Nepal - Earthquake

Last ETC Situation Report (#15)

Reporting period 16/09/2015 to 20/10/2015
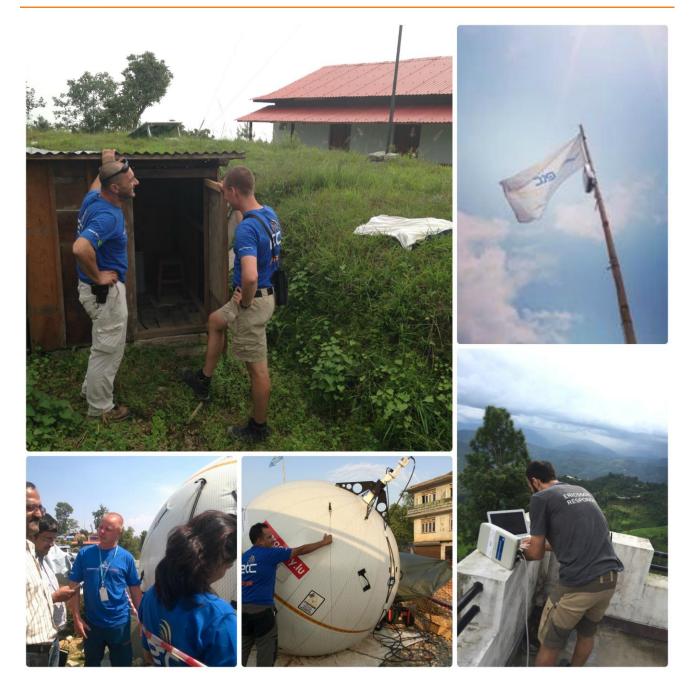
Highlights

- The ETC has been working in close collaboration with government authorities, humanitarian organisations and national internet and mobile service providers to ensure smooth transition of communications services to local providers.

- In line with the transition plan, the ETC has demobilized its services in all common operational areas.

- Within the response timeframe, more than 1,550 humanitarians from over 250 organizations have registered to use ETC services in Nepal.

- The ETC thanks all its partners for their valuable contribution to the response.

Situation Overview

Close to five months after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, the ETC operation has transitioned its services as local services are fully restored. The ETC demobilized its services in Gorkha and the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu on 28 September, and in Chautara and Charikot on 15 October. The extension of the VHF radio communication network is being handed over to UNDSS in order to ensure continuity of long term services.

To those users who remain in Nepal, the ETC has provided support and advice on alternative and longer-term solutions, such as the use of local ISPs which are now restored in common operational areas.

The ETC thanks all its partners for their valuable contribution to the Nepal ETC operation!

Achievements:

- The ETC in Nepal provided shared internet connectivity services to the response community in 24 sites across three common operational areas and Kathmandu, using ETC equipment such as VSATs, wireless links or local Internet Services Providers (ISP);

- More than 1,550 humanitarians from 250+ organizations have registered to use ETC services since the beginning of the operation.

- Established security communications networks in three sites for the use of the response community, including UN, NGO and other humanitarian organizations;

- Coordinated ICT activities with partner organizations, local commercial actors and government authorities;

- Built capacity within the technical humanitarian community to ensure sustainability of deployed services and solutions;

  o This also involved collaborating with Nepal authorities and implementing capacity-building efforts to support the current emergency and build resilience for future disasters.

Meetings

- The next local ETC Working Group meeting will be organised by the Ministry of Information & Communications (MoIC) and WFP co-leads in its previous pre-earthquake cluster form.

- The final Global ETC teleconference will be held on Monday 26 October.

Information

- ETC Nepal Transition factsheet: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-transition-factsheet

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Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Services Provider
MoIC	Ministry of Information & Communications
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
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 13out 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. The ETC operation closed in October 2015.

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