

Somalia ICT/ ETC Working Group

Somalia Drought Crisis

ICT/ ETC Working Group Meeting

Date: May 24th, 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
ACF	Chris Asembo	Nairobi
IOM	James Njenga	Nairobi
OCHA	Charles Kimeu	Nairobi
Save the Children	Hassan Ileli	Nairobi
WFP	Amos Mwea	Nairobi
WFP, Chair	Eric Kiruhura	Nairobi
UNFPA	Ayub Mohamud	Mogadishu

Apologies

Organisation	Name
WFP	Bishar Duble
WFP	Tue Nielsen
UNDSS	Alexis Mukumbu

Meeting started at 14:22 UTC +03:00

Agenda

1. Follow up on action points from previous meetings
2. Updates on the drought crisis in Somalia
3. Updates from agencies/organisations on their ICT response efforts
4. ICT gaps and needs
5. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build *ICT Country Profile*
6. Somalia as an ETC2020 priority country
7. Any other business

Minutes

1. Follow up on action points from previous meetings

- **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.
- **Emmanuel Okwuosa to setup a Telegram group for information sharing within the working group:** Telegram group setup, and information shared with WG members on email. Here is the link to join the group: <https://t.me/joinchat/AAAAAEI3eqaiqb2MAMAvxQ>

- **Eric Kiruhura to share the global ETC template for developing the ICT Country Profile:** There was an oversight in sending out this template. Will be included as part of the package for these minutes.
- **Members of the working group to share any ICT assessment data:** Members were still encouraged to share data on ICT assessments conducted, which will contribute to the development of the ICT Country Profile.
- **WFP to follow up on process to formalise licensing for telecoms equipment:** Update to be provided once Tue is back from R&R.

2. Updates on the drought crisis in Somalia¹

- The FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Units (FSNAU) warns of an elevated risk of famine due to severe food consumption gaps, high acute malnutrition, high disease burden and a reliance on food aid.
- Approximately 2,510,000 people will be in Crisis and 700,000 in Emergency levels of food insecurity by June.
- The rainfall forecast issued on 19 May by SWALIM, points towards heavy rains in Nugaal, South of Sool and north of Mudug regions for the coming week. Other regions in the north will receive light to moderate rains.
- Flooding in Middle Shabelle region has caused damage to large amounts of crop area and displacement of some households in Mahadey, Jowhar and Balcad districts.

3. Updates from organisations on their ICT response efforts

- **IOM:** Facing challenges with electricity in Mogadishu.
- **UNFPA:** Electrical challenges in Mogadishu. Have made available BlueJeans account for organisations to use during the drought response, including the ICT WG. Have also offered a platform for document sharing during drought response.
- **WFP:** Challenges in deployment of telecoms solution, working with UNDSS to roll out network. Sourcing for funding to make network available across Somalia. Mogadishu covered by Tetra, not the case for all locations. For remote locations, using Thuraya network.
- **ACF:** ACF Somalia operates in Banadir (Mogadishu), Bakool (Hudur, Elbarde, Yeed & Wajid) & Nugal (Garowe & Eyl) Regions. Some locations are sub offices while others are main bases. In Bakool (Yeed sub-office), they encountered a challenge in getting a quick yet affordable internet deployment alternative to respond to the ongoing emergency intervention. Currently they are using a Thuraya IP+ modem for emails which is slightly expensive. In other areas like Wajid, they are using internet data platform from Hormuud as an interim solution to respond to the emergency.
- **UNDSS:** Technicians available to programme radios for humanitarians in the field.

Action Point 1: Eric to reach out to Carey (UNDP) regarding electrical and internet challenges faced by agencies being hosted by UNDP in Mogadishu.

4. ICT gaps and needs

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

¹ [OCHA Drought Response - Situation Report No. 9 \(as of 23 May 2017\)](#)

5. Somalia ICT ecosystem assessment to build ICT Country Profile

The chair re-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 committed to sharing the template that has been developed by the global ETC, which could be used to develop a country profile. Some information from existing assessments is already being collated on <https://www.etcluster.org/countries/somalia>.

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

6. Somalia as an ETC2020 priority country

The Chair briefly shared about the [ETC2020 strategy](#) and its focus on preparedness in two of its strategic priorities: improved and decentralised response readiness and increased communication resilience to disasters. The global ETC will be focussing their efforts on 7 high risk countries in 2017-2018 – including Somalia. This will involve undertaking preparedness and resilience activities, in partnership with actors operating in Somalia. The ICT WG will be a key player in this process. A document outlining the emergency preparedness and resilience activities in high risk countries has been developed by global ETC. Further discussion can be held at the next WG meeting once people have had a chance to read through the documents.

Action Point 3: Eric Kiruhura to share the ‘ETC2020 factsheet’ and ‘Emergency preparedness and resilience activities in high risk countries’ documents.

7. Any other business

- It was brought to the Chair’s attention that the ICT Country Profile template has not been shared yet. A commitment was made to share the template during the next communication to WG members.
- Next meeting date: The next meeting to be held on 14 June 2017, at 14:00 UTC +03:00

Minutes: Eric Kiruhura, WFP

Acronyms

ACF	Action contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger)
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
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
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WG	Working Group