

IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 14

Reporting period 09/01/15 to 22/01/15

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Highlights

- Additional radio operators are being hired and trained for the UNAMI radio room in order to provide around-the-clock security monitoring.
- Agreement has been reached with UNAMI to integrate ETC digital radio tracking services with the existing UNAMI system (MOTOTRBO).

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

- Additional radio operators are being hired and trained for the UNAMI radio room in order to provide around-the-clock security monitoring. In addition to two operators already funded by ETC, a third operator has been hired, with a fourth to come. This will bring the full complement of operators up to five, thus ensuring adequate staffing for the radio room to effectively fulfil its duties.
- Agreement has been reached with UNAMI to integrate ETC digital radio tracking services with the existing UNAMI system (MOTOTRBO). This establishes a common security tracking standard for all UN agencies that will exploit some of the functionality offered by a digital network such as GPS positioning.
- Using additional radio frequencies provided by UNAMI, a telecommunications team has established a digital radio network in Sulaymaniyah for use by UN agencies operating there. The network will become operational once the system has been tested.
- The UNAMI repeater in Sulaymaniyah was re-configured to provide increased analogue radio coverage to the humanitarian community.
- Radio training is being delivered by the ETC to UN and NGO staff on an ongoing basis. This is to ensure that correct radio protocol is consistently followed by all humanitarian organizations to ensure the safety of staff. To date, the ETC has trained approximately 100 staff from various humanitarian organizations.
- The ETC continues to configure radios for UN agencies and NGOs with a standard program compatible with both digital and analogue radio networks. To date, over 258 individual radios have been processed.



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- 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.
 - All UN agencies are encouraged to compile call-sign lists according to a common ETC format. This will ensure radio rooms can track staff more effectively, hence improving security.

Challenges and Gaps

- Flight options for the importation of equipment remain limited. This can delay the deployment of humanitarian ICT services.
- Additional radio frequencies are required to expand the capacity of the digital network in Erbil. UNAMI has requested these frequencies and government approval is pending.
- Any staff wishing to travel outside of Erbil must attend SAIT training, which takes four days. In addition, several days may be needed to apply and receive residency status thus delaying further deployment to the field.
- Power outages have affected the internet connectivity service in the refugee camps of Domiz and Arbat. The ETC along with the UNHCR will investigate and resolve the problem.

Planned Activities

- An ETC team has recently been deployed to Dohuk to upgrade the emergency telecommunications infrastructure between Dohuk and the nearby Domiz camp. Tasks to be completed by the team include:
 - Relocating the radio room from Domiz camp to Dohuk
 - Setting up microwave links between Dohuk and Domiz camp to support a DMR network
 - Re-configuring the UNAMI analogue repeater for better coverage in Dohuk and Domiz camp.
 - Reprogramming of VHF radios and radio training.
- To enhance inter-agency radio services in Erbil in order to provide better security for staff and vehicle movement, ETC will be providing additional staffing and equipment to the UNAMI radio room.
- An ETC assessment will be done regarding the data and security telecommunications needs of the humanitarian community in the Baghdad area.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 11/02/15.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 22/01/15.



All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
<http://ictemergency.wfp.org>

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• ICT Helpdesk• Logistics Hub• Radio Programming• Training• VHF radio coverage
Sulamaniyah	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio Programming• Training• VHF radio coverage
Arbat Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• Radio Programming• Training• VHF radio coverage
Dohuk	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio Programming• Training• VHF radio coverage
Domiz Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• Radio Programming• Training• VHF radio coverage
Basra	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned Assessment mission</i>

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

DMR	Digital Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme