with the end of services.
	Charikot Chautara	All sites	15 October	ICT helpdesk will be closing along with the end of services.
VHF Radio Communications	Gorkha Charikot Chautara	All sites	15 October	Extension of VHF radio communications network in 3 main common operational locations will be handed over to UNDSS (including equipment) which will ensure continuation.

4. Equipment

If not handed over, all telecommunications, IT and power supply equipment installed that will be closed down, will be dismantled, packed and shipped to the storage / warehouse at the Country Office (or any other designated location).

The equipment provided (loaned) by global ET Cluster partners, including WIDER network access controlling hardware provided by Ericsson Response; and VSAT outstations provided by the emergency.lu and Nethope shall be returned unless agreed differently with partners. These kits will be dismantled, packed and shipped back to their original locations for refurbishment and use in other emergencies.

As per the Inter-Agency Security Telecommunications proposal developed within the country, telecommunications infrastructure equipment (VHF repeaters) will be handed over to UNDSS for maintenance of the repeater sites in the installed areas. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be prepared and signed by relevant parties.

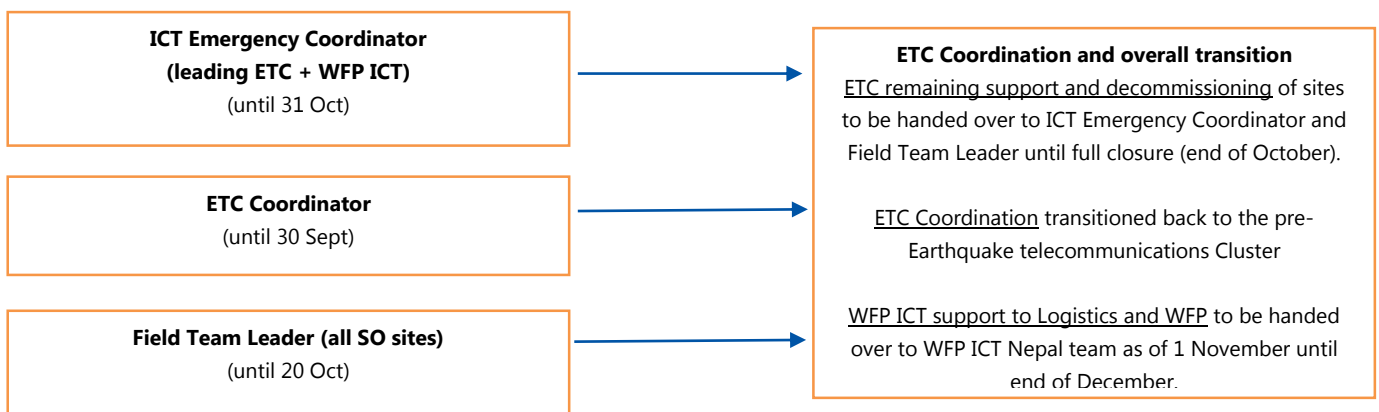
Uninstalled equipment may be donated as part of the overall emergency response capacity development under the custody of ETC Nepal co-leads (Ministry of Information and Communication and WFP). This equipment should be packed properly and thoroughly documented. A list of equipment will be provided to the ETC Co-leads and the local ETC working group.

