

Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #04

Reporting period 07/05/2015 to 12/05/2015

Highlights

- ETC shared internet services have been established at 2 NGO Hubs. The ETC has established services for the response community at 7 sites in Nepal.
- Over 325 individuals from 90 different response organisations have registered to use ETC connectivity services.

Situation Overview

Emergency operations in response to last month's 7.9 magnitude earthquake continue with urgency in Nepal. Monsoon season is rapidly approaching and heavy rains are already falling across the country further complicating access to remote areas affected by the earthquake. The ETC continues to coordinate with humanitarian organisations, national internet and mobile services providers and government authorities for an efficient and effective ICT response.

Daily aftershocks have been felt since the initial quake 17 days ago. On 12 May, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck 83km east of Kathmandu, causing further damage to affected areas. ETC internet services were temporarily disrupted, but all back online by close of business.

The entire Nepal earthquake operation is severely underfunded. The ETC is appealing for US\$2.5million to support provision of essential internet connectivity and radio communications services to the response community.



With support from NetHope and Ericsson Response, shared ETC internet services are available at the NGO Hub in Bidur, Nuwakot District.

Photo: WFP/ Mariko Hall

Response

- The ETC has provided shared internet connectivity services in 7 locations across Nepal. Over 325 users from 90 response organisations have registered to use ETC services.
- With support from ETC members Ericsson Response and NetHope, shared internet connectivity services are being provided at NGO Hubs at the Samaritan's Purse office in Bidur, Nuwakot District and Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) office in Arughat, Gorkha District.
- emergency.lu inflatable satellite terminal continues to provide internet services at the humanitarian hub in Chautara, located just 37km from the epicentre of the 12 May earthquake.
- Ericsson Response WIDER is managing and distributing internet connectivity at 5 locations across Nepal.
- The Airport Reception Centre has closed now that no more Search and Rescue teams will be arriving in Nepal. ETC shared internet services have therefore been decommissioned at this site.
- ETC member NetHope has provided 25 satellite phones and 23 mobile satellite terminals to 15 different NGOs responding to the earthquake.
- On behalf of the response community, the ETC has coordinated with Ncell in Bharatpur for humanitarians to access internet from the Ncell office at no charge. Humanitarians will need to present proof that they are supporting earthquake response efforts.
- Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF) has conducted first-hand communications assessments at all locations on road between Lapang and Jharland in Dhading District.
- The ETC is supporting humanitarian organisations in Kathmandu with radio programming on best effort basis.

Planned Response

- Additional shared internet services are planned for:
 - Logistics hub in Banepa, Kabhrepalanchok District
 - Logistics hub in Bharatpur, Chitwan District
 - NGO hub in Dhunche, Rasuwa District
- The ETC is collaborating with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) on radio coverage across Kathmandu and potential expansion of the network.

Challenges

- Runway congestion in Kathmandu has meant cancellation or rerouting of numerous commercial and charter flights delaying deployment of personnel and equipment.



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- The only airport in Nepal capable of accommodating large aircraft is in Kathmandu. The ETC is working with the Logistics Cluster for movement of equipment from the capital to remote areas.
 - Heavy rains leading up to the monsoon season is hindering access to affected areas.

Meetings

- Local ETC Working Group meeting was held 7 May. The next meeting will be held Thursday 14 May.
- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held Wednesday 13 May.

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Nepal are encouraged to share their contact details with Nepal.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.
- Dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/emergencies2015/nepal>. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall humanitarian response.



Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
Gorkha, ARUGHAT	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, MSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
Nuwakot, BIDUR	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, Samaritan's Purse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
Sindhupalchok, CHAUTARA	Humanitarian Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, IHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
Gorkha, DEURALI	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
Kathmandu, KATHMANDU	Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
	Ministry of Health	ISP, NetHope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	NetHope	Authorities
	UN House/ OSOCC	ISP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community

The Airport Reception Centre has been closed and as such, ETC services there have been demobilised.

ETC Services Map: <http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/emergencies2015/nepal>



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Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network – <i>portable global satellite internet network with telephony</i>
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Services Provider
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
UN	United Nations
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
WFP	World Food Programme

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

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

Background on the emergency:

On 25 April (11:56, UTC+5:45), a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal with the epicentre located 81 km northwest of the capital city of Kathmandu. The earthquake severely impacted 13 out of the 75 districts in the country. Hundreds of aftershocks have been reported including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake. With the severe devastation of the disaster, the Government of Nepal requested for international humanitarian support on 26 April. The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated on 27 April to provide:

1. Internet connectivity in hubs and operational areas.
2. Security communications network in remote areas.
3. Technical training of humanitarian staff, upskilling local personnel and ensuring sustainability of solutions after the emergency period.
4. Strengthening of disaster response capacity for the Nepali authorities.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is co-leading the ETC in Nepal with the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Sources: OCHA Nepal Earthquake sitrep, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)