

Pacific Island Countries – Preparedness

ETC Situation Report #12

Reporting period: Q1 2022

The ETC in the Pacific was activated in 2016 under the structure of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) to support telecommunications preparedness in the region. Situation reports are distributed every quarter. The next report will be issued on or around 30/06/2022.

Highlights

- The ETC in the Pacific delivered a three-week virtual training course on Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) to 25 ICT professionals from 11 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) from 8-24 February.
- A WFP telecommunications specialist has been identified to deploy to Nauru to install equipment to strengthen the National Emergency Services (NES) radio network.
- The ETC Coordinator for the Pacific participated in a disaster preparedness training workshop with the Global ETC and partners from 27-30 March in the UAE.



The ETC supports communications preparedness across the Pacific. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) course

The ETC in the Pacific delivered a three-week virtual training course on Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) to 25 ICT professionals from 11 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) from 8-24 February. The course was developed in collaboration with Australia's Flinders University to develop the capacity of ICT professionals in the Pacific region to respond to emergency telecommunications needs during humanitarian crises. The course incorporated a number of topics including a tabletop simulation exercise. All participants received a certificate of completion and a post-course evaluation is being carried by the ETC in the Pacific to refine elements of the course for future delivery. The ETC in the Pacific aims to deliver the course on an annual basis.

Tuvalu succinct data project

After delays due to the ongoing emergency response in Tonga as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, the ETC in the Pacific is re-assessing the priority of the Tuvalu succinct data project. The project aim was to collect real-time data in support of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts to better connect

remote islands of Tuvalu. Further consultation with the Government of Tuvalu is required to revise the project scope in line with country priorities.

Nauru telecommunications infrastructure project

The ETC in the Pacific is progressing with the project to deploy a VHF radio network for Nauru's National Emergency Services (NES). The telecommunications equipment has been received in Nauru and VHF frequencies for the new network have been allocated by Nauru's Chief Regulator. A WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) specialist has been identified to deploy to Nauru to install the equipment and provide training on the VHF radio solution. Travel arrangements are in process so that the in-country mission to deploy the network can be scheduled.

Global ETC preparedness workshop

The ETC Coordinator in the Pacific participated in a disaster preparedness training workshop with the Global ETC and partners from 27-30 March in the UAE. The workshop aimed to build a community of practitioners to improve the resilience of regional, national, and community actors based on best-practice and mainstreaming the preparedness mindset, within the area of emergency telecommunications.

Funding

All ETC funding in the Pacific is received under the WFP interim Multi-Country Strategic Plan (iMCSP). The current budget available to the ETC in the Pacific to carry out preparedness and COVID-19 response activities in 2022 is US\$510,000. These funds were received from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). The funding expires at the end of Q3 2022.

Contacts

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All information related to ETC preparedness can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands

For more informations or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

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