

Somalia ICT/ ETC Working Group

Somalia Drought Crisis

ICT/ ETC Working Group Meeting

Date: April 13th, 2017

TIME: 14:00 UTC +03:00

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has NOT been activated in response to the drought crisis in Somalia. Nevertheless, there is ongoing coordination through the local ICT Working Group. More information is available here: <https://www.etcluster.org/countries/somalia>

Attendance

Organisation	Name	Location
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Daud Hassan	
OCHA	Charles Kimeu	Nairobi
UNDP	Carey Karani	Nairobi
UNICEF	Emmanuel Okwuosa	Nairobi
WFP	Amos Mwea	Nairobi
WFP	Brian Tali	Nairobi
WFP, Chair	Eric Kiruhura	Nairobi
World Vision Somalia (WV)	Sammy Mate	Nairobi
World Vision Somalia	Moses Onyach	Nairobi
World Vision Somalia	Nicholas Musee	Nairobi

Apologies

Organisation	Name
OCHA	Rita Maingi
WFP	Bishar Duble
WFP	Tue Nielsen
UNDSS	Alexis Mukumbu

Meeting started at 14:11 UTC +03:00

Agenda

1. Follow up on action points from previous meeting
2. Overview of the drought crisis in Somalia
3. Updates from organisations on their ICT response efforts
4. ICT assessments, gaps and needs
5. Status of ETC (i.e. activation)
6. Frequency of ICT/ETC WG meetings (including hosting – organisations are encouraged to host)
7. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build ICT Country Profile
8. Any other business

Minutes

1. Follow up on action points from previous meeting

- **Ayub will share BlueJeans test accounts:** UNFPA was not represented on the call. Eric Kiruhura followed up with Ayub and received the following update – BlueJeans account made available to Mohamed Jama (UNICEF) and successful tests conducted from Polycom App on a laptop.
- **All Agencies to send their Mototrbo inventory to Tue (available & on order) by 15 March, 2017:** Most agencies have not shared information yet, and were encouraged to do so before the next meeting.
- **Tue to share through OMT Mototrbo equipment standards:** To be shared by Tue later.
- **Tue to get more information about broadcasting services and share with the WG:** Broadcasting services in Somalia seems to be working, and no gaps identified so far by the Communications with Communities (CwC) actors.

2. Overview of the drought crisis in Somalia

- Drought conditions are deepening in the north, and have expanded to southern and central regions.
- Some areas are not accessible by everyone, especially Al Shabaab controlled areas.
- Increased population movements into places like Baidoa and Mogadishu (around 70,000 moved into each area) on top of protracted IDPs.
- Cholera outbreak – 500 people have already died, more than 22,000 affected.

3. Updates from organisations on their ICT response efforts

- **UNDP:** Continues to provide infrastructure services in Mogadishu and Garowe e.g. connectivity to OCHA-run Drought Operations Coordination Centre (DOCC).
- **WFP:** As operations scale up in response to drought, WFP continues to fill gaps in their Area Offices – especially staffing and equipment. Ongoing scale up in the use of SCOPE – the beneficiary and transfer management platform. Emergency telecoms equipment (130 Motorola VHF radios and 30 Thuraya satellite phones) procured and delivered in Mogadishu. Contingency connectivity deployed (Thuraya IP, Hormuud MiFi).
- **DRC:** In-kind distribution in Baidoa, 4000 new beneficiaries using SCOPE.
- **UNICEF:** Additional working space in Mogadishu and Baidoa and as such have additional connectivity. Purchased 20 Iridiums and 20 MiFi devices for use.
- **WV:** Using SCOPE and Last Mile Mobile Solution (LMMS) for the response.
- **OCHA:** Managing the DOCC in Mogadishu, Garowe and Baidoa – with support from UNSOS and UNDP. A lot of demand in Mogadishu to support the clusters. Connectivity issues experienced in Baidoa. Video conference services now available in DOCC.

The group then discussed connectivity challenges in Baidoa as expressed by some members. It was concluded that a number of commercial services are available (Hormuud, NationLink), and members who had challenges advised to explore those options. The situation will be monitored in future to determine if there is a need for common internet services to be provided.

The group also explored the opportunity to backstop each other while on missions. It was suggested that a simple tool for sharing updates (including travel) might help.

Action Point 1: Emmanuel Okwuosa to setup a Telegram group for information sharing within the working group.

4. ICT assessments, gaps and needs

- No common ICT gaps and needs were identified that required the action of the WG.

5. Status of ETC (i.e. activation)

- The chair indicated that even with the ongoing drought crisis, there has not been a need or request to activate the ETC in Somalia. The WG plays an important role in determining whether there exists gaps that would warrant activation of the ETC. Nevertheless, inter-agency coordination will still continue through the ICT Working Group. In future, if the situation changes and the ETC needs to be activated, due process will be followed.

6. Frequency of ICT/ETC WG meetings

- The WG discussed the frequency of meetings. It was agreed that the meetings should be held every 3 weeks. This frequency can be reviewed and adjusted in future.

7. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build ICT Country Profile

The chair emphasized the need to develop a common ICT Country Profile based on existing assessments that have been conducted. This will make it easier to identify gaps and needs that could be addressed by the working group. The chair shared about a template that has been developed by the global ETC, which could be used to develop a country profile. There was general consensus that that a common ICT Country Profile would be a helpful tool, and that the WG should strive to develop one.

Action Point 2: Eric Kiruhura to share the global ETC template for developing the ICT Country Profile.

Action Point 3: Members of the working group to share any ICT assessment data.

8. Any other business

- Emmanuel (UNICEF) brought up issue of formalising VHF frequencies without licenses as well as VSAT licenses.
- Next meeting date: The next meeting to be held on 4 May 2017, at 14:00 UTC +03:00

Action Point 4: WFP to follow up on process to formalise licensing for telecoms equipment.

Minutes: Brian Tali & Eric Kiruhura, WFP

Acronyms

CwC	Communications with Communities
DOCC	Drought Operations Coordination Centre
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WG	Working Group
WV	World Vision