

Mozambique – Cyclone Idai

ETC Situation Report #5

Reporting period 26/03/19 to 28/03/19

ETC Mozambique are distributed every three days. The next report will be issued on or around 31/03/19.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Services for Communities (S4C) advisor arrived in Mozambique on 26 March to assess the communications needs of affected communities in priority areas.
- To date, 612 humanitarians at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Beira are accessing ETC Internet connectivity to enable them to do their work.
- The ETC required US\$1.2 million to provide critical communications services in up to four EOCs for three months along with a number of connection sites for accommodation centres, health centres, distribution points and joint location NGOs.



The ETC is currently providing Internet connectivity to 612 humanitarians at the EOC at Beira airport.

Photo: WFP/Suzanne Fenton

Situation Overview

The official death toll of Cyclone Idai has now reached 468 with more than 1,500 people injured, according to government figures. Around 128,000 people are being accommodated in 154 sites across four provinces: Sofala, Manica, Zambezia and Tete.

Cholera cases have been officially confirmed in Beira. The World Health Organisation is sending 900,000 oral cholera vaccines. Beira airport is fully operational, but challenges with fuel shortages, low fuel refilling capacity, and lack of loading and handling capacities for supplies remain.

The Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2019 has been revised to include the Tropical Cyclone Idai response which left 1.85 million in urgent need of assistance.

Response

- Since the start of the ETC response to Cyclone Idai, a total of 612 humanitarians in Beira are accessing ETC Internet connectivity services to conduct their lifesaving work effectively.
 - ETC partners Ericsson Response, emergency.lu, ITU, and Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) are providing vital communications equipment and have set up connectivity services at Beira airport.
 - Local ETC partner on the ground, Vodafone Foundation has sent a team of responders to support with connectivity requirements.
 - Since the ETC activated the Crisis Connectivity Charter to support humanitarian communications in Mozambique, satellite industry companies, Eutelsat SA, Inmarsat and SES are providing services.
 - A NetHope team member has taken on the role of NGO Coordinator based in Beira to support ETC coordination.
- In Beira, the ETC has now established Internet connectivity links in 7x additional sites including Hotel Sena, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) office, World Food Programme (WFP) office, World Central Kitchen, National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) in Beira airport, DHL office in Beira airport, and Samaritan's Purse office.
- The ETC Services for Communities (S4C) advisor has arrived in Beira. The ETC is collaborating closely with the National Forum of Community Broadcasters (FORCOM) in Mozambique to conduct technical assessments of priority community radio stations with a view to rehabilitating them so that critical messages can be broadcast to affected communities. FORCOM is the governing body of 51 community radio stations in Mozambique.

Planned Response

- An ETC team will travel to Matarara to deploy Internet connectivity services for humanitarians in an operational hub that will be used for distributions.
- The ETC will continue to provide additional Internet connectivity links to organisations in Beira where feasible.
- With cholera cases now confirmed in Beira, the ETC is planning to conduct connectivity assessments of nine cholera centres planned by World Health Organisation (WHO) in affected areas.

Challenges

- Satellite voice services are unreliable which is hampering the humanitarian response on the ground.
- Since 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.



-
- Slow customs clearances are delaying the arrival of critical ICT equipment into the country.

Funding

- The ETC is appealing for US\$1.2 million for the provision of services in up to four EOCs for three months along with a number of connection sites for accommodation centres, health centres, distribution points and joint location NGOs.
- The ETC has requested 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 response in Mozambique will be held on Wednesday 3 April.

Information

- 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
- The latest ETC Mozambique Dashboard can be found here: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-mozambique-dashboard-27-march-2019>
- 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 Mozambique.ETC@wfp.org.



Key ETC Contacts

Mozambique.ETC@wfp.org

LOCATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Beira, Mozambique	Ryan Twitney	ETC Coordinator	ryan.twitney@wfp.org
Beira, Mozambique	Suzanne Fenton	ETC IM Officer	suzanne.fenton@wfp.org

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