

Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Central African Republic

Global ETC Teleconference #24

Date: 21/12/16 TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), Dubai, UAE
ACF	Issa Ramadhan	Iraq
Ericsson Response	Brent Carbno	Canada
IOM	Belal Zedan	Syria
UNHCR	Arthemon Nkunuzwami	Jordan
UNICEF	Antonio Gomes	Senegal
WFP	Waheed Habib	Egypt
	Khawar Ilyas	Yemen
	Dragan Mocevic	Syria
	Solomon Welle	South Sudan
	Geoffrey Okay	Kenya
	Karen Barsamian	United Arab Emirates
WHO	Khaled Shams	United Arab Emirates

Teleconference started at 12:07 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Yemen update**
- 2. South Sudan update**
- 3. Iraq update**
- 4. Syria update**
- 5. Central African Republic update**



Minutes

1. YEMEN

Security Update

- The security situation remains volatile with restrictions on staff movements.

ETC Response

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) team comprises 1x Coordinator and 1x Information Technology (IT) specialist and their missions finalise in mid-January.
- The ETC is working on the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) narrative for 2017. This exercise is led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- The ETC continues to provide Internet and security telecommunications services in 5x hubs across Yemen in close collaboration with the lead agencies on the ground.
- In Aden, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) building has been identified as the common United Nations (UN) hub and two agencies are in that building. The ETC is monitoring a possible scale-up of operations in Aden to deploy common Internet connectivity services.

2. SOUTH SUDAN

Security Update

- The security situation remains calm in Juba but volatile across the rest of the country.

ETC Response

- The ETC will demobilise its services in South Sudan by 31 December and is working on donating equipment to organisations on the ground.
 - The ETC is transporting to Juba the Government of Luxembourg equipment from Koch and Leer which was not deployed due to security reasons.

3. IRAQ

ETC Response

- The ETC facilitated the discussions between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and telecommunications companies in Iraq to provide free phone credit to Internally Displaced People (IDP) fleeing Mosul.
- The ETC conducted an assessment mission to relocate the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Sulaymaniyah from UNHCR to the new World Food Programme (WFP) premises. The relocation will take place in early January.



- A unique code plug for inter-agency use was finalised and successfully implemented in Dohuk. This is a significant improvement of the security telecommunications system in Dohuk as users can benefit from communicating with a larger network of local partners.

4. SYRIA

Security Update

- The ceasefire in Aleppo is ongoing. The security situation in Damascus is deteriorating.

ETC Response

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has agreed with the proposed ETC activities in the 2017 HRP.
- The ETC is still waiting for permission from MoFA to install a radio repeater and a COMCEN in Homs.
 - After the installation of this repeater, the ETC will deploy a radio repeater in Qamishli.
 - The ETC will reapply for permission to install a radio repeater in Tartous.
- MoFA has approved the transportation of 3x satellite kits from Damascus to Aleppo, Tartous and Qamishli.
- A Let's Comm Digital training was delivered in Dubai to 12 inter-agency participants from Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Algeria and Sudan.

5. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (C.A.R.)

ETC Response

- The ETC is working on the recruitment of an ETC Coordinator who is expected to join the operation in January. In the meantime, the ETC continues to provide its services across C.A.R.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:28 UTC

Next Joint Global ETC Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 18 January 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

C.A.R.	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IT	Information Technology
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



UN	United Nations
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:

Global.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Erika Iglesias, WFP