

HURRICANE MATTHEW

The ETC has not been activated in response to Hurricane Matthew. As global lead of the ETC, the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the Haiti ICT Working Group, collaborating with government, private sector and humanitarian partners on the ground to ensure a coordinated response.

On the morning of 5 October, Hurricane Matthew, the Caribbean's worst storm in nearly a decade hit parts of Haiti, the Bahamas and Cuba.

Hurricane Matthew caused significant damage in the three countries, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Assessments are ongoing. Some 1.4 million people are affected in Haiti. Hurricane Matthew caused 336 deaths in seven departments of Haiti from southeast to northwest. The number of evacuees is 61,537 in 191 temporary shelters. On 10 October 2016, the humanitarian community, in coordination with the Government of Haiti, launched a three-month Flash Appeal aiming to provide life-saving assistance to 750,000 people. The appeal requests \$120 million to implement the activities.

Collaborating for Coordinated Response

- The ETC has deployed two personnel to the country to identify needs on the ground and provide basic connectivity services.
- The ETC hosted a Local Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Working Group meeting on emergency coordination on 11 October. Participants included United Nations (UN) agencies and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), including the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Oxfam, Save the Children, World Food Programme (WFP) and Ericsson Response.





Planned Response

- ETC services are planned to be deployed in 5x sites across Jeremie and Les Cayes, the worst-affected areas.
- Additional IT equipment and personnel from the region and globally are ready to deploy if necessary.



Challenges

- Efforts to access worst-affected areas, such as Grand-Anse and Sud, are hampered by flooding, the collapse of communication networks and the destruction of vital infrastructure.
- Phone lines and Internet access are not yet available in disaster-affected areas as the overhead cables were brought down by the hurricane.

Funding

The ICT Working Group in Haiti is appealing for US\$ 630,497 to provide Internet connectivity and enhance capacity building in terms of equipment and personnel to six locations in Haiti.

The Global ETC is grateful for the support of key partners, including:



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation

For more information about the Hurricane Matthew response visit: www.ETCcluster.org or contact: Global.ETC@wfp.org

The ETC seeks to ensure that by 2020, all those responding to humanitarian emergencies, including affected communities, have access to vital communications services and digital aid.