

Haiti, Earthquake 2021

Local ETS meeting

Date: 27/08/2021

Time: 14:00 in Les Cayes

Attendance

Chair (ETS Coordinator):	Runar Holen	Les Cayes
emergency.lu	Alain Lang	Les Cayes
Finnish Red Cross	Tom Grandqvist	Les Cayes
Help.NGO	Adam Marlatt	Les Cayes
TSF	Armando Samayoya	Les Cayes
UNICEF	Junior Riliere Alexandre	Les Cayes
WFP	Patrick Midy	Les Cayes

Meeting started at 14:00

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Participants update
3. AOB/Next steps

Minutes

1. Welcome and introduction

- Runar Holen, introduced himself and his role as ETS Coordinator for Haiti. He thanked all for joining the meeting and invited all to share their updates on the activities they have undertaken and what their needs are from the ETS or other entities to continue the support of the humanitarian response to the Earthquake, in line with the needs identified in the Flash Appeal.

2. Participants updates

- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF): In the initial days, TSF provided connectivity for UNDAC at the OSOCC in Port-au-Prince using a Global Xpress terminal. This terminal was mobilized then to provide temporary connectivity at Les Cayes sub-OSOCC until local ISP connectivity is provided through Access Haiti. Access

Haiti, a local ISP, has offered a discounted and flexible contract for humanitarian organizations. This Internet service is expected to be in place shortly at the Sub-OSOCC. The link from the Sub-OSOCC connectivity to the COUD is almost ready, however, the COUD does not have stable electricity supply. A generator is being provided to the COUD by WFP, under the WFP/Civil Protection cooperation. TSF is supporting UNDAC and MSF operations, and have set up a VSAT for to the MSF Hospital in Les Cayes. TSF can lend out to partners Iridium satphones with prepaid airtime on a needs-basis. TSF continues to carry out community assessments and run itinerant connectivity operations for affected communities.

- emergency.lu: Emergency.lu has established data connectivity services using a GATR terminal in support of the French Civil Protection unit at the Cavallion location water-purification plant. A second GATR terminal is planned to be used for back-up connectivity at the Port-au-Prince Logistics Base where the COUN and UNDAC OSOCC are located. Emergency.lu will donate a small (1kVA) generator to WFP Les Cayes.
- Help.NGO: Help.NGO deployed with two flat-panel VSATs, one of which is deployed at UNICEF's new office in Les Cayes to temporarily support them while waiting for ISP delivery. The other, a mobile-capable VSAT combined with a WAN solution, is being offered to NGOs as temporary support for operations in no/poor GSM locations in collaboration with TSF. Help.NGO has distributed some 30 LTE mobile hotspots for populations and some 15 units for UN/NGOs operating in locations with limited mobile coverage. They plan to deploy some 100 more of such units. Help.NGO also has an Iridium PTT call-group operational that can be used by partners that require it and has a VHF-to-Iridium PTT bridge equipment that can be implemented if required. Help.ngo can also provide information on status of towers and other essential telecoms data collected for instance using drones.
- Red Cross: The Finnish Red Cross Emergency Response Unit has deployed on behalf of the IFRC with limited kit and is awaiting delivery of their standard ERU-kit that includes data connectivity, radio-repeaters, etc. It plans to rehabilitate the Haitian Red Cross's radio-network and will support the implementation of new hospital services in Les Cayes. Red Cross has two 16-meter masts in stock that can be lent out to partners.
- UNICEF: The agency is establishing a new office in Les Cayes where they will also host other UN agencies. The agency continues supporting the communication needs of ongoing UNICEF and partner operations.
- WFP: WFP is working on establishing security communications in Les Cayes. Awaiting confirmation from local MNOs if tower-capacity/power exists for repeater antenna installation, meanwhile a temporary repeater installation is being implemented at the WFP compound, to ensure basic security comms services in Les Cayes. Meanwhile, WFP and UNDSS will jointly review UNDSS-stored equipment in Port-au-Prince to source VHF equipment to be employed in Jeremie in a joint UNDSS/WFP assessment and installation mission. WFP is also assessing the need for support to four radio broadcasting stations in the affected area, some of which have reported building damage and/or technical issues.

3. AOB/Next steps

- All partners are encouraged to share the status of poor or missing GSM coverage discovered during assessments and operations, for ETS partners to best possibly plan community-based communication interventions.

- Jeremie: Local data-service exists but speed is slow. Natcom antenna tower seems to be in good condition based on near-by observation. The last bridge in to Jeremie is very damaged and the river will be difficult to access for any temporary bridge thus the main transport possibilities to Jeremie seems likely to be air or sea for now.

Meeting ended at 15:00

Next meeting time and date to be confirmed.

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
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

Minutes: Runar Holen, ETS Coordinator, WFP