

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

Global ETC Teleconference #25

Date: 18/01/17 TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), Dubai, UAE
ACF	Issa Ramadhan	Iraq
CRS	Paul Tuthill	United States
Ericsson Response	Martin Falebrand	Sweden
	Brent Carbno	Canada
ICRC	Sami Alio	Syria
Oxfam	Deepak Arvind	India
UNHCR	Arthemon Nkunzumwami	Jordan
WFP	Shahan Ara Quadir	Egypt
	Khawar Ilyas	Yemen
	Solomon Welle	South Sudan
	Komi Amedjonekou	CAR
	Sylvain Tiako	CAR
	Karén Barsamian	United Arab Emirates
	Neil Murphy-Dewar	Italy
	Kennedy Owour	Iraq
	Oscar Caleman	Italy
	Richard Ewangu	South Sudan
	Steve Tcheugoue	CAR

Teleconference started at 12:08 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Yemen update**
- 2. South Sudan update**
- 3. Iraq update**
- 4. Syria update**



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- 5. **Central African Republic update**
 - 6. **Haiti update**

Minutes

1. YEMEN

Security Update

- The security situation is relatively calm although there are still restrictions on staff movements.

ETC Response

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to humanitarian in 5x hubs and will continue to do so in 2017.
- The ETC has finalised the workplan for 2017. The ETC consulted with the Ericsson Response team, as there are restrictions in importing Ericsson Response's WIDER, a tool used to distribute and manage Internet connectivity, the solution needs to be customised. However, funding is needed first.
 - The ETC will first deploy the customised solution in one or two hubs to test it, by the end of March.

2. SOUTH SUDAN

Security Update

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

ETC Response

- The ETC officially closed in South Sudan on 31 December 2016. However, the team has a couple of outstanding activities to finish, namely retrieving the equipment from Leer and Koch which it will do by the end of January, depending on the security situation.
 - Once the equipment is back in Juba, the team will liaise with partners and return it to Dubai or Luxembourg.
 - All equipment has been demobilised.

3. IRAQ

ETC Response

- There are currently two ETC staff members on the ground.
- The team has successfully relocated the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Sulaymaniyah from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office to new WFP premises.



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- Internet connectivity services are now being provided to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) office in Qayyarah.
 - On 15 January, the ETC submitted its inputs to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017 which includes a budget of US\$2.7 million. The plan involves continuing to provide ETC communications services in 6x sites in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), continue radio training for humanitarian personnel and to expand the Services for Communities project to 6x additional camps.

4. SYRIA

Security Update

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

ETC Response

- The ETC in Syria has finalised the HRP for 2017 and the budget revision. The team requires US\$870,000 for 2017 in addition to the US\$268,000 that has been carried over from 2016.
- In Turkey, the ETC will work to expand the network in two locations in 2017: Reyhanli and Izmir. A UN hub is planned in Izmir.
- In Lebanon, the ETC continues to maintain storage facilities. A mission to assess ETC activities in Lebanon is planned at the end of February.
- In Jordan, the ETC provides services in two refugee camps, hosted by UNHCR. The plan for 2017 is to start a Services for Communities project in one of the camps.
- The ETC Coordinator is currently on mission to Aleppo. The ETC plans to install a satellite kit in Qamishli which is currently using an Internet Service Provider (ISP) from Turkey. Operations will also be extended to Tartous and Homs.

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

Security Update

- The security situation in Bangui remains calm. However, in areas such as Bambari, the ETC is working with partners to develop an evacuation plan which may involve dismantling some equipment.

ETC Response

- US\$500,000 has been received from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). This will enable the ETC to continue providing services in CAR for six months. The main activities will include maintaining ETC Internet connectivity services in the 7x sites, and supporting UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in the deployment and training of radio operators.
- In addition, the ETC team will work on the transition plan of the security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services with a possible handover to partners in the field.



6. HAITI

ETC Response

- The ETC's emergency response is coming to an end and the team is starting to close down.
- The only exception is an ETC Services for Communities project which involves building a community radio station. The equipment has arrived in-country and the hope is that the station will be up and running by the time the Coordinator leaves the operation in mid-March.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:31 UTC

Next Joint Global ETC Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 15 February 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:

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Minutes: Suzanne Fenton, WFP