

Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #11

Reporting period 24/06/2015 to 30/06/2015

Highlights

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity through a wireless link at a new IFRC site in Charikot.
- The ETC is now providing internet connectivity in 15 sites across three common operating areas in Nepal– Gorkha, Chautara and Charikot.
- The ETC continues to train local personnel as part of its objective to build capacity within the humanitarian technical community to ensure the sustainability of deployed ETC services and solutions.
- More than 1,158 humanitarians from 140 organisations are registered to use ETC services in Nepal.

Situation Overview

As the operation in Nepal moves from the emergency response phase to recovery, the ETC continues to provide internet connectivity and security telecommunications to humanitarians operating in Nepal through the use of VSATs, wireless links and, where possible, local ISPs. To mitigate any challenges that may occur during the monsoon season, a series of assessments have been carried out in ETC sites to ensure that equipment is kept safe and dry.

As endorsed by the Local ETC Working Group, the ETC plans to demobilize its services in Nepal by 15 September in line with the humanitarian action plan which will end 30 September. This was relayed to the Global ETC partners. The ETC Transition Strategy is currently being developed and will be shared with partners when complete.



The monsoon begins in Chautara Humanitarian Hub
Photo: MSB/Morgan Holmberg

Response

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity through a wireless link for two IFRC offices in Charikot. This means that the ETC is now providing internet connectivity services in 15 sites across three common operating areas, including Gorkha, Charikot and Chautara.
 - Security telecommunications continue to be provided in the three common operating areas to ensure the safety and security of humanitarians operating in those areas.
 - The ETC will continue to demobilise its satellite kits as soon as local ISP services are restored.
- Ericsson Response WIDER is managing access to the ETC network. Over 1158 users from 140 response organisations have registered to use ETC services so far.
- The ETC is continuing to train local personnel as part of its objective to build capacity within the humanitarian technical community to ensure the sustainability of deployed ETC services and solutions.
- The ETC is currently drafting a detailed report following the ICT Emergency Response workshop held on 18 June with the Ministry of Information & Communications (MoIC). A short report was shared with MoIC last week.
- The Local ETC Working Group endorsed the ETC's suggestion to demobilize all services and equipment by 15 September.
 - It was agreed that a needs assessment will be carried out on 1 September to determine whether this plan is realistic or whether the services need extending.

Planned Response

- Additional shared internet services are planned for:
 - 1x new IHP camp in Chautara

Challenges

- Monsoon season is approaching which will not only exacerbate existing logistics challenges but also potentially hamper accessibility to ETC sites.

Meetings

- The last local ETC Working Group meeting was held on 25 June. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 July.
- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on Wednesday 8 July.



Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Nepal are encouraged to share their contact details with Nepal.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.
- Dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2015/nepal>. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall coordination.
- **ETC Nepal services map:** <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/documents/10844/3fdd4105-b6c1-4fd9-a190-8189fd8a1cdc>
- **ETC Nepal factsheet:** <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/documents/10844/1a94cf5c-5aa0-4491-b5cc-33b5dbc462cb>

Shared ICT Services

	DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
1	Sindhupalchok, CHAUTARA	Humanitarian Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, ISP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
2		Save the Children/Nepal Red Cross	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
3	Gorkha, GORKHA	Sub-OSOCC	NetHope, Ericsson Response, ISP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
4	Gorkha, ARUGHAT	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, MSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
5	Gorkha, DEURALI	Save the Children (2x offices) & Logs Hub	WFP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	Wireless link, WIDER	Humanitarian community
6	Dolakha, CHARIKOT	NGO hub	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
7		Sub-OSOCC	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
8		Humanitarian camp	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
9		Field hospital	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community

10		Samaritan's Purse + MSF	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
11		IHP camp	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
12		IFRC office (x2)	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications 	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
13	Nuwakot, BIDUR	NGO Hub	NetHope, Samaritan's Purse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity 	VSAT	Humanitarian community
14	Kathmandu, KATHMANDU	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
15	Rasuwa, DHUNCHE	NGO hub	IFRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity 	VSAT	Humanitarian community



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Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network – <i>portable global satellite internet network with telephony</i>
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Services Provider
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
UN	United Nations
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
WFP	World Food Programme

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

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

Background on the emergency:

On 25 April (11:56, UTC+5:45), a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal with the epicentre located 81 km northwest of the capital city of Kathmandu. The earthquake severely impacted 13 out of the 75 districts in the country. Hundreds of aftershocks have been reported including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake. With the severe devastation of the disaster, the Government of Nepal requested for international humanitarian support on 26 April. The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated on 27 April to provide:

1. Internet connectivity in hubs and operational areas.
2. Security communications network in remote areas.
3. Technical training of humanitarian staff, upskilling local personnel and ensuring sustainability of solutions after the emergency period.
4. Strengthening of disaster response capacity for the Nepali authorities.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is co-leading the ETC in Nepal with the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Sources: OCHA Nepal Earthquake sitrep, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)