

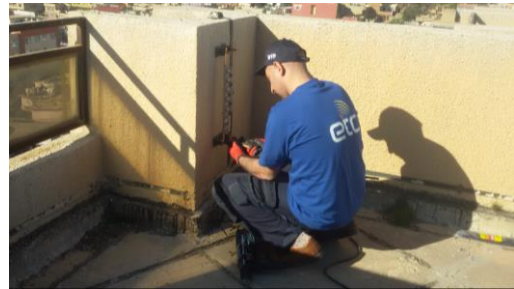
IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 27

Reporting period 10/07/15 – 06/08/15

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*Photo: Capacity building of local ICT staff working on radio room installation at Dahuk, Iraq.
Source: Khawar Ilyas, WFP.*



Highlights

- The ETC programmed over 40 handheld and vehicle radio devices since the last reporting period for UNDSS, IOM and OCHA.
- The ETC is preparing telecommunications equipment in readiness to deploy digital radio services in Erbil. The new digital network will enable agency specific channels and also an SMT only channel for use by security/SMT staff only.
- Iraq ETC Coordinator, John Bursa, has departed the operation and Khawar Ilyas is now leading Iraq ETC activities. The ETC can be contacted on the email address: iraq.etc@wfp.org.

Response

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

Sulaymaniya and Arbat Camp

- The ETC is providing analogue and digital radio services to NGOs and UN agencies in Sulaymaniya and Arbat camp.
- The radio room in Sulaymaniya is operating on a 24/7 basis and the Arbat camp is monitored from this radio room.
- The ETC is providing wireless internet access to all humanitarian organizations working at Arbat camp and a transit camp 7km from Arbat.

Dahuk and Domiz Camp

- The ETC is providing analogue and digital radio services to NGOs and UN agencies in Dahuk and Domiz camp.
- The radio room in Dahuk operates on a 12/6 basis and the Domiz camp is monitored from this radio room.
- The ETC is providing wireless internet access to all humanitarian organizations working at Domiz camp.

Erbil

- The ETC is providing analogue radio services to NGOs and UN agencies in Erbil.
- The radio room in Erbil operates on a 24/7 basis.
- The ETC is providing four additional radio operators which has greatly increased the efficiency of the Erbil radio room in tracking missions and staff.



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 440 radios have been configured.
- The ETC and UNAMI deliver radio training on an ongoing basis to the humanitarian community in Iraq. This helps to ensure correct radio protocols are followed for the safety of staff in the field. For training and radio programming assistance the ETC can be contacted at: iraq.etc@wfp.org.

Planned Response

- An ETC mission will deploy a digital radio network in Erbil in August. Infrastructure is being prepared in readiness for the deployment. Two digital radio repeaters will be deployed by the ETC. The new digital network will enable agency specific channels and also an SMT only channel for use by security/SMT staff only.
- The ETC is coordinating with UNHCR to install a new 30ft telecommunications mast at the UNHCR office in Sulaymaniya. Telecommunications infrastructure at the site will be transferred to the new mast which is more durable than the existing mast in place. The installation is scheduled to start on 11 August 2015.
- An ETC mission to Sulaymaniya is also planned during August for maintenance of analogue radio repeaters at the site. Regular maintenance is essential to ensure that the availability of ETC services remains high.
- The ETC is co-locating radio and internet infrastructure in one server room at Domiz camp to streamline maintenance and management of infrastructure. The move of equipment will happen in August. The ETC continues to provide data and security communication services at Domiz camp.

- Two additional radio operators are required for the radio room in Dahuk to move from 12/6 to 24/7 operations, and one additional radio operator is required for the radio room in Sulaymaniya to maintain 24/7 operations.
- Re-programming of VHF radios with the new digital DMR radio standard and radio training in all locations is a continuing service offered by the ETC.
- The ETC is continuing to work on the integration of humanitarian radios into the UNAMI digital dispatcher radio tracking service.
- The ETC is looking to procure a suitable power solution for the wide-area repeater sites in KR-I.
- The ETC will prepare a contingency plan to handle requests from new humanitarian locations/hubs where ETC services are required. This includes a review of stock levels and replenishing infrastructure where required.
- The ETC operation in Iraq is reviewing staffing levels to ensure the operation is adequately resourced.



Photo: Maintenance of telecoms infrastructure at Domiz camp, Iraq. Source: Khawar Ilyas, WFP.

Challenges and Gaps

- All staff required to travel outside of Erbil must attend SSAFE training which takes three days. In addition, several days may be needed to apply and receive residency status thus delaying further deployment to the field.
- Visas are required for all staff travelling to Iraq including those traveling on a United Nations Laissez-Passer (UNLP). The lead time to obtain visas can delay the arrival of staff in country.
- Severe weather conditions and heat waves in Iraq can delay to field activities.

Meetings

- **Global ETC teleconference:** the next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 19/08/15.
- **Local ETC meeting:** the next Local ETC meeting will be held on 11/08/15.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: ETCluster.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/UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information Management • ICT Helpdesk • Logistics Hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • Training • VHF Radio Coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Sulaymaniya	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Arbat Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Connectivity • Radio Programming • Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage • Monitored from Sulaymaniya Radio Room
Dahuk	WFP/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage • 12/6 Radio Room
Domiz Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Connectivity • VHF Radio Coverage • Radio Programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Monitored from Dahuk Radio Room
Basra	WFP/UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • VHF Radio Coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Radio Room
Baghdad	WFP/UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Radio Room
Kirkuk	UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Radio Room



ETC Iraq Focal Points

TITLE	AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
ETC Coordinator	WFP	Khawar Ilyas	iraq.etc@wfp.org	+964 750 851 3118
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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre (radio room)
DMR	Digital Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IM	Information Management
IT	Information Technology
KR-I	Kurdistan Region - Iraq
OPSCEN	Operations Centre
POE	Power Over Ethernet
SMT	Security Management Team
SSAFE	Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNLP	United Nations Laissez Passer (UN travel document)
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN in Disaster and Emergency Response