

## **YEMEN – Conflict**

### **ETC Situation Report #23**

**Reporting period 16/04/18 to 17/05/18**

These ETC Situation Reports are issued every monthly. The next report will be published on or around 19/06/18.

### **Highlights**

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has developed a contingency plan based on worst-case scenario and submitted it to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- The ETC is currently developing a project plan for a potential Services for Communities (S4C) project with Sana'a University.



Community Engagement WG workshop, 15 Apr 18  
Sana'a, Yemen



The ETC, OCHA and UNICEF hold a workshop to explore community feedback mechanism modalities.  
*Photo: ETC Yemen*

### **Situation Overview**

Over the last six months, the intensification of the conflict on Yemen's western coast caused the displacement of 100,000 new Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in areas reached by humanitarian partners based in the Aden hub. The new IDPs have mostly originated from conflict areas of Al Hudaydah, Taizz and Shabwah governorates. Humanitarian partners have coordinated rapid assessments to areas with new arrivals although humanitarian access in districts like Mawza remains difficult.

The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) released its 2017 annual report showing that contributions amounted to US\$176 million, making the YHF the largest global country-based pool fund. Eight of the 19 Member States that contributed, were new donors.



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## Response

- All clusters were asked to develop a contingency plan based on a worst-case scenario in Yemen. The ETC completed its plan and presented it to OCHA at the Cluster