

## Haiti, Earthquake 2021

### Local ETS meeting

**Date: 13/09/2021**

**Time: 15:00 in Online-meeting**

### Attendance

Chair (ETS Coordinator):	Runar Holen	Port-au-Prince
emergency.lu	Philippe Hein	Port-au-Prince
ITDRC	Dustin Li	online
Norwegian Emergency Medical Team	Frode Tangen	Port-au-Prince
Haiti Participative	Steve Jean Baptiste	Port-au-Prince

Meeting started at 15:10

### Agenda

1. Welcome and update from ETS Coordinator
2. Participants update
3. AOB/Next steps

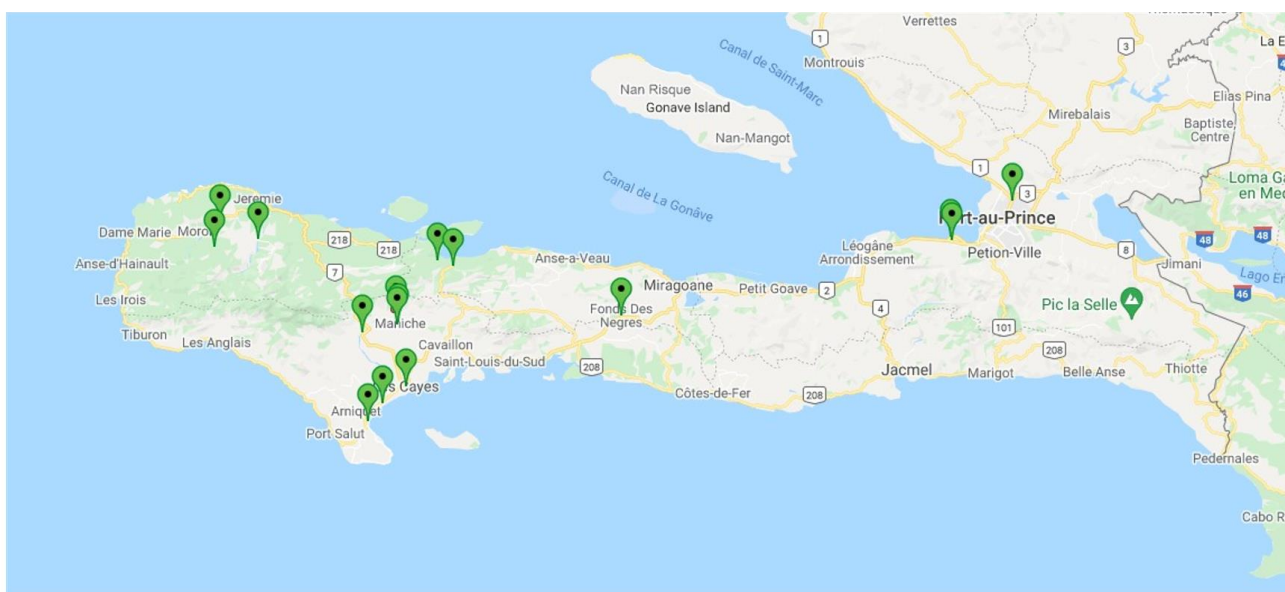
### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and update from ETS Coordinator

- The ETS coordinator informed participants about the improvements in the coverage of the Les Cayes VHF repeater and the installation of the Jeremie repeater. It was noted that these are both temporary installations, awaiting the opportunity for re-installation at higher locations.
- The ETS submitted an input to the OCHA sitrep, including actions taken by ETS partners and outlining gaps in staffing and funding that have delayed the strengthening of security communications systems in the affected area and the country as a whole.
- The ETS has submitted a request for a short-term deployment of a standby partner emergency telecommunications resource aimed at supporting the improvement of security communications and providing user training on radio and satellite equipment.

## 2. Participants updates

- ITDRC has left Haiti however they continue to monitor the solutions they have deployed in support of local NGOs providing medical and other services in 17 locations (see map below) in the three affected departments (Grand Anse, Nippes and Sud). The NGO has focused mainly on providing connectivity solutions to medical and distribution teams operating in the affected area using two-way satellite communicators ([www.zoleo.com](http://www.zoleo.com)). ITDRC shared with the group a guide to SIMs/cell carriers in Haiti, with useful hands-on information: <https://go.itdrc.org/haiti-sims>.



**Figure 1 ITDRC locations**

- Emergency.lu has reduced their team from three to one staff (Philippe Hein). Their focus at this time is to continue to support the French water-purification team in Cavaillon, and to install a Ranger VSAT for the Norwegian Emergency Medical Team (NEMT) in L'Asile. If time allows, the emergency.lu technician will also aim to look at other pending support requests, such as the request to assess damages to the solar-power system of the Grand'Anse COUD in Jubeau, outside Jeremie.
- A Norwegian Emergency Medical Team (NEMT) deployed as part of the European Union response is setting up a temporary hospital in L'Asile to provide support as the main hospital is damaged. NEMT plans to remain in L'Asile until end of October. They will rely on Emergency.lu for the installation of a VSAT station – expected to be done this week. Depending on local conditions and needs, after withdrawal, the NEMT may be replaced by another EU medical-team. .
- WFP has reinforced its office in Jeremie – including through the above-mentioned implementation of a VHF radio repeater for security communications.
- Haiti Participative (HP), an NGO working at providing medical relief in the area of Baraderes in Les Nippes district, thanked the ETS group and specifically ITDRC for the assistance received after their request for

support in the working group last week. ITDRC provided them with satellite communications tools and training, allowing HP's staff to have a minimum of communications when operating in the field.

- The NGOs asked about access to the VHF repeaters (Jeremie and Les Cayes), and also the possibility of using simplex VHF radio for their own operations outside of repeater coverage. In addition, HP also asked about whether they can benefit from VHF, and radio-user training, as their staff are not familiar with two-way radio. It was agreed that ETS will 1) confirm with UNDSS whether the general UN channel (Channel 1) is available to NGOs, and 2) to provide NGOs with the already existing NGO simplex channel frequencies.
- Further on ETS support to NGOs, it was agreed that HP will provide the ETS coordinator with his contacts of coordination groups for national NGOs, with the objective of organizing a forum for NGO/ETS discussion on telecoms support.

### 3. AOB/Next steps

- ETS to confirm with UNDSS whether NGOs may utilize the main UN VHF channel (Channel 1) in Les Cayes and Jeremie.
- ETS to provide NGOs with the NGO simplex channel.
- ETS to work with Haiti Participative to initiate contact with national NGOs operating in the affected area, with the objective of sharing information about security and data-communications possibilities and considering possible user training for national NGO staff.
- All partners are encouraged to share the status of poor or missing GSM coverage discovered during assessments and operations, to allow ETS partners to plan community-based communication interventions based on the best available information.
- It was agreed to continue with weekly meetings and to use the WhatsApp group for communication in-between meetings.
- Please check out ITDRC's excellent guide to SIMs/cell carriers in Haiti: <https://go.itdrc.org/haiti-sims>

Meeting ended at 15:40

**Next meeting to be held on 20 September at 15:00 / 3PM.**

### Acronyms

COUD	Departmental Emergency Operations Centre, Haiti
COUN	National Emergency Operations Centre, Haiti
ERU	Emergency Response Unit
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector

ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITDRC	Information Technology Disaster Resource Center
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
OSOCC	On-site Security Operations Coordination Centre
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme

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

<https://www.etcluster.org/emergency/haiti-earthquake-2021>

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [Haiti.ETS@wfp.org](mailto:Haiti.ETS@wfp.org)

**Minutes:** Runar Holen, ETS Coordinator, WFP