

## Preparedness in the Pacific

### ETC Situation Report #3

Reporting period 01/04/2020 to 30/04/2020

These Situation Reports will be distributed every month. The next report will be issued on or around 31/05/20.

### Highlights

- The ETC in the Pacific continues to engage with up to 21 Pacific island countries and territories to support their COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.
- The ETC Pacific Coordinator is collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO)-led Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) to develop guidelines for the continued delivery of essential health services while the COVID-19 response is ongoing.
- At the same time, the ETC in the Pacific is responding to Cyclone Harold after making landfall in Vanuatu on 6 April and Fiji on 8 April, causing major damage across both countries.



Hlekiwe Kachali – ETC Coordinator in the Pacific – is responding to the dual emergencies of COVID-19 and Cyclone Harold.

Photo: WFP/ETC

### ETC Activities

- At the same time as responding to Cyclone Harold (see [here](#) for the dedicated ETC SitRep on Cyclone Harold), the ETC continues to engage with up to 21 Pacific island countries and territories to support their COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts, including: planning and implementation of common feedback mechanisms; support with the set up of public health Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs); and continued provision of technical assistance to ministries/departments of health through national ETC counterparts.

- The ETC – in continued collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)-led Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) which comprises the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the wider Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) group – is developing interim guidelines on the use of technical solutions, suitable to the Pacific context, to ensure the continued delivery of essential health services throughout the COVID-19 response. The technical solutions are intended to cover a broad scope to facilitate delivery of essential health services, risk communications, surveillance and case management.
- The ETC in the Pacific has published an [operational strategy](#) that countries and territories in the region can adapt to their COVID-19 emergency telecommunications preparedness and response efforts. The operational strategy outlines immediate actions that Pacific countries can take, as well as advice on implementing short code helplines to facilitate physically distanced interaction with health authorities.
- The ETC is working with the Federated States of Micronesia’s (FSM) Emergency Telecommunications Working Group (ETWG) on how the ETWG will contribute to FSM's risk communications activities for COVID-19.
- The ETC supported Nauru to develop their National Emergency Services (NES) strategic planning for its COVID-19 emergency telecommunications preparedness and response strategy.

## Challenges

- The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting on various aspects of the ETC response to Cyclone Harold, particularly the restricted movement of equipment and deployment of the ETC Coordinator from Suva to other locations.
- A lack of funding is impacting ETC activities in the region and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak and response.

## Information

- A dedicated information-sharing space on preparedness in the Pacific can be found on the ETC website: <https://www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands>.

## Shared ICT Services

ETC Pacific [Dashboard](#) | ETC Pacific [Infographic](#)



## Contacts

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