Haiti Telecommunication Working Group

Haiti Telecom working group (TWG) meeting
Date: 23-10-2008
Time: 16:00
Location: UNICEF

Agenda for today
1. Welcome members
2. Completing contact detail sheeting participants
3. Update of the Gonaives project status
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                    Francis Asamoah     fasamoah@unicef.org
UNICEF – security officer      Raul Castillio       rcastillo@unicef.org
UNDP – security officer        Arnaldo Becher       arnaldo.becher@undp.org
WFP - ICT officer              Nasir Khan           nasir.khan@wfp.org

WFP - FITTEST:
Emergency Coordinator          Mark Phillips         mark.phillips@wfp.org
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Minutes of Meeting

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 Gonaives project status.**
   Mark Phillips gave an update on the current status:
   - As per decision of the UNCT and the RC common Security and Data communications will be provided in Gonaives only.
   - Gonaives:
     - The "Cyber Cafe" BGAN has now been replaced with a BitSAT. This will reduce running costs from an estimate of $10k per month to $650 USD per month.
     - The Inter agency radio room has now been established in the WFP port office location (the temp will stay in MINUSTAH, until the WFP office move has been completed).
     - In Gonaives VHF channel 1 and 6 are operational.
     - WFP are currently recruiting 5x Radio operators for Gonaives.
     - The WFP/FITTEST team will now start the handover to the WFP Haiti ICT team. Which in turn will also main stream the working environment to ensure long term sustainability.
   - The effort of harmonisation of the HF network throughout the country continues.
   - Standard code plugs have now been issued to all agencies via the TWG.

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:
   - An open discussion was held on the next steps to be taken by the attendees. Main points to be followed up:
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- UNICEF, UNDP and WFP ICT / security officers should follow up / develop a cost share to:
  - Run the agency radio rooms / radio network in Port au Prince and Gonaïves.
  - Expand the VHF repeater network to cover the South (i.e. Les Cayes and Jacmel).
- Continue the TWG meetings and involve more participants from other agencies / NGOs
  - It was agreed by all attendees this meeting will now be held once monthly (the chair to be rotated between WFP and UNICEF ICT officers).

5. Set the next meeting date

Location: UNICEF
Occurrence: Weekly
Date of next meeting: 28/11/2008
Time: 1400hrs
Length: 1 hour

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.