

Issue No. 1
July 2015

IT Responders in Action

Introduction

Welcome to issue No. 1 of the RMTF quarterly newsletter!

The past couple of months have been very challenging and exciting for all of us, more so for the IT Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (RMTF). We have had to gear up and respond to an unprecedented number of emergencies, all happening simultaneously. Our rapid response team, FITTEST, is always on the move, supporting our operations around the world by providing life-saving ICT services.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa, conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen and the earthquake in Nepal are all providing unique challenges for emergency response. But, by working closely with our global team of Regional IT Officers, Country Office IT Officers, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and other branches within the IT division, we are making a difference.

I am also excited to announce that we have developed a four year strategy (2015-2018) that will help steer us as we continue to deal with the challenges of preparing for and responding to emergencies. In this issue, we focus on Nepal and the LESS rollout in Africa.

Happy reading!

Alpha Bah, Chief, RMTF

FITTEST
FROM APRIL 2015 TO
JUNE 2015

12 FITTEST missions
35+ Deployments
50+ Clients served
with GHS' support



100+ Countries where FITTEST has been deployed



Nepal – Road to Recovery

For the tiny Himalayan nation of Nepal, the last two months have been punctuated by earthquakes and aftershocks resulting in large-scale humanitarian response efforts. Just 48 hours after the first earthquake rocked Nepal on 25 April, a team from WFP FITTEST was on the ground and is still in the country today.

Almost two months on and operating out of a pre-fab next to the Cargo Hall in Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport as well as out in the field, FITTEST continues to support the provision of vital internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in 14 locations.

It is also concentrating on building local capacity to ensure the sustainability of all services and solutions.

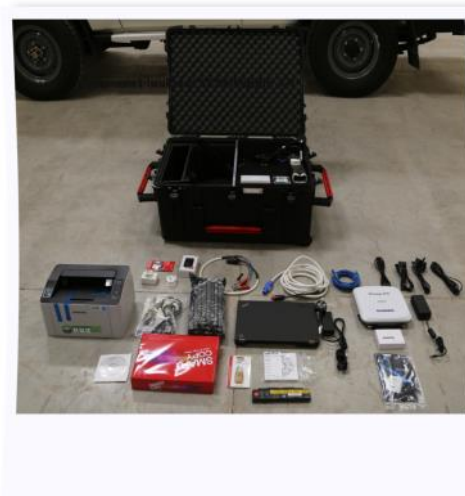
LESS is more in Africa

As most of you may know, FITTEST has been busy developing, manufacturing and distributing Logistics Execution Support Solution (LESS) mobile connectivity kits that provide electrical power and data connectivity so that the LESS application can be used in remote warehouse locations where power and/or data connectivity is not available.

Intended to support the roll-out of the LESS project, the LESS

kits are currently positioned for use in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti. FITTEST Training Services is providing much-needed ICT and end-user training for WFP personnel in these four locations and has also conducted a LESS kit 'Train the Trainer' module in Dubai.

The LESS project will help WFP be more effective, cost-efficient and accountable throughout the supply chain, ensuring that the right food gets to the right people at the right time. FITTEST is expecting to continue to support the LESS project throughout 2015.



How GHS works with you

From emergency preparedness and response, to protracted relief and recovery operations, Global Humanitarian Services (GHS) is dedicated to providing

equipment and services to assist the aid community in carrying out its life-saving work.

GHS connects aid and development organizations with the specialised services provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) office in the United Arab Emirates.



If you would like to provide us with your feedback or suggest topics for later issues, please contact us at: wfp.fittest@wfp.org

For enquiries about equipment and services, please contact: wfp.ghs@wfp.org
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