Project Proposal Summary Sheet

Project Title: Emergency Telecommunications and Climate Change

Source of Proposal: ITU
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Brief Description

Emergency telecommunications/ICT play a critical role in the immediate aftermath of disasters by ensuring timely flow of vital information that is much needed by government agencies and other humanitarian actors involved in rescue operations and providing medical assistance to the injured. Integrating national Information and Communication Technologies in disaster prediction, detection and alerting would ensure the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction as well as adaptation to climate change.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, Hyderabad2010), identified natural disasters as a major threat to socio-economic development and adopted emergency telecommunications as one of the regional initiatives for almost all the regions including the Americas. In light of this, ITU has been enhancing national capacity, through the development of Regional and National workshops, hands-on training and symposia on the use of ICTs for disaster management, as well as providing satellite emergency telecommunications equipment to restore vital communications in countries that have been struck by mayor disasters.

In parallel, it has designed the ITU Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE) to primarily deliver and deploy telecommunications/information and communications resources to countries, humanitarian actors, and victims of disasters in a timely manner whenever and wherever disasters may occur through the use of transportable, easy to deploy, and reliable systems that are non-exclusive. Principally, the IFCE extends its services to all phases of disaster management.

The overall Project objective will build upon existing ITU experience and expertise in order to assist countries in the region to prepare, alert, respond and recover from disasters. Similarly, it is intended to assist countries in the use of ICTs as enablers to adapting better to climate change and mitigate its impacts.

This Project is directly related to Americas Regional Initiative 1 approved in the World Telecommunications Development conference based on the needs identified by American countries requesting assistance in all phases of disaster management.

Beneficiary Countries

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Project Objective(s)

The overall Project objective is to assist countries in the region to prepare, alert, respond and recover from disasters.

Expected Results

- Deployment of Early Warning Systems;
- Development of Business Continuity Plans
- Designing and Development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans
- Designing of Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation Plans

Estimated Start Date

September 2012

Estimated Duration

36 months

Estimated Budget

USD 40,000,000