

The Philippines - Typhoon Rai (Odette)

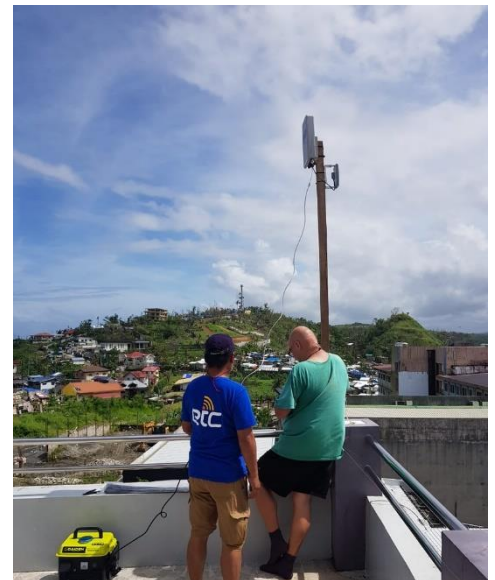
ETC Situation Report #6

Reporting period: 03/02 to 14/02/2022

Since Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) struck the central Philippine islands on 16 December 2021, the Global ETC has been coordinating with its partners globally and on the ground to support government response efforts and the needs of humanitarian responders through the national ETC led by the Philippines Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Highlights

- A joint team consisting of ICT specialists from Ericsson Response, WFP FITTEST, and WFP Philippines extended a fibre link from a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) to provide connectivity in several locations across Surigao City.
- A WFP ICT technician deployed to Dinagat Island on 10 February to support the Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) with the installation and maintenance of VSATs on the island.
- The new IT emergency coordinator from WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team (FITTEST) deployed with an Ericsson Response ICT specialist to Siargao Island and Dinagat Island to assess potential interagency common office locations and plan for the provision of dedicated connectivity services for humanitarians.



ICT specialists from Ericsson Response and WFP FITTEST establish a repeater link in Surigao city.

Photo: WFP/Amirullah Syarif

Activities

General situation

Significant progress is being made by the government and private sector on the recovery of the public telecommunications and electricity infrastructure. With the exception of the islands in the Caraga region in the east, most of the municipal capitals and smaller cities and villages across the affected area now have connectivity and some form of electricity supply.

It has been reported that throughout Southern Leyte, Northern Mindanao, and on Bohol Island the local population have been able to access connectivity and charging services at local town halls.

Recovery efforts on Dinagat Island, Siargao Island, and Socorro Island on the other hand continue to be slow, as the infrastructure on these islands sustained more serious damage.

The [Disaster Connectivity Map](#) (DCM) has been gathering data from the Philippines since 21 December and continues to be updated regularly to show the status of access to connectivity in the affected area compared to baseline measurements taken before the typhoon. The map is an initiative of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the ETC with support from the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).

Effective 10 February 2022, fully vaccinated nationals of non-visa required countries will be allowed to enter the Philippines with a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to departure. Mandatory facility-based quarantine will no longer apply to vaccinated individuals, who will only be required to self-monitor for symptoms for seven days from the date of arrival.

Delivery of ETC services

A team consisting of Ericsson Response, WFP FITTEST and WFP Philippines staff were able to secure a usable fibre connection from a local service provider in Surigao City. After establishing a source link at the port and repeater links in multiple locations across the city, connectivity has now been extended to the UN common office location and the government coordination hub at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) compound. The team is working to establish connectivity services in additional locations throughout Surigao City.

On 10 February, a WFP Philippines technician deployed to Dinagat Island to support DICT in installing new locally procured VSATs and maintaining their existing installations across the island. DICT is continuing to provide connectivity to support the government and humanitarian response in 12 locations across Dinagat Island, Siargao Island, and Socorro Island.

Staff from Ericsson Response and WFP FITTEST deployed to Siargao Island on 14 February. Over the next three days, the team will assess potential locations for interagency common offices across Siargao Island and Dinagat Island to determine if there is a need to establish dedicated ETC connectivity services for humanitarians on the islands.

As the team transitions to a new phase in the response, the WFP IT Emergency Coordinator, Martin Kristensson, will return to managing the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) MOVE project with DICT and hand over the coordination role to the WFP FITTEST ICT specialist, Amirullah Syarif. The coordinator from the Global ETC Team and one of the Ericsson Response ICT specialists will finish their missions in the Philippines next week.

The NetHope coordinator has left the Philippines after having led their response on the ground since 30 December 2021. NetHope have handed over seven satellite phones to Local Government Units (LGUs) and five HF radio kits to DICT. They will continue to support and

pay the subscription for five Wi-Fi networks they established for member organisations for six months until the end of July 2022.

Funding

The ETC has received US \$200,000 from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and US \$100,000 from the government of Brazil. The ETC has also been allocated US \$300,000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

With these funds, the ETC has secured 60 percent of the US \$1 million required for the response. The project and funding requirements, where are inclusive of expected in-kind contributions from WFP stand-by partners (SBP), are reflected in the updated [Humanitarian Needs and Priorities](#) launched on 2 February.

Challenges

Increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections have reduced capacity amongst government and humanitarian responders.

While ferry services have been restored in the affected islands, not all ports are fully operational and long wait-times have been reported. Accommodation on the islands and throughout the area of operations is very limited.

Normal customs clearance procedures, which can take several months, remain in place for the importation of all telecommunications equipment. Although some of the required equipment is available on the local market, stocks of some specialised equipment are limited or unavailable.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners teleconference will take place on **21 February 2022**.

Contacts

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Amirullah Syarif	IT Emergency Coordinator	Amirullah.syarif@wfp.org
Claire Roach	Global ETC IM Officer	Claire.roach@wfp.org

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

www.etcluster.org/emergency/super-typhoon-rai-odette-philippines

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

philippines.etc@wfp.org