Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Haiti Earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #6

Date: 07/08/21   Time: 14:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair: Prakash Muniandy (Global ETC team)

Organisation	Name	Organisation	Name
CDAC	Fanman Tsang	UNICEF	Kamal Kamaleddine
Cisco Crisis Response	Matt Altman		Junior Riliere Alexandre
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger		Maurice Cooper
Finnish Red Cross	Tom Grandqvist	WFP	Patrick Midy
Gov't of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenberg		Runar Holen
GSMA	Isaac Kwamy		Ozdzan Hadziemin
ICRC	Alfredo Bermudez Salazar		Carlos Hilarion
ITDRC	Dustin Li		Phyza Jameel
	Jeff Martin		Prakash Muniandy
ITU	Paul Hamilton		Caroline Teyssier
	Sylvester Cadette		Claire Roach
	Jake Spinnler		Omar Namaoui
	Marius Michele		Sudhir Kumar
MSB	John Isaksson	WVI	Sergio Delgado
UNHCR	Alexander Thomas		

Teleconference / Meeting started at 14:05 UTC

Agenda

1. Situation Update
2. Partners' Updates
3. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- The second local ICT Working Group meeting since the ETS coordinator's arrival in Haiti was held yesterday on 06 September. The teleconference was attended by six organisations on the ground. Notes from the meeting will be shared through the Haiti.ETS@wfp.org email.

- The main activities among ETS organisations have been the provision of GSM and Internet connectivity for field partners, including some NGOs providing mobile connectivity support to medical and other teams travelling in the affected areas.

- Local Haitian medical NGO Haiti Participative joined the ICT working group call and requested support for their services in the district of Les Nippes. ITDRC agreed on the call to provide the requested support.

- The ETS coordinator participated in a meeting last week hosted by the Nation System of Disaster Risk Management (Système National de Gestion des Risques de Désastre - SNGRD) at the Port-au-Prince National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN). Participants from the Government, UN and NGOs were divided into sector-based groups. The ETS joined with the Logistics Sector group and contributed inputs to a joint all-sector overview of actions planned, under progress, and already implemented in each sector.

- The meeting also included a presentation a by geologist highlighting the expected incidence of future earthquakes in Haiti due to the major tectonic fault line running through the south of the country.

- The VHF radio network installed a week ago in Les Cayes for security communications continues to operate and has proven useful in the course of the last week with several security incidents having occurred in the area.

- The installation of a repeater for security communications in Jeremie is underway in a joint effort between Ericsson Response, Emergency.lu, and WFP. The repeater is not yet operational as it requires a duplex filter tuned to the frequency being used by UNDSS. The WFP FITTEST technician adjusted a duplex filter provided by UNDSS to the main security channel and it has been sent to Jeremie where a WFP IT officer will complete the installation of the repeater.

- Security communications, and communications in general are poor. Many NGOs and convoys are operating in areas with poor GSM connectivity. For security purposes it would be good to have satellite or VHF communications (at least simplex). However as there are not sufficient mobile units rolled out, satellite communications are among the few tools we can use in those situations.

- Additional satellite phones could be useful in support of the response. MSB (the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) will connect with the ETS coordinator to discuss further.

- Another focus for the sector should be support for the departmental units of Haitian Civil Protection. Thanks to a joint effort by Télécoms Sans Frontières, Ericsson Response, emergency.lu and WFP, the Departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) in Les Cayes is connected to Internet and is fully operational. The ETS is looking into the needs of the other Departmental Emergency Operations Centres

(COUDs) in the earthquake affected areas. Support for preparedness in COUDs outside of the current affected area is also being considered.

- The WFP FITTEST Telecommunications Officer deployed with the ETS left the country yesterday on 06 September for another mission. The ETS is looking for in-country and international capacity to provide replacement professional radio communications support. The ETS is open for discussions with any partners who may have this capacity to support with a short-term deployment. In the meantime the ETS is working with WFP and UNDSS radio communications staff.

2. Partners' Updates

- The Ericsson Response mission in Haiti has ended. The ETS expresses its appreciation of the contribution of Ericsson Response to the overall ETS response.

- Emergency.lu staff will also be leaving on 09 September and the ETS likewise recognises their important contributions. Emergency.lu will leave one ICT officer in Les Cayes to provide further support.

- The Finnish Red Cross continues to operate in Camp Perrin, primarily supporting IFRC and Haitian Red Cross teams conducting assessments, distributions, and training. The IT response team will stay with the current staff until the end of month and then will bring in a second staff rotation for another month, mainly to continue capacity building. The emergency appeal from the Red Cross side is for a period of 18 months, so there will be support and training provided during that time at a minimum.

- ITDRC has 14 sites open across all three affected areas: the departments of Grand Anse, Sud, and Les Nippes. Many of these sites are associated with fixed locations such as forward operations bases for medical teams, while others are for more mobile teams that maybe doing itinerant clinics and food and shelter distributions in affected areas, many of which don't have any existing cell infrastructure. ITDRC is providing internet, Wi-Fi, cellular back-call, Point-to-point, Push-to-Talk radio equipment and services. The team continues to provide satellite communications as well, through satellite phones, two-way communicators, and BGANs to provide responders with a way to communicate and coordinate their resources with very remote field teams.

- Following their engagement in the ICT Working Group meeting, ITDRC is planning to provide a satellite phone and two-way communicators as a loan to Haiti Participative for use by their teams going into remote locations.

- Call next week at same time.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 14:18 UTC

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

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

Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
COUN	National Emergency Operations Centre, Haiti
COUD	Departmental Emergency Operations Centre, Haiti
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
EUCPT	European Union Civil Protection Team
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
GSMA	Global System for Mobile Communications Association
GVF	Global VSAT Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
ITDRC	Information Technology Disaster Resource Center
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSOCC	On-site Security Operations Coordination Centre
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:
https://www.etcluster.org/emergency/haiti-earthquake-2021. For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Haiti.ETS@wfp.org

Minutes: Claire Roach, Global ETC Information Management Officer