Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #13

Reporting period 15/07/2015 to 12/08/2015

These Situation Reports are distributed every three weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 31/08/15.
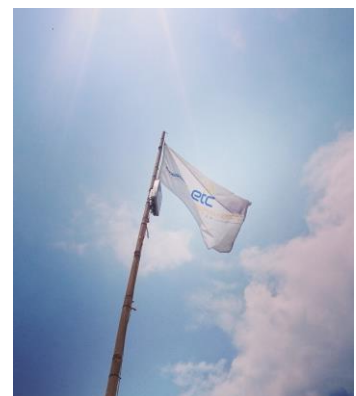
Highlights

- The ETC is now providing internet connectivity in 14 sites across three common operating areas in Nepal – Gorkha, Chautara and Charikot.

- The ETC has set up internet hotspots in three additional locations (Dhading, Dhunche and Banepa) and decommissioned services in Bidur and Arughat.

- The full report from the ICT Emergency Response Workshop was finalised and shared with the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Situation Overview

Four months after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, the ETC operation is stabilizing and looking at demobilizing its services by end of September, in line with the humanitarian action plan.

In the meantime, the ETC continues to provide internet connectivity and security telecommunications to the response community operating in Nepal through the use of VSATs, wireless links and, where possible, local Internet Service Providers (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.

The ETC Transition Strategy is being finalised to be presented to all partners in due course.

The ETC flag in Chautara Humanitarian Hub
Photo: Ericsson Response/Martin Falebrand

The ETC provides timely, predictable and effective Information Communications Technology services to support the humanitarian community in carrying-out their work efficiently, effectively and safely.

Response

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity services in 14 sites across three common operating areas, including Gorkha, Charikot and Chautara.

  - The ETC has set up internet hotspots in Dhading (Logistics Hub), Dhunche (IFRC clinic) and Banepa (Logistics Hub).

  - 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 temporary internet connectivity services once local ISP services are restored.

- Ericsson Response WIDER is managing access to the ETC network. Over 1431 users from 250+ response organisations have registered to use ETC services in Nepal since the beginning of the operation.

- The ETC is finalising the Transition Strategy document to be shared with partners.

  - The document details plans to demobilize all services and equipment by the end of September. A needs assessment will be carried out beginning of September to determine whether this plan needs to be adjusted or whether the services need extending.

Planned Response

- The ETC will continue to respond in line with the needs of the humanitarian community.

Challenges

- The monsoon season 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 23 July. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 August.

- It was agreed to hold the Nepal Global ETC teleconferences every two weeks. The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on Wednesday 19 August.

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://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/nepal-earthquake. 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://www.etcluster.org/document/nepal-etc-services-map-28-july-2015

- **ETC Nepal factsheet:** http://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-factsheet-02-august-2015

Shared ICT Services

	DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
1	Sindhupalchok, CHAUTARA	Humanitarian Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, ISP	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
2		Save the Children/Nepal Red Cross	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
3		IHP camp	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
4	Gorkha, GORKHA	Sub-OSOCC	NetHope, Ericsson Response, ISP	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
	Gorkha, ARUGHAT	ETC services have been decommissioned				
5	Gorkha, DEURALI	Save the Children (2x offices) & Logs Hub	WFP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link, WIDER	Humanitarian community
6	Dolakha, CHARIKOT	NGO hub	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response,	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
7		Sub-OSOCC	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
8		Humanitarian camp	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community

9		Field hospital	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
10		Samaritan's Purse + MSF	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
11		IHP camp	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
12		IFRC office (x2)	WFP, Plan International, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
	Nuwakot, BIDUR	ETC services have been decommissioned				
13	Kathmandu, KATHMANDU	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
14	Rasuwa, DHUNCHE	NGO hub	IFRC	• Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community

Contacts

Nepal.ETC@wfp.org

Ozdzan Hadziemin, ICT Emergency Coordinator
ozdzan.hadziemin@wfp.org
Mobile: +977 981 0147 916

Caroline Teyssier, ETC Coordinator
caroline.teyssier@wfp.org
Mobile: +977 980 1083 540

Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network – *portable global satellite internet network with telephony*
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 – *satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity*
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)