

# Philippines, Typhoon Rai / Odette

Global ETC Teleconference #7

Date: 07/02/2022 Time: 13:00 UTC

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: [www.etcluster.org](http://www.etcluster.org)

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

[Philippines.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Philippines.ETC@wfp.org)

## Attendance

Chair	Brent Carbn	Canada
Government of Luxembourg	Bram Krieps	Luxembourg
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
NetHope	Dagbjartur Brynjarsson	Iceland
	Jason MacDonald	Philippines
WFP	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
	Oscar Caleman	Bangkok
	Patricia Facultad	Italy
	Martin Kristensson	Philippines
	Amirullah Syarif	Philippines
	Lars Ruediger	Philippines
	Martin Winkler	Switzerland
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Caroline Teyssier	UAE
	Claire Roach	UAE
World Vision International	Dindo Garcia	Philippines
	Arnel Go	Singapore

## Agenda

1. Situation update
2. Global ETC update
3. Partner updates

## Minutes

### 1. Situation update

#### *Connectivity*

- Good progress is being made by the government and private sector on the restoration of connectivity and electricity in Northern Mindanao, Southern Leyte, and on Bohol Island.
- Restoration efforts are ongoing in Dinagat Island, Siargao Island, and Socorro Island in the Caraga region, however there has been much more significant damage to the infrastructure there and progress is slower.
- With the exception of the islands in the Caraga region, most of the municipal capitals and many of the smaller cities and villages in the affected area now have connectivity and electricity provided by generators. It has been reported that throughout most of the affected area the local population has been able to access connectivity and charging services at local town halls.
- Lack of power seems to be the source of connectivity outages in many areas across Southern Leyte, Northern Mindanao, and on Bohol Island. In many cases when electricity is restored in an area, connectivity also comes back.
- Work is underway to restore Bohol Island's power grid this week through the installation of a temporary electricity feeder line to the island. Most of the major cities on Bohol Island already have some data connectivity, despite congested services.
- Fibre connectivity is gradually being restored in a number of locations, including in Surigao City where the ETC was able to source fibre connection with a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) to establish several point-to-point links.

#### *Humanitarian Activities*

- There are now many humanitarian agencies active in Northern Mindanao and on the eastern islands in the Caraga region.
- Many UN agencies are setting up offices in Surigao City this week, and some agencies and NGOs are setting up semi-permanent offices on the islands.
- Several UN agencies have jointly identified a location in Maasin City in Southern Leyte for a common office.
- WFP is still considering Sogod City as the base for its operations in Southern Leyte as it is closer to the main operational area.
- On Bohol Island, some agencies have been operating from Tagbilaran on the southwestern side of the island. Other organisations are setting up their operations on the northeastern side of Bohol, closer to the most affected area.

### *Travel and Importation Restrictions*

- Effective 10 February 2022, fully vaccinated nationals of non-visa required countries will be allowed to enter the Philippines and obtain a visa-on-arrival. Some COVID-19 testing and quarantine requirements for international travellers have also been relaxed effective 1 February.
- All regular importation procedures are still in effect.

## 2. Global ETC update

- The Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has demobilised three of their Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies (MOVE) units that were stationed in Surigao City, Butuan City, and Carmen City on Bohol Island. Connectivity continues to be provided to the government operations centre in Surigao City by VSAT and fibre, while the regular connectivity network has been restored in Butuan City and in Carmen on Bohol Island. The fourth MOVE unit remains operational in Alegria on Cebu Island.
- The Ericsson Response, WFP FITTEST and WFP Philippines staff were able to secure a usable fibre connection from the local service provider and have been linking it to multiple locations around Surigao City.
- Links have been established at two locations in Surigao city; the UN common office and the government coordination hub at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) compound.
- The team will continue to establish more links to extend the connectivity to several new locations in Surigao City, including two hotels that are being used as humanitarian accommodation.
- Part of the team will deploy to the eastern islands later this week to support DICT in installing new locally procured VSATs and maintaining their existing installations.
- The team will also assess whether the existing provision of connectivity services to humanitarians at the government service point is sufficient, or if there is a need to establish dedicated services for humanitarians on the islands.
- Discussions are ongoing with World Vision on whether staffing support will be required. This will likely depend on whether it is decided to establish additional humanitarian services on the eastern islands.
- Due to the quick progress on the restoration of connectivity throughout the affected areas, the ETC will not deploy WFP's C-band VSATs that are available in country.
- As the team transitions to a new phase in the response, the coordinator from the Global ETC Team and one of the Ericsson Response ICT specialists will leave the Philippines next week.

- The WFP IT Emergency Coordinator will return to managing the Government Emergency Communications System (GECs) MOVE project with DICT and hand over the coordination role to the WFP FITTEST ICT specialist.
- The second Ericsson ICT specialist will remain on the ground to support the ETC response along with the WFP Philippines technician.

### 3. Partner updates

#### *NetHope*

- The NetHope coordinator has left the Philippines after having led NetHope's response on the ground since 30 December 2021.
- NetHope have handed over seven satellite phones, five HF radio kits, and five Wi-Fi networks to DICT, Local Government Units (LGUs) and member organisations.
- NetHope will continue to support and pay for the subscription for the Wi-Fi networks for six months until the end of July.

#### *International Telecommunications Union (ITU)*

- The [Disaster Connectivity Map](#) (DCM) has been gathering data from the Philippines since 21 December and the campaign continues to run within a 100km radius around Surigao City.
- After 17 January the DCM showed a reduction in connectivity compared to previous weeks in Dinagat Island, Siargao Island and Socorro Island. However from 2 February connectivity has noticeably improved again.

**The next teleconference will be held on 21 February 2022 at 12:00 UTC**

12:00 UTC  
13:00 Rome  
16:00 Dubai  
19:00 Bangkok  
20:00 Manila

## Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Relief Fund
DCM	Disaster Connectivity Map
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
LGU	Local Government Units
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

MOVE	Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International

**Minutes: Claire Roach, Global ETC Operational Information Management Officer**