



Issue No. 5
May – July 2016

IT Responders in Action

Emergencies currently supported:

Level 3

- Yemen
- Iraq
- Syria
- Republic of South Sudan

Level 2

- Central African Republic

Introduction

This year is flying with the end of summer almost in sight! The last few months have seen the FITTEST training team working flat out in preparation for the many training courses in September. Of course, OpEx Bravo is the biggest one and will take place in Germany between 10-16 September.

Having been desk-bound most of this year, Karén Barsamian went on mission to his home country of Armenia to assess the WFP Country Office's preparedness capacity and is now on mission in Sana'a acting as temporary ETC Coordinator on the ground.

Happy reading!

FITTEST May - July 2016

Participants trained by FITTEST

105+

Missions

18

Shipments of equipment

49

New countries with LESS mobile connectivity kits

4

L2 and L3 emergencies supported

5

Going Home

Missions to the field are always interesting and unique, but they are even sweeter when the mission country is home.



Karén Barsamian, head of FITTEST operations, is most often seen with his mobile phone and/or coffee in hand and his headset on as he monitors and coordinates the various FITTEST missions in the field.

However, in June, he had the opportunity to escape Dubai and head off on a unique mission of his own: he went home to Armenia where his career with WFP also first began.

Karén's mission was mainly focused on gauging the preparedness aspect of the WFP Country Office in Yerevan. Centrally located on an active seismic belt that stretches from the Alps to the Himalayas, Armenia is one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world. During his mission, Karén met with the sole IT Officer, as well as with the Ministry of Emergency Situations to assess their levels of preparedness should disaster strike.

This meeting proved fruitful as it resulted in a couple of potential collaborative projects between WFP and the Ministry. One such project may be an ICT4Gov training workshop at some point in the future.

FITTEST returns to Nepal with ICT4Gov

In June, FITTEST's Damian and Oscar travelled to Nepal to conduct an ICT4Gov training for 21 participants on behalf of the ETC. Held high up in the cool mountains of Dhulikhel, the training was a welcome respite from the searing heat of Dubai.

"As with all workshops, there was a strong national theme to ensure that it was appropriate to all. It was also a natural progression from the workshop in June 2015 and in keeping with the strategy recommended then," explained Damian.

This workshop was a natural progression from the ICT Emergency Response Workshop that took place with the Ministry of Information & Communications (MoIC) in Kathmandu in June 2015, two months after the massive earthquake struck. The workshop represented the first step on the road to an enhanced ICT emergency response in Nepal.

Participants were extremely interactive and engaged with many productive discussions taking place leading to a successful few days. It was also a reunion of sorts with Bhawana, the national IT Officer in WFP Country Office in Kathmandu who FITTEST worked so closely with during the earthquake response.

The ICT4Gov training has hopefully paved the way for events of a similar nature to take place at the district level, added Damian: "What we really take away is alignment in terms of what various organisations are going to be working towards both in emergency preparedness and response. It was an effective pathway to collaboration at international and national levels."



The next IT Responders in Action newsletter will be issued in October 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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