

ICT Emergency Cell Working Group – Addis Ababa/Tigray region

Date: 09/06/2021 Time: 14:00

Online Meeting

Attendance

Chair	Rami Shakra (UNHCR Senior IT Emergency Coordinator)
Office of the RC	DaEun Han
UNDSS	Dereje Bezabih
UNHCR	Joan Opio Min Sun
UNICEF	Yogendra Rai
OCHA	Nickie Wing
WFP	Tinsae Gidey Khawar Ilyas Ivan Thomas

Agenda

1. Election preparedness
2. Technical meeting
3. Harmonization project
4. ETC presentation
5. AOB

1. Election preparedness

- Following the request from OCHA to complete the election preparedness activities matrix, DaEun Han coordinated with the ICT Emergency Cell and submitted the matrix on 7 June. The Cell is on standby to respond to any further follow up actions.
- A trial Business Continuity Plan (BCP) exercise was held on 24 May at management level – lots of issues were identified to be addressed before the election – there may be some upcoming action points for the ICT Emergency Cell.



2. Technical meeting

- An ICT Emergency Cell technical meeting was held on 8 June to discuss the frequency plan and the radio training programme.
- Frequency plan:
 - Key points of interest were to identify the frequencies and how the cost will be covered.
 - There will be an update on the channel list and frequency plan, however, there was also a group consensus that there is no need to make changes immediately and for the harmonization project to continue as planned.
- Radio training programme:
 - The ETC team has been delivering basic radio training to UN staff in Mekelle and Shire, including for those who receive handheld radios.
 - The advance training is being developed, to be shared by the ETC when drafted.
 - A key ask from the technical group was to identify a security communications focal point to align all training and issues across the agencies.
- Additional:
 - There is a need for a smart screen to be installed in the Mekelle Security Operations Centre (SOC) to enhance vehicle tracking for operators.

3. Harmonization project

- The UN harmonization plan has been finalized in Adama, Gambella, B/Dar and Hawassa. Teams are currently implementing the plan in Jijiga, Dessie, Asossa and D/Dwa. To be completed before the election date at the end of June is Dollo Ado.
- Once approval has been received from the government of Ethiopia on sharing the UN security communications networks with NGOs/INGOs, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) drafted by UNDSS for the SOCs will need to be reviewed and updated.

4. ETC presentation

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is part of the UN-wide cluster approach to strengthen systems and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies and provide clear leadership and accountability in the main areas of humanitarian response.
- The ETC is a service cluster, alongside UNHAS and the Logistics Cluster. It provides ICT services to the humanitarian community.
- The activation of the ETC in Ethiopia was delayed due to sensitivities with the national authorities but was finally activated to support the response in Tigray in late May due to the increasing ICT needs on the ground.



- In the context of Ethiopia, WFP is the lead agency of three Clusters - the ETC, Food Security and Logistics.
- The ETC has a [catalogue of services](#) it provides in emergencies. For the response in Tigray, based on an early assessment carried out by the ICT Emergency Cell in March, the ETC is providing/planning for six services – coordination, Information Management (IM), Internet connectivity, security communications, radio training and radio programming.
- Together with the three locations identified by the Cell – Mekelle, Shire and Embamadre – the ETC will also support additional common operational hubs with ICT services in Adigrat, Aksum, Maychew and Aby Addi, if required by OCHA's plan to scale up the humanitarian response. An ETC assessment mission will be carried out in these locations.
- The ETC has received confirmation from CERF that US\$500,000 will be committed to support the response in Tigray. As the total requirement until the end of the year is US\$1 million, the ETC is now 50 percent funded for 2021. This figure will need to be revised in line with the humanitarian scale-up.
- The ETC has a wide global partnership which supports the ETC in emergencies by contributing in kind contributions, funding, resources, expertise, guidance, and technical advice.
- The ETC also engages with its partners and actors on the ground at all levels to understand the nature of the response and to tailor its activities to the needs of the response community. Forums – such as the ICT Emergency Cell – are developed to inform the ETC response. Forums usually include a range of profiles such as security officers, operational and logistical managers, as well as ICT personnel.
- The ETC is represented at the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) level to effectively coordinate and disseminate ICT plans and activities across the response in alignment with the Country Office (CO).
- The mailbox Ethiopia.ETC@wfp.org is available for any ETC-related queries and there is an [emergency Tigray response page on the ETC website](#) which collates all operational information.
- An updated Concept of Operations (ConOps) on the ETC's response plan in Tigray will be developed and shared by the ETC to outline all activities, timelines, impact and exit strategy – this is a live document and will be updated regularly throughout the phases of the response.

AOB

- As the ETC is now activated to support the response in Tigray, the weekly inter-agency ICT Emergency Cell Working Group (WG) meeting will transition to an ETC-led WG meeting and attendance will be extended to the wider ICT humanitarian community, including NGOs/INGOs. The first ETC local WG will be held on 16 June. Khawar Ilyas will reach out to DaEun Han to coordinate.
- A huge thank you to the UNHCR team for all its support provided to the ICT Emergency Cell since it was established in February!



All information related to the ICT Emergency Cell can be found on the ETC website:

www.etcluster.org/emergency/ethiopia-tigray-region

Minutes: Elizabeth Millership, WFP