

## Preparedness in the Pacific

### ETC Situation Report #5

Reporting period 01/06/2020 to 30/06/2020

These Situation Reports will be distributed every month. The next report will be issued on or around 31/07/20.

### Highlights

- The ETC in the Pacific and the Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) have completed the first draft of a guidance document for using technical solutions to deliver activities and preparedness services to support the COVID-19 response.
- The ETC supported national preparedness and response efforts in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Fiji.
- The ETC in the Pacific, working with subject matter experts, has drawn up and refined the module objectives of the Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) training course for ICT and emergency telecommunications professionals in the Pacific.



The ETC Coordinator in the Pacific facilitates a workshop for the national emergency telecommunications cluster in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in early 2020.

*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 (PICs) and territories to support their COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts.
- The ETC in the Pacific continues to work with the health services delivery team of the Joint Pacific COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) on interim guidance for PICs regarding the use of ICT to enable

health preparedness and response during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contributions to this guidance are from four health operational areas – case management, risk communication, surveillance and essential health services – and the ETC Pacific. The first draft was completed on 12 June and has been reviewed and updated.

- The ETC continues to focus on building local capacity and 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. The ETC is working with the Torres Resilience Institute (TRI) of Flinders University as well as the New Zealand Red Cross in designing some of the material.
- The ETC continues to collaborate with national authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to enhance the use of the state COVID-19 helplines as the country prepares for and responds to the pandemic. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) in FSM published regulatory guidance on the use of reserved numbers in emergencies, one of the steps towards establishing a short code number for a COVID-19 helpline. To date, FSM has no cases of COVID-19.
- The Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) – a member of the national ETC in Fiji – conducted live tsunami siren tests on 5 June in collaboration with the Seismology unit of the Ministry of Mineral Resources. These tests are conducted regularly as part of ensuring a state of readiness in the event of a tsunami.

## Challenges

- COVID-19 restrictions and response activities are affecting ETC Pacific's work plan and delaying implementation of planned activities, particularly those involving physical proximity.

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



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