

Mozambique – Cyclone Idai

ETC Situation Report #3

Reporting period 19/03/19 to 22/03/19

ETC Mozambique Situation Reports are distributed every three days. The next report will be issued on or around 24/03/19.

Highlights

- The most affected city area by the Tropical Cyclone Idai, Beira, continues to have no power services. Voice services from the local provider are slowly recovering but are not fully reliable.
- On 20 March, the Resident Coordinator for Mozambique proposed the official activation of a number of clusters, including the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). Formal activation of all clusters along with the SCALE-UP protocol for 3 months was confirmed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on 22 March.
- The ETC Coordinator continues to engage with the response community and relevant government authorities to determine their ICT needs and planned activities to ensure an effective response.



ETC partner Ericsson Response and the ETC Coordinator in Mozambique arrive in Beira with connectivity equipment.

Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

The National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) of Mozambique estimates that 600,000 people are currently at risk and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in the affected areas. The situation is likely to continue to deteriorate, and the number of people affected is likely to increase, as more heavy rainfall is predicted. An aerial survey of Buzi – home to more than 200,000 people – conducted after reports that the Buzi and Pungwe rivers had burst their banks, found thousands of people marooned on rooftops. The immediate priority is search and rescue for people stranded by flood waters. Main roads into and out of Beira remain cut due to flood waters and extensive damage to the road network.

Response

- The ETC Coordinator arrived in Beira on 19 March and is conducting immediate assessments to better identify the ICT needs of the humanitarian partners operating in the affected areas.
- Since the ETC activated the Crisis Connectivity Charter to support humanitarian communications in Mozambique, satellite industry companies, Eutelsat SA, Inmarsat and SES have so far been selected to provide services.
- Connectivity services are operational at the operations center at Beira airport. ETC Partners Ericsson Response, ITU, the Government of Luxembourg (emergency.lu) and Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) are working together to provide data connectivity services to the humanitarians deployed to Beira. This enable them to coordinate their activities effectively.
- Vodafone Foundation has also sent a team of responders to support with connectivity requirements.
- 1x Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) expert from the WFP is supporting damage assessment through mapping of the affected areas in Beira in coordination with the Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades (INGC), the National Disaster Management Institute of Mozambique.

Planned Response

- The ETC is ready to provide communications services for humanitarians in new operations hubs such as Chimoio as required.
- ETC is planning a Services for Communities (S4C) assessment to identify most urgent communications requirements and support it can provide to affected populations.

Challenges

- Satellite voice services are unreliable which is hampering the humanitarian response on the ground.
- After the cyclone, the national electricity grid in Beira has been non-operational and is not expected to become fully functional before the end of March.

Funding

- The ETC required a total of US\$1.2M for the provision of ETC services during an initial period of three months in up to four locations, one of them being Beira and others being identified.
- The ETC is requesting US\$100,000 from the Mozambique Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocation to support its initial critical activities.



Meetings

- The next Global ETC teleconference on the Cyclone Idai in Mozambique will be held **TBC**.

Information

- ETC Mozambique services dashboard is available here: www.etcluster.org/document/etc-mozambique-dashboard-18-march-2019
- All the information related to the ETC response in Mozambique can be found on the dedicated emergency page on the ETC website: www.etcluster.org/emergencies/mozambique-cyclone-idai
- Partners that are responding in the affected areas or have relevant information on the Mozambique operation for the wider humanitarian community can share it by emailing Global.ETC@wfp.org.



Key ETC Contacts

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Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
INGC	National Disaster Management Institute
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
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