Somalia ICT WG

Somalia, Drought Crisis

Local ICT WG Meeting

Date: 06/03/17   TIME: 14:30 UTC+3

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has not been activated in response to the Drought. However, Information and Communication Technology Working Group (ICT WG) is in place. Current function of this Working Group is information sharing of various actors on the ground to ensure a smoother response.

Attendance

UNICEF	Winifredo Abulencia	Nairobi
UNICEF	Mohamed Aden Jama	Nairobi
UNDSS	Alexis Mukumbu	Nairobi
OCHA	Gerald Macharia	Nairobi
UNFPA (via Skype)	Ayub Mohamud	Mogadishu
WFP	Tue Nielsen	Nairobi

Excused

UNHCR	Osman Ali Elawad	Nairobi
UNICEF	Emmanuel Okwuosa	Nairobi

Meeting started at 14:10 UTC+3

Agenda

1. Drought response – information sharing – possible collaboration;

2. Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project update and decision on way forward

3. Update on potential ETC2020 services

4. VTC directory update;

5. AOB.

Minutes

1. Drought response – information sharing – possible collaboration

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is currently in scale up of equipment from a 2-month emergency budget: purchasing 20 Iridium and 30 Mototrbo handsets.

- UNICEF has some BGAN [Broadband Global Area Network] satellite terminals available that can be lend to other agencies if interested. Registration and MRC of the user.

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been setting up the Drought Operation Coordination Centre (DOCC) in Mogadishu International Airport (MIA).

- World Food Programme (WFP) has already scaled up with some equipment deliveries still to happen. So far WFP increased beneficiary registration kits from 300 to 400, and have contracted bandwidth for 10 Thuraya IP+ for registration outside of ISP coverage as well as 6GB data for distribution reports to be uploaded by partners and retailers in the same areas via 10 Thuraya IP+/ APN with WiFi Hotspots; another 5 Thuraya IP+ have been ordered for contingency. 130 Mototrbo DP4801 have been ordered to ensure compliance at all WFP offices. Some 8 additional ICT support staff are being hired.

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has successfully setup and tested their Blue Jeans VTC and can offer VTC Bridge; it was agreed that some accounts will be shared for the WG to test the functionality. UNFPA is available and ready to provide general IT support in Mogadishu.

    Action: Ayub will share Blue Jeans test accounts.

- United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS), UNFPA & OCHA are in Budget phase with no additional info to share at the moment.

2. Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project update and decision on way forward

- Status is that the Sub-WG has not provided any suggestions to date. To move ahead we need to review the network design, take stock of DMR equipment already in country and deduct from the project proposal. Suggestion is to request a contractor, a trusted partner with existing LTA, to assist with the design; this will speed up the process and we should be able to submit a proposal to SMT/UN Country Team within a month.

    Action: All Agencies to send their DMR inventory to Tue (available & on order) by 15 March, 2017.

    Action: Tue to share through DMR equipment standards.

3. Update on potential ETC2020 services

- Tue informed that possible ETC services to affected communities include call centre, supporting radio broadcasting and provision of Internet access. Everybody agreed that call centre setup is not deemed required for Somalia because the people we serve all have mobile phones. The other two services could become in demand – UNICEF was interested in knowing more about the broadcasting service.

    Action: Tue to get more information about broadcasting services and share with the WG.

4. VTC directory update

- UNICEF circulated the current directory for everybody to verify their entries.

5. AOB

- With regards to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) project we briefly talked about frequency licensing issues. Government of Somalia has for long been working on new legislation around telecommunication with licensing expected to be implement in the not too distant future.

- Tue remember that there used to be a VHF/UHF frequency list of licenses held by UN before the collapse of Somalia, and will try to find out from International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Next meeting date TBC

Meeting ended at 15:00

Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GoS	Government of Somalia
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:
https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/horn-africa-food-crisis-2017

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

Minutes: Tue Nielsen, WFP