NEPAL

Internet services established by the ETC allow the response community to meet the urgent needs of people affected by the earthquake, better, faster, safer.

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 to provide vital communications services to support the implementation of lifesaving aid operations.

The ETC response so far

- Provided shared internet connectivity services to the response community in 24 sites across three field common operational areas and Kathmandu, using ETC equipment such as VSATs, wireless links or local Internet Services Providers (ISP);

More than 1,550 humanitarians from 250+ organizations have registered to use ETC services since the beginning of the operation.

- Established security communications networks in three sites for the use of the response community, including UN, 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.

www.ETCluster.org
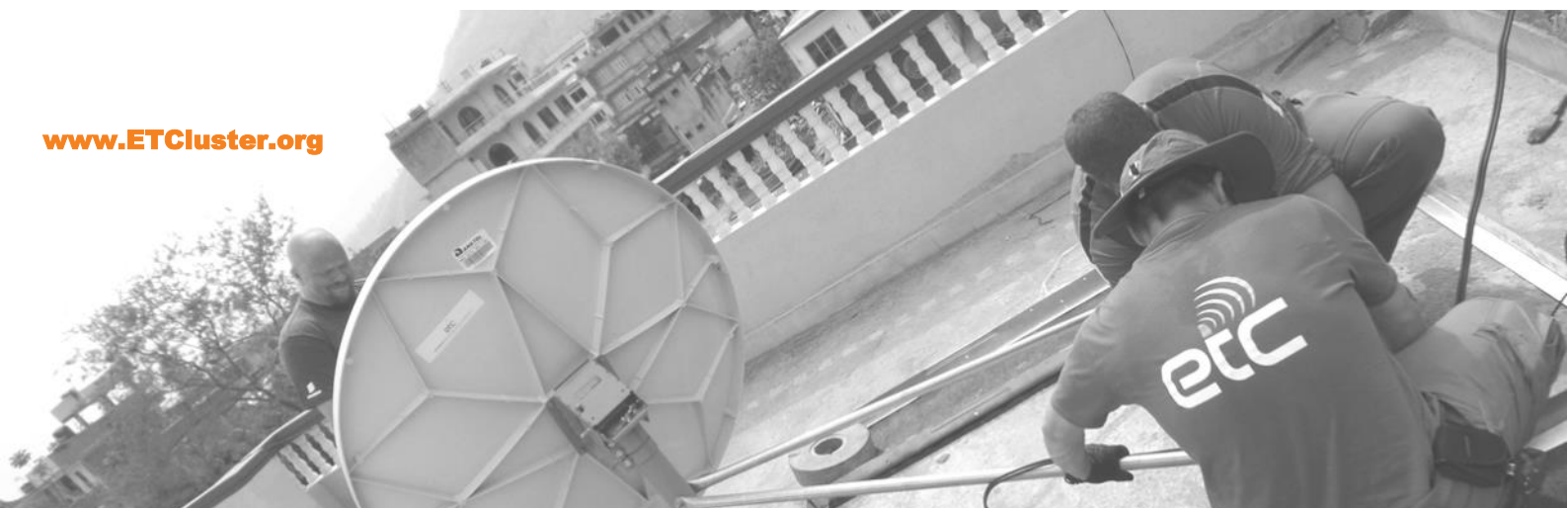
ETC Transition Plan

Based on assessed requirements and consultations with partners, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) ETC is phasing out its services starting end of September in line with the planned response.

The ETC will transition its services as follows:

- Closing down of ETC Internet services and ICT Helpdesk in Gorkha and Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area on 30 September.

- Closing down of ETC Internet services and ICT Helpdesk in Chautara (Sindhupalchok) and Charikot (Dolokha) on 15 October.

- Extension of VHF radio communications network in the three main common operational locations will be handed over to UNDSS (including equipment) to ensure continuation of this service.

- Equipment on loan from global ETC partners will be returned unless otherwise agreed with partners. Uninstalled equipment may be donated as part of the overall emergency response capacity development to ETC Nepal co-leads, Ministry of Information and Communication (MoIC) and WFP. A list will be provided to the ETC co-leads and the ETC working group when decommissioning is complete.

- Cluster Coordination is being handed over to the pre-earthquake telecommunications cluster which is co-led by MoIC and WFP (Head of ICT). Government ICT capacity building activities will continue through that forum.

The ETC is working in close collaboration with government authorities, humanitarian organisations and national internet and mobile service providers to ensure smooth transition of communications services to local providers.

To date, the ETC Nepal has received US$1,315,361 in cash contributions, as well as $550,800 in in-kind donations of staff, equipment and operational costs from CMC Finland, emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, IFRC, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), NetHope, Plan International, RedR, UNDSS, WFP and national internet and mobile services providers.

For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Nepal, visit: www.ETCluster.org or contact: Nepal.ETC@wfp.org

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide common communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

22 September 2015