ETC in the Pacific
ICT Preparedness

Overview

Pacific Island Countries are among the most vulnerable in the world to natural hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis. Since 2016, the ETC supports ICT preparedness across 14 Pacific countries under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT).

National governments are responsible for leading disaster management systems and for managing the mechanisms, tools, and resources of these systems. The ETC works with stakeholders in vulnerable countries and regions to strengthen ICT preparedness holistically at a country level.
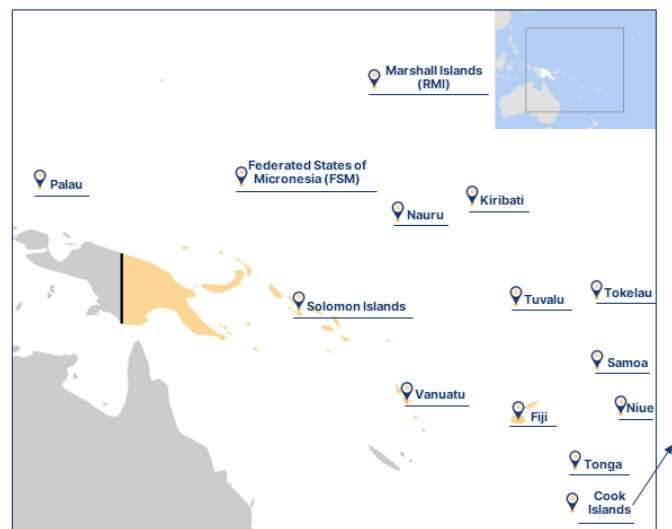
What is ICT Preparedness

The scale and number of humanitarian crises around the world reinforces the need for stakeholder collaboration to minimize the impacts of disaster as much as possible. In the Pacific, preparedness is based on three components:

Strong partnerships with national government, the private sector, civil service organizations and humanitarian agencies.

Decentralized response centres to ensure local partners are able to support recovery and response efforts in remote areas quickly and according to specific needs.

Increased communications resilience by ensuring maximum protection of communications infrastructure and capacity building to ensure the ability to restore services in the event of destruction or damage, and a clear plan for joint emergency response with ETC partners.

ICT Preparedness Activities

Coordination — with government-led groups, national ETC Working Groups, and partnerships with humanitarian agencies, industry and government.

Training and simulation — ensure responders are trained on the latest tools and how to use them through simulations that mirror the conditions of emergency scenarios, such as an earthquake.

Technical assessments — checking that systems and processes are in place.

Reinforce infrastructure — upgrade global, regional and national infrastructure, preposition equipment, promote technical standards and develop strategic agreements.

Guidance and advisory — develop and share strategic and support materials such as the resources outlined below.

Advocacy, awareness and collaboration — promote disaster risk reduction among key ETC stakeholders and forums globally—such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and regionally—such as the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).

Information readiness — compile and disseminate products and tools such as country profiles, case studies and interactive maps.

ICT Preparedness Resources

The ETC and its partners have prepared several resources that can be used by government and national authorities to support country preparedness.

- ICT Capacity Assessment Guidance: https://www.etcluster.org/document/ict-capacity-assessment-ica-guidance

- ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Preparedness Checklist: https://www.etcluster.org/document/emergency-telecommunications-preparedness-checklist

- ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Table-top Simulation Guide: https://www.etcluster.org/document/itu-etc-emergency-telecommunications-table-top-simulation-guide-0

- ETC Country Preparedness and Resilience Delivery Model: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-country-preparedness-and-resilience-delivery-model

- Return on Investment Model: https://www.etcluster.org/document/return-investment-roi-model

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