Haiti ETC Telecommunication Working Group

Haiti Telecom working group (TWG) meeting

Date: 06-10-2008

Time: 16:00

Location: UNICEF

Meeting chair: Mark Phillips WFP-FITTEST

Agenda for today

1. Welcome members

2. Completing contact detail sheeting participants

3. Update of the Telecommunications Cluster / Inter Agency approach / project goals

4. Open discussion on the current radio network and usage / questions and answers session.

5. Set meeting date next TWG

6. Closure of the Meeting

Attendees

Country – UN Agency:

UNICEF - ICT	Ike Uzoegwu	juzoegwu@unicef.or
WHO	Steve Fleurant	fleurants@hai.ops-oms.org

NGOs / stand-by partners:

IRFC	Robert Schmidt	smidi@ping.at

WFP - FITTEST:

Emergency Coordinator	Mark Phillips	mark.phillips@wfp.org

Apologies:

UNICEF - ICT	Francis Asamoah	fasamoah@unicef.org
FITTEST tech / electrician	Ryan Twittey	ryan.twittey@wfp.org
WFP - ICT officer	Nasir Khan	nasir.khan@wfp.org

Haiti ETC Telecommunication Working Group

<u>**Minutes of Meeting**</u>

1. **Welcome members**

   At 1600hrs Mark Phillips welcomed and thanked the members for participating in the local TWG meetings.

   Thanks to UNICEF for hosting the meeting.

2. **Completing contact detail sheeting participants**

   All participants were requested to complete the contact detail sheets, from this a TWG mailing list will be comprised, where correspondence, questions and answers can be distributed between the members.

3. **Update of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster / Inter-Agency approach / project goals.**

   Mark Phillips gave a brief explanation of the United Nations Cluster's role and the Emergency Telecommunications cluster purposes as back ground of the project. Plus he gave an explanation of "last resort". He also informed the TWG that after discussion through the WFP representative that the UNCT have now decided the project should be implemented in Gonaives only.

4. **Open discussion on the current radio network and usage / questions and answers session.**

   In a similar line to the previous meetings, a very good open discussion was had by all attendees. With the main aim of understanding the current network and any additional requirements caused through the current emergency.

   Main points:
   - Mark Phillips informed the TWG that an input of $205k has now been received from CERF.
   - An update was given on Gonaives:
     1. TSF have now withdrawn from Haiti.
     2. **Reference the Cyber cafe in Gonaives.**
        - ➢ WFP are moving to the port, but the Inter-Agency cyber cafe will stay in the MINUSTAH compound.
        - ➢ As per normal ETC working practice if agencies want to connect there office to the BitSAT (VSAT) then they must provide the link between their office and

the BitSAT (VSAT) location.

➢ As discussed at the local (Gonaives) cluster meeting it has been agreed that only one to two users per agency will have access to the BGAN to ensure higher bandwidth (faster user speeds) for the clients. Once the service is upgraded to a VSAT then a review will take place to see if data service can be open to all users.

➢ Port au Prince). The equipment is 50$ + 25$ activation fee. Monthly fee is 50$. Unlimited Bandwidth: 32kbs download and 16kbs up.

➢ The Cyber Cafe will be open for the next three months (covering the emergency phase of the operations), for the long term solution its is recommend agencies / NGOs start to plan for their own data connection from mid January 2009 on wards, or take over the new BitSAT (VSAT) solution under a cost share agreement.

3. **Reference the VHF repeater network in Gonaives.**

➢ 2x repeaters have now been installed and are now working covering the Gonaives operational area

  o CH 1. UN security / calling channel

  o CH 6. UN working / NGO working

➢ Please contact the WFP FITTEST team to arrange for programming support.

➢ All NGOs utilising UN provided channels shall use official UN allocated call-signs and radio procedures.

➢ UN radio training courses shall also be available for UN and NGOs.

➢ The TCO shall allocate call-signs and Selcalls to NGOs.

4. **Reference the Inter Agency radio room in Gonaives.**

➢ This is currently temporarily installed at the WFP office in gthe MINUSTAH, but will be relocated to the port.

➢ A VHF base radio will be installed in the CITS Gonaives radio room to ensure inter working between the MINUSTAH, UN agencies & NGOs can take place.

▪ Some of the TWG has enquired if there are any local companies which can install cars, Mark Phillips after carrying out some enquires informed the TWG of the below:

1. The price per vehicle is us$110.00 (Qty 1-3),us$100.00 (Qty 4-9), us$90.00 (Qty 10-20)

2. The customer supply the equipment Radio, Antenna, Dc Line. We also can supply some VHF antenna ¼ of a wave length or 5/8 of a wave length a 3dB gain antenna. It will take between 1 to 2 hrs per vehicle. The prices that I mentioned are for VHF & UHF, HF will be us$60.00 more.

Haiti ETC Telecommunication Working Group

3. Jean-Felix Cuvilly, COMSPECHAITI, Tel:509-2513-8292, 509-3454-0357

4. Note: WFP have not used the supplier so can not guarantee quality of their work.

- It was agreed by all attendees this meeting will now be held twice monthly.

5. Set the next meeting date

Location:	UNICEF
Occurrence:	Weekly
Date of next meeting:	20/10/2008
Time:	1600hrs
Length:	1hour

6. Closure of meeting

Mark Phillips extended his thanks and appreciation of the TWG member's attendance and advised he was available for further discussion or assistance at any time.