

Iraq

ETC Situation Report #03

Reporting period 15/09/14 – 22/09/14

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Highlights

- The radio room in Sulaymaniyah is now operational following the successful delivery of radio training to two radio operators. This will improve the safety and security of UN staff in the area.
- An internet service provider has been selected and approved to provide internet connectivity at Arbat, Domiz and additional planned camps around Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.

Cluster Responsibilities

- WFP is leading ETC activities in Iraq. The ETC is responsible for providing emergency telecommunications support to humanitarian organizations on the ground.
- The ETC plans to deploy inter-agency radio services in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk and internet services in Arbat, Domiz and additional planned camps outside Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.

Achievements

- The radio room in Sulaymaniyah is now operational following the successful delivery of radio training to two radio operators. This will improve the safety and security of UN staff in the area.
 - Radio services are currently being provided by UNAMI and only available to UN staff. However the ETC will establish inter-agency radio services in Sulaymaniyah in the coming weeks.
- The ETC has received approval from UNAMI to programme radios for other UN agencies on its behalf. This will mean more UN staff are able to utilize UNAMI networks and security will be improved.
- It is likely that ETC radio services will be deployed in three phases:



The ETC and WFP ICT Coordinators offloading equipment at the warehouse in Erbil.

Photo: WFP/Adam Ashcroft

- 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.
- An internet service provider has been selected and approved to provide internet connectivity at Arbat, Domiz and additional planned camps around Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah. The provision of internet services will facilitate efficient communication and coordination for humanitarian organizations operating in the camps.
- Three Ericsson Response staff have been deployed to assist with deployment of internet services in Arbat and Domiz camps.
 - Ericsson Response staff will install WIDER equipment to distribute and manage wireless networks.
- emergency.lu staff and equipment will also be deployed in the coming weeks to assist with ETC internet deployment.
 - emergency.lu staff will deploy VSATs to provide backup internet connectivity in Domiz and Arbat camps.
- The Budget Revision has been completed and approved.

Challenges and Gaps

- The importation of equipment remains a challenge due to the suspension of many commercial airlines into Iraq.
- Any staff deployed to Iraq who wish to travel outside Erbil must attend SAIT training, which takes four days, and apply for a residency which can also take a couple of days. This can delay deployment.

Planned Activities

- Equipment will be deployed to the Dohuk radio room in the coming week and training will be delivered to the radio operators. Once complete, the radio room will be fully operational.
- An assessment of humanitarian ICT requirements in Basra is planned to take place within the next week.
- Two telecommunications specialists will be deployed to assist with the establishment of radio services.
- emergency.lu staff and equipment will be deployed in the coming weeks to install VSATs for backup connectivity.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 23 September 2014 at 17:00 Erbil time.



Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 25 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/ictpr/emergencies2014/iraq>

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



Services Available

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

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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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
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme



WIDER

Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response