

Haiti, Earthquake 2021

Local ETS meeting – online

Date: 06/09/2021 Time: 15:00 (UTC+4:00)

Attendance

Chair (ETS Coordinator)	Runar Holen	Port-au-Prince
emergency.lu	Alain Lang	Port-au-Prince
emergency.lu	Bram Krieps	Port-au-Prince
Finnish Red Cross	Tom Grandqvist	Les Cayes
Finnish Red Cross	Erik Finskas	Les Cayes
Help.NGO	Adam Marlatt	online
ITDRC	Dustin Li	Les Cayes
Ericsson Response	L.P. Svensson	Port-au-Prince
Haiti Participative	Jean Baptiste	online

Note: Due to intermittent connectivity, Ericsson Response, Emergency.lu and help.ngo participants dropped off the call.

Meeting started at 15:00 (UTC+4:00)

Agenda

1. Update from ETS Coordinator
2. Participant update
3. AOB/next steps

Minutes

1. Update from ETS Coordinator

- The ETS attended a meeting at the On-site Security Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) hosted by the National System of Disaster Management / Système National de Gestion des Risques de Désastre (SNGRD). Participants from the Government, UN and I/NGOs were divided in their individual sectors – the

ETS joined the Logistics Cluster. ETS contributed inputs to a joint all-sector overview of sectorial actions taken, under Progress and Plans (PaP).

- OSOCC PaP is experiencing electricity and Internet connectivity issues. Local technical support is working to improve conditions.
- South district: The VHF repeater installation in Les Cayes has been moved to a better location – higher up, with better coverage. However, a move to an even higher location (UNICEF or other) is under consideration. Iridium PTT for security communications to be employed by WFP as part of collaboration with Help.NGO
- Grande-Anse district: A VHF repeater is under installation in Jeremie in a collaborative effort between Emergency.lu, Ericsson Response and WFP, with material support from UNDSS.
- Welcomed Haiti Participative, a national NGO working in medical assistance onto the call.

2. Participant updates

- ITDRC is focusing on providing connectivity solutions to medical and distribution teams operating in the affected area, using two-way satellite communicators, satphone technology, cellular gateways, and Wi-Fi APs. ITDRC shared a guide to SIMs/cell carriers in Haiti with the group, with useful hands-on information: <https://go.itdrc.org/haiti-sims>
- The Finnish Red Cross (IFRC) Emergency Response Unit is supporting the set-up of an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in Camp Perrin (South district) and is seeking a repeater location for their VHF radio in that area with the support of Access Haiti. Predictions for radio coverage of Les Cayes are very good from that area. IFRC has mobile units in the field using the Red Cross radio network. IFRC in Les Cayes are setting up an emergency hospital which will require data connectivity from a local ISP. The IFRC team is rotating in three weeks and will continue to have a presence. The IFRC team expressed gratitude to Help.NGO for having provided a flat-panel VSAT for their connectivity.
- Help.NGO continues to provide connectivity for humanitarian field operations in the South district. The NGO has also started to provide WFP with Iridium PTT satphones for the agency's operations.
- Emergency.lu and Ericsson Response worked together to install a VHF repeater in Jeremie. This is expected to be operational, once spare parts shipped from UNDSS have been installed by WFP.
- WFP is reinforcing its office in Jeremie, including the above-mentioned implementation of a VHF radio repeater for security communications.
- Haiti Participative, an NGO working at providing medical relief in the area of Baraderes in Nippes district, joined the ETS Working Group call to learn more about connectivity services ETS members can offer in support of their staff, as they have poor or no communications. ITDRC reported that they have two-way cellphone and satphone equipment with which they may be able to assist and the two agreed to discuss further.

3. AOB/Next steps

- ITDRC asked if any of the participants had used the coordination with ITU for import of telecommunications equipment, as described in the CIQP documentation; however, none of the participants could report any experience with this procedure.
- Finnish Red Cross asked for VHF frequency/PL-code for NGO use – the ETS Coordinator will provide them and other NGOs with this information.
- All partners are encouraged to share the status of poor or missing GSM coverage discovered during assessments and operations so that ETS partners can best plan community-based communication interventions.
- It was agreed to continue with weekly meetings and to use the WhatsApp group for communication in-between meetings.
- **Everyone is encouraged to look at ITDRC’s excellent guide to SIMs/cell carriers in Haiti:**
<https://go.itdrc.org/haiti-sims>

Meeting ended at 15:45

Next meeting to be held on 13 September. Time 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 / Claire Roach, ETS Information Management Officer (IMO)