"Framework for Connectivity Collaboration"
Readout from Breakout Session #2

GET-19 Mauritius
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Overview of session

Panelists:

- David Marshack, Loon Consultant

- Enrica Porcari, UN WFP/ETC

- Lars Ruedinger, Ericsson Response

- Chris Weasler, Facebook

Objective of Breakout:

- To identify and discuss a concrete set of *Preparedness* actions a country can take to build response capacity, maximize resilience, and minimize response times when disaster strikes.

Scope of this deliverable:

- Preparedness actions related to or enabling faster recovery through planning, pre-deployment and better collaboration among connectivity response stakeholders

Preparedness actions identified during the Breakout covered the following topics

1. **Awareness-building ==> Capacity-building** – Collectively, government stakeholders involved in emergency response should raise awareness – at the political level – of the need to properly fund and support capacity-building efforts in countries, so they can empower and prepare their own teams to respond, given that first responders are by definition local people.

2. **Partnerships**:

   - Build awareness – Understand the local, regional and international emergency response stakeholders – many as potential partners.

   - Get key partnerships in place NOW.

     - ✓ For example, UN-WFP/ETC "Standby Partners" to very quickly and seamlessly plug into the UN's crisis response mechanism

     - ✓ Alternate connectivity from companies like Loon can be deployed rapidly, but only with prior coordination

3. **Pre-positioning of Equipment**

   - Staging of VSATs, Cellsite-on-Wheels (COWs), P2P equipment, WIFI AP's, mobile base stations, solar panels, generators, fuel, etc.

   - Geographic diversity of this equipment – establish mutual reciprocal staging partnerships with neighboring regions or countries to ensure geographic diversity

Preparedness actions

4. **Enable Roaming**

   - National terrestrial roaming – Establish domestic reciprocal roaming agreements among all national mobile operators according to GSM roaming standards. (The default mode would be to block the capability, but unblock it when disaster strikes allowing ALL citizens of a country to have access to any single network that is still up and running)

   - Stratospheric extension – Pursue and codify a universal coverage approach offered through a service like Loon

5. **Explore use of existing industry charters**

   - GSMA Humanitarian Connectivity Charter (principles ➔ actions)

   - Satellite industry Crisis Connectivity Charter

   - New connectivity charters (fiber sharing?)

6. **Investment in Training and Simulations**

   - Engage in local capacity-building for crisis response through context awareness, technical training, and crises simulations

   - Build a better understanding of the issues, roles, resources, and dynamics across local stakeholders who will be working together in an actual emergency

Preparedness actions

7. **Implement CAP standard as basis for distributing authoritative messages through multiple communication outlets/channels.**

8. **Establish a flexible regulatory framework triggered when a government declares a "state of emergency" that gives a government the needed flexibility to**
   - Address short-term spectrum needs (e.g., Special Temporary Authority)
   - Fast track equipment through customs and waive related fees
   - Provide a mechanism to allow other experts in the response to enter the country as quickly as possible