# Preparedness in the Pacific

## ETC Situation Report #8

## Reporting period 01/10/2020 to 31/11/2020

These Situation Reports will be distributed every two months. The next report will be issued on or around 31/01/2021.

## Highlights

- The ETC Coordinator for the Pacific arrived in Fiji on 11 November, following a significant delay to travel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The ETC launched a survey from 16-30 November to gather feedback from partners in the region on its response to Cyclone Harold.

- As part of the response to COVID-19 in the Pacific, the ETC has initiated a project plan to enhance communications systems in Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



The ETC supports emergency telecommunications preparedness across 12 Pacific Island countries under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT).

*Photo: ETC*

## ETC Activities

- The Interim ETC Coordinator for the Pacific arrived in Fiji on 11 November, after working remotely since taking up the post on 20 July. The delay to the deployment of the ETC Coordinator to the Pacific was caused by COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

- The recruitment of a dedicated ETC Coordinator in the Pacific is ongoing. The vacancy announcement for the post was open from 26 October until 17 November.

- The ETC launched a survey on 16 November to gather feedback from partners in the region on its response to Cyclone Harold. The survey closed on 30 November and the results will be analysed and published in December. They survey aims to identify strengths and gaps in the ETC's response to ensure continued improvement to the ETC's emergency response capabilities.

- As part of the response to COVID-19 in the Pacific, the ETC has initiated a project plan funded by a total of US$700,000 received from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

    – The ETC is working with Nauru's National Emergency Services (NES) taskforce to enhance security communications networks in Nauru. The ETC is procuring VHF/HF handheld radios which will strengthen the emergency telecommunications response in future emergencies and post-disaster situations. Project planning has been completed and the equipment to be procured is pending technical specifications from a telecommunications specialist. The plan will be discussed with national ETC partners in Nauru for approval. A review of the existing HF/VHF networks in Nauru is also being evaluated and discussions with the relevant local stakeholders are due to take place in December. The expected completion date of this project is in early 2021.

    – The ETC is procuring a new teleconferencing system to facilitate remote working for Vanuatu's Ministry of Health (MoH) staff.

    – The ETC is working with regional partners, Flinders University, to plan the development of a data collection project in Tuvalu that will assist the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to collect and extrapolate data in support of the COVID-19 response. Other stakeholders involved in the project are the World Health Organisation (WHO), the ICT Department of the Tuvalu government and Tuvalu Communications Corporation.

## Information

- A dedicated information-sharing space on preparedness in the Pacific can be found on the ETC website: https://www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands

## Contacts

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