

From: Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC Lead)

To: All

Subject: Initial ETC Sitrep

Details Reported Below:

Papua New Guinea – Earthquake and Tsunami

Initial ETC Situation Report

Reporting data: as of 9 August 2019 (1200z)

Highlights:

• The ETC is operational and is currently providing shared internet connectivity to the humanitarian community at three sites (PAPA LeaLea Village, Gaire Village, Port Moresby) in the priority areas.

• The ETC team consisting of emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope and World Food Programme (WFP) emergency responders and communicators have deployed and are on-site in the affected areas.

• Over 200 humanitarians have registered to use ETC connectivity services. These include; help desk, internet, and a shared comms café.

• ETC member NetHope has provided mobile connectivity equipment to approximately 14 separate humanitarian organisations.

Situation Overview:

Relief efforts are focusing on reaching a greater number of areas, in particular the remote and hard-to-reach locations where many of the poorest and most affected population remains. The ETC is coordinating humanitarian organizations, internet and mobile services providers and government authorities to ensure provision and restoration of communications services in key operating areas in a timely manner. National infrastructure and services are being restored in the affected areas. National providers and government authorities are actively participating in local ETC working group meetings to better understand and meet the needs of the humanitarian community.

Response:

With support from the Internet Services Provider (ISP) Association of Papua New Guinea, the commercial sector is now providing approximately 50MB bandwidth to the Humanitarian communities and response areas in three most affected locations. Connectivity is being managed and distributed to the UN Reception Centre at the airport and UN House (collocated with the OSOCC) using Ericsson Response WIDER equipment.

* One (1) Ericsson Response BGAN is being used to provide connectivity at the UN Reception Centre until the link from the other areas are installed.
* Over 200 humanitarians have registered to use connectivity and other services provided by the ETC.
* ETC member NetHope has provided mobile satellite communications capacity to 14 different humanitarian organisations responding to the earthquake and tsunami.
* NetHope BGANs are providing connectivity at the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Coordination Centre and the Multi-National Coordination Centre.
* An offline ICT Needs Assessment survey has been shared with participants of the Local ETC working group. Humanitarian organisations responding in PNG are encouraged to fill out the survey and share the information with PNG.ETC@wfp.org
* Local providers including: Digicell and other PNG Commercial Telecom companies are already providing sim cards free to the ETC in order to support the response.
* The ETC is supporting humanitarian organisations with radio programming on an as needed and best effort basis.

Planned Response (in addition to the current operating response):

The ETC has 1x satellite terminal from emergency.lu and 3x from the World Food Programme (WFP) in- country and are being readied to be deployed to common operating areas. This is an addition to current comms infrastructure.

* 2x satellite terminals from emergency.lu, 3x terminals from NetHope and 3x terminals from WFP are being commissioned at this time.
* An On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) is planned for each forward operating location.
* The ETC will deploy an emergency.lu satellite terminal to provide connectivity and Ericsson Response WIDER equipment to manage and distribute bandwidth.
* The ETC is working with the response community to determine exact locations for provision of internet connectivity

The ETC will have regular meetings to coordinate relief efforts throughout the crises. Those meetings along with the agenda will be announced via reliefweb and posted on APAN.