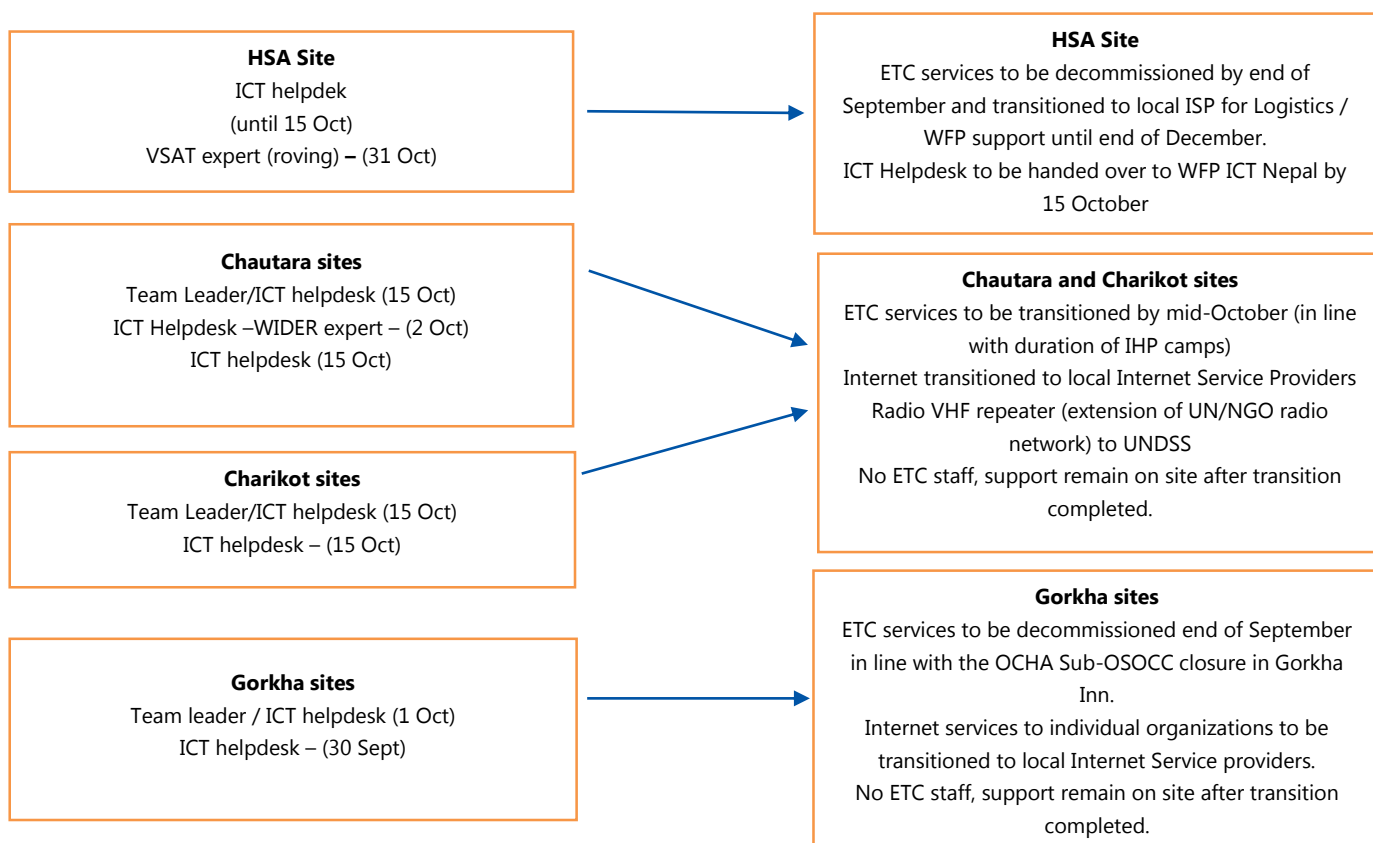
5. Personnel

Dedicated ETC teams have been deployed across the most affected areas of the earthquake in Nepal with responders from CMC Finland, emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, RedR, the World Food Programme and local partners. Four categories of personnel deployed to support ETC operations and activities:

1. Locally recruited staff;
2. WFP ICT personnel on TDY missions;
3. WFP FITTEST specialists;
4. Personnel deployed by Stand-By Partners (SBP).

Demobilization of TDY personnel and Stand-By Partners depend on operational and service requirements, and budget available. As per this plan, the below is the staffing plan in line with services transition.





Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISP	Internet Services Provider
MoIC	Ministry of Information and Communications
MSF	Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
SBP	Stand-By Partners
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response
WFP	World Food Programme