Dominica, Nigeria, DRC, CAR

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 03/04/18   TIME: 13:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), United Arab Emirates
Catholic Relief Services	Bisi Teru	Nigeria
Ericsson Response	Brent Carbno	Canada
UNHCR	Frederic Bertrand	Democratic Republic of Congo
UNICEF	Simon Genin	United States of America
WFP	Angel Buitrago	Panama
	Catherine Boyle	South Africa
	Ekue Ayih	Nigeria
	Erika Iglesias	Nigeria
	Gabriela Alvarado	Panama
	Martin Dimuka	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Ozdzan Hadziemin	United Arab Emirates

Teleconference started at 13:04 UTC

Agenda

1. **Dominica update**
2. **Central African Republic (CAR) update**
3. **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) update**
4. **Nigeria update**
5. **AOB**

Minutes

1. **DOMINICA**

ETC Response

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) response in Dominica was officially closed on 23 March. It was concluded by a 3-day workshop with the Government of Dominica, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency

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

Management Agency (CDEMA), the Dominican National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) from Antigua and Trinidad. Ericsson Response provided support throughout the workshop.

- On day 1, there was a field visit to some of the communities in Dominica that used the ETC Internet services.

- On day 2, there were some presentations from the Government of Dominica, ETC partners, private sector companies and other actors involved in the humanitarian response.

- On day 3, a hands-on training was carried out to showcase the solutions used during the response to CDEMA and government actors from Dominica, Antigua and Trinidad. There were sessions on solar electricity, wireless networks and on the use of UAVs to support assessment activities. The World Food Programme (WFP), as global lead of the ETC, will continue working with the governments in the Caribbean and CDEMA on preparedness activities for the 2018 hurricane season.

2. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

ETC Response

- The ETC is providing Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in 9x locations across CAR: Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Bambari, Bangui, Paoua, Bouar and most recently Bria.

- The ETC is focusing on deploying security telecommunications and Internet services in 3x hotspots, namely Bria, Alindao and Bangassou.

  - In Bria, the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio network coverage was expanded. The United Nations (UN) VHF channel is fully operational and the ETC team is working on the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) channel.

    - ETC Internet connectivity is also now provided and the equipment is hosted by International Medical Corps (IMC). Services are being extended to other humanitarian organisations.

- The ETC telecommunications specialist has left the operation. The ETC team is looking at fulfilling this gap by hiring a local ICT expert.

- The ETC in CAR is facing funding constraints. The provision of services in the original 8 locations is secured until the end of the year, while establishment of the services in the 3x new hotspots and cluster coordination activities are only funded until June 2018. The ETC is looking into potential funding opportunities to ensure continuity of services.

- The ETC is working on a transition plan for the Internet and security telecommunications services in the country. The management of the security telecommunications services were transferred to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The ETC will assess data connectivity requirements from organisations on the ground to propose an alternative cost-effective solution or implement a cost-shared mechanism for 2019.

3. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

ETC Response

- There is currently a need for a dedicated ETC Coordinator.
- The Stand-by Partner from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is on mission setting up the inter-agency security telecommunications network in the Kasai region.

4. NIGERIA

Security situation

- The security situation remains extremely volatile. There was an incident on 1 April in Maiduguri and official reports indicate that more than 20 civilians were killed.
- Due to the recent security incidents, new measures are to be implemented for field missions. This has a direct impact on the way the ETS deploys services as no overnight missions on locations where hubs are not yet established are allowed. This challenge will be discussed in the next Area Security Management Team (ASMT) meeting. The deployment of Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) services in Damasak and Banki are now on hold until a solution is proposed.

ETS response

- After revising the funding figures for 2018, the ETS requires US$5.5 million to carry out its project until the end of the year. Considering the contribution received from Germany in early 2018 and the carry over funds, the ETS is currently 20% funded. Sweden has made a contribution to the Logistics and ETS project in North-East Nigeria but the allocation of funds between the two sectors is not yet finalised.
- The ETS continues providing and maintaining Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in five hubs in Borno state: Maiduguri, Gwoza, Ngala, Dikwa, Bama. The ETS has deployed services in the hub in Monguno but this hub is pending the final security approvals to be open to the humanitarian community.
- The ETS has deployed the WIDER solution from ETC partner Ericsson- used to manage and distribute Internet connectivity- in the humanitarian hubs in Maidururi, Dikwa and Bama. Ericsson Response requested the ETS Coordinator to share the plans for future WIDER deployments to ensure the support required from Ericsson is provided.
- Maintenance missions were carried out in Gwoza and Bama to ensure the optimal provision of ETS communications services. In Ngala, the ETS carried out an upgrade on the security telecommunications system.
- Coordination and information management missions were carried out in Damasak and Dikwa to assess the usage of ETS services in the field and identify emerging gaps.
- The ETS has been in talks with the Government of Luxembourg, ETC partner, to discuss the potential support to be provided in three locations in the second half of the year.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 13:26 UTC

Next Joint Global ETC Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 9 May 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

ASMT	Area Security Management Team
CAR	Central African Republic
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IMC	International Medical Corps
IT	Information Technology
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety & Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response

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