

Haiti Earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #5

Date: 31/08/21 Time: 14:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair: Brent Carbno (Global ETC team)

Organisation	Name	Organisation	Name
ACF	Thomas Gerard	TSF	Florent Bervas
Cisco Crisis Response	Matt Runyan	US Department of State	Joe Burton
Ericsson Response	Mike Duffin	UNHCR	Alexander Thomas
	Lars Ruediger		Kamal Kamaleddine
	Lars Peder Svensson	WFP	Patrick Midy
Finnish Red Cross	Tom Grandqvist		Runar Holen
	Erik Finskas		Ozdzan Hadziemin
Gov't of Luxembourg	Bram Krieps		Carlos Hilarion
	Gilles Hoffman		Katherine Gagnon
ICRC	Alfredo Bermudez Salazar		Prakash Muniandy
IFRC	Gaspar Lopez		Caroline Teyssier
	Jeangarino Pierre		Claire Roach
	Mauricio Castano		Lasse Axelsson
Internews	Stijn Aelbers	WVI	Anthony Kimani
ITU	Paul Hamilton		Sergio Delgado
	Sylvester Cadette		Adrian Nunez Ramirez
	Jake Spinnler		Miroslava Roman
	Marius Michele		Mijalko Guevara
MSB	Christer Wessberg		

Teleconference / Meeting started at 14:05 UTC

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Runar Holen, ETS coordinator, conducted a mission to Les Cayes last week where he met with local NGO and UN agency staff and managers, and hosted an in-person meeting of the ICT Working Group at the sub-OSOCC that was attended by 6 local actors. A WhatsApp group has been created for informal coordination and information sharing amongst partners involved in the ICT response. To be added to the group, please contact Haiti.ETS@wfp.org.
- All partners are encouraged to share information on local GSM coverage from local ISPs with the ETS coordinator through the WhatsApp group or the Haiti.ETS@wfp.org email.
- The ETS coordinator has met with the management of several UN agencies in Haiti on the ground, including WFP, UNICEF, and UNDSS. There are discussions around the possibility of establishing a humanitarian hub, either separately or coordinated with UNICEF at their office in Les Cayes.
- The ETS has established a security communications radio network in Les Cayes with the help of WFP, emergency.lu, and UNDSS. A WFP FITTEST technician installed the repeater loaned out by emergency.lu with antenna and cables provided by UNDSS. The repeater was installed on 29 August at a lower location but was moved to higher ground to improve coverage. The latest coverage tests show that from this location the repeater can cover the town of Les Cayes and the airport. This is a temporary installation while the team awaits access to a permanent installation site.
- UNDSS has a radio room and operators in Port-au-Prince that will be the focus radio room for security communications, whether through radio or satellite.
- The ETS is planning to implement a security communications radio network also in Jeremie with equipment and support from UNDSS. Other humanitarian operational locations (such as Miragoane) may also require such radio communications services.
- The ETS is looking at eventual requirements to provide radio-technical support (programming of radios, support of mobile radio installation, etc.) for NGOs and partners going forward.
- A TESS (Telecommunications Security Standards) assessment conducted in July 2019 identified recommendations to improve security communications in Haiti using different type of solutions. The ETS will aim to support the implementation of the recommendations that have not yet been completed and that can support the response in coordination with UNDSS.
- The ETS is also looking at coordinating and supporting shared data communications requirements for humanitarians where gaps exist.
- Information is being collected on the support requirements of four community broadcast radio stations located in the affected area. These were previously rehabilitated with WFP support after Hurricane Mathew and have now again suffered, with building damage and equipment damages reported.

2. Partners' Updates

- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) successfully extended connectivity from the sub-OSOCC in Les Cayes to the COUD. They also installed a solar-power back-up to reinforce the electrical needs with electricity otherwise provided through a WFP to COUN/COUD assistance program. TSF relied on assistance from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response personnel.
- TSF has been conducting itinerant operations in isolated communities in various communes of the South district (based out of Les Cayes) to assess connectivity needs and provide access through LTE mobile hotspots and satellite communications. TSF reports that in some of the more remote locations, populations never had voice or data communications even before the earthquake.
- Emergency.lu is working closely with TSF and Help.NGO to improve connectivity for the French Civil Protection unit at the water treatment plant in Cavaillon. Another emergency.lu staff member will be deploying to Haiti with additional equipment on 1 September.
- Ericsson Response is also supporting at the water treatment plant in Cavaillon and assisting with the expansion of networks at several locations in Les Cayes.
- The Finnish Red Cross' IT Telecoms Support Unit is operating in Port Salut and planning to establish a more permanent presence in Camp-Perrin. The team is looking into establishing Internet connectivity through Access Haiti and has identified a tower as a potential location for the installation of a repeater for Haitian Red Cross radio communications. Further information on this site will be shared once available. The IT Telecoms Support Unit is also planning to provide connectivity to the field hospital being established in Les Cayes.
- ITDRC has been providing Internet to responding organisations in Tivernil, Fond de Negres, Lambe, Maniche, Camp-Perrin, and the city of Les Cayes and supporting teams going on mission to rural areas with portable connectivity and telecommunications equipment. ITDRC is also providing communications support to small community groups organizing recovery efforts.
- MSB (the Swedish Civil Contingencies agency) is deploying another staff member to Haiti on 1 September.
- The Disaster Connectivity Map for Haiti, available [here](#), is being updated regularly 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). Partners on the ground are encouraged to provide feedback on the accuracy of the map and download the SpeedChecker App (available for [android](#) or [iOS](#)) to anonymously upload data to the DCM data gathering platform.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 14:40 UTC

Next Teleconference/ Meeting will be held on 07 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

ACF	Action Contre la Faim
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
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
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