Somalia ICT/ ETC Working Group

Somalia Drought Crisis

ICT/ ETC Working Group Meeting

Date: June 21ˢᵗ, 2017   TIME: 14:00 UTC +03:00

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has NOT been activated in response to the drought crisis in Somalia. Nevertheless, there is ongoing coordination through the local ICT Working Group. More information is available here:
https://www.etcluster.org/countries/somalia

Attendance

Organisation	Name	Location
WFP	Tue Nielsen	Mogadishu
WFP, Chair	Eric Kiruhura	Nairobi
UNFPA	Ayub Mohamud	Mogadishu
UNICEF	Emmanuel Okwuosa	Mogadishu

Meeting started at 14:17 UTC +03:00

Agenda

1. Follow up on action points from previous meetings
2. Updates on the drought crisis in Somalia
3. Updates from agencies/organisations on their ICT response efforts
4. ICT gaps and needs
5. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build *ICT Country Profile*
6. Somalia as an ETC2020 priority country
7. Any other business

Minutes

1. Follow up on action points from previous meetings

- ***All Agencies to send their Mototrbo inventory to Tue (available & on order) by 15 March, 2017***:
  Information received from the following agencies: UNFPA, UNDSS, UNICEF and WFP. Other agencies
  have not shared information yet, and were encouraged to do so.
- ***Tue to share through OMT Mototrbo equipment standards***: Tue promised to share the information.
  Also, he indicated that a memo was to be prepared for UNDSS to present to SMT regarding upgrades.
  There is potential to engage with Danimex to support this work.
- ***WFP to follow up on process to formalise licensing for telecoms equipment***: Tue provided an
  update on the Somalia's government's efforts to setup a telecommunications regulatory body. This is part
  of the World Bank ICT sector support project that includes draft ICT legislation. Effort to be made by WG
  to get updates on progress being made, and share available information within the WG. Also, WFP will
  reach out to the World Bank to get updates. There was a request from UNICEF as to whether we could
  get a memo from government allowing us to use the existing frequencies. Tue indicated that he will follow
  up with ITU on some allocated frequencies to the UN by previous governments.

Action Point 1: Tue/Eric to reach out to the World Bank to provide updates on the ICT sector support project
in Somalia.

Action Point 2: Tue to reach out to ITU regarding frequencies that had been previously allocated to UN agencies in Somalia by previous government.

2. Updates on the drought crisis in Somalia[1]

- Significant reduction of rainfall across Somalia during the week starting 4 June.
- New AWD/Cholera cases continued to be reported. Overall, some 51,036 AWD/cholera cases and 782 related deaths have been reported in 2017.
- Measles outbreaks continued to be reported in some parts of Somalia, with 9,813 suspected measles cases reported countrywide as of 12 June 2017.
- The nutrition situation has continued to deteriorate - 2.2 million people are in need of nutrition interventions.

3. Updates from organisations on their ICT response efforts

- **UNFPA**: Drought response plan running till Dec 2017. Still offering BlueJeans conferencing solution for humanitarian agencies to use.
- **UNICEF**: All is well, have sufficient capacity to manage.
- **WFP**: Have staff at the DOCC. Using MiFi in case of connectivity challenges. In some locations, using a Thuraya IP (setup as hotspot) for retailers using SCOPE.

4. ICT gaps and needs

- UNFPA requested for support in programming radios in Garowe and Hergeisa. UNICEF offered to support.

5. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build ICT Country Profile

The ICT Country Profile template was presented and the WG agreed that it was a good starting point.

The WG setup a team that will be dedicated in leading the efforts in developing the profile. We had volunteers from UNICEF (Emmanuel) and WFP (Mahmud, ICT Assistant Mogadishu).

The WG agreed that the due date to complete this will be 31 August 2017.

6. Somalia as an ETC2020 priority country and implications for ICT WG

The Chair briefly shared about the [ETC2020 strategy](#) and its vision: By 2020, the ETC in partnership with leading edge technology companies and local telecomm providers, will create an environment for emergency response which allows humanitarian responders, citizens and governments to have a seamless, resilient and principled communications experience in order to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The ETC2020 strategic priorities were outlined:
- Communications as aid to enable communities to access connectivity when they need it most – in times of crisis.
- Improved and decentralized response readiness to ensure local people, processes and equipment solutions are ready to activate rapid communications responses to disasters.

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[1] [OCHA Drought Response - Situation Report No. 12 (as of 13 June 2017)](#)

- Increased communications resilience to disasters to help affected governments safeguard systems and prepare for responses when disasters strike.
- Enhanced communications and energy to enable a wider group of traditional and non-traditional humanitarian responders to save and improve lives.

Further, an ETC 2020 Roadmap has been developed which prioritises activities to be undertaken each year. In 2017-2018, Somalia has been selected as a priority country for emergency preparedness and response readiness. Global ETC has proposed a list of emergency preparedness and response readiness activities for priority countries – this has to be considered and adapted to the local context.

The local ICT Working Group is seen as a key player in achieving ETC2020 agenda in Somalia.

The working group, in principle, endorsed ETC2020 Strategy – but indicated additional resources need to be made available to move the agenda forward. As such, the funding needs to be clarified first.

Action Point 3: Eric Kiruhura to reach out to the global ETC to clarify any funding strategy and support for implementing ETC2020 agenda in priority countries.

7. Any other business

- Tue, who has been chairing the ICT Working Group, indicated that he has been re-assigned to another office – and no replacement has been determined yet. Eric Kiruhura has also been assigned another project within WFP Somalia. As such, another person needs to chair the WG. UNICEF, as alternate Chair, was requested to step in. This needs to be discussed in more detail at the next WG meeting.
- Next meeting date: The next meeting to be held on 12 July 2017, at 14:00 UTC +03:00

Minutes: Eric Kiruhura, WFP

Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WG	Working Group