

Pacific – Cyclone Harold

ETC Situation Report #6

Reporting period 01/07/2020 – 31/07/2020

ETC Pacific SitReps on Cyclone Harold will be distributed every month. The next report will be issued on or around 31/08/2020.

Highlights

- ETC Internet connectivity services are being used by humanitarian responders and affected communities across the three worst-affected locations in Vanuatu.
- The ETC has developed an implementation plan in collaboration with the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) to replace damaged broadcast radio and television transmission equipment on Malekula and Santo islands.
- A new ETC Coordinator for the Pacific took up the post on 20 July.



Wantok Vanuatu installs equipment to provide connectivity services for communities on Pentecost island in Vanuatu.

Photo: Wantok Vanuatu

Situation Overview

The ETC in the Pacific continues to respond to the impact of Cyclone Harold in Fiji and Vanuatu. At its peak, the cyclone reached severe category 5 as it made landfall in Vanuatu in early April, causing widespread damage to communications networks and broadcast radio and television infrastructure.

At the same time, most Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are in a state of emergency as they respond to COVID-19 and have enforced travel restrictions to slow the spread of the virus. These restrictions continue to impact on the ETC response to Cyclone Harold.

ETC Activities

- The ETC in the Pacific continues to coordinate the emergency telecommunications response to Cyclone Harold alongside in-country and regional partners.
- ETC Internet connectivity services for affected communities and humanitarian responders are being provided in the three worst-affected locations in Vanuatu: Malekula, Santo and Pentecost. Local partner Wantok Vanuatu installed the connectivity equipment. Due to a high level of demand for these connectivity services, the ETC is planning to expand the network.
- The ETC has developed an implementation plan in collaboration with the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) to replace damaged broadcast radio and television transmission equipment on Malekula and Santo islands. This will enable broadcast community radio and television services to resume, enabling affected communities to access critical information on humanitarian assistance and news.
- The detailed feasibility and implementation plan to install solar power solutions at the three shared connectivity sites and two broadcast locations is being finalized. The solar solutions will provide a consistent and reliable source of power for ETC connectivity and broadcast radio services. The quantity of solar power solutions will be increased to support the planned connectivity network expansion.
- A new ETC Coordinator for the Pacific took over the role on 20 July and is working remotely in line with Pacific island office hours until travel to Fiji is possible.

Funding

- The ETC in the Pacific is supported by US\$199,262 received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the response to Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu.

Challenges

- COVID-19 travel restrictions are affecting the deployment of the new ETC Coordinator to Fiji.

Information

- A dedicated information-sharing space on the ETC's response to Cyclone Harold in the Pacific can be found on the [ETC website](#).
- The ETC in the Pacific is supported by a Stand-By Partner from NORCAP who is providing Information Management (IM) support for six months.



Contacts

Shantal Boodhun, ETC Coordinator for the Pacific

shantal.boodhun@wfp.org

Mark Maulit, ETC Information Management Officer for the Pacific

mark.maulit@wfp.org

Elizabeth Millership, ETC Information Management Officer

elizabeth.millership@wfp.org