Project Number:	
Project Title:	ASSISTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY REGIONAL INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS
Abbreviated name of the project:	**S.E.R.I.C.**
Estimated duration:	30 MONTHS
Estimated Start Date:	07/01/2012
Estimated End Date:	12/30/2014
Regional Cooperation Agencies:	COMTELCA, CEPREDENAC, SICA
Implementing Agency:	ITU Area Office Tegucigalpa.
Beneficiary Countries :	Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica Panama, Dominican Republic
ITU Project Manager:	ITU Area Office Tegucigalpa

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS (US$)

Description	Cash USD	Adm. in kind USD
Staff costs	173,500.00	52,050.00
SubTotal:	**173,500.00**	**52,050.00**
Total :		**$225,550.00**
Grand Total:		**$225,550.00**

SUMMARY:

The project aims to establish a System of Emergency Regional Integrated Communications for COMTELCA Member States by building and strengthening national telecommunications emergency plans and designing a regional coordination mechanism based on the Tampere Convention.

For the	**Signature**	**Date**	**Name/Title**
ITU:	_____	___/___/_____	
Partner(s):	_____	___/___/_____	
	_____	___/___/_____	

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1. JUSTIFICATION

Five of the seven countries to benefit from the project were among those rated as very risky in the global report rate risk 2011, prepared by the United Nations University:

Country	Risk index	Classification World
Guatemala	20.88	(5.)
Honduras	12.10	(23.)
El Salvador	16.49	(10.)
Nicaragua	15.74	(11.)
Costa Rica	16.74	(8.)
Panama	7.70	(70.)
Dominican Republic	12.00	(24.)

El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama are States parties of the Tampere Convention on the other hand; Costa Rica and Honduras only have signed it, while Guatemala and Dominican Republic are not States parties or signatories.

According to the "Central American comprehensive disaster risk management policy" document, Central America is among the most vulnerable regions to disasters in the world. The manifestation of risks in the form of disaster shows a trend towards increased during the last decades, mainly in recent years. Between 1998 and 2008, more storms struck the region, often twice the average of the past 50 years. In 2005, more than 6 million people were affected by the hurricane in the region season.[1]

Telecommunications are crucial in all phases of disaster management. Thanks to telecommunications satellites, to radar, telemetry equipment and weather forecasts, it is possible to count today with a remote sensing system for early warning. Before a catastrophe takes place, telecommunications can be used to distribute information about the imminent danger with the aim to take the necessary measures in order to reduce its consequences.

When a disaster occurs, it is possible to coordinate the activities of aid through the national entities as well as through the international community.

Telecommunications play a critical role in the process of reconstruction and coordination in the return of displaced persons to their homes.

Therefore, telecommunications are essential to prevent, alleviate and minimize the effects of disasters.

[1] "Policy adopted at the 35th regular meeting of Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Central American integration system," Panama 29 and June 30, 2010

Also, there are telecommunications systems that are crucial to follow the evolution of imminent dangers, alert the authorities, prevent threatened populations, coordinate relief operations, assess the damage and mobilize aid to reconstruction ranging from remote sensing system, global positioning (GPS) system, personal mobile communications by satellite (GMPCS) up to the global Internet.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The project will begin with a workshop to raise awareness of the importance of communications in times of disasters and national emergencies, discussing and preparing a proposal of action plan for the creation of plans of national emergency telecommunications and a Regional coordination mechanism.

It will continue with assessments at the national level, including the identification of needs in the field of telecommunications in times of emergency and disasters, identifying the vulnerabilities, as well as the assessment of threats, among other aspects.

Subsequently, a National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NEPT) will be developed, which will be designed by an inter-institutional working group, led by the Regulator, which must include the officials responsible for the handling of emergencies in each country.

The next step is the realization of a second workshop in each country, in which the NEPT will be shared with key players in the various sectors, as the industry, telecommunications operators, and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to undergo a review and incorporate contributions as appropriate.

The following step will be carried out at the regional level, and comprises the creation of a working group led by COMTELCA to formulate a draft Regional mechanism of coordination, which will take into account each NEPT and the Tampere Convention.

Finally, this draft will be submitted to the Board of Directors of COMTELCA and CEPREDENAC for approval and subsequent referral, if necessary, to the Summit of Presidents of SICA.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Enable an effective and efficient response to the needs of communication in cases of emergency.

