

February 2025

Title: **Emergency Telecommunications Intern**

Bureau/Dept/Unit: BDT-DNE-CET

Supervision: Ms. Vanessa Gray

Duration: 11 months

Location: ITU Headquarters in Geneva Switzerland

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.

We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

ITU is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate.

Today, ICTs underpin everything we do. They help manage and control emergency services, water supplies, power networks and food distribution chains. They support health care, education, government services, financial markets, transportation systems, e-commerce platforms and environmental management. And they allow people to communicate with colleagues, friends and family anytime, and almost anywhere.

With the help of our global membership, ITU brings the benefits of modern communication technologies to people everywhere in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner.

ITU membership reads like a Who's Who of the ICT sector. We're unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector membership. So, in addition to our 193 Member States, ITU membership includes ICT regulators, many leading academic institutions and some 700 tech companies.

In an increasingly interconnected world, ITU is the single global organization embracing all players in this dynamic and fast-growing sector.

1. **Organizational Unit**:

Climate Change and Emergency Telecommunications Division (CET Division).

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| 1. **Organizational context:** |

ITU plays an important role in emphasizing the critical role of ICTs in disaster risk reduction and management, and supports its Member States, in the four phases of disaster management through the design of national emergency telecommunications plans, the setting up of early warning and monitoring systems and the provision of emergency telecommunications equipment when disasters strike. ITU has been also given the mandate to support the use of digital technologies to reduce and address the effects of natural hazards, including pandemics, that can trigger emergencies and disasters which can cause loss of lives and economic impact around the world.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference, which was held in Kigali in 2022 (WTDC-2022), identified disasters as a major threat to socio-economic development and revised resolution 34 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) highlighting the need to support countries in the preparation of national disaster response in the areas of regulation, policy, early warning and to develop national emergency telecommunication plans and standard operating procedures.

In March 2022, the UN launched the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative, which stipulates that every person in the world should be protected by an early warning system by 2027. The initiative’s Action Plan puts the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the leading role on ‘Warning Dissemination and Communication” – a critical component of early warning systems that ensures alerts reach the people at risk in time to take action. As part of the EW4All Initiative, ITU, in close cooperation with UNDRR, WMO and IFRC, is working to support countries in enhancing their warning dissemination and communications capacities to strengthen the multi-hazard early warning system and ensure timely dissemination of actionable alerts to at-risk populations.

## **Terms of Reference / Internship Objective:**

In light of the above, ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) is in need of dedicated support to effectively deliver those activities to achieve its objectives. Therefore, we are currently seeking an Emergency Telecommunication Intern that will carry out the following activities that will be under the supervision of the Head of the Climate Change and Emergency Telecommunications (CET) Division and close cooperation with members of the CET team, the Intern will:

1. Support BDT’s efforts in leading the warning dissemination and communication pillar of the UN Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure that every person in the world is covered by an Early Warning system by 2027. Assist in preparing communication and awareness materials, including developing reports on events and operations, creating presentations, and drafting briefing and meeting notes.
2. Conduct research on ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management. Support the coordination of developing and maintaining a repository of case studies and subject matter experts to inform and connect stakeholders regarding new applications of emerging technology or novel uses of existing technology, enhancing the application of ICTs in the disaster risk management cycle.
3. Participate in meetings and workshops with UN agencies, public and private sector stakeholders, both in person and online, as part of ongoing efforts in emergency telecommunications and disaster management. Assist in organizing meetings, workshops, and other events related to using ICTs for disaster management, in close coordination and collaboration with partners.
4. Perform other tasks as requested.
5. **Competencies**

**Technical Competencies**

* Knowledge of emergency telecommunications, particularly early warning systems and the use of ICTs for disaster management involving national strategies.
* Familiarity or willingness to learn how to use online applications and social media.
* Ability to draft clear and concise documentation with good written and oral language skills.
* Good interpersonal skills, willingness to work collaboratively with colleagues and ask questions to clarify work.

1. **Qualifications required**
2. **Education**:

University degree (or completing an advanced University degree) in the areas of ICT, emergency telecommunications, regulation, or an equivalent level of education and specialization in a relevant field.

1. **Work experience**:

No work experience is required.

1. **Languages:**

**Proven fluency in oral and written English is a high requirement.** Knowledge of French and/or Spanish is an additional advantage.

1. **Training and Learning Elements:**

The intern will acquire excellent knowledge and experience of:

* Emergency telecommunications and their use and application in the disaster management cycle in particular with early warning systems and the use of technologies disseminate alters and save lives.
* The use of satellite telecommunications equipment.
* Interpersonal and communication skills between international organizations and national governments and ICT sector and disaster management organizations in the country.

1. **Additional information**

Candidates with experience and knowledge in practical areas related to ICTs, disaster management, would be preferred but the same in the area of communication and awareness around the use of technologies for disaster risk reduction.