



Issue No. 2
October 2015

IT Responders in Action

Introduction

Welcome to issue No. 2 of the IT Responders in Action quarterly newsletter!

"Planning isn't a cage that prevents spontaneity. It's a handrail that helps you climb to more interesting places in which to be spontaneous." - Oliver Burkeman

Preparedness is the foundation for an effective response. By giving our emergency responders the right training, we enable them to be better prepared to respond to any kind of emergency that comes their way. In this issue, we focus on two training events that prepare our emergency responders – Let's Net and OpEx Bravo. The Let's Net technical training and OpEx Bravo disaster simulation are complementary events that enable our staff to learn the techniques needed for setting up effective communications systems and also give them the opportunity to test their skills in a challenging simulation exercise.

We also shine the spotlight on the ongoing emergency response in the Republic of South Sudan where the IT team is actively engaged in providing services to WFP and its humanitarian partners through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) and shared inter-agency services.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and I look forward to your feedback, as always.

Alpha Bah, Chief, RMTF

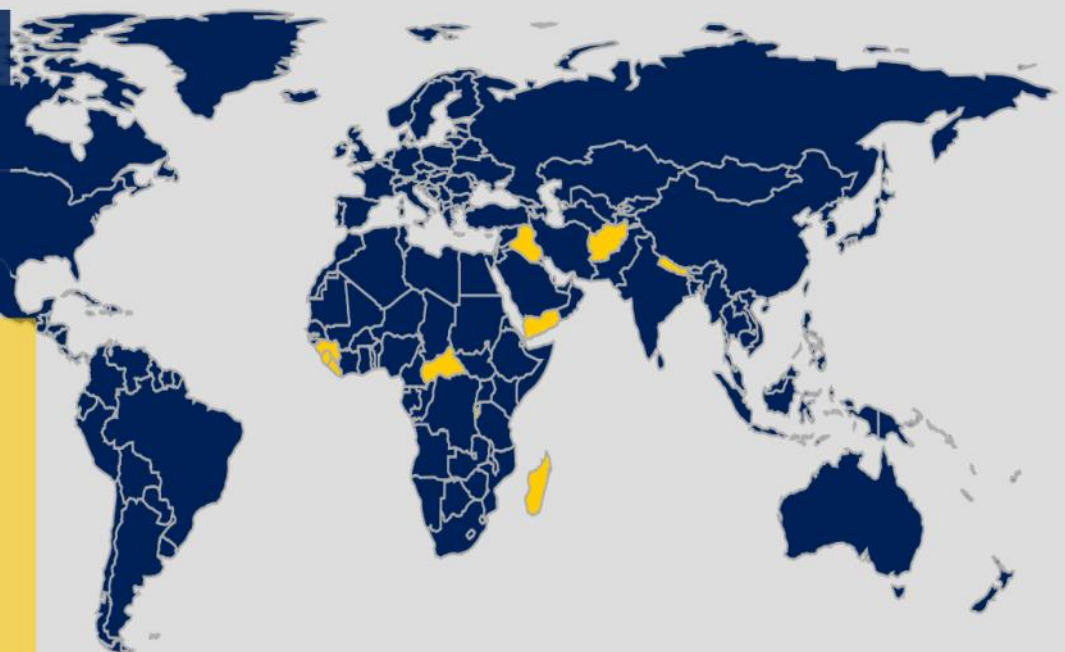
FITTEST

FROM JULY 2015 TO
SEPTEMBER 2015

9 FITTEST missions

20+ Deployments

60+ Clients served





Let's Net: Preparedness in the spotlight

Let's Net, an intensive eight-day training course developed and delivered by FITTEST

on behalf of the ETC, was held this year between 27 September and 05 October in Schimpach, Luxembourg.

Twelve participants from World Food Programme (WFP), Save the Children, OXFAM, Ericsson Response and Plan International had the opportunity to learn how to deploy the different data and voice solutions used by the ETC during emergency operations, such as satellite kits from emergency.lu and Ericsson Response's WIDER, a tool that manages and distributes internet connectivity.

"This was a wonderful group that worked really well together. The combination of their technical and emergency response background together with the hands-on experience that Let's Net provides make the participants fully capable of deploying the different voice and data ETC solutions in challenging environments," says Rob Buurveld, Let's Net

OpEx Bravo: Adapting to Progress

September saw 19 IT emergency responders battling sleepless nights and exhausting, but rewarding, days, in the fictional country of Tukastan as part of OpEx Bravo 2015. As participants were busy establishing data and telecommunications infrastructure all in the name of ensuring effective coordination between the various players in the field, Jakob Kern, WFP's outgoing CIO and IT Director, dropped into RMTF for a visit. Jakob shared his insights on the future of IT emergency response exercises like OpEx.

We are on the brink of a fundamental shift in the way the ETC works in line with ETC 2020; from traditionally providing emergency communications services to the humanitarian community, to serving a wider range of responders, including governments and affected populations. OpEx Bravo will have to evolve along with this shift, by adding extra tools to its exercises for communicating with or for populations without

forgetting the primary need for connectivity.

Teamwork is also crucial in emergencies and OpEx Bravo helps participants learn how to work in stressful, unfamiliar conditions. As Jakob succinctly pointed out:



Moving to Digital Aid in South Sudan

Over the last three months, the LESS project has started to be rolled out in South Sudan, Africa's newest country. LESS is the first fully-integrated online system that tracks the movements of food in real time. South Sudan has one of the most underdeveloped communications infrastructures in the world today and the deterioration in security since

violence first erupted in 2011, means that great swathes of the population are left without access to basic services, including food.

This is where LESS will make a difference. South Sudan has received 27 complete LESS Mobile Connectivity Kits, a wheeled case developed by FITTEST that includes all the equipment needed to connect to the LESS application when data connectivity is not available via cable or network. The kits will help facilitate food distribution to people in hard-to-reach locations across the country.



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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