Syria Crisis

ETC Situation Report #16

Reporting period 21/05/14 to 30/06/14

Author: Adam Ashcroft, WFP

Highlights

- An inter-agency radio working group has been established to review radio coverage in Amman, refresh call-sign allocations for Jordan and discuss other issues related to the provision of radio services in the country.

- An inter-agency radio room will be established in Domiz refugee camp in Dohuk, northern Iraq. Radio coverage will also be expanded in the area.

- An inter-agency committee is being formed to liaise with Syrian government authorities on licensing and importation of telecommunications equipment into the country.

Cluster Responsibilities

- The ETC in Syria is providing emergency telecommunications support to humanitarian organizations in operational areas within Syria and surrounding countries.

- Responsibility for the provision of ETC services (voice, internet, radio network and other services) across the region is shared between WFP and UNHCR.

    o WFP is providing support to other UN agencies for common service provision as required.

    o WFP coordinates regional activities in collaboration with partners.

Achievements

- Input has been provided to the SHARP 2014 mid-year review.

SYRIA

- Radio programming for the humanitarian community is ongoing.

    - A technical agreement between the ETC, UNDP and UNDSS is being prepared which governs the delivery of common radio services in Syria.

        o The agreement will improve the delivery of radio services and, consequently, the safety and security of humanitarian staff in operational areas.

JORDAN

- A mission was deployed to Amman to assess radio coverage. A recommendation will be prepared based on the findings of the mission.

- An inter-agency radio working group has been established to review radio coverage in Amman, refresh call-sign allocations for Jordan and discuss other issues related to the provision of radio services in the country.

IRAQ

- Radio programming is ongoing with the assistance of UNAMI.

Challenges and Gaps

- The importation and licensing of equipment remains a problem in Syria.

- The volatile security situation impacts the assessment and installation of telecommunications capability for the humanitarian community in key areas within Syria.

Planned Activities

SYRIA

- An inter-agency committee is being formed to liaise with Syrian government authorities on licensing and importation of telecommunications equipment.

- A radio trainer will be deployed to Syria to deliver sessions on the use of radio equipment to humanitarian workers and radio operators.

- The ETC will provide radio, voice and internet services for the humanitarian community at a planned UN hub in Tartous.

IRAQ

- A mission will be deployed in July to establish an inter-agency radio room in Domiz refugee camp in Dohuk, northern Iraq. Radio coverage will also be expanded in the area.

    o This will improve coordination and security of humanitarian organizations on the ground.

LEBANON

- A UNDSS mission will be deployed to provide maintenance on the radio repeater network in the north of Lebanon.

- Radio coverage in the north west of the country will be expanded with the installation of an antenna in Tripoli.

- UNIFIL are activating a digital radio network to replace the analogue radio network south of the Litani river in Lebanon. The digital network will provide more functionality than the analogue one.

- - UNDSS will continue to operate the analogue radio network north of the Litani river.

- A new permanent storage site in Beirut will be identified to store IT and telecommunications equipment pre-positioned for deployment.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

Next teleconference will be held on Thursday 17th July, 2014 at:

    09:00   New York
    13:00   UTC
    15:00   Rome
    16:00   Damascus
    16:00   Amman
    17:00   Dubai

Local ETC Meeting

The next Local ETC meeting in Amman will be held on Wednesday 06th August at 10:00AM Jordan time.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Syria.ETC@wfp.org

Status Matrix

LOCATION	AGENCY	REPEATER	DATA	VOICE	RADIO ROOM	ICT SUPPORT STAFF	SHARED SERVICES
Damascus	DSS	Yes (at UNDOF)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Radio Room
	WFP	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	VHF repeater only
	UNDP	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Helpdesk to UNDSS
	UNICEF	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
	WHO	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, IT	No
	UNFPA	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Generator with OCHA
	OCHA	No			No	Yes	Generator with UNFPA
	UNHCR	1x installed & licensed 1x not installed & unlicensed	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
	FAO	No	Yes		No	Yes	No
	UNRWA	No, 1x in stock but unlicensed	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Key ETC Contacts

The list below shows the key people involved in providing and supporting inter-agency ICT services in the Syria operation:

LOCATION	AGENCY	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
Cairo	WFP	Samer AbdelJaber	Regional IT Officer & IT/ETC Coordinator	samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org	+ 201 0 6661 6603
Damascus	WFP	Edisher Giorgadze	ICT Officer	edisher.giorgadze@wfp.org	+ 963 9 9119 9643
Amman	WFP	Salma Farouque	ICT Officer	salma.farouque@wfp.org	+962 7 9867 4633

Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SHARP	Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UTC	Universal Coordinated Time
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	UN World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization