Philippines – Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) emergency

Local ETC meeting - Guiuan

Date: 05/12/13

Minutes: Eric Kiruhura, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Attendance

OCHA	Luigi Bruno
TSF	Paul Margie
Electricians Sans Frontiers	Jean-Pierre Cerdan
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster:	Ivan Thomas (Chair, WFP)
	Rob Buurveld (WFP)
	Eric Kiruhura (World Vision)

Agenda

1. Updates from ETC Team Leader (Guiuan)
2. Updates from participating organizations
3. Next steps and next meeting

Minutes

1. Updates from ETC Team Leader (Guiuan):

- ETC Team Leader reiterated that the idea of meeting is give updates of where the ETC stands, and what the gaps are and determine way forward. It is also an opportunity to find out what other organisations and teams have done, and services they are providing to the humanitarian community.
- VSAT has been setup at the new IHP base camp (where most organisations will move to when ready). This provides internet connectivity to the OSOCC via wireless links.
- Have electrician on the ground to look at power needs for the ETC and other organisations (on best effort basis).
- Have fuel for the generator powering the link at the OSOCC connecting to the new IHP camp (600 litres for one month). Looking at proper maintenance of the generators to ensure stable ETC service delivery.
- ETC will also provide connectivity to the City Hall.
- VHF radio network to be setup with coverage across Guiuan (to have UN channel, and NGO channel).
- Received ICT request from ICRC to setup VSAT system and was able to support.
- Staff rotation on-going and hence planning for smooth movement of staff to ensure least disruption for ETC services.

Updates from ETC Wingman & NGO Coordinator:
- The ETC is also providing services in other locations (Roxas City, Estancia, Tacloban, Borongan and Cebu) and looking at expanding services to additional locations (Concepcion, Maya, Basey).
- Services being provided in different locations include internet services, radio communications, electrical support, help desk services, coordination and information management services.
- List of ETC services and locations, plus other information is posted on the ictemergency.wfp.org website.
- Being a service cluster, the ETC depends on requirements being expressed by the humanitarian organisations, so organisations were urged to make known their needs.

2. Updates from participating organizations

Electricians San Frontiers
- Provided electricity in 10 Barangays.
- They have delivered 28 generators to Barangays and islands.
- Part of their work is give electrical support.
- Installing electricity in beneficiary camps, main common areas (cooking, restrooms).
- Met airport officials concerning lighting to some strategic areas, especially for safety.
- Has a small team on the ground (3 people), to help and provide repair services on electricity.

OCHA:
- Only need is to have 5 VHF radios programmed. No other specific requirements.
- Could support the ETC in channelling information needs from humanitarian organisations, and supporting with information going out e.g. meeting announcements.

TSF:
- Completed their mission, going out tomorrow.
- Setup basic connectivity and now VSAT connectivity.
- Channelled VSAT to cyber café for the general population, being provided free to the general population.
- GSM network is coming back up, but slowly and best estimation of fully functional in perhaps one month's time.
- Have done free calling operations in many Barangays.

3. AOB

- Question was raised about Globe's GSM signal – while it is strong, it is not working well.
  - Local infrastructure seems to be up, but backbone infrastructure does not work well.

Contacts & ETC Information

- Philippines.ETC@wfp.org email address set up and members and members encouraged to use it for requests for ETC services or to share updates.
- ICT Emergency website available with a dedicated Philippines page:
  http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/emergencies2013/philippines

4. Next steps and next meeting

- The members agreed to have local coordination meeting once a week, and to be held after the inter-cluster coordination meeting. The ETC team to check with OCHA (Gintare) so as to coordinate on best day for ETC meeting.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
http://ictemergency.wfp.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
Philippines.ETC@wfp.org