

# Pacific Island Countries – Preparedness

ETC Situation Report #11

Reporting period: Q3 & Q4 2021

The ETC in the Pacific 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. The next report will be issued on or around 31/03/2022.

## Highlights

- In collaboration with Australia’s Flinders University, the ETC has developed a three-week Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) training module for ICT professionals in the Pacific that will be delivered in February 2022.
- The ETC achieved a 100 percent overall user satisfaction rating in its annual survey from respondents who engaged with ETC projects in 2021, including development of the D-EPR course, the provision of emergency response equipment during the response to COVID-19 in Fiji, and the support provided by the ETC during the emergency response to Cyclone Yasa.
- On 13 December, the ETC brought together 10 national and regional counterparts in an end-of-year Pacific regional workshop to provide ICT and disaster professionals with opportunities to strengthen and plan further coordination efforts moving into 2022.



The ETC supports communications preparedness across the Pacific.  
Photo: WFP/ETC

## Activities

### *Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) course*

As part of overall capacity strengthening, the ETC has developed a three-week executive training module in Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) in collaboration with Australia’s Flinders University. The training, originally planned as a face-to-face training, was restructured to be delivered virtually. It is aimed at developing capacity among ICT and emergency telecommunications professionals in the Pacific to respond to emergency telecommunications or ICT needs during humanitarian crises. The course incorporates tabletop and simulation exercises for participants. The course will be held in February 2022 for the first cohort. Find out more about the D-EPR course on the ETC website here: [www.etcluster.org/event/DEPR-ict-2022](http://www.etcluster.org/event/DEPR-ict-2022)

### *Vanuatu teleconferencing solution*

The ETC supported Vanuatu's Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to procure and deploy a teleconferencing system for the Ministry of Health's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The system has been delivered – installation and implementation will be taken forward in January 2022 by OGCIO.

### *Nauru telecommunications infrastructure project*

The ETC is working with Nauru's National Emergency Services (NES) taskforce to upgrade and strengthen the country's emergency radio telecommunications systems used in emergencies and post-disaster situations. Throughout November and December, the ETC facilitated the delivery of radio network equipment to Nauru, and identified a WFP specialist to deploy to Nauru in early 2022 to install the equipment and provide capacity strengthening training to NES personnel in systems management, operational maintenance, and to complete frequency planning for the radio network. The implementation of this upgraded network capacity will provide the Nauru NES with a more flexible, robust, and resilient emergency telecommunications capability to support its field response to emergencies and other adverse events.

### *Pacific regional workshop*

On 13 December, the ETC brought together 10 national and regional counterparts in an end-of-year Pacific regional workshop to provide ICT and disaster professionals with opportunities to strengthen and plan further coordination efforts, moving into 2022. The session included presentations on the [ITU-ETC simulation guide](#) and from the GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resiliency, the New Zealand Red Cross, the Fiji Amateur Radio Association. Participants indicated interest in receiving ETC support to develop National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETPs) and connectivity improvement initiatives. They also indicated an interest in capacity building activities focused on emergency management and coordination.

### *Capacity building in Fiji*

As part of capacity building initiatives, a hands-on instructional demonstration on using BGAN and Iridium satellite equipment was delivered to staff in Fiji's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) by the ETC and a WFP IT associate on 29 December.

### *Equipment repositioning*

The ETC is working with WFP in Fiji to audit available in-country telecommunications equipment as part of preparedness measures. Two replacement parts have been ordered from WFP in the UAE to resolve an issue with faulty connectivity equipment (BGANs).

### *User satisfaction survey 2021*

The ETC user satisfaction survey in the Pacific closed on 20 December with a 100 percent overall user satisfaction rate from seven respondents. All respondents reported a level of satisfaction with the projects they had engaged in with the ETC in 2021, including the development of the D-EPR training course, the provision of emergency response equipment to the government of Fiji as part of the national COVID-19 response, and support provided by the ETC in early 2021 during the emergency response to Cyclone Yasa, which struck Fiji in December 2020. A report will be published based on the findings of the survey.

### 2021 overview

A total of eight partners were supported by the ETC in 2021 across government entities, the private sector, humanitarian organizations, and academia. The ETC focused activities on supporting essential telecommunications networks and infrastructure in Pacific Island Countries as and where feasible, as these are crucial components of effective COVID-19 preparedness and response.

## Funding

All ETC funding in the Pacific is received under the WFP interim Multi-Country Strategic Plan (iMCSP). The current budget available to the ETC to carry out preparedness and COVID-19 response activities going into 2022 is US\$142,000. Funds spent by the ETC in 2021 under iMCSP were received from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA/USAID) and through multi-lateral assistance.

## Contacts

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	CONTACT
John Dovale	ETC Coordinator	Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:John.dovale@wfp.org">John.dovale@wfp.org</a>
Elizabeth Millership	Remote Information Management Officer	Dubai, UAE	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.millership@wfp.org">Elizabeth.millership@wfp.org</a>

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

[www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands](http://www.etcluster.org/preparedness/preparedness-pacific-islands)

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

[Pacific.etc@wfp.org](mailto:Pacific.etc@wfp.org)