Pacific Island Countries – Preparedness
ETC Situation Report #20
Reporting period: January to March, Q1 2024

The ETC in the Pacific is led by the WFP Pacific Multi Country Office (MCO) and was activated in 2016 under the structure of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) to support telecommunications preparedness in the region. Situation reports are distributed every quarter.

Highlights

- The ETC in the Pacific supported the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to deliver four emergency telecommunications training sessions to 76 first responders and government officials in the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western division between February and March for enhanced capacity building for disaster preparedness.

- From 26 to 28 February, the ETC participated in the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Disaster Risk Management training organized for key ministries and local FPs in Kiribati by the Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service (JTEC) and was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The ETC delivered emergency telecommunications training to key government stakeholders in Fiji from February to March. Photo: WFP/ETC Pacific.

- The annual ETC User Satisfaction Survey report for 2023 was published and shared with global and regional partners on 23 February. Key takeaways from the report include the need to review deployment and capacity building actions taken during emergency response, and to set aside more time during ICT Capacity Assessment (ICA) processes to achieve better preparedness outcomes.

ETC Activities

Coordination

The ETC in the Pacific is led by the WFP Pacific Multi Country Office (MCO) and was activated in 2016 under the structure of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) to support telecommunications preparedness in the region. All ETC funding in the Pacific is received under the WFP Multi-Country Strategic Plan (MCSP) and all preparedness and emergency response activities carried out by the ETC in the Pacific are under the leadership of WFP.

The newly recruited dedicated ETC Coordinator for the Pacific arrived in Suva, Fiji, on 15 March. The ETC Coordinator will be based in Fiji.

Further, the recruitment process for a fourth ETC team member responsible for coordinating capacity building activities in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) has been finalized. The new ETC Training and Development Manager will join the team on 27 March.

The annual ETC User Satisfaction Survey report for 2023 was published and shared with global and regional partners on 23 February. The aim of the survey was to gather feedback from organizations across the PICs who engaged with ETC preparedness and response activities in 2023. The survey resulted in a user satisfaction score of 83%, which is above the 80% baseline set as the key performance indicator for the survey. Key takeaways from the report include the need to review deployment and capacity building actions taken during and immediately after an emergency response. Additionally, it is recommended to set aside more time during ICT Capacity Assessment (ICA) processes to achieve better preparedness outcomes.

Fiji

As part of its support to reinforcing disaster preparedness in the Pacific, the ETC delivered four capacity building sessions from February to March, each of them a three-day emergency telecommunications training to a total of 76 first responders from the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) Emergency Planning and Coordination Unit as well as government officials. The sessions were conducted in four divisions—Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western. It covered key topics including understanding the fundamentals of effective disaster management and effective communication, practical sessions on the use of radio communications, and demonstrations on different emergency telecommunications tools. The ETC supplied satellite phone Push to Talk (PTT) and BGAN connectivity device data subscriptions for the simulation exercise.

On 29 February, WFP participated in an 'Early Warning for All (EW4ALL)' workshop in Suva, Fiji, which focused on multi-hazard early warning systems that strengthen populations' capacity to mitigate the risks of natural hazards. The consultation was led by the Government of Fiji under the coordination of the NDMO and Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) and co-organized with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and World Meteorological Organization (UNWMO) as the global UN lead agencies for the EW4ALL initiative. The ETC has extended its support to Pillar 3 of the initiative, which focuses on communication and dissemination of risk related information.

Kiribati

The ETC was invited to participate in the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) disaster risk management training organized for emergency responders in Kiribati by the Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service (JTEC) from 26 to 28 February. As ETC lead, WFP ETC delivered a presentation focusing on the ETC's global and regional initiatives, as well as case studies of emergency preparedness and response activities in the Pacific region. Feedback gathered from the participants reflected the need for an updated ICA to be conducted, together with drone training for emergency response.

Infographic

See the ETC Pacific preparedness infographic here.

Factsheet

See the ETC Pacific preparedness Factsheet here.

Funding

All ETC funding in the Pacific is received under the WFP Multi-Country Strategic Plan (MCSP). The budget available to the ETC in the Pacific to carry out preparedness and response activities in 2024 is US$438,685 and is kindly supported by the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and through multi-lateral pools channeled through WFP HQ.

Meetings

The ETC is actively re-engaging with national focal points across the Pacific to increase collaboration on IT emergency preparedness. The priority is to re-activate the ETC Coordination Meetings in the Pacific by the end of Q2 2024, working towards more engagement with regional stakeholders and reinforced coordination capacity.

Contacts

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All information related to ETC preparedness can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands

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

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