Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #07

Reporting period 25/05/2015 to 01/06/2015

Highlights

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity to the response community at 14 sites across three common operating areas in Nepal. The latest sites to come online were two Save the Children offices in Deurali.

- Over 1000 users from 140 different response organisations have registered to use ETC connectivity services.

- The revised Flash Appeal was submitted which saw the budget reduce from US$2.5 million to US$2 million.

- The ETC distributed an ETC User Feedback Survey in order to identify areas of improvement.

Situation Overview

As the humanitarian response to the earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April moves into its second month, the ETC is beginning to focus on the post-disaster strategy while continuing to provide ICT services to the response community. Increasing numbers of users are registering every day on WIDER, an Ericsson Response tool that manages and distributes internet connectivity. The ETC is working closely with national Internet Services Providers (ISP) for them to extend services to these locations. If local providers are unable to provide services, the ETC is determining the feasibility of linking sites or deploying VSAT services.

The ETC team tests out the emergency.lu GATR in Kathmandu.
Photo: WFP/ Suzanne Fenton

The ETC continues to coordinate with humanitarian organisations, national internet and mobile services providers and government authorities for an efficient and effective ICT response.

Response

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

- Ericsson Response WIDER is managing access to the ETC network. Over 1000 users from 140 response organisations have registered to use ETC services so far.

- The ETC extended security telecommunications to Gorkha, Charikot and Chautara for the safety and security of humanitarians operating in this area.

- The revised Flash Appeal was submitted in which the ETC reduced its budget from US$2.5 million to US$2 million to continue to provide essential internet connectivity and radio communications services to the response community.

    o The ETC is approximately 70% funded, including cash contributions and in-kind donations of staff, equipment and operational costs from emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) as well as national internet and mobile services providers.

Planned Response

- Additional shared internet services are planned for:
    - 1x new IHP camp in Charikot
    - 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 28 May. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 June.

- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on Wednesday 3 June.

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/ictepr/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	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
2		Save the Children/Nepal Red Cross	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
3	Gorkha, GORKHA	Sub-OSOCC	NetHope, Ericsson Response, ISP	• Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
4	Gorkha, ARUGHAT	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, MSF	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
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	Nuwakot, BIDUR	NGO Hub	NetHope, Samaritan's Purse	• Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community
12	Kathmandu, KATHMANDU	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
13		UN House/OSOCC	ISP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	Wireless link	Humanitarian community
14	Rasuwa, DHUNCHE	NGO hub	IFRC	• Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community

Internet connectivity services provided at the Humanitarian Staging Area and Logistics Cluster Hubs are provided by the ETC, but **not** part of the ETC project budget. Services at these locations are budgeted as part of the Logistics Cluster project and are used to facilitate operations and inter-agency coordination at these sites.

Contacts

Nepal.ETC@wfp.org

Alf Ellefsen, ETC Coordinator
alf.ellefsen@wfp.org
Mobile: +977 981 0147 916

Suzanne Fenton, ETC Information Management Officer
suzanne.fenton@wfp.org
Mobile: +977 980 1083 286

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)