Pacific
Preparedness

2021

Overview

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are among the most vulnerable in the world to natural hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, while having limited means to prepare and respond to them. Since 2016, the ETC supports emergency telecommunications preparedness across 12 PICs under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT).

Preparedness services provided for **12 PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES**

US$142,000 remaining budget at end of 2021 from OFDA/USAID and multilateral assistance

Part of the **JOINT PACIFIC COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (IMT)** led by WHO

ETC was activated in **NOVEMBER 2016**

ETC preparedness in the Pacific

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:

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

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

3. **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.

Preparedness services

Coordination — with government-led groups, local ICT 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 joint ETC-ITU emergency telecommunications table-top simulation guide and the ETC-ITU emergency telecommunications preparedness checklist for disaster management.

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.

COVID-19 repsonse — The ETC in the Pacific has published an operational strategy that countries and territories in the region can adapt to their COVID-19 emergency telecommunications preparedness and response efforts.

Pacific.ETC@wfp.org | www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands