

Vanuatu Cyclones & earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #4

Date: 21/03/2023 Time: 14:00 UTC

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/emergency/vanuatu-earthquake-and-cyclones-judy-and-kevin

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

global.etc@wfp.org

Attendance

Chair	Phyza Jameel	Italy
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
Government of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenburg	Luxembourg
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
UNICEF	Marc Dieng	Afghanistan
WFP	Abdul Halim Yousufzai	UAE
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Claire Roach	UAE
	Dane Novarlic	UAE
	Komi Amedjonekou	Italy
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
	Oscar Caleman	Thailand
	Semso Sabotic	Vanuatu

Agenda

1. Situation update
2. ETC Pacific updates
3. Partner updates
4. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Situation is calm with business going on as usual. The general sense of emergency is slowly waning away.

2. ETC Pacific updates

Impact on Telecommunications

- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) [Disaster Connectivity Map \(DCM\)](#) is activated to support the tracking of spatial connectivity and private mobile network coverage.
- Electricity power remains in very short supply due to infrastructure damage following the two cyclones. Fuel generators are also out of stock on the market.

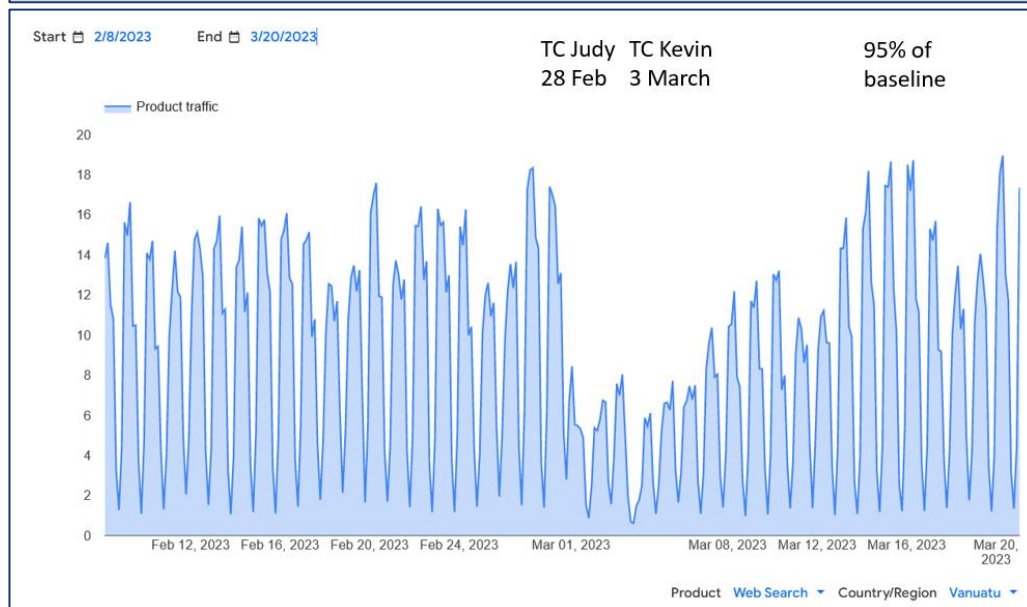
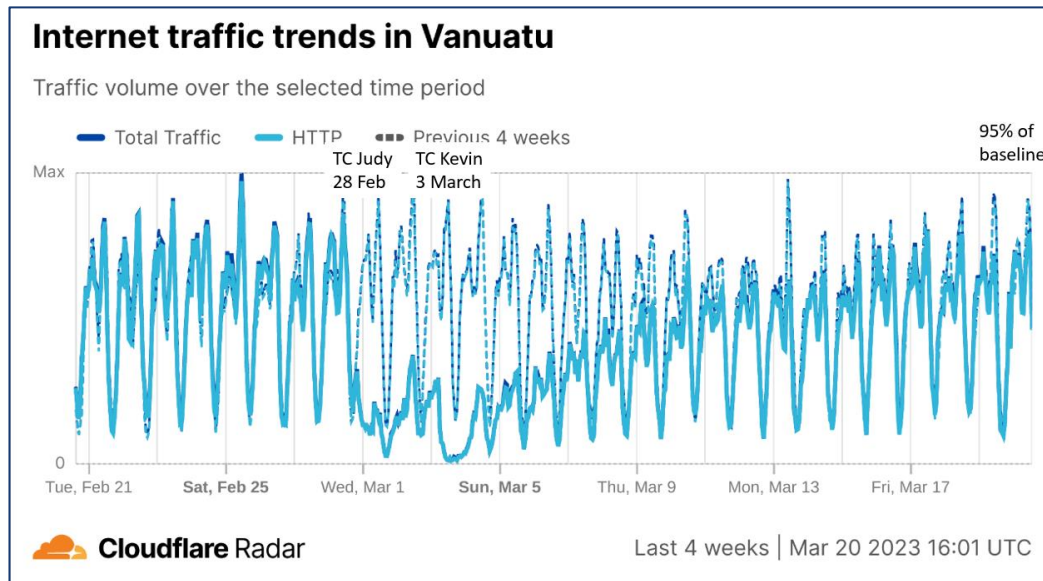
ICT response

- On 21 March, the ETC participated in a coordination meeting hosted by the NDMO in Port Vila to identify gaps and needs in the current response to the cyclones disaster. The NDMO indicated that they are in the process of identifying other locations which may need internet connectivity across Vanuatu.
- FITTEST Senior IT Specialist (Abdul Halim Yousufzai) arrived in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 17 March to join ETC Telecommunication Specialist, Semso Sabotic.
- Abdul Halim Yousufzai, visited Tongariki Island, which is located in the eastern side of shepherd islands, to carry out ICT and telecommunications status assessment on 19 March. Assessment showed availability of Digicel GSM and 3G connectivity. However, the 3G connectivity is characterized by very slow download speeds. No Vodafone connectivity was detected. A quick star link signal survey showed good connectivity. Residents of the island use mobile phones. The island however has limited access to electricity power, following the damage to the national power grid infrastructure. The current major source of electricity power are fuel generators though there are currently unavailable on the Vanuatu market.
- The NDMO has requested the ETC to install a star link device on Tanna Island for internet connectivity at the Tafea Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC). Access to internet using the device will be made available for both NDMO personnel and humanitarian responders. The ETC awaits a formal email request to commence the installation.
- There are couple of more assessments planned, however transportation remain a challenge for the staff to get to affected areas.
- As there has not been an urgent escalated request for connectivity assistance from the Vanuatu government, the response will continue with the existing two personnel deployed to Vanuatu (a FITTEST Senior IT Specialist and a FITTEST Telecommunication Specialist).
- The current response will be evaluated after three weeks to determine the next phase of the response plan.

3. Partner updates

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) activated the [Disaster Connectivity Map \(DCM\) campaign](#)¹ on 5 March to track mobile network and data connectivity across the 13 islands.
- Nationwide, mobile network coverage² is now estimated to have been restored to 95% of the baseline level prior to the cyclones, after an initial drop of roughly 50%.



¹ The DCM data comes from four sources: 1) Worldwide baseline, 2) Ookla (open source for global fixed broadband and mobile network performance datasets), 3) Speedchecker (draws data anonymously from mobile phones application) and 4) Meta (parent company of Facebook and WhatsApp).

² Based on open-source data from IODA, Cloudflare, and Google.

4. AOB

- N/A.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on 18 April 2023.

Acronyms

DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
CO	Country Office
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MCO	Multi Country Office
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
PEOC	Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
PTT	Push-To-Talk
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, ETC Information Management Officer