

Haiti Earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 17/08/21 Time: 14:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair: Brent Carbno (Global ETC team)

| Organisation | Name | Organisation | Name |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cisco Crisis Response | Abraham Abdu | Plan International | Bhavin Patel |
| | Erin Connor | TSF | Sebastien Latouille |
| | Matt Runyan | US Department of State | Joe Burton |
| Ericsson Response | Lars Peder Svensson | WFP | Patrick Midy |
| | Mike Duffin | | Claire Roach |
| Finnish Red Cross | Erik Finskas | | Caroline Teyssier |
| | Jonathan Nygard | | Damian Stafford-Shaw |
| | Petri Keskinen | | Antonio Guevara |
| | Tom Grandqvist | | Ozdzan Hadziemin |
| Gov't of Luxembourg | Roland Nurenberg | | Phyza Jameel |
| GSMA | Isaac Kwamy | | Prakash Muniandy |
| GVF | Simon Gray | | Ria Sen |
| ICRC | Alfredo Bermudez Salazar | WHO | Kamal Ait-Ikhlef |
| IFRC | Mauricio Castano | UNHCR | Alexander Thomas |
| | Jacqueline Polanco | | Massoumeh Farman Farmaian |
| | Jeangarino Pierre | UNICEF | Ike Uzoegwu |
| Internews | Stijn Aelbers | | Maurice Cooper |
| | Paul Hamilton | | Junior Riliere Alexandre |
| ITU | Maritza Doris Delgado | | Kamal Kamaleddine |
| | Caroline Brandao | WVI | Anthony Kimani |
| | Rodrigo Robles | | Miroslava Roman |
| MSB | John Isaksson | | Mijalko Guevara |
| | Sven Olov Sjoqvist | | Sergio Delgado |
| NetHope | Dagbjartur Brynjartsson | | |

Agenda

1. Situation Update
2. Partner Update
3. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Patrick Midy, WFP Haiti Head of TEC, is supporting initial interagency ICT coordination on the ground.
- The situation on the ground has evolved, as last night the area hit by the earthquake was also impacted by Tropical Storm Grace. The eye of storm has passed, fortunately with little additional damage to infrastructure.
- The Haitian Civil Protection Agency is working on a report with official figures on the affected population. They currently estimate that there have been more than 1,000 deaths.
- The Government is trying to clear roads to give access to the affected areas. It is expected that road access to the affected areas will be possible later in the day.
- WFP is providing a helicopter and a boat, which have been able to deliver staff and equipment closer to the impacted areas. It is still necessary to take light vehicles to reach the epicentre.
- Local airports and some commercial flights are operating. However they are small planes with limited capacity for people and very little capacity for equipment or supplies.
- Security is still a major issue in accessing the affected areas. The route from Port-au-Prince to the epicentre passes through an area controlled by gangs. In some cases aid agencies are arranging escorts and making convoys to pass through the most critical security area, Matisan. It is important to coordinate any mission going there by road well in advance.
- There is some connectivity in the affected areas, but it seems that the infrastructure is affected. With more people coming, the GSM data network is congested for both of the main operators in the country.
- Prior to the earthquake, there were no repeaters for VHF or HF security communications in the south of the country. Patrick Midy is in touch with UNDSS on the ground to discuss potentially establishing a network. Any partners who wish to be included in this meeting should contact him.
- Some broadcast radio stations are still working, others have sustained damage. Radio Lumiere, a religious community radio station, is still up and running and is linked to another radio in the capital. This means that it is easier to relay information directly from Port-au-Prince. Some other radio stations are running too and relaying shows from the capital and other regions. Patrick Midy to call operators of four community radios that were restored by the ETC after Hurricane Matthews to check on the level of damage.

- UNICEF Haiti reports from the ground that the mobile network is working but with calls often dropped because of congestion. Some responders are using WhatsApp for calls to get a better connection. With no radio communications available, all communications are being done by telephone or satellite phone.
- Due to limited GSM and internet services, it is important to make sure sufficient satellite phone are available as a back up to make essential calls if the mobile network is not working. WFP Haiti currently has enough satellite phone on site and invites colleagues to use them for urgent communications if required.
- Alternate connectivity solutions such as VSAT should also be considered.
- Even under normal circumstances electricity is not reliable. Organisations deploying equipment will need to have their own electricity sources. Fuel supply for generators can be difficult as well. Some agencies, including WFP, have large quantities of fuel stocked in advance that can be used. WFP along with other agencies also have LTAs for fuel. The challenge is to transfer the fuel from the capital to the site. Those organisations planning longer deployments may wish to consider solar power.
- For organisations deploying staff to Haiti, it is important to consider accommodations. Most hotels are collapsed or not safe enough. In Les Cayes there is only one suitable hotel which most agencies are trying to book in advance.

2. Partner Updates

- Local partners World Vision Haiti and UNICEF have mobilised staff on the ground to assess the situation in the affected areas.
- The first inter-agency ICT working group meeting in Haiti will be held on 18 August.
- A meeting will be held with UNDSS on the ground on 18 August on the potential for establishing a radio network in southern Haiti for the response. Contact Patrick Midy if you would like to participate.
- Two flights are expected to depart from WFP Regional Bureau Panama to Haiti. Those who wish to request to put equipment on those flights should contact Antonio Guevara from WFP. GVF and NetHope expressed interest on the call.

Deployments

- WFP deployed FITTEST specialist Lasse Axelsson to conduct a technical assessment on the ground and assist Patrick Midy in identifying initial requirements.
- Télécoms Sans Frontières deployed a team of 3 staff along with satellite equipment (a Global Express Terminal and a few BGANs) on 17 August. TSF has also shipped a VSAT to Haiti separately which the team plans to install upon arrival once it has cleared customs.
- Finnish Red Cross is preparing to deploy staff with VHF equipment on 20 August.
- MSB will be supporting a European Union team deploying to Haiti with IT personnel and equipment and accommodation.



- NetHope is in close contact with its members and stands ready to deploy a team once telecommunications assessments have been completed and it can be identified where connectivity is needed.

ITU/ ETC Disaster Connectivity Map

- The Disaster Connectivity Map for Haiti, available [here](#), is being updated hourly to show the current state of the telecommunications network in the country. The map is an initiative of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the ETC with support from the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).
- So far the map shows the biggest loss in connectivity around the town of l'Asile, near the epicentre of the earthquake. The campaign will continue to run throughout the week to see if any further changes happen.
- The map is still in the testing phase; any feedback from partners on whether it matches the situation on the ground would be much appreciated.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to download and use the SpeedChecker app (available for [android](#) or [iOS](#)) to send data anonymously to the DCM data gathering platform. This will help improve the quality of data on the map. Please also promote the use of this app on any other appropriate channels.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 14:47 UTC

Next Teleconference/ Meeting will be held on 19 August at: 14:00 UTC

09:00 Panama
10:00 Port-au-Prince / New York
14:00 UTC
16:00 Rome
18:00 Dubai

Acronyms

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| ETC | Emergency Telecommunications Cluster |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology |
| IT | Information Technology |

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: global.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Claire Roach, Global ETC Information Management Officer