

## **YEMEN – Conflict**

### **ETC Situation Report #19**

**Reporting period 01/09/17 to 05/11/17**

These ETC Situation Reports are issued every other month. The next report will be published on or around 05/01/18.

### **Highlights**

- Given the deteriorating security situation and pressing needs on the ground, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is planning to extend its existing Internet and security telecommunications services in five common operational areas until the end of 2018.
- The ETC team continues to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in the implementation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) project to support the Cholera response across Yemen. During the reporting period, one EOC was established in Aden and one at WHO office in Sana'a.



Abdullah Ayoubi from FITTEST supporting the deployment of the EOC in Aden.  
Photo: ETC Yemen

### **Situation Overview**

The human cost of this conflict has been devastating: airstrikes, shelling and ground fighting continue in both rural and urban areas where civilians are killed or injured, and the critical infrastructure is being destroyed.

About 11.3 million Yemenis need assistance to protect their safety, dignity or basic rights, including 2.9 million people living in acutely affected areas. The escalated conflict has displaced nearly three million people, of whom one million have returned to their homes but need assistance. In governorates where conflict has been most intense including Aden, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a and Taizz, the humanitarian crisis has been exacerbated by continuous attacks.



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Suspected cholera cases in Yemen are likely to affect one million before the end of the year, as reports from health facilities continue to show the unprecedented spread of the epidemic. Between 27 April 2017 and 25 October, the total number of suspected cases reported, reached 869,134 with 2,180 associated deaths.

## Response

- The ETC continues to provide shared Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in five operational areas across Yemen, namely Sana'a, Sa'ada, Ibb, Aden and Al Hudeydah. After a performance assessment conducted and giving the existing needs on the ground, the ETC is planning to extend these services until the end of 2018 to support humanitarian operations.
- The ETC team continues assisting the implementation of the EOC project across Yemen led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the Cholera response. On 24 October, the EOC at WHO Country Office in Sana'a was opened, following the establishment of an EOC in Aden earlier in the month. The technical assessment of the next five EOCs to be established (Al Hudeydah, Ibb, Amran, Hajjah, and Sana'a Governorate EOC) has been completed and the deployment of equipment is in progress.
- An IT specialist from WFP's Fast IT, Telecommunications and Coordination Support Services Team (FITTEST) was deployed to Aden in the second half of September to support the implementation of the EOC project.
- The ETC team deployed a faster Internet connectivity at the Diplomatic Transit Facility (DTF) in Sana'a, which will facilitate a better response and coordination of humanitarian partners.
- The construction of new United Nations (UN) compound is being finalised in Hadda, Sana'a. The ETC team conducted a joint IT mission with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in the UN compound in Hadda. The aim of the joint mission was to ensure adequate provision of reliable connectivity provided by the compound management and relocation of the existing ETC satellite kit from DTF to Hadda. ETC connectivity service will be accessible from common areas within the compound but will also backup the primary Hadda connectivity.
- The ETC is currently supporting local services providers on the installation of a new antenna tower at Hadda compound and the relocation of UNDSS Communications Centre (COMCEN) from the DTF to the Hadda compound.
- The feasibility study for the establishment of an ETC back-up connectivity hub for the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) community in Al Hudeydah has been successfully carried out.

## Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct an Inter-Agency IT capacity building training in Sana'a at the beginning of 2018.



- To meet the increasing demand, the ETC will provide customer support services at the UN compound in Hadda. These will include: user support, limited printing service, facilitating audio/video conference calls and ETC Internet connectivity management.

## Challenges

- The security situation continues to deteriorate, especially in the south part of the country. Humanitarians face insecurity and movement restrictions.
- The difficulties in obtaining visas for staff deployments to Yemen is having an impact on the ETC response on the ground.
- Import restrictions related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment, especially security telecommunications, are hampering the ETC operation in the country.

## Meetings

### Global ETC teleconference:

Global ETC Joint teleconferences are held monthly. The next meeting is planned for 29 November at 12:00 UTC.

**All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://www.ETCluster.org).** For security reasons, most information is kept private, and logging in is required to access them.

**For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [Yemen.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Yemen.ETC@wfp.org)**

## Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
DTF	Diplomatic Transit Facility
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP's Fast IT, Telecommunications and Coordination Support Services Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme



## Shared ICT Services

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Sana'a	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination hub</li><li>• Customer support</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• Radio programming</li><li>• VHF radio coverage</li><li>• HF radio coverage</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in DTF</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO</li></ul>
Al Hudaydah	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li></ul>
Aden	WFP/UNDSS/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li><li>• Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)</li></ul>
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COMCEN operating during office hours</li><li>• Satellite base station</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (UNICEF premises)</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO (ACTED premises)</li></ul>
Sa'ada	UNICEF/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF base radio</li><li>• VHF radio coverage</li><li>• Satellite phone</li></ul>



## ETC Yemen Focal Points

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