NEPAL

Internet services established by the ETC allow the response community to meet the urgent needs of the people affected by the earthquake, better, faster, safer.

For years, the humanitarian community has been preparing, prepositioning, training for the 'big one' – the massive earthquake that was predicted to strike Kathmandu Valley, any time from now to the distant future. On 25th April, it happened.

The 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, 81km northwest of the capital. Over 7000 people lost their lives and more than 8 million people were affected. More than two weeks after the initial shock, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal again, this time 83km east of Kathmandu, causing further destruction.

The humanitarian community quickly mobilised to respond to the urgent needs of the affected populations. The ETC is **providing vital communications** services to support the implementation of life-saving aid operations.

Urgent Communications for the Response Community

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity services to the response community in **10 sites** across Kathmandu, Gorkha, Nowakot and Sindhupalchok Districts.

- Over **620** users from more than **120** different response organisations are registered to use services provided by the ETC.

- A full ETC team is on the ground in Nepal with responders from emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and World Food Programme (WFP).

The ETC is working in close collaboration with government authorities, humanitarian organisations and internet and mobile service providers. The cooperation on the ground is exemplary and a model for future emergency response operations.

www.ETCluster.org
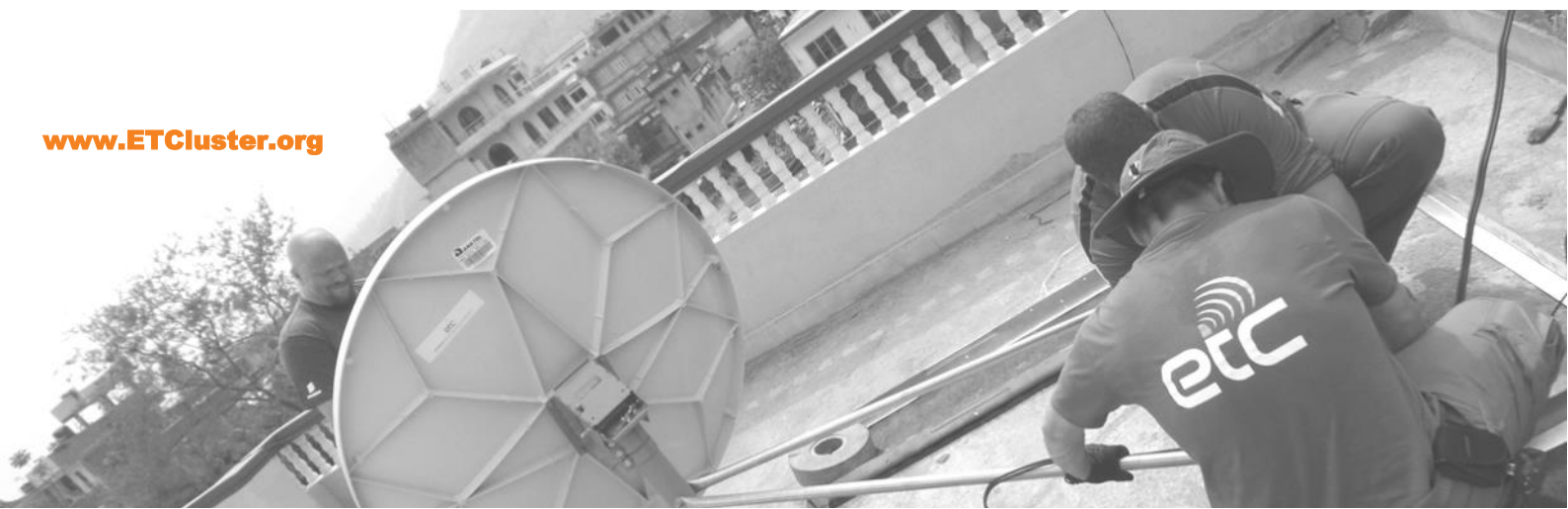
ETC Internet Services

DISTRICT	TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	USERS
Gorkha	Arughat	NGO Hub	NetHope, MSF	Response community
	Gorkha	Sub-OSOCC	NetHope, Ericsson Response	Response community
	Deurali	Logistics Cluster Hub	WFP, Ericsson Response	Response community
Kathmandu	Kathmandu	Humanitarian Staging Area	ISP, Ericsson Response, WFP	Response community
		UN House / OSOCC	ISP, Ericsson Response	Response community
		Ministry of Health	ISP, NetHope	Ministry of Health
Nowakot	Bidur	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, Samaritan's Purse	Response community
Sindhupalchok	Chautara	Humanitarian Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response	Response community
		Logistics Cluster Hub	WFP	Response community
Chitwan	Bharatpur	Logistics Cluster Hub	WFP, Ericsson Response	Response community

Logistics Challenges

Monsoon season is approaching which will not only worsen existing logistics challenges but also potentially hamper deployment of technologies and provision of services.

Plans & Funding

The ETC is appealing for US$2.5 million to continue to provide:

1. Internet connectivity in hubs and operational areas.
2. Security communications in remote areas.
3. Technical training for local humanitarian staff.
4. Strengthened disaster response capacity for the Nepali authorities.

US$889,000 has been received to date.

Internet services provided at the Humanitarian Staging Area and Logistics Hubs are provided by the ETC, but not part of the ETC project budget. Provision of these services at these locations are budgeted as part of the Logistics Cluster project.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide common communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Nepal, visit: www.ETCluster.org or contact: Nepal.ETC@wfp.org

By 2020, the ETC will create an emergency response environment that provides humanitarians, citizens and governments with a seamless, resilient and principled communications experience.