

Haiti Earthquake

ETS Situation Report #5

Reporting period 09/09/2021 to 20/09/2021

Following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southwest Haiti on the morning of 14 August 2021, the Global ETC has been coordinating with its partners globally and on the ground to assess and respond to the ICT needs for the response. While clusters are not activated, national sectors, including the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS), are supporting the government response efforts.

Highlights

- The ETS has established a radio network for security communications in Jérémie with support from Ericsson Response, Emergency.lu and WFP with equipment supplied by UNDSS and the Haitian National Disaster Unit (COUD) in Les Cayes department. The ETS is now providing radio security communications in two locations, including the VHF network already established in Les Cayes.
- The ETS has submitted a request for a short-term deployment of a standby partner emergency telecommunications resource aimed at supporting the improvement of security communications and providing user training on radio and satellite equipment to NGOs.
- ETS partner emergency.lu has installed a VSAT antenna at the temporary hospital under implementation by the EU/Norwegian team in L'Asile in the department of Les Nippes and has performed maintenance of the GATR VSAT serving the French Civil Protection water-purification team in Cavaillon.



A WFP FITTEST technician prepares UNDSS equipment for VHF radio security communications.

Situation Update

- A total of 11 sectors – including the ETS – are providing support to the Government of Haiti in the humanitarian response to the earthquake.
- Despite some reported damage to infrastructure, local Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are still able to provide voice and data communications in most areas that had connectivity prior to the earthquake.

However, many of the areas in which assistance is being delivered were not connected prior to the earthquake, meaning that responders need access to security communications and data connectivity solutions to support their work. Additionally, due to generally poor connection quality and network congestion, VSAT is required in some locations as a backup for humanitarian and government operations.

- The Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights has conducted a Rapid Gender Analysis in partnership with CARE and UN Women that highlighted the information needs of affected people to facilitate their access to humanitarian aid. The analysis showed that only seven percent of women surveyed in the earthquake-affected areas have access to the Internet.

ETS Response Activities

- The ETS is coordinating with its partners globally and on the ground to provide common ICT services in support of the response in up to four common operational areas – Jérémie, Les Cayes, Les Nippes and Port Salut. The ETS Dashboard can be viewed [here](#).
- A local ETS Working Group meeting was held on 13 September. At the meeting, local NGO Haiti Participative offered to look into the existence of coordination mechanisms for national NGOs to facilitate for ETS support for any IT and Telecommunications needs.
- The ETS has established a radio network for security communications in Jérémie with the installation of a repeater station at a local hospital. The work was carried out in a joint effort by emergency.lu, Ericsson Response and WFP Haiti, with a duplex filter provided by UNDSS and a repeater loaned by the national disaster unit in Les Cayes. Currently the radio communications network covers most of the city of Jérémie. Once the surrounding area which is currently cut off due to a bridge closure becomes accessible, a higher location may be identified where the repeater can be installed for better coverage.
- The VHF repeater installed in Les Cayes by WFP with support from emergency.lu and UNDSS continues to provide coverage of Les Cayes city centre, the airport, and some of the surrounding areas. Planning is underway to relocate the repeater to a mast at UNICEF's offices in Les Cayes to further improve coverage.
- The ETS is working with UNDSS and other UN agencies on the ground to ensure the implementation of security communications services are in line with UN security communications standards and requirements.
- The ETS can provide NGOs that have the required authorizations with the dedicated simplex radio frequency allocated to NGOs in Haiti.
- The ETS has submitted a request for a short-term deployment of a stand-by partner emergency telecommunications resource aimed at supporting the improvement of security communications and providing user training on radio and satellite equipment to NGOs.
- ETS partners continue to provide support to the Haitian Civil Protection Departmental Emergency Operations Centres (COUDs) through connectivity services already established in the COUD in Les Cayes



by Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF), emergency.lu and Ericsson Response, and with a generator provided by WFP. TSF has finalized its mission and continues to remotely monitor connectivity services implemented in the COUDs and for United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) in Les Cayes and other areas.

- The ETS has received a request to support the primary COUD¹ in Jérémie, which suffered physical damage in the earthquake, specifically to assess and improve its solar power system.
- The final remaining emergency.lu ICT officer in Les Cayes will complete his mission on 22 September, after establishing connectivity through Ranger VSAT for a Norwegian Emergency Medical Team field hospital in L'Asile and supporting the French Civil Protection Team in Cavaillon and the WFP Les Cayes operation with connectivity.
- Organisations supporting the ETS response in Haiti are encouraged to report on their past or ongoing field activities to OCHA and UNDAC for inclusion in their 3W (Who does What, Where) information products for the Haiti Response. For more details or questions on how to submit reports, please contact Haiti.ETS@wfp.org.
- The Disaster Connectivity Map for Haiti, an initiative of the ITU and the ETC with support from the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), is available [here](#). The map has been updated regularly since the measurement campaign began a month ago to show the current state of the telecommunications network in the country. The campaign stopped gathering new data points on 14 September, however all the data collected so far will remain available.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC teleconference on the Haiti Earthquake will take place on **28 September 2021**.

General Information

- Humanitarian ICT responders supporting the Haiti operation across the region are encouraged to share their contact details with Haiti.ETS@wfp.org to facilitate coordination efforts. A dedicated information-sharing space on activities in Haiti can be found on the ETC website – [Haiti emergency page](#).
- A WhatsApp group has been created to facilitate informal information sharing and coordination among partners on the ground. For access to the group, please contact Haiti.ETS@wfp.org.

¹ This original COUD in Jeremie is located in Jebeau, on the Les Cayes side of the damaged bridge on Route 7 leading to Jeremie. Due to damages and lack of access from Jeremie, a second, temporary COUD within Jeremie city has been established to provide support until the bridge has been repaired. Assistance to the original COUD in Jebeau is therefore required out of Les Cayes.



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- Amid a volatile security situation, convoys travelling from Port-au-Prince must be accompanied by a mandatory police escort. The Logistics Sector is facilitating access to WFP fleet convoys from the capital to Les Cayes. Partners may join the convoy with their own vehicles or use a maximum of seven trucks from the WFP fleet. Requests for this free service should be sent to haiti.logisticsservices@wfp.org at least 48 hours in advance.
 - Requests can also be sent to the above email address for the barge service operating between Port-au-Prince and the major towns, including Miragoane, Jérémie, and Les Cayes. The barge service is used when the road through Port-au-Prince's Martissant district has to be closed due to armed group activity.
 - The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continues to provide helicopter transport for humanitarian workers. Flight bookings from registered humanitarian organizations should be done online at the UNHAS portal <https://apps3.tflite.com/takeflightpublicwfp/>. For organizations that are not registered, WFP Management can grant one-time access, please contact UNHAS (haiti.unhas@wfp.org) for further details. Commercial airlines also continue to operate.

Contacts

Runar Holen, ETS Coordinator

Haiti

Haiti.ETS@wfp.org

Claire Roach, ETC Information Management Officer

Dubai, U.A.E.

Haiti.ETS@wfp.org