

Mozambique – Cyclone Idai

ETC Situation Report #1

Reporting period 14/03/19 to 16/03/19

ETC Mozambique SitReps are distributed every two days. The next report will be issued on or around 18/03/19.

Highlights

- Category 3 Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall in Beira, Mozambique's fourth largest city, on 14 March evening leaving Beira with no communications and power services.
- An IT emergency specialist from WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team (FITTEST) was deployed as ETC Coordinator on 15 March to conduct an initial Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has not been yet activated.
- The Crisis Connectivity Charter has been activated and communications equipment is on the way to Mozambique from Dubai where the equipment was prepositioned.
- ETC partners Ericsson Response, Government of Luxembourg and Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) have mobilized personnel and equipment to Mozambique to help provide communications services.



ETC partners packing communications equipment for Beira, the most affected area by Cyclone Idai.
Photo: WFP/ Erika Iglesias

Situation Overview

Mozambique is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, drought and earthquakes frequently has a significant impact on its people and the economy.

Tropical Cyclone Idai - a category 3 cyclone - made landfall in Beira, Mozambique's fourth largest city, on 14 March evening, resulting in wind speeds of up to 224km/h and heavy rains. Cyclone Idai is the strongest tropical cyclone to affect Central and North Mozambique since Tropical Cyclone Eline which struck the country in February 2000, claiming at least 800 lives.

Response

- Following the cyclone, the ETC deployed a coordinator to assess the status of the communications services and infrastructure on the ground and start initial coordination amongst local and deployed humanitarian actors in support of lifesaving activities. The ETC Coordinator is currently travelling on an inter-agency mission to Beira and is expected to arrive on 18 March.
- To augment the existing communications services in the affected areas if required, ETC partner the Government of Luxembourg mobilized 2x rapid deployment kits and 2x staff to provide Internet connectivity services. In addition, ETC partner Ericsson Response is deploying 1x staff and the WIDER solution to manage and distribute Internet connectivity. This equipment and personnel are expected to arrive in Maputo on 17 March.
- A team of three people from ETC partner TSF has been deployed to Mozambique with connectivity equipment to provide services to humanitarian partners in the affected areas as needed. One of the team members and some of TSF's equipment are part of the inter-agency mission to Beira that left Maputo on 16 March.
- The Crisis Connectivity Charter has been activated in response to the Cyclone Idai. Communications equipment from signatories Eutelsat, Iridium and IrmSAT was hand-carried by the ETC Coordinator to the country.

Planned Response

- Once the ETC Coordinator arrives in Beira, a comprehensive assessment mission will be conducted across the affected areas to map the communications needs of the response community and possibly deploy shared communications services to facilitate the operation. The most appropriate location to set up the equipment from Ericsson Response and the Government of Luxembourg will be identified.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) equipment and 1x expert are being deployed from WFP's Regional Bureau in Johannesburg to assist in inter-agency mapping activities in the affected areas.

Challenges

- As of 16 March, all domestic flights remain cancelled and access to affected areas in central and northern Mozambique remains a challenge. National carrier LAM is tentatively resuming operations on 17 March, depending on weather conditions. Beira is not accessible by road from Maputo as a flooded road is reported in Nhamatanda. UNHAS is setting up an operation to support humanitarian access to Beira.
- Satellite voice services are unreliable which is hampering the humanitarian response on the ground.
- Following 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 forecasted a budget of US\$500,000 for the coordination and provision of security communications and Internet connectivity services during an initial period of three months in three locations to be defined.

Meetings

- The first Global ETC teleconference on the Cyclone Idai in Mozambique will be held on **18 March 2019**.

Information

- ETC Mozambique services dashboard is available here: www.etcluster.org/document/etc-mozambique-dashboard-16-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

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
TSF	Télécoms Sans Frontières
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	UN World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response

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