Nepal - Earthquake

ETC Situation Report #05

Reporting period 13/05/2015 to 19/05/2015

Highlights

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity to the response community at 10 sites across Nepal.

- Over 620 individuals from 120 different response organisations have registered to use ETC connectivity services.

Situation Overview

As humanitarian organisations refine their response and begin establishing more permanent presence in key operational areas, the ETC is receiving increasing number of requests for internet connectivity. Where possible, the ETC is working with national Internet Services Providers (ISP) for them to extend services to these locations. If local providers are unable to provide services, the ETC is determining the feasibility of linking sites or deploying equipment.

The ETC continues to coordinate with humanitarian organisations, national internet and mobile services providers and government authorities for an efficient and effective ICT response.

Four of the 10 sites at which the ETC is providing shared internet connectivity services are in support of Logistics Cluster operations. These sites are managed by the ETC, but budgeted in the Logistics Cluster project, and are used to facilitate operations and inter-agency coordination at these sites.

In support of the Logistics Cluster, the ETC is now providing internet connectivity at their new hub in Chautara (Sindhupalchok district).
Photo: Ericsson Response/ Martin Falebrand

Response

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity services in 10 locations across Nepal. Over 620 users from 120 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 the Sub-OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordinator Centre) in **Gorkha** town, Gorkha district.

- Shared internet connectivity has been established at Logistics Cluster hubs in **Chautara** (Sindhupalchok District) and **Bharatpur** (Chitwan District).

- Ericsson Response WIDER is managing and distributing internet connectivity at 7 locations across Nepal.

- The emergency.lu inflatable satellite antenna continues to provide services to the response community at the Humanitarian Hub in Chautara.

- ETC member NetHope has provided 29 satellite phones and 26 mobile satellite terminals to 21 different NGOs responding to the earthquake.

- The ETC is supporting humanitarian organisations in Kathmandu with radio programming on best effort basis.

- The ETC is appealing for US$2.5million to provide essential internet connectivity and radio communications services to the response community. The ETC is currently 35% funded.

Planned Response

- Additional shared internet services are planned for:
    - NGO hub in Dhunche, Rasuwa District
    - NGO hub in Charikot, Dolakha District
    - Logistics hub in Charikot, Dolakha District

- The ETC is collaborating with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) on radio coverage across Kathmandu and expansion of the network. Additional repeaters will be installed for local communications in Gorkha and Chautara.

Challenges

- Monsoon season is approaching which will not only exacerbate existing logistics challenges but also potentially hamper deployment of certain technologies and provision of services.

Meetings

- Local ETC Working Group meeting was held 14 May. The next meeting will be held Thursday 21 May.

- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held Wednesday 20 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/ictepr/emergencies2015/nepal. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall coordination.

- **ETC Nepal services map:** http://ictemergency.wfp.org/documents/10844/3fdd4105-b6c1-4fd9-a190-8189fd8a1cdc

- **ETC Nepal factsheet:** http://ictemergency.wfp.org/documents/10844/1a94cf5c-5aa0-4491-b5cc-33b5dbc462cb

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)
www.ETCluster.org

Shared ICT Services

	DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
1	Sindhupalchok, CHAUTARA	Humanitarian Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, IHP	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
2	Gorkha, GORKHA	Sub-OSOCC	NetHope, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
3	Gorkha, ARUGHAT	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, MSF	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
4	Nuwakot, BIDUR	NGO Hub	NetHope, Ericsson Response, Samaritan's Purse	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
5	Kathmandu, KATHMANDU	UN House/ OSOCC	ISP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
6		Ministry of Health	ISP, NetHope	• Internet connectivity	NetHope	Authorities
7		Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)	ISP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
8	Chitwan, BHARATPUR	Logistics Cluster Hub	WFP	• Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community
9	Gorkha, DEURALI	Logistics Cluster Hub	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	• Internet connectivity	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
10	Sindhupalchok, CHAUTARA	Logistics Cluster Hub	WFP	• Internet connectivity	VSAT	Humanitarian community

Internet connectivity services provided at the Humanitarian Staging Area and Logistics Cluster Hubs are provided by the ETC, but **not** part of the ETC project budget. Services at these locations are budgeted as part of the Logistics Cluster project and are used to facilitate operations and inter-agency coordination at these sites.

Contacts

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Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network – *portable global satellite internet network with telephony*
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 – *satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity*
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)