![Emergency Telecommunications Cluster logo]
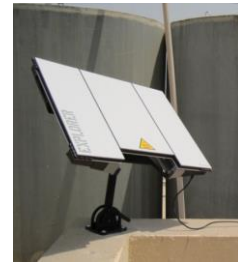
IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 25

Reporting period 12/06/15 – 25/06/15

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Highlights

- Mains power was restored to the UNHCR office which hosts the ETC installed COMCEN in Sulaymaniya. The mains power to the system was cut earlier in the month, however, the system remained operational via the ETC supplied solar system.

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

Sulaymaniya and Arbat Camp

- Mains power was restored to the UNHCR office which hosts the ETC installed COMCEN in Sulaymaniya. The mains power to the system was cut earlier in the month, however, the system remained operational through the ETC supplied solar system.

- Analogue and digital radio services are available to NGOs and UN agencies in Sulaymaniya and Arbat camp. The service is provided by ETC.

- The radio room in Sulaymaniya is operating on a 24/7 basis and the Arbat camp is monitored from this radio room.

- ETC wireless internet connectivity is available to all humanitarian organizations working at Arbat camp and a transit camp 7km from Arbat.

Dahuk and Domiz Camp

- Analogue and digital radio services are available to NGOs and UN agencies in Dahuk and Domiz camp. The service is provided by ETC.

- The radio room in Dahuk operates on a 12/7 basis and the Domiz camp is monitored from this radio room.

- ETC wireless internet connectivity is available to all humanitarian organizations working at Domiz camp.

Erbil

- The radio room in Erbil operates on a 12/7 basis.

General

- UN agencies are encouraged to compile call-sign lists according to the common ETC format. This ensures radio rooms can track staff more effectively and improve overall security.

- UN agencies and NGOs are also encouraged to use the standard ETC provided codeplug to deliver country-wide compatibility between radios which facilitates the security of staff.

- The ETC continues to programme radios for UN agencies and NGOs with a standard codeplug compatible with both digital and analogue radio networks. To date, over 364 individual radios have been configured.

- The ETC and UNAMI are delivering radio training on an ongoing basis to the humanitarian community with approximately 134 staff trained by ETC to date. This is to ensure that correct radio protocols are followed to ensure safety of staff in the field. The ETC also continues to programme radios for UN agencies and NGOs. For training and radio programming assistance the ETC can be contacted at iraq.etc@wfp.org.

Challenges and Gaps

- The Iraq ETC is operating under a significant funding shortfall in 2015. Additional funding is required to meet operational needs for 2015.

- Flight options for the importation of equipment remain limited. This can delay the deployment of humanitarian ICT services.

- All staff required to travel outside of Erbil must attend SSAFE 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

- The Domiz camp in Dahuk run by UNHCR may be handed over to local government authorities. The ETC is investigating the ongoing requirements of ETC services in that location.

- An additional two radio operators are required for the radio room in Dahuk and one additional radio operator is required for the radio room in Sulaymaniya.

- The re-programming of VHF radios with the new digital DMR radio standard and radio training in all locations will continue.

- Inter-agency radio services in Erbil require further enhancement to provide better security for staff and vehicle movement. ETC will provide additional staffing and equipment to the UNAMI radio room.

- Continue the integration of humanitarian radios into the UNAMI digital dispatcher radio tracking service and establish the system in Sulaymaniya and Dahuk radio rooms.

- Procure a suitable power solution for the wide-area repeater sites in KR-I.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

- The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 15/07/15.

Local ETC meeting

- The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 14/07/15.

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/UNAMI	• Coordination • Information Management • ICT Helpdesk • Logistics Hub • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage
Sulaymaniyah	WFP	• Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Arbat Camp	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 monitored from Sulaymaniyah radio room
Dahuk	WFP/UNHCR	• Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • Radio Room
Domiz Camp	WFP	• Internet connectivity • VHF radio coverage • Radio Programming • Training • Monitored from Dahuk Radio Room
Basra	WFP/UNAMI	

		• Radio Programming • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Baghdad	WFP/UNAMI	• VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Kirkuk	UNAMI	• VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

DMR	Digital Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
KR-I	Kurdistan Region - Iraq
OPSCEN	Operations Centre
POE	Power Over Ethernet
SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
SSAFE	Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments

UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response