Iraq

ETC Situation Report #08

Reporting period 24/10/14 – 29/10/14

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Highlights

- Following the storm that damaged the ETC wireless equipment at Arbat camp, services have now been restored.

- ETC is providing common ICT services in Dohuk and Erbil with the plan to extend it to 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.

An ETC telecommunications specialist installing a radio antenna on top of the mast at Domiz camp. *Photo: WFP/Fabrice Bouguerra*

Achievements

- Following the requests from WHO, WVI and Acted, ETC continues to assist humanitarian organizations with radio programming in Erbil. UNICEF has requested ETC to programme 150 of their radios to be able to use the ETC network.

- To date, ETC has been assisted with radio training for humanitarian staff is ongoing in Erbil in addition to the training of 5 UNAMI radio operators and 10 WFP drivers were trained on HF and VHF radio communications usage.

- ETC analogue radio services are now available in Domiz camp, outside Dohuk city to NGOs and UN agencies. Radio Room Operators were trained as well as 26 humanitarian staff from WFP, Acted and UNCHR received radio training.

  - o   Over 30 radios were reprogrammed in Dohuk.

- ETC wireless internet connectivity is available to all humanitarian organizations in Domiz and Arbat camps, as well as a transit camp 7 kms from Arbat. Locations of ETC wireless services are as follows:

- o Domiz camp: the UN compound, the Norwegian Refugee Council offices and two government Development and Modification Centres (DMCs).

- o Arbat camp: UN compound, IRC and UNHCR offices, emergency.it offices, Save the Children office, admin building.

- The ETC and UNAMI continue to work together to enhance digital radio services being provided to UN agencies.

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

- Although services have been temporary restored at Arbat camp, a team will intervene on Monday 3 November to fully repair the ETC wireless equipment.

- Two FITTEST telecommunications specialists will be deployed to Sulaymaniyah next week to establish common radio services at IDP/refugee camps outside the cities, with assistance from UNAMI.

  - o This will provide UN and NGOs operating there with radio communication coverage.

  - o Radio training and programming services is also planned to be provided to staff.

  - o The team will also assist UNHCR in repairing one of the existing repeaters.

- Radio operators will be recruited for the radio room in Erbil to enhance staff and vehicle tracking capacity. Interviews are planned to be held in the course of next week.

- A Wi-Fi hotspot will be established in the lobby of the Erbil International Hotel for use by all humanitarian staff.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 11 November 2014 at 17:00 Erbil time.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 6 November 2014 at 14:00 Erbil time. Invitation to follow.

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	• Internet connectivity
Dohuk	WFP	• 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
IRC	International Rescue Committee

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
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme