



ITU'S DISASTER RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

ITU emergency telecommunications roster initiative



When disasters strike



- Telecommunication links are disrupted...
- Mobile networks are down ...

But there is an urgent need to establish effective communication links for disaster response and coordination...

- At a national level, between stakeholders involved in response and recovery
- At an international level, among aid agencies (UN, NGOs, etc.)



There is a need to improve international cooperation to ensure that connectivity is available in remote and rural areas, as well as in those parts of a country where existing telecommunications/ICT infrastructure has been destroyed.

Importation of telecommunications equipment is vital to re-establish communications that will help with humanitarian activities and recovery efforts.

ITU's role



The most important role of ITU is to ensure that national policies, legal and regulatory frameworks are in place.

The Tampere Conventions plays a critical role, but in order to benefit from the convention, it needs to be implemented at a national level.

ITU's administrations, Regulatory Authorities and ICT Ministries, are key in the implementation of the Convention.

When disasters strike:

In close collaboration with the ETC, ITU should ensure that:

- Equipment coming into the country gets smoothly cleared from customs.
- Help partners to reduce regulatory barriers
- Help with licensing, authorizations and permissions to operate equipment (when needed)

ITU should advise/request the government authorities about:

- * What type of equipment in coming into the country
- Technical specifications and requirements for equipment to operate
- If permissions and licenses are needed
- Where the equipment will be installed
- Information about the status of the MNO's (Mobile Network Operators)





ITU's role

Deployment of services is not only about equipment. *It needs trained personnel to install and operate.*

Guarantee the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for relief personnel and organizations providing telecommunications assistance,

such as:

- Protection from confiscation or embargo of their equipment, materials and property;
- Exemptions from tax obligations and other charges (excluding VAT);
- Access to local facilities;
- Exemption from licensing requirements or fast tracking of licensing applications;
- and
- Protection of staff, equipment and materials.

Tampere Convention

An international treaty

“ On the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations”.

- Provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance
- Reduces regulatory barrier
- Fully protects the interests of the States requesting and receiving assistance. The host government retains the right to supervise the assistance
- Foresees the establishment of bilateral agreements between the provider(s) of assistance and the State requesting/receiving such assistance



ITU satellite telecommunications systems for disaster response



ITU and its partners deploy satellite terminals and other emergency telecommunications equipment to affected countries within the first 24 to 48 hours in the aftermath of disasters to help restore vital telecommunication links.

The equipment is necessary for:

- Coordination of relief and rescue operations;
- The implementation of telemedicine links between hospitals and doctors in the field;
- Establishing communication centres where victims of disasters can get in touch with their families and their loved ones;

ITU pays for deployment and returning the equipment back to HQ in addition to the airtime of each unit, both in voice and data. Additionally, ITU provides training on their use.



Disaster response




Mozambique 2019 Category 4 Hurricane Idai





Disaster response

Dominica 2017

 ITU @ITU · 20 Nov 2017
#DisasterRelief coordination underway in aftermath of #HurricaneMaria
ow.ly/2nxx30gHqgV Emergency telecoms equipment deployed to #Dominica



ITU

Emergency Comms | Infrastructure
October 13, 2017

How ITU is boosting Dominica relief efforts after Hurricane Maria

By ITU News

On *International Day for Disaster Reduction* today, we are showcasing how information and communication technologies (ICTs) play an important role in response to disasters. The article below is one example of the emergency telecommunications work ITU does to help in disaster zones worldwide.

[Hurricane Maria](#) is one of the worst natural disasters to have hit the small



Disaster response

Haiti 2016

Category 4 Hurricane Mathew



ITU deployed satellite telecommunications equipment to be used for humanitarian activities on site.





Disaster response

Ecuador 2016 7.8 earthquake

ITU deployed satellite telecommunications equipment for voice and data communications to help the Government coordinate response activities on the ground.





Disaster response

Nepal 2015 7.9 Earthquake

ITU deployed satellite telecommunications equipment for voice and data communications as well as onsite training in the use of satellite equipment.





Disaster response

Philippines 2013 Category 5 Cyclone Haiyan

ITU deployed satellite telecommunications equipment as well as CDMA base station to restore communication links in the most affected islands in the country.





Thank you

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