

Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #03

Reporting period 03/05/2015 to 06/05/2015

Highlights

- Two additional sites for shared internet services have been established. The ETC is now providing services to the humanitarian community at 5 sites in Nepal.
- Over 150 humanitarians from 47 different response organisations have registered to use ETC connectivity services.
- ETC member NetHope has provided mobile connectivity equipment to 15 different humanitarian organisations.

Situation Overview

Now 10 days after the earthquake, relief efforts are maintaining momentum as assessments of affected areas are completed and urgent relief supplies are distributed to people affected by the earthquake.

A number of key locations have been identified for common operating areas and more are still under consideration. The ETC is coordinating with response organisations, national internet and mobile services providers and government authorities to ensure rapid provision of communications services.

The ETC currently has sufficient equipment in-country to quickly deploy services where required. In parallel the ETC is coordinating with internet services providers and government authorities for them to restore or extend their national infrastructure where needed.



Installing the emergency.lu satellite antenna in Deurali Gorkha District.
Photo: WFP/ Mariko Hall

Response

- With equipment from ETC members emergency.lu and Ericsson Response, shared internet connectivity services are now being provided at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Deurali, Gorkha District, and Sub-OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre) in Chautara, Sindhupalchok District.
 - The ETC is now providing shared services in 5 locations across Nepal. Over 150 humanitarians from 47 different organisations have registered to use connectivity provided by the ETC.
- 2x satellite terminals from emergency.lu, 3x from NetHope and 3x from World Food Programme (WFP), donated by EMC, have arrived in Kathmandu for deployment to affected areas. A total of 3x emergency.lu kits are now in-country.
- 3x Ericsson Response WIDER kits, for distribution and management of internet connectivity, and a number of access points have arrived in Kathmandu. A total of 5x WIDER kits are now in-country.
- ETC member NetHope has provided 22 satellite phones and 23 mobile satellite terminals to 15 different NGOs responding to the earthquake.
- On behalf of the response community, the ETC has coordinated with Ncell in Gorkha for humanitarians to access internet from the Ncell office at no charge. Humanitarians will need to present proof that they are supporting earthquake response efforts.
- The ETC is supporting humanitarian organisations in Kathmandu with radio programming on best effort basis.

Planned Response

- Additional shared internet services are planned for:
 - Logistics hub in Pokhara, Kaski District
 - Logistics hub in Bharatpur, Chitwan District
 - Logistics hub in Bhakatapur, Bhaktapur District
 - NGO hub in Bidur, Nowakot District
- The ETC is collaborating with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) on radio coverage across Kathmandu and potential expansion of the network.

Challenges

- Runway congestion in Kathmandu has meant cancellation or rerouting of numerous commercial and charter flights delaying deployment of personnel and equipment.
- The only airport in Nepal capable of accommodating large aircraft is in Kathmandu. The ETC is working with the Logistics Cluster for movement of equipment from the capital to remote areas.
- Power supply has been interrupted in many areas and generators are the only means of electricity.



Meetings

- Local ETC Working Group meeting was held 4 May. The next meeting will be held Thursday 7 May.

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 humanitarian response.



Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
Kathmandu, Kathmandu	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
	UN Reception Centre (Tribhuvan International Airport)	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
	UN House/ OSOCC	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
Gorkha, Deurali	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
Sindhupalchok, Chautara	Sub-OSOCC	emergency.lu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/documents/10844/f85dc3d4-28dd-4da8-847c-e89c3033ca63>



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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)