

Vanuatu Cyclones & earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #2

Date: 10/03/2023 Time: 14:00 UTC

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

www.etcluster.org/emergency/vanuatu-earthquake-and-cyclones-judy-and-kevin

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

global.etc@wfp.org

Attendance

Chair	Phyza Jameel	Italy
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
GSMA	Bryce David Hartley	United Kingdom
Government of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenborg	Luxembourg
	Bram Krieps	Luxembourg
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
UNICEF	Marc Dieng	Afghanistan
WFP	Abdul Halim Yousufzai	UAE
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Dane Novarlic	UAE
	John Dovale	Fiji
	Komi Amedjonekou	Italy
	Marie Elena Block	Italy
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Oscar Caleman	Thailand
	Semso Sabotic	Vanuatu

Agenda

1. Situation update
2. ETC Pacific updates
3. Partner updates
4. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Fiji Airways resumed flights from Fiji to Vanuatu, on Thursday 9 March.
- Situation is relatively calm with businesses getting back to usual. Roads have been cleared of trees in Port Vila. 60% of electricity has been restored in urban settlements. Some parts of the cities are still without national grid electricity power. Government authorities are working to restore electricity.

2. ETS Pacific updates

Impact on Telecommunications

- Port Vila (Capital city) has both functional GSM and 3G data connectivity on Digicel. Digicel has reconnected 77% of normal mobile and 3G data coverage. ETC personale was able to establish contact with Digicel locally. ETC was not able to speak to anyone in Vodahone. As per ETC's assesment in Port Villa , Voda Phone network was still down.
- The FM and AM radio coverage is fully functional for all 3 radios broadcasters in all urban centres across the on Shefa island (mainly island where Capital city – Port Vila is). Information is yet to be established, if radio broadcasting is functional on the other surrounding islands.
- 60% electricity power supply has been restored in urban settlements, with some parts of the cities still without power.
- The government of Vanuau is prioritizing the restoration of power, telecommunications and clarence of travel network following the disaster.
- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) [Disaster Connectivity Map \(DCM\)](#) is now activated to support the tracking of spatial connectivity and private mobile network coverage.

ICT response

- ETC Telecommunication Specialist, arrived in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 9 March and immediately met the Director of NDMO in Port Vila for an introductory briefing. Further meeting to discuss ICT needs for the NDMO is scheduled for Monday 13 March.
- ETC Telecommunication Specialist met Deputy Director of Vanuatu Government Chief Information Office. So far, no clear ICT needs had come through the route of government request. The regulator office in the NDMO is currently mapping the stocks and needs from different islands. NDMO officials intend to share this mapping form with ETC, once this exercise is finished.
- The Director at NDMO is willing to facilitate the swift import clearance of telecommunications equipment.

- Initial ICT rapid assessments confirms presence of functional telecommunications towers in Port Vila. Assessments of other cities and islands is yet to be undertaken in the coming week.
- Three iridium phones which are also Push-To-Talk (PTT) enabled, have been configured and are functional for the response. Three other iridium phones for the response are still awaiting sim cards activation.
- The WFP Pacific County Director indicated that there is a local country cluster in Vanuatu targeting to assist 250,000 people. The assistance plan will be over six months. Food security, shelter, water sanitation & hygiene (WASH) remain the top three life saving priority interventions. ETC should be involved in the assistance plans to ensure service delivery where it is needed.
- CERF request will be filed by humanitarian organization in the Pacific in the coming week. ETC is not considered under the CERF envelope. CERF funding is earmarked for UNICEF (US\$800,000 for WASH), IOM (US\$400,000 for shelter) and FAO (US\$300,000) for food security. WFP will use funding from the Pacific Multi Country Office for interventions in Vanuatu.

3. Partner updates

Ericsson Response

- Ericsson Response is ready to deploy two engineers and telecommunications equipment to support the mission.

