

Preparedness in the Pacific

ETC Situation Report #4

Reporting period 01/05/2020 to 31/05/2020

These Situation Reports will be distributed every month. The next report will be issued on or around 30/06/20.

Highlights

- The ETC Pacific Coordinator is working with the Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) on guidelines for using technical solutions to deliver COVID-19 response and preparedness services.
- The ETC supported a community-based incident response drill in Nauru, focusing on public awareness and communication systems as part of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.
- The ETC in the Pacific is developing a training course called Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) for ICT and emergency telecommunications professionals in the Pacific.



The ETC Coordinator in the Pacific works with Republic of Fiji Military Forces as part of the response to the dual emergencies of COVID-19 and Cyclone Harold.

Photo: WFP/ETC

ETC Activities

- At the same time as responding to Cyclone Harold, the ETC continues to engage with up to 22 Pacific island countries and territories to support their COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.
- The ETC in the Pacific continues to collaborate with the health services delivery cell of the Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) on interim guidelines for the use of technical solutions for health and non-health service delivery related to COVID-19 preparedness and response. The technical solutions are intended to cover a broad scope to facilitate the delivery of essential health services, risk communications, surveillance and case management.

- Exemplifying local initiative, a community-based incident response drill was organized in Nauru as part of the country's COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts. Nauru's emergency telecommunications stakeholders took part in the drill. The ETC Coordinator in the Pacific provided technical advice and support. The drill tested communications systems and public awareness channels in a series of simulated incidents to improve preparedness in emergency response. As a result, all participants agreed on the importance of reliable communications for emergencies and disasters.
- The ETC in the Pacific continues to advance preparedness activities in the region. This includes discussions with different countries on the next steps in their emergency preparedness agenda, which were on hold during the first phase of the response to COVID-19.
- An important component of the ETC's continuing localization plan is capacity strengthening. As part of this, the ETC is developing an educational training course called Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR). The training is for ICT and emergency telecommunication professionals in the Pacific who are likely to coordinate or support the coordination of humanitarian disaster and emergency telecommunications services. Technical discussions on module and course development have resumed and the guidelines for the module syllabi are being finalized.

Funding

- The ETC in the Pacific is supported by a Stand-By Partner from NORCAP who is providing Information Management (IM) support for six months.

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>.
- ETC Pacific [Factsheet](#) | ETC Pacific [Dashboard](#) | ETC Pacific [Infographic](#)



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