

**Final Report:  
Volunteers for Emergency  
Telecommunications (VET)**

Washington, DC  
March 15-16, 2018

**Actions Required**

- 1) Bond the various stakeholders within communities at the local and regional level
- 2) Bridge and provide a clear line of support between the various groups at the local and regional level
- 3) Ensure that there are ties with international organizations that can provide financial and logistical support

## Amateur Radio Services

- Coordinated
  - ARES, RAYNET
- *Ad hoc*
- Puerto Rico 2017
  - Example of a coordinated and *ad hoc* response

## Goal

- A single UN agency develop a portal where volunteers can be identified, registered and to the extent necessary provide online training and mentoring

## Stakeholders

- International and intergovernmental organizations
- Volunteer relief agencies
- Others

## *Organization of the Network*

- Web-based applications and reliance on social media will, to a large extent, facilitate communication and organization efforts at the local and regional level
- Importance of “bonding, bridging and linking”
- Establish trusting relationships between different organizations

## Components

- a) A governance structure that involves all players including stakeholders, international organizations and commercial interests
- b) A portal to allow for the registration of volunteers and expression of interest from others, together with an online training programme to provide some level of certification.
- c) The activities of the VET Model must encourage the key concepts of bonding, bridging and linking through the use of social media
- d) The VET Model should be up and running within two years

## Structure

- a) A board or governing body made up of representatives of the key stakeholders who have sufficient influence within their own organization to ensure implementation of the Model and to provide the support necessary to sustain the Model moving forward
- b) Experts, either paid or volunteers, who have experience in providing and developing online portals and the proposed online training programme
- c) Experts and volunteers from each of the key stakeholders who can be given discrete tasks to ensure implementation of the Model
- d) Consultants and volunteers who can coordinate the dissemination of information through social media and to implement the various social media platforms

## Key Points

- a) That **invitations** to the initial meeting between stakeholders as outlined under the timeline in this report **be extended to a wide group of stakeholders** and **organizations** to participate. In order to ensure sufficient exposure, the meeting should encourage virtual participation
- b) A **framework agreement** between the stakeholders and other organizations which would outline a Memorandum of Agreement **outlining the activities of each of the participants**. This will be particularly important **to ensure the VET Model can attract contributions**, whether in-kind or financial, in order to proceed with the construction of the portal
- c) The VET Model should have a **governing board** to the offices of the ITU, which recognizes key stakeholders, aid agencies, international organizations and other commercial contributors

## The VET Model can be successful if:

- a) all stakeholders are committed to its success;  
and
- b) it has the support of relevant international organizations

## Timeline

**Q3 2018:** Initial meeting between stakeholders (allowing for virtual participation) to develop the model and outline key milestones

**Q4 2018:** Identification of the lead agency who will assume responsibility for developing the model and hosting the web portal

**Q2 2019:** Development of the portal and beta-testing

**Q3 2019:** Develop the structure for online training and implementing the online training programme

**Q4 2019:** Full implementation of the VET Model and web portal