Dominica, Nigeria, D.R.C., C.A.R.

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 30/01/18   TIME: 14:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), U.A.E.
CRS	Dan Carr	USA
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
TSF	Alexander James Thomas	France
UNHCR	Frederic Bertrand	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Arthemon Nkunzumwami	Jordan
	Nizar Zeidan	Switzerland
UNICEF	Simon Genin	USA
WFP	Angel Buitrago	Dominica
	Ake Johansson (SBP MSB)	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Catherine Boyle	South Africa
	Gabriela Alvarado	Panama
	Khawar Ilyas	Nigeria
	Martin Dimuka	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Nono Kukimunu	Central African Republic
	Sam Okudi	Central African Republic

Teleconference started at 13:04 UTC

Agenda

1. **Dominica update**
2. **Central African Republic update**
3. **DRC**
4. **Nigeria update**
5. **AOB**

Minutes

1. **DOMINICA**

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

ETC Response

- Humanitarian activities in Dominica are scaling down. Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are recovering services in most of the affected places on the island. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) partners continue providing internet connectivity services in 2x locations: La Plaine and Delices. Since the beginning of the operations, over 900 humanitarians and affected communities have used these services.

- As part of the ETC exit strategy, the ETC plans to handover the existing equipment from ETC partner Ericsson Response and management of the network to the Ministry of Telecommunications by the end of March. ETC partners are training technicians from the government and community members to run network after the ETC demobilised.

  o The current equipment in Dominica comprises access points from Ericsson Response used with satellite kits donated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to the government.

  o 1x Stand-by Partner (SBP) from Ericsson Response is creating the inventory list of equipment to be donated. The final list of equipment will be shared with Ericsson at the beginning of February.

  o The ETC is planning a 2-day workshop, tentatively 19-20 March, to build capacity on the solutions deployed in this emergency operation. After the closure workshop, the World Food Programme (WFP) Information Technology (IT) team in Panama will continue working with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to enhance coordination efforts in future emergencies.

- *[Update from Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF)]* The TSF team withdraw from Dominica on 17 January. TSF provided connectivity to over 7,500 beneficiaries in Saint-Sauveur, Marigot and Salybia. Internet connectivity services remain operational in Portsmouth as small businesses and school children are using them. TSF donated two satellite kits to the government and organised the training of two officials from the Ministry of telecommunications to ensure their autonomy. TSF will remain in contact with the Ministry of Telecommunications to scale up national reinforcement activities.

2. Central African Republic

- The security situation remains calm in Bangui. In the outskirts of Paoua, there are confrontation of armed groups and movements of humanitarians are restricted in those areas since 19 January.

- The ETC started the deployment of security telecommunications and Internet services in Bria, Alindao and Bangassou with the support of Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) funds. The ETC team will meet with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) on 31 January to update the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deploy connectivity equipment in addition to the security telecommunications equipment installed by the ETC on MINUSCA's towers in those 3x locations. The first site to be complete will be Bria, then Alindao and finally Bangassou.

- On 31 January, the ETC will meet with the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Cordaid in Alindao to discuss the location where the ETC connectivity infrastructure can be installed.

- Regarding the upgrade of the security telecommunications network to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) in the country, advocacy through the Security Management Team (SMT) is needed, as this project will be funded through a cost-sharing mechanism. The ETC submitted the quotation for the upgrade in Bangui to the SMT.

- The ETC carried out the first ever ICT Emergency Management for Government and Partners (ICT4Gov) training in Bangui in mid-January to learn how to better support emergencies, deploy shared Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services and strengthen collaboration among humanitarian actors on the ground. 31 participants from the government, international and national NGOs, military and United Nations (UN) agencies participated in this training.

3. DRC

ETC Response

- The previous ETC Coordinator left the operation in mid-January. 1x SBP from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) joined the ETC in the third week of January for three months.
- The proposal submitted to CERF was initially approved. This joint UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)/Logistics Cluster/ETC project has been sent to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) secretariat in New York for final approval.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has connectivity equipment in the Kasai region to be set up in new UNHCR offices. UNHCR offered support to the ETC in case equipment is needed.
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a satellite kit in Chikapa from the Government of Luxembourg that was set up before the ETC activation. UNICEF confirmed that the Internet services are now open to the entire humanitarian community in support of the ETC requirements identified in Chikapa.

4. NIGERIA

ETC Response

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) has deployed Internet connectivity and security telecommunications in 6x humanitarian hubs across North-East Nigeria. In Maiduguri, the ETS has provided Internet to more than 650 humanitarians since February 2017 with the support of ETC partners Government of Luxembourg and Ericsson Response. On a daily basis, there are more than 100 simultaneous connections on the Internet network in Maiduguri.
- By mid-year, the ETS is planning to deploy Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in 3x more operational areas in Borno state- Rann, Banki and Damasak.
- In terms of staffing, the ETS team comprises 3x staff from WFP's fast IT, telecommunications and coordination support services team (FITTEST), 1x local admin assistant, 1x local IT assistant, 2x WFP staff from Haiti and Sierra Leone deployed on a short assignment. The SBP from MSB concluded his six-month assignment with the ETS on 29 January.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:36 UTC

Next Joint Global ETC Teleconference will be held on Tuesday 27 February 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

C.A.R.	Central African Republic
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
FITTEST	WFP's fast IT, telecommunications and coordination support services team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SMT	Security Management Team
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety & Security
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:
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Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP