Iraq

ETC Situation Report #05

Reporting period 01/10/14 – 07/10/14

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Highlights

- Wireless internet connectivity is now available to all humanitarian organizations operating at the Domiz camp outside Dohuk following the successful installation of Ericsson Response WIDER equipment.

Cluster Responsibilities

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

FITTEST and Ericsson Response staff installing WIDER equipment at Domiz camp to extend ETC wireless connectivity.
Photo: Ericsson Response/Mike Duffin

- 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.

- It is likely that ETC radio services will be deployed in three phases:

  o Phase 1: Work with UNAMI to finalise repeater installation in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk. This has been completed and the ETC is now providing radio programming and training to UN agencies on the UNAMI network.

  o Phase 2: the ETC will establish an analogue radio network for use by NGOs in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

  o Phase 3: scale up of UNAMI digital network and agreement on standard features.

Achievements

- Wireless internet connectivity is now available to all humanitarian organizations operating at the Domiz camp outside Dohuk following the successful installation of Ericsson Response WIDER equipment.

- o WIDER equipment also enables user registration, which improves network management and optimisation.

  - o An ICT Assistant is being trained to provide ICT and internet support for humanitarian staff.

- Internet connectivity is available at the following locations in Domiz camp:

  - o The UN compound which hosts a number of UN agencies and NGOs.

  - o The Norweigan Refugee Council (NRC) office on UN Street.

  - o Two Dohuk Governorate Development and Modification Center (DMC) offices.

- Radio rooms are operational in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.

  - o Radio services are currently being provided by UNAMI and only available to UN staff. However the ETC will establish inter-agency radio services in the coming weeks.

- Assessment missions were deployed to Sumel and Sheikhan camps in Dohuk governorate to ascertain humanitarian ICT requirements.

  - o No humanitarian ICT services are required at Sumel camp as it is operated from Domiz and Dohuk.

  - o The camp in Sheikan has not yet been established hence no ICT services are required.

Challenges and Gaps

- Flight options for the importation of equipment remain limited. This can delay the deployment of humanitarian ICT services.

- 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 few days. This can delay deployment.

- The ETC currently only has four pairs of frequencies which limits the deployment of radio services.

Planned Activities

- An ISP fibre link will be installed at the Arbat camp outside Sulaymaniyah. Ericsson Response WIDER equipment will be installed at the Arbat camp to extend connectivity wirelessly to all humanitarian organizations operating in the area.

- Two FITTEST telecommunications specialists will be deployed to Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk to establish inter-agency radio services.

- Radio operators will be recruited for the radio room in Erbil.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 07 October 2014 at 17:00 Erbil time.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 09 October 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

Services Available

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Erbil	WFP	• Coordination • Information Management • *Planned: VHF radio coverage*
Sulaymaniyah	WFP	• *Planned: VHF radio coverage*
Arbat Camp	WFP	• *Planned: Internet connectivity*
Dohuk	WFP	• *Planned: VHF radio coverage*
Domiz Camp	WFP	• Internet connectivity
Basra	WFP	• *Planned: Assessment mission*

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

DMC	Development and Modification Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Service Provider
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response