

Fiji – Tropical Cyclone Winston

ETC Situation Report #2

Reporting period 03/03/16 to 09/03/16

The next ETC Fiji SitRep will be issued on or around 16/03/16.

Highlights

- Local service providers in Fiji have been able to quickly restore services back to 90-95%.
- A mission is being carried out to assess the ICT needs on the outer islands severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to work closely with the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Ministry of Telecommunications to develop a strategic plan of action.



A scene of Tropical Cyclone Winston's destruction in Tamavua, Suva, Fiji
Photo: UNICEF

Situation Overview

- More than two weeks after Tropical Cyclone Winston struck Fiji at the end of February, the Government of Fiji and the NDMO continue to lead and coordinate the humanitarian response in the country. The ETC continues to assist the government-led response by meeting with its NDMO counterpart three times a week to ensure a coordinated response.
- Although local service providers have almost fully restored services to pre-cyclone levels some of the hardest-hit areas will continue to experience some delays in getting their connectivity services restored.

Planned Response

- The focus of the assessment carried out by FITTEST will be identifying the specific sites where the community was hardest hit, and they previously did not have any significant telecommunications services. These sites will be where any future ETC activities aiming to increase government preparedness might take place.



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- A senior IT specialist from the World Food Programme (WFP) Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team (FITTEST) is carrying out an assessment mission to the outer islands of Fiji that were in the direct path of the cyclone: Lau Group (Vanua Balavu, Kancea, Yacata, Cicia); Koro island, Yasawa Group and the north coast of Viti Levu. This mission, which is expected to be completed by 25 March, has been fully endorsed by the Ministry of Telecommunications.

Challenges

- As the destruction is widespread across several islands, assessments continue to be carried out to determine the impact and needs in the numerous remote areas. Main highways and roads are reported to be clear although accessing some sites may require 4x4 vehicles.
- The difficulty in obtaining access to many of the remote sites might delay the assessment processes.

Funding

- A humanitarian Flash Appeal has been launched where the ETC is appealing for US\$695,000 to support the inter-agency response.
- The ETC has submitted a request for US\$42,000 to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as an initial allocation to start assessments and coordination.

ETC Meetings

- Local ETC meetings are held twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The next meeting will be held Saturday 12 March. For further information, contact: Fiji.ETC@wfp.org
- Global ETC teleconferences are held according to needs. To be added to the mailing list, contact: Fiji.ETC@wfp.org

Information

- ETC Fiji emergency page: <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/fiji-tropical-cyclone-winston>
- ETC Fiji discussion forum and updates: <https://www.etcluster.org/discussions/fiji-tropical-cyclone-winston>



Key ETC Contacts

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Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
WFP	UN 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: Fiji.ETC@wfp.org