

IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 16

Reporting period 06Feb15 to 19Feb15

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Highlights

- Meetings with UNHCR security, management and UNDSS to debrief and hand-over the Dohuk radio-room.
- A PTP microwave link has been installed between Dohuk and Domiz to enable monitoring of the Domiz net from Dohuk's radio-room.

Cluster Responsibilities

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

Achievements

- A PTP microwave link has been installed between Dohuk and Domiz to enable monitoring of the Domiz net from Dohuk's radio-room.
- Refresher training for radio-operators has been conducted in Dohuk to ensure the radio-room can effectively track staff and missions.
- Staff training on new digital radio features.
- Handover of the new radio codeplug config file to ETC WG members in Dohuk.
- Meetings with UNHCR security, management and UNDSS to debrief and hand-over the Dohuk radio-room.
- Coverage survey of the VHF in Dohuk has been conducted, coverage map will be released shortly when finalised.
- The ETC services user survey has been extended by 2 weeks.
- The ETC continues to configure radios for UN agencies and NGOs with a standard codeplug compatible with both digital and analogue radio networks. To date, over 290 individual radios have been processed.
- 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 110 staff from various humanitarian organizations.



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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.
 - In the Domiz camp there are 33 confirmed and 37 accumulated users registered on the Ericsson WIDER network.
 - In the Arbat camp there are 67 confirmed and 95 accumulated users registered on the Ericsson WIDER network.
 - All UN agencies are encouraged to compile call-sign lists according to the common ETC format. This will ensure radio rooms can track staff more effectively and improve overall security.
 - All Humanitarian agencies and NGO's are also encouraged to use the standard ETC provided codeplug to ensure overall compatibility country-wide between radios to facilitate security of staff.

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.
- Funding for the cluster is available till the end of March, further ETC support post March is dependent on further donor funding.

Planned Activities

- Installing a 100 ft guyed tower in Domiz to improve repeater coverage.
- Reprogramming of VHF radios and radio training in all locations.
- 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.
- Continue the integration of humanitarian radios into the UNAMI digital radio tracking service.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 11/03/15.

Local ETC meeting



The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 24/02/15.

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/UNHCR	<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/UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment
Basra	WFP/UNAMI	<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 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
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring 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
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WG	Working Group
WIDER	Wireless LAN In Disaster and Emergency Response