Government of Luxembourg

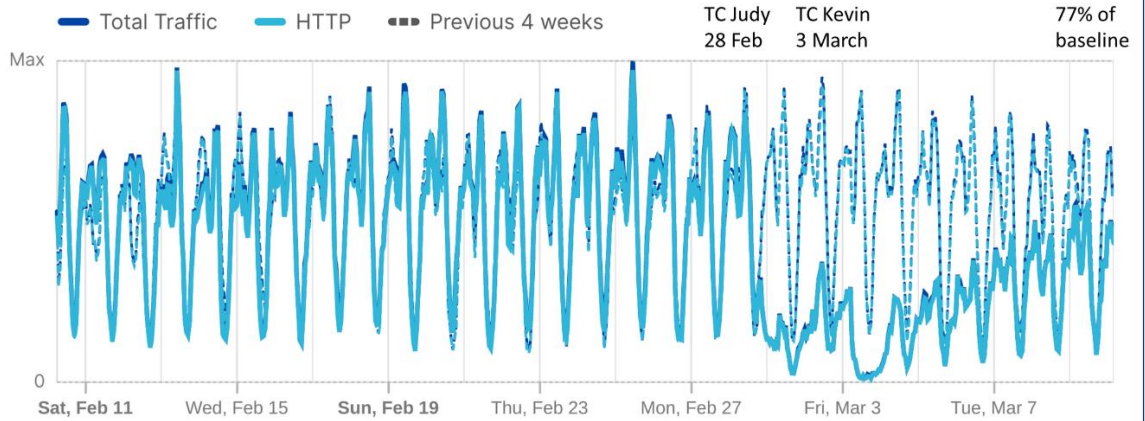
- Government of Luxembourg (emegerncy.lu) is ready to deploy an engineer with VSAT connectivity equipment for installation once Vanuatu government finalizes their needs. Government of Luxembourg has confirmed availability of one portable GATR rapidly deployable VSAT unit.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has activated the [Disaster Connectivity Map \(DCM\)](#) to gather information on network connectivity status across Vanuatu, following the tropical cyclone's damage to infrastructure. The government of Vanuatu has been briefed on the activation.
- Green and white dots show detection of mobile network coverage while red dots denotes undetected coverage. Refer to the maps below.
- ITU insights show a drop of public network coverage in Vanuatu to below 40% on 2 to 3 March, following Cyclone Judy damage to telecommunications infrastructure. Public network coverage connectivity restoration is evident from 5 March, mainly due to Digicel repair work on some transmission towers. As at 8 March internet traffic trends show a restoration of approximately 77% of normal.

