

## Iraq

### ETC Situation Report #01

Reporting period 07/09/14

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## Highlights

- The ETC has finalised a six month operational plan to define the deployment of internet and radio services to the humanitarian community responding in Iraq.
- A radio room has been established in Sulaymaniyah as part of the ETC's response to the Syrian refugee crisis, however it will also be utilised for Iraq IDP operations. It will be fully operational once radio operators have been recruited. The radio room will improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff operating in and around the city.

## Cluster Responsibilities

- WFP is leading ETC activities in Iraq. The ETC is responsible for providing emergency telecommunications support to humanitarian organizations on the ground.

## Achievements

- The ETC has finalised a six month operational plan to define the deployment of internet and radio services to the humanitarian community responding in Iraq.
  - Radio services will be deployed in three major cities: Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk. This will improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff on the ground.
  - Internet services will be deployed in Arbat and Domiz camps outside Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk respectively.
- A radio room has been established in Sulaymaniyah as part of the ETC's response to the Syrian refugee crisis, however it will also be utilised for Iraq IDP operations. It will be fully operational once radio operators have been recruited. The radio room will improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff operating in and around the city.
- It is likely that ETC radio services will be deployed in three phases:
  - Phase 1: Work with UNAMI to finalise repeater installation in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.

- Phase 2: Transition from UNAMI digital network for UN agencies only, to ETC digital and analogue services for UN agencies and NGOs.
  - Phase 3: Establishment and maintenance of an independent ETC network.
- Ericsson Response and emergency.lu will deploy staff and equipment to assist the ETC with the establishment of internet services in Arbat and Domiz refugee camps.
  - emergency.lu will deploy VSATs to provide internet connectivity.
  - Ericsson Response will deploy WIDER kits to distribute and manage wireless networks.
- The ETC has held meetings with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to discuss the provision of internet connectivity in the Domiz and Arbat camps, outside Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah respectively. The provision of internet services will facilitate efficient communication and coordination for humanitarian organizations operating in the camps.
- Discussions with UNAMI are ongoing to obtain frequency licenses for ETC radio coverage.
- Equipment for deployment has been procured and will be shipped into Erbil on 08/09/14.
- Three ETC staff are currently on the ground in KRI:
  - Rami Shakra, Senior FITTEST Specialist, has been deployed as ETC Coordinator.
  - Khawar Ilyas, Telecommunications Specialist with FITTEST, has been deployed to provide telecommunications support.
  - Adam Ashcroft has been deployed as ETC Information Management Officer.
- A Budget Revision is ongoing.

## Challenges and Gaps

- The importation of equipment remains a challenge due to the suspension of many commercial airlines into Iraq.

## Planned Activities

- There are plans to deploy radio services in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, and internet services in the Arbat and Domiz camps outside Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk respectively.
- Two telecommunications specialists will be deployed to assist with the establishment of radio services.
- Radio operators will be recruited for the radio room in Sulaymaniyah. Once recruitment has been completed the radio room will be fully operational.
- ETC equipment will arrive in Erbil on 08/09/14.



## Meetings

### Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 09 September 2014 at 16:00 Erbil time.

### Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 11 September 2014 at 14:00 Erbil time in the UNAMI compound.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:

<http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/emergencies2014/iraq>

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [Iraq.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Iraq.ETC@wfp.org)



## Services Available

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Erbil	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination</li><li>• Information Management</li><li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio coverage</i></li></ul>
Sulaymaniyah	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio coverage</i></li><li>• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity (Arbat camp)</i></li></ul>
Dohuk	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio coverage</i></li><li>• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity (Domiz camp)</i></li></ul>

## ETC CAR Focal Points

TITLE	AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
ETC Coordinator	WFP FITTEST	Rami Shakra	<a href="mailto:Rami.Shakra@wfp.org">Rami.Shakra@wfp.org</a>	07508398195
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## Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme



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WIDER

Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response