Enhancing the institutional and personnel capacities at the national level in each of the Member countries of COMTELCA in the use of ICTs to meet communication needs in emergencies at the national level and create the same capabilities at the regional level, particularly for coordinating the use of available resources.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

An emergency Regional system containing:
4.1 National emergency telecommunications plans.
4.2 Regional mechanisms of coordination of interaction in case of emergencies.
4.3 Early warning systems national and/or regional.
4.4 Use of the benefits of the Digital Terrestrial TV in case of emergencies.

5. INDICATORS

The following indicators will be used to measure the progress of the project:

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR
Workshop on the creation of national emergency telecommunications plans and Regional coordination mechanisms	Report from the workshop
National assessments	Assessment Reports
Inter-agency working groups to produce the NEPT drafts	Progress Reports and NEPT drafts towards the end
National workshops	Report of the workshops
Working groups led by COMTELCA with other relevant sub-regional entities to develop of Regional coordination mechanism draft.	Progress Reports and at the end a Regional coordination mechanism draft
COMTELCA Board approves the Regional coordination mechanism draft and sends it to the Summit of Presidents of SICA	Resolution

The following indicators will be used to measure the success of the project:

MEASUREMENT	INDICATOR
Entry of equipment in case of emergency.	Time (hours) equipment is kept in customs
Availability of free telecommunications services or at cost recovery for the use of the emergencies qualified personnel.	Agreement with operators for the mechanism to use. Operators Report of the available time.
Integration of telecommunications in the procedures of the institutions in charge of coordinating activities related to emergencies.	
Affected population / population saved	
Victims / Total population	
Timeliness of information in early warning.	

6. MAIN ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the project will require the following activities:

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE FOR
Workshop on the creation of national emergency telecommunications plans and Regional coordination mechanisms	ITU/COMTELCA
National assessments	ITU/COMTELCA/national administrations
Inter-agency working groups to produce the NEPT drafts	National administrations (COMTELCA members)
National workshops	ITU/COMTELCA/national administrations
Working groups led by COMTELCA with other relevant sub-regional entities to develop a Regional coordination mechanism draft.	ITU/COMTELCA
COMTELCA and CEPREDENAC Board approve the draft Regional coordination mechanism and it passes it to the Summit of Presidents of SICA	CEPREDENAC/COMTELCA

7. INPUTS

CONTRIBUTION IN CASH	**73,500**
CONTRIBUTION IN KIND	Human resource Support material Office equipment Miscellaneous Logistical support. **Estimating a value of $52,050**

8. RISKS

Projects which involve various entities may run the risk of major problems in coordination. Close coordination can mitigate this risk.

The financial resources available can impact the development of this plan as it is difficult to allocate resources for this type of projects before the emergency occurs. ITU, COMTELCA and administrations have to address this challenge taking into consideration the objectives of the project.

9. MANAGEMENT

The roles and responsibilities of the different actors are set out in section 6.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The indicators set out in section 5 and the expected results described in section 4 will help ITU RO Brazil, ITU AO Honduras, CEPREDENAC and COMTELCA to monitor and evaluate the present project.

11. SUSTAINABILITY

As the project has an intrinsic component of institutional and human capacity development, it is expected that national administrations, CEPREDENAC and COMTELCA will be able to update NEPTs and the Regional coordination mechanism as necessary.

12. WORK PLAN

Activities	**2012**				**2013**				**2014**			
Quarter	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Workshop on the creation of national emergency telecommunications plans and Regional coordination mechanisms												
Identification of sources of funding												
Preparation of terms of reference												
National assessments												
Inter-agency working groups to produce the NEPT drafts												
National workshops												
Working Group led by COMTELCA with other sub-regional entities to produce a Regional coordination mechanism draft												
COMTELCA Board approves the Regional coordination mechanism draft and passes it to the Summit of Presidents of SICA												

13. ESTIMATED BUDGET

SPONSOR CLASSES	**DESCRIPTION**	**TOTAL**
		US $
	STAFF COSTS	
3004	External - consulting services	$225,550.00
	Sub-total:	**$225,550.00**
	TOTAL BUDGET	**$225,550.00**