



## Connectivity meeting #1 UAS Coordination Technical Working Group

28 Oct. 2020

### Tour de table

Organisation	Name
INGC	Antonio Beleza
OICT	Arturo Ojeda Demaria
<b>AIRT.ngo (Airborne International Response Team)</b>	Christopher Todd
<b>Global Medic</b>	Daniel Cyr
Loon	David Hansell
Outsight International	Denise Soesilo
<b>WFP</b>	Elizabeth Bourke
<b>WFP</b>	Gabriela Alvarado
Emergency.Lu	Gilles Hoffmann
<b>WFP RBD</b>	JeanClaudeAtassa LAOUWAYI
<b>Global Medic</b>	Jowett Wong
<b>WHO</b>	Kamal Ait Ikhlef
Ericsson	Lars Peder Svensson XX
Ericsson	Lars Ruediger
<b>WFP</b>	Masa Sabbah
<b>WFP</b>	Matthias Boyen
<b>UNHCR</b>	Min Sum
<b>WHO</b>	Louis Ilunga
<b>ETC</b>	Omar Namaoui
<b>Spooky</b>	Rahul Tiwari
<b>UNICEF</b>	Zuheb Siddiqui
<b>WHO</b>	Gaetano Morelli

## Opening remarks by Patrick welcoming everyone to the group

Patrick: *Introduction to the project and the Connectivity Group*. Presenting the current technologies that are currently in use in the field telecoms that have also been used for the past 80 year with a few mild advances: using radios that need repeater network, staff need to carry extra equipment and so on, and WIFI which forces the user to be in a limited to a small area range. **In this group we will be looking for a better way**

**We're not only serving the responders but also the communities that need our support**

- *Introduction of participants*
- *Going through the TOR of this group which can be found here.*

## Presentation

Patrick: presenting the potential drone solutions type that are available today and are carried out by different stakeholders: starting with the AT&T flying cow: WFP is looking into providing something like this technology. Moving on to Facebooks former project. Another solution is googles' loon.

## Discussion

- *Patrick*: opening the floor for suggestions on any other solution that we could/should be looking at?
- *Rahul*: Verizon have been using other low-cost options which are LTE repeaters on tether drone (similar to the AT&T cow). This solution is a quick and easy way to make connectivity more robust in an area
- *Patrick*: another thing to take things forward is to look at the feasible outcomes, what can we hope to achieve in this group?
- *Denise*: Separate high altitudes solutions from the low altitude solution in terms of operations
- *Rahul*: have two-part pilots: one pilot in the middle of nowhere just to assess what transmission characteristics do you have with the radio you are look at, does this solution work in a vacuum. Another pilot is the in-field deployment, testing solutions in a disaster zone, which we always have difficulties with.
- *Dan*: advocates for open data sharing
- *Zuher*: need to identify what kind of use cases are we targeting with these solutions, after which we can unravel the challenges that we face. The most two important challenges are: geographical limitation and data sovereignty. We also need to look at the infrastructure that we need to support this airborne connectivity

- *Omar*: lets avoid a “solution to the problem” methodology and bring value to the solutions that can be identified for the drones.
- *LP*: Using drones in building solutions, so as vehicles
- *Gilles*: It’s important for donors to see that there is a value added to the operation that will increase expenses

#### Housekeeping:

*Methodology* of the meetings going forward will be ***deep dives followed by discussions***. The main deep dives that were suggested by the participants:

- Deep dive on the types of radios
- Deep dive on what the goals are for using drones in connectivity? What are the actual problems in a disaster context?
- Mapping solutions and how to access them
- Deep dive with David from Loon
- Legal aspects in flying in a disaster zone
- Deployment scenario and how it fits into licensing, etc.
- Coordination issues with different stakeholders involved in the operation
- Safety, security, and regulations with legal

*Time of the meeting* needs to consider different time-zones; UTC 14:00 seems to good but then a trail run will be given to see what is the best time that fits all.

Posting participants bios on the drones upcoming website, if any objection to that please contact Patrick.

*Nominated co-chair*: Zuheb Siddiqui from UNICEF

#### Closing up

*Matthias*: interesting to know that we reconvene into a plenary, will send the calendar invites for that

*Patrick*: if you want to join any other TWG please contact the drone team and we’ll send you the invite.

**Next meeting for connectivity: 25<sup>th</sup> of November**