

Iraq

ETC Situation Report #11

Reporting period 20/11/14 – 04/12/14

Author: Adam Ashcroft, WFP

Highlights

- UNAMI has provided the ETC with additional radio frequencies. This means that more radio channels can be added to the digital radio networks, which means that more humanitarian staff can utilise them.
- UNAMI has provided the ETC with repeater sites in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk that will provide greater analogue radio coverage.

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

- UNAMI has provided the ETC with additional radio frequencies. This means that more radio channels can be added to the digital radio networks, which means that more humanitarian staff can utilise them.
 - A mission was deployed to Sulaymaniyah to add four additional channels to the digital radio network there.
 - Once complete, a mission will be deployed to Dohuk and add four radio channels to the network there. The team will also move the temporary radio room currently in Domiz camp the UNHCR office in Dohuk.
- UNAMI has provided the ETC with repeater sites in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk that will provide greater analogue radio coverage.
 - The repeater in Sulaymaniyah is being relocated. Once complete, the repeater in Dohuk will be relocated.
- Advanced radio training has been delivered to UNAMI security staff and WFP drivers.
 - This will ensure that correct radio protocol is followed at all times and increase the safety and security of staff in the field.

- A replacement Information Management Officer has been deployed to Erbil by ETC stand-by partner MSB.
- A joint assessment of the radio room in Erbil was completed by the ETC, UNAMI SSI and WFP security. There are plans to convert the radio room in and Operations Centre.
 - This will improve staff and vehicle tracking and hence improve security.
- Two new radio operators have been recruited and deployed in the UNAMI radio room in Erbil, which will increase its capacity.
- Dragan Mocevic, the ETC Coordinator, has departed the operation. A replacement, John Bursa, will arrive within the next couple of weeks. In the interim, Khawar Ilyas, FITTEST ICT Specialist, will be Acting ETC Coordinator.
- ETC wireless internet connectivity is available to all humanitarian organizations in three key operational areas: Domiz and Arbat camps, as well as a transit camp 7 kms from Arbat.
 - Over 200 humanitarian staff have registered on ETC wireless networks to date.
- Radio programming for UN agencies and NGOs is ongoing.
 - To date, over 170 radios have been programmed across KRI to ensure compatibility with both digital and analogue radio networks.

Challenges and Gaps

- Flight options for the importation of equipment remain limited. This can delay the deployment of humanitarian ICT services.
- Additional radio frequencies to expand the capacity of the digital radio network in Erbil are required. UNAMI has requested these frequencies and government approval is pending.
- 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.
- Staff movement restrictions remain in place following the suicide attack in central Erbil on 19/11/14.
- Some staff have been experiencing problems obtaining Iraq visas if they do not have a UN passport.

Planned Activities

- Expansion of the digital radio network capacity in Erbil once frequencies have been obtained from the government.
- The relocation of the repeater in Dohuk which will enhance digital and analogue radio coverage.
- Establishment of inter-agency radio services in Erbil.
- 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 Thursday 11 December 2014. Time TBC.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on Thursday 18 December 2014 at 14:00 Erbil time at the UNAMI compound. Room TBC.

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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination• Information Management• <i>Planned: VHF radio coverage</i> |
| Sulaymaniyah | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHF radio coverage |
| Arbat Camp | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity |
| Dohuk | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHF radio coverage |
| Domiz Camp | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• VHF radio coverage |
| Basra | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: Assessment mission</i> |

ETC Iraq Focal Points

| TITLE | AGENCY | NAME | EMAIL | MOBILE PHONE |
|---|-------------|-------------------|--|--------------|
| Acting WFP IT Emergency/ETC Coordinator | WFP | Khawar Ilyas | Khawar.Ilyas@wfp.org | 07508513118 |
| Telecommunications Specialist | WFP FITTEST | Fabrice Bouguerra | fabrice.bouguerra@wfp.org | 07809150987 |
| Information Management Officer | WFP | Chris Szpak | Christopher.Szpak@wfp.org | |

Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| 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 |



| | |
|-------|---|
| MSB | Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| SAIT | Security Awareness and Induction Training |
| SSI | Security Section Iraq |
| UNAMI | United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq |
| UNHCR | United Nations Refugee Agency |
| VSAT | Very Small Aperture Terminal |
| WFP | World Food Programme |