Internet traffic trends in Vanuatu

Traffic volume over the selected time period



 Cloudflare Radar

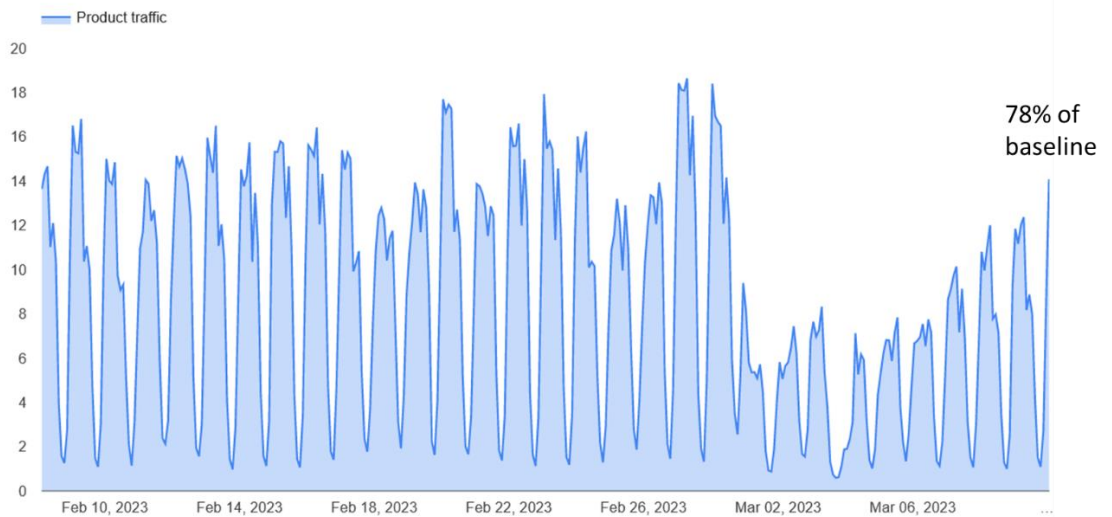
Last 4 weeks | Mar 10 2023 07:15 UTC

Fraction of worldwide traffic

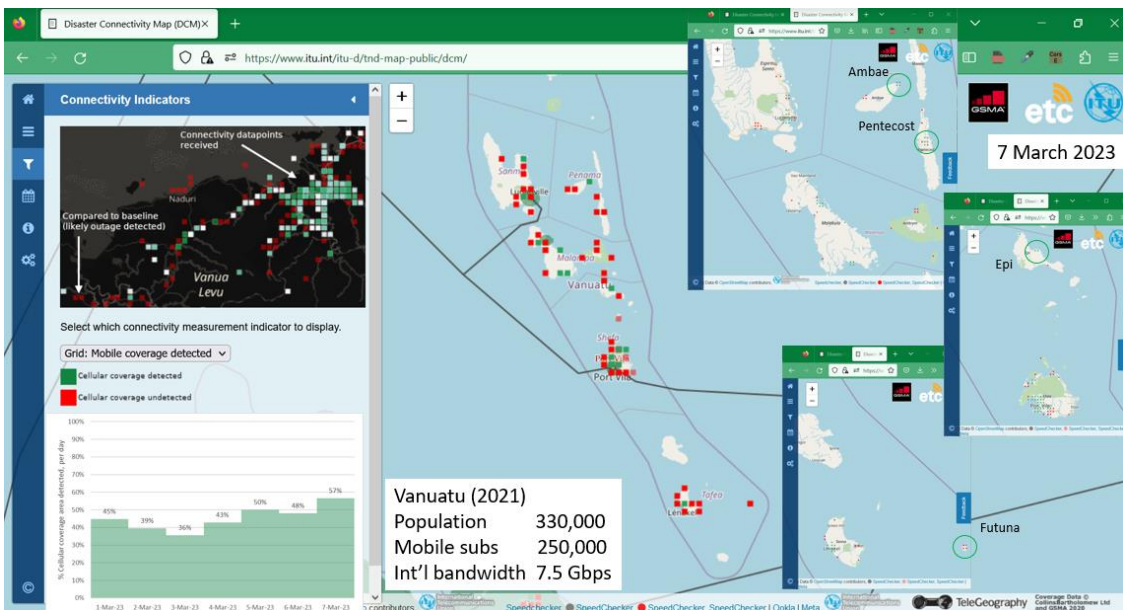
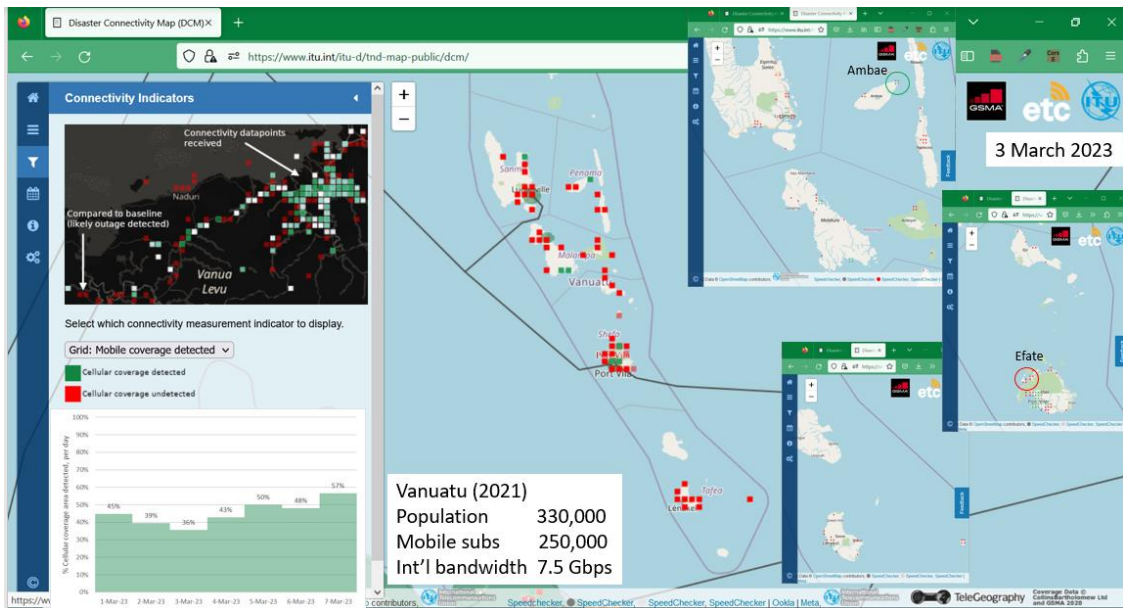
The chart below provides near real-time information about traffic to and from products and services around the world. Each chart shows historic traffic patterns for a given geographic region and product. The charts give a representation of the ratio of that region's request rate to the worldwide request rate. For each time period and product, we divide the traffic for each geographic region by total worldwide traffic, resulting in a number between 0 and 1. Then we multiply all numbers by a constant, which normalizes but does not change the shape of the graphs.

Start End

TC Judy 28 Feb TC Kevin 3 March



Product Country/Region



4. AOB

- N/A.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC

15:00 Rome

16:00 Cairo

17:00 Damascus/Istanbul

18:00 Dubai

Acronyms

DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GSMA	Groupe Speciale Mobile Association
CO	Country Office
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
FM	Frequency Modulation
GATR	Ground Air Transmit Receive
ICCID	Integrated Circuit Card Identification
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MCO	Multi Country Office
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team
PTT	Push-To-Talk
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, ETC Information Management Officer