

The Bahamas, Hurricane Dorian

Global ETS Teleconference

Date: 09/09/19

TIME: 16:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Jalal Shah	(Global ETC), Italy
CISCO TacOps	Matt Wood	USA
	Sue Lynn Hinson	USA
	Dan Carr	USA
	Dustin Lee	USA
Emergency.lu	Luc Hastir	Luxembourg
	Gilles Hoffman	Luxembourg
	Tom de Waha	Barbados
Ericsson Response	Craig Kiggen	Bahamas
	Lars Ruediger	Germany
IntelSat	Colleen Parent	USA
InterNews	Stijn Aelbers	UK
	Laura Dunnagan	UK
ITU	Sylvester Cadette	Bahamas
	Marizta Delgado	Geneva
NetHope	Ingolfur Haraldsson	Bahamas
	Rami Shakra	Spain
TSF	Clement Bruguera	France
UNHCR	Alex Thomas	Venezuela
	Nizar Zeidan	Geneva
UNICEF	Antonio Gomes	USA
UNOCHA	Farman Khilji	Bahamas
US Department of State	Joe Burton	USA
WFP	Angel Buitrago	Bahamas
	Caroline Teyssier	Bahamas
	Maguette Wade	Italy
	Omar Namaoui	Italy
	Phyza Jameel	Italy
	Carlos Hilarion	Panama
	Andrew Henze	Thailand
	Gianluca Bruni	UAE
	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
	Suzanne Fenton	UAE

Teleconference started at 16:06 UTC

Agenda

1. **Situation overview**
2. **WFP updates**
3. **Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response**
4. **ETS partner updates**
5. **AOB**

Minutes

1. Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) Update - Nassau

- The Deputy Global ETC Coordinator arrived in Nassau on 7 September as ETS Coordinator for the Bahamas response. A WFP IT Emergency and Preparedness Response Officer from WFP's Regional Bureau in Panama and a number of other partners from Ericsson Response, Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) and NetHope are on the ground in Abaco establishing critical connectivity services for responders.
- The national emergency coordination is operating under a sectoral/functional approach under the leadership of the Government of the Bahamas, specifically the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- Under NEMA, there are 14 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and telecommunications is under ESF 2, Communications, which is led by the Police Force of the Bahamas with the support of the two Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), BTC and Aliv.
- Colleagues from NetHope and other ETC partners have met with NEMA to support in coordinating information and potentially looking at having a joint plan. With many players continuing to arrive in the Bahamas, it will be critical to ensure there is clear coordination with no duplication of efforts.
- Marsh Harbour on Abaco is the most affected area. Operators are trying to recover quickly in Abaco but also on Grand Bahama. There may be a potential need to provide support in eastern Grand Bahama in the coming days.
- Determining the number of affected populations is difficult, however, more than 3,500 people have been evacuated to Nassau from Abaco and evacuations are still ongoing. Around 2,000 people have been targeted for assistance on Abaco.
- The ETS intends to inventory all the equipment as there is so much coming in and already a lot on the ground to avoid duplication of efforts.

2. WFP UPDATE – Abaco island

- WFP IT Emergency Preparedness Officer is in Abaco with a team of three, including two from Ericsson Response, and Cisco (deploying under NetHope). They have met up with the TSF team.
- The team has not been able to go outside Marsh Harbour but will try to do so in the coming days.
- The plan is to deploy connectivity with partners to four priority locations: Marsh Harbour port, Maxwell Supermarket that will be used as an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), the Marsh Harbour international airport and a healthcare facility (set up by Vodafone Foundation).
- Around 1,000-2000 people are being moved every day from Abaco to Nassau. As people move out, needs on the ground change and need to be reviewed accordingly.
- Electricity is a challenge as is fuel which is becoming scarce. It is increasingly difficult to get fuel for cars which may become a serious issue in the coming days.

3. ETS PARTNER UPDATES

Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF)

- Confirmed that there is no need for more telecommunications equipment on Abaco as 4G networks are recovering slowly.
- TSF teams visited three shelters in Abaco, Cooperstown and Treasure Cay but people are being evacuated so it is very difficult to find people.
- TSF met with Ericsson Response who offered to install its WIDER system (manages and distributes connectivity) to Maxwell Supermarket in Marsh Harbour where the coordination hub is.

NetHope

- NetHope has been asked to install connectivity across 35x different sites in Nassau, Abaco and Grand Bahama, mainly shelters and clinics run by NEMA.
- A gymnasium is being used as a shelter, but the team still has to visit other shelters in Nassau to determine needs. The Grammar school in Marsh Harbour will also be used as a shelter but it is not clear how many people will be accommodated.

ITU

- ITU equipment arrived over the weekend. ITU and are exploring how to get it into the affected areas. Coordination of logs is being strengthened to implement a better system e.g. request for movements.



Contacts

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TELCO focal points

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Teleconference / Meeting ended at 16:50 UTC

Next Global ETS Teleconference on the Bahamas will be scheduled on 11 September at 1830 Dubai time.

Acronyms

CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ESF	Emergency Support Functions
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISP	Internet Service Providers
IT	Information Technology
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RNAT	Rapid Needs Assessment Team
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
UN	United Nations
UNHRD	United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot
UNICEF	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme



All information related to the ETS operation in the Bahamas can be found on the website:

<https://www.etcluster.org/emergency/bahamas-natural-disaster>

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:

Bahamas.ETS@wfp.org

Minutes: Suzanne Fenton, WFP