Haiti – Hurricane Matthew

ETC Situation Report #1

Reporting period 05/10/16 to 13/10/16

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has not been activated in response to Hurricane Matthew. As global lead of the ETC, the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the Haiti ICT Working Group, collaborating with government, private sector and humanitarian partners on the ground to ensure a coordinated response. The next SitRep will be issued on or around 10/11/16.

Highlights

- Category-four Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti on 4 October, bringing with it sustained winds of 235 km/h resulting in widespread destruction, flooding, displacement and catastrophic loss of life.

- The fiercest storm in the Caribbean in almost a decade, severely affected the south of the country, especially the Departments of Grand-Anse and Sud in Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic.

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has not been activated in Haiti. As global lead of the ETC, the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the Haiti ICT Working Group, collaborating with the government, private sector and humanitarian partners for a coordinated response. The ETC has regional and global resources ready to deploy.

The ETC team: Karén Barsamian from FITTEST and LP Svensson from Ericsson Response unload emergency ICT equipment in Haiti.

Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

Over two million people have been affected by Hurricane Matthew throughout the country, with 1.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance. A Flash Appeal for $119 million has been launched to cover urgent humanitarian needs for an initial period of three months.

One week after Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in early October, the ETC has deployed two personnel to the country to identify needs on the ground and provide basic connectivity services: one from WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) and one from Ericsson Response.

Overhead cabling infrastructure, including fibre, power and telephony cables, was brought down by the hurricane over much of the affected area. Mobile networks are available in both Jeremie in Grand-Anse and Les Cayes, as are 2G or 3G mobile data services, however coverage varies outside of populated areas.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

Humanitarian Clusters have not been activated in Haiti. As there is need for shared Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services in response to Hurricane Matthew, the ETC is convening the Haiti ICT Working Group.

Planned Response

- The ETC has identified 5x sites in which it plans to provide shared internet connectivity services:

    - **2x sites in Les Cayes:**
        - UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) base.
        - The WFP inter-agency Logistics base.
    - **3x sites in Jeremie:**
        - Regional Emergency Operations Centre (COUD) in Le Chateau.
        - With microwave links this will be connected to the WFP inter-agency staging Logistics base.
        - International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) light camp.
- A second staff member from Ericsson Response will deploy in the coming days to support the Haiti ICT Working Group.

Challenges

- Efforts to access worst-affected areasare hampered by flooding, the collapse of communication networks and the destruction of vital infrastructure.

Funding

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has launched a Flash Appeal requesting US$119 million to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs of 750,000 people severely affected by the hurricane for the next three months.

- The ETC has requested US$720,000 to for six a month operation, covering:

    - Provision of shared internet connectivity at 5x sites
    - On-site user support services
    - Capacity-building with Haitian authorities
    - Dedicated Haiti ICT Working Group Coordinator
    - Remote Information Management Support.

Meetings

- The next Haiti ICT Working Group will be held during the week starting 17 October. Time TBC.

- The next Global information-sharing call on Hurricane Matthew will be held on Thursday 20 October.

Information

- ETC Hurricane Matthew emergency page: https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/caribbean-hurricane-matthew

Key ETC Contacts

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Acronyms

COUD	Regional Emergency Operations Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
MINUSTAH	UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WFP	UN World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Global.ETC@wfp.org