

Internet Connectivity & Security Telecommunications provided by the ETC allows the response community to meet the urgent needs of people affected by the conflict, safely.

On 7 June 2014, heavy fighting between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Armed Opposition Groups erupted in Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. The violence resulted in numerous casualties and the takeover of the entire city. The conflict continued to spread with further cities seized by Armed Opposition Groups. Within the first week of fighting, an estimated 500,000 Iraqis had been displaced in northern Iraq.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Iraq was activated in August 2014 in response to the **deteriorating security situation** in the country. Since then, under the leadership of the World Food Programme (WFP), the ETC has been delivering vital communications services to the response community.

Urgent Communications for the Response Community

- **Internet connectivity** is provided for the response community in Arbat and Domiz camps in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).
- New generation Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) networks have been deployed across Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah. Critical for humanitarian operations, **security communications** networks deployed by the ETC allow personnel to communicate on a secure and independent network, owned and operated by the United Nations.
- Basic **radio user training** has been delivered to more than 400 humanitarian personnel, to strengthen the safety and security of staff and missions in the field.
- **Technical training** has been delivered to 14 radio operators in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, as well as a bespoke Intermediate Data Training, based on Let's Net Digital, for humanitarian staff in Dohuk. Participants gained practical skills to deploy and maintain the ETC Data Solution to provide internet connectivity in emergencies.





Vital Connections

- The ETC is partnering with the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to extend **its security communication network** to UN agencies in Basra, Baghdad and Kirkuk.
- Assessment missions have been carried out in Tikrit and Zummar, and pre-positioning of ETC equipment is ongoing in preparation for the Mosul offensive.

Plans and funding

- ETC Iraq appealed for **US\$1.2 million** to continue providing shared communications services. The operation is currently 50% funded.
- The ETC is carrying out a three-month pilot project in Iraq to provide Internet connectivity to the affected community in Domiz camp, Dohuk. It is working in partnership with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



Challenges

ETC Iraq continues to face a number of challenges, including the lengthy process of importing equipment and the time it takes to deploy staff due to visa processing.

The security situation remains volatile across the country as the Mosul offensive escalates.

ETC Iraq is grateful for the support of key partners, including: Ericsson Response, RedR Australia , Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), UNAMI, UNHCR



World Food Programme



Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency



الأمم المتحدة - العراق
United Nations Iraq

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

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