



Issue No. 3
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IT Responders in Action

Introduction

Happy New Year! In this issue, the first of 2016, we take a look at what we achieved last year and find there are many stories of success, both individual and as a Branch.

As always, supporting emergencies remains the focus of what we do. RMTF continues to work with our field IT staff to provide urgently required IT services in responding to the emergency needs. In 2015, RMTF supported eight large-scale emergency at both regional and global level.

The Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) technicians completed 83 missions in 17 countries highlighting the truly global reach of our work at RMTF. We reported a 32% increase in the number of shipments of equipment to emergencies, Country Offices and other non-WFP clients compared to the last reporting period. Additionally, FITTEST delivered LESS mobile connectivity kits, a portable solution that enables WFP to track the food supply chain in real-time in the deep field, to 23 countries.

But to respond to emergencies, we must also prepare.

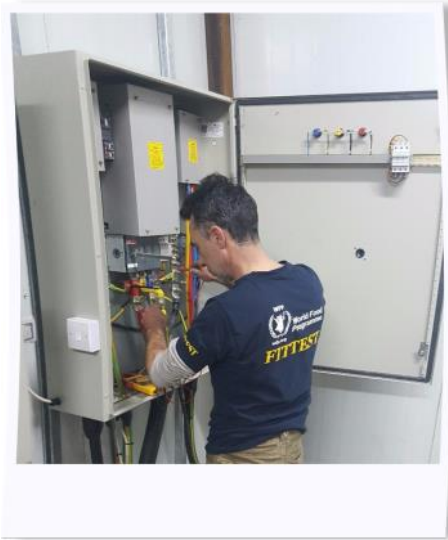
In this issue, we visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea where FITTEST helped WFP with the electrical mains relocation to its new compound. We also see how FITTEST, as part of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), is helping the response community in Yemen live and work safely on a boat that travels the waters between Djibouti and Aden. Finally, we visit our last man standing in West Africa, a FITTEST team member in Guinea, as we close the chapter on the Ebola response operation after one and a half years, and handover to our local teams.

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

Alpha Bah, Chief, RMTF

FITTEST Key Activities In 2015





Powering WFP North Korea

Following a request from Democratic People's Republic of Korea Country Office, Peter Lindsay and Ryan Twitney headed east to carry out the electrical mains relocation from the existing building to the new compound. The WFP compound needed a new power room with all the relevant switching and metering equipment as well as a 220 kVA generator.

As this room was a long way from the city power substation, the guys needed a large cable to maintain the cleanest power to the site as possible. They also installed a new sub-mains cable to both buildings and installed earthing throughout the entire Country Office.

Pulling in long working hours and in temperatures of -8°, Peter and Ryan got the work completed, tested and commissioned in just 10 days with minimum disruption to WFP CO's daily work.

The Last FITTEST Man Standing

The outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa became one of the most important and visible emergency operations globally. After one and a half years, the ETC has demobilised from West Africa and Habib Shashati, ICT Coordinator in Guinea, will be the last FITTEST member to leave the region on 15 January 2016.

Having worked eight months in Liberia and four months in Guinea, Habib knows the Ebola operation inside out. But it wasn't an easy road; this operation was different from all

the others he had been to previously. "As this operation was the first health-related emergency, there was no SOP to follow and my team and I had to go the extra mile trying to do things differently," he explained.

Apart from delivering vital ICT services for the entire response community in West Africa, Habib also got his hands dirty with casual labour like digging holes and trenches to lay cables.

For Habib, this New Year begins by offering a new experience and change of scenery - he will return to Dubai while he waits for details of his next mission.



Internet Aboard

OG Afure, a FITTEST team member currently in Djibouti, has been working closely with the Logistics Cluster to enable humanitarian workers to live and work safely on a WFP-chartered boat moored off the coast of Yemen.

OG assisted in the installation of a maritime satellite on the boat and ensured that the Internet could be shared securely with humanitarian workers using wireless equipment. This means

that humanitarian workers can access WiFi in a secured way which allows them to get their jobs done as well as speak to family, friends and colleagues. Having Internet access also means they can more easily plan and conduct assessment missions on the ground.

The vessel also transports humanitarian workers, food, fuel and other relief items on the 12-hour voyage from Djibouti to Yemen to be distributed to the response community.

The next IT Responders in Action newsletter will be issued in April 2016.

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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