

IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 15

Reporting period 23/01/15 to 05/02/15

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Highlights

- An assessment of the newly established JCMC in Baghdad was conducted. Basic voice and data services are being provided. A VHF base for security communications was installed.
- The ETC together with UNAMI CITS commenced integration of the Humanitarian agencies into their existing digital radio tracking services.

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

- An assessment of the newly established JCMC in Baghdad was conducted. Internet connectivity is provided via Ethernet. Laptops have been provided and connected to the government domain allowing access to the file servers for sharing of data. IP telephones have been provided. A VHF base for security communications was installed.
- An assessment of the SRSG villa in Baghdad was conducted as a potential location for the UNCT OPSCEN. All ICT services are currently available via UNAMI.
- The ETC together with UNAMI CITS commenced integration of the Humanitarian agencies into the existing digital radio tracking services of UNAMI. 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 and tracking of vehicles and handheld radios.
- In Dohuk and together with UNAMI CITS an analogue repeater at the Dohuk- Korek site was re-configured to provide increased coverage and to link the UN and NGO humanitarian community.
- A radio room has been installed in Dohuk at the UNHCR office in the Jiyan hotel and capable of 24/7 operation once the final radio operators are recruited.
- The temporary radio room in Domiz camp was dismantled and moved to Dohuk as the site is now being monitored by the new Dohuk radio room.



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- The power supply problem in the Arbat camp has been rectified thanks to UNHCR support.
 - In the Domiz camp there are 33 confirmed and 38 accumulated users registered on WIDER.
 - In the Arbat camp there are 67 confirmed and 105 accumulated users registered on WIDER.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Planned Activities

- An ETC team will be redeployed to Dohuk to continue the upgrade of the emergency telecommunications infrastructure in Dohuk and the nearby Domiz camp. Tasks to be completed by the team include:
 - Installing further DMR repeaters in both Dohuk and Domiz.
 - Setting up microwave links between Dohuk and Domiz camp to support the DMR network.
 - Installing a 100 ft guyed tower in Domiz to improve repeater coverage.
 - Reprogramming of VHF radios and radio training in all locations.
 - Continue the integration and implementation of humanitarian radios into the UNAMI digital radio tracking service.
- 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.



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 23/02/15 in the UNAMI Compound, Erbil.

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
Baghdad	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment mission
Basra	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned Assessment mission</i>



ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

CITS	Communications and Information Technology Services
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
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
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Management Centre
OPSCEN	Operations Centre
SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN In Disaster and Emergency Response