

Lebanon

Global ETS Teleconference

Date: 10/08/20

TIME: 13:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), UAE
CISCO TacOps emergency.lu	Matt Altman Gilles Hoffman Roland Nurenberg	US Lebanon Luxembourg
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
ICRC	Alfredo Bermudez Salazar Joelle Kuhn	Switzerland Switzerland
Intelsat	Colleen Parent	US
NetHope	Brent Carbno Dagbjartur Brynjarsson Rami Shakra Angelique Favor	Canada Iceland Lebanon China
SES	Alan Kuresevic	Luxembourg
Thuraya	Najwa Natalie Ayoub	US
TSF	Marta Moreton Florent Bervas	Lebanon Lebanon
UNFPA	Mohamed Adel Abdelkader	Egypt
UNHCR	Min Sun	Denmark
UNICEF	Antonio Gomes Ike Uzoegwu	US US
WFP	Dalia Mansour Maria Saleh Gabriela Alvarado Emma Wadland Phyza Jameel Atsushi Kondo Patricia Facultad Katherine Gagnon Chiara Argenti Duncan Oyando Elizabeth Millership	Egypt Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Lebanon UAE

	Dane Novarlic	UAE
	Gianluca Bruni	UAE
	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
	Triwik Kurniasari	UAE
	Ozdzan Hadziemin	UAE
	Richard Egwangu	Uganda
World Vision	Anthony Kimani	Kenya

Teleconference started at 13:06 UTC

Agenda

1. **Situation update**
2. **Global ETS update**
3. **Partner updates**

Minutes

1. SITUATION UPDATE

- The explosions at the Port of Beirut on 4 August caused widespread damage across Beirut. The explosions left more than 300,000 people with no shelter in the Greater Beirut area. The humanitarian community is responding to the needs of thousands of homeless who require shelter and meals. Many of the affected population are being housed by volunteers and family members.
- A key challenge facing humanitarian agencies and the affected population in Beirut is power. The economic crisis has worsened an existing shortage of fuel and many buildings rely on generators as the only source of power.
- Mobile networks are operating as normal up to two kilometres from the explosion site, although there have been reports of poor connectivity for those working at the port and the explosion site itself. The power issue may severely impact on mobile network infrastructure throughout the city.
- The security situation remains unstable due to civil unrest and protests taking place at night.

2. GLOBAL ETS UPDATE

- The ETS is not yet activated in Lebanon, although discussions are taking place to engage the ETS as a priority sector for the response.

- The Global ETS is deploying a Sector Coordinator to Beirut on 11 August for an initial period of two weeks to initiate coordination with partners and operators on the ground and to assess technology requirements. A key part of Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) engagement on the ground will focus on preparedness, resilience and sustainability of services and will plan this accordingly at the inter-sector level. The plan is subject to change and will be further defined, once the assessment is carried out by the ETS Coordinator on the ground.

3. ETS PARTNER UPDATES

- **Télécomms Sans Frontières (TSF)** – Two TSF staff members deployed to Beirut on 7 August alongside the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. No access to the port has been possible. A logistics hub may be set up at the port in the coming weeks for which TSF are on standby to support with connectivity. TSF has noted some deterioration of national mobile networks, caused by the ongoing economic crisis.
- **Government of Luxembourg** – Government of Luxembourg partners deployed to Beirut on 6 August as part of the UNDAC team to assist in search and rescue. They report functioning Internet and mobile connectivity at the hotels where international humanitarian staff are based, including 4G networks. At this stage, the need for telecommunications support is not foreseen. It has also been reported that many thousands of the affected population have relocated elsewhere outside the city.
- **NetHope** – NetHope arrived in Beirut on 10 August to assess communications infrastructure with partners. The services of two major national Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) – Alfa and MTC – were marginally affected by the explosions but have quickly recovered services. NetHope has reached out to both MNOs to offer assistance, if needed and requested more information on the status of their services. Currently, mobile networks are being utilized heavily by the influx of volunteers and humanitarian responders.

A potential challenge will be power solutions to support the field hospitals that were set up due to the destruction of two major hospitals that accommodated large numbers of COVID-19 patients. NetHope and its partners are ready to support in this area.

NetHope partners such as Red Cross have reported concerns about the impact on communication networks if further fuel shortages limit the capacity of generators.

- **Ericsson Response** – An Ericsson Response volunteer is already active in Lebanon and has been working with MNOs in Beirut. His existing expertise on the status of national mobile networks can assist in the response.
- **WFP** - The WFP office in Beirut – including equipment – has been severely damaged by the port explosions and will not be operating for some time. All WFP employees have been accounted for. Nine staff members sustained injuries, with one staff member still in the hospital. WFP confirmed the report regarding connectivity status and power challenges.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 13:34 UTC

The next Global ETS Teleconference on Lebanon will be held on Thursday 13 August 2020 at 13:00 UTC.

Acronyms

COVID-19	Corona Virus 2019
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IT	Information Technology
MNO	Mobile Network Operators
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
TSF	Telecoms Sans Frontiers
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to the ETS operation in Lebanon can be found on the website:
www.etcluster.org/emergency/lebanon-beirut-port-explosions

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