

YEMEN

Emergency communications services established by the ETC allow the response community to meet vital humanitarian needs in Yemen.

Continuing conflict, compounded by natural disaster, has exacerbated Yemen's prolonged humanitarian crisis, rendering an estimated 21.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Collapsed social infrastructure and basic services mean that millions of people have no access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation services.

Given this context, the **ETC was activated in Yemen in April 2015** to provide the humanitarian community with internet connectivity, security communications and technical training.

Establishing Vital Connections

The ETC is providing **internet connectivity** and **security telecommunications** to the humanitarian community in five sites:

- Ibb and Sa'ada, managed by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- Aden, managed by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Sana'a, Al Hudaydah and the inter-agency boat travelling between Aden and Djibouti, managed by WFP.

The ETC plans to deploy services in two additional locations, Ta'izz and Al Mukalla, which remain inaccessible due to the security situation.

For the Safety of Humanitarians

Two Communications Centres (COMCEN) have been installed in Sana'a and one in Ibb, ensuring humanitarians operating in these areas have access to safe and secure communications network.

The ETC has also delivered radio training to over 90 humanitarian emergency responders for them to know how to safely use the security communications network.

The ETC is collaborating with humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, INGOs and local suppliers to try and ensure the provision of essential communications services to the response community.

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ETC Services

LOCATION	INTERNET & POWER CHARGING	SECURITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS	RADIO TRAINING	ASSESSMENT
Sana'a	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Al Hudaydah	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Aden	Planned	Provided	Provided	Provided
Ibb	Provided	Provided	Planned	Provided
Ta'izz	Planned	Planned	Planned	Planned
Sa'ada	Provided	Provided	Planned	Provided
Al Mukalla	Planned	Planned	Planned	Planned

Challenges

Lengthy customs clearance processes in Djibouti and Yemen are affecting the deployment of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment across the country. The ETC is mitigating this by obtaining pre-clearance approvals from local authorities before shipping any equipment into Yemen.

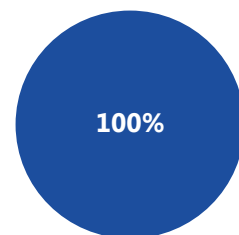
In addition, long visa processes and staff ceilings remain a challenge for the operation in Yemen.

Funding

The ETC appealed for **US\$2.04** million to provide the following until the end of 2016:

1. Internet connectivity in **six** hubs and operational areas.
2. Security communications in identified areas.
3. Technical training for local humanitarian staff.

To date, the ETC Yemen has received 100% of appealed funds.



ETC Yemen is grateful for the support of key partners, including: Government of Luxembourg, UN Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) & UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Yemen, visit: www.ETCluster.org or contact: Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

The ETC seeks to ensure that by 2020, all those responding to emergencies, including affected communities, have access to vital communications services and digital aid.