

Vanuatu Cyclones & earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #3

Date: 13/03/2023 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
	Lars P. Svensson	Germany
GSMA	Bryce David Hartley	United Kingdom
Government of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenburg	Luxembourg
	Bram Krieps	Luxembourg
ICRC	Alfredo Bermudez Salazar	Switzerland
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
	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
	Oscar Caleman	Thailand
	Semso Sabotic	Vanuatu

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Situation is calm with business going on as usual.
- The Director of Energy Department confirmed outage of electricity across the country's provinces. Detailed update of power supply status by location will be provided on 14 March by the ETC Telecommunications Specialist on a mission in Vanuatu.

2. ETS Pacific updates

Impact on Telecommunications

- Digicel has reconnected 77% of normal mobile and 3G data coverage. There is no update on status of network connectivity from Vodafone. It is assumed that Digicel/ETC Telecommunication Specialist is following up with the focal points from both mobile network operators (MNOs) to get the latest updates.
- 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 met Deputy Director of Vanuatu Government Chief Information Office on 13 March. No clear ICT needs and locations have been stated so far. However, there are possible network connectivity gaps in the northern provinces, which may need VSAT installation to restore internet connectivity.
- NDMO is borrowing a VSAT from Vodafone for installation on Tanna Island, southern Vanuatu.
- The NDMO is planning to make rapid assessment of islands in the northern region to determine locations where VSAT connectivity will be needed.
- Since no clear telecommunications requirements and needs have been requested by the Vanuatu government, so far, deployment of personnel and equipment from ETC partners (Government of Luxembourg and Ericsson Response) has been put on hold.

3. Partner updates

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.
- Connectivity detection map shows an average of 57% connectivity on the main island of Port Vila by 7 March. This was an increase from 45% detected on 2 March, a day after

tropical cyclone Judy had hit the island. By 11 March the connectivity coverage was still 57%. Connectivity has been recovering in the cities of Espiritu Santo, Malekula, Pentecost Island and Tanna.

- ITU is available to support with VSAT connectivity through its partners in Vanuatu once the government requirements and needs are finalised.

4. AOB

- N/A.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Thursday 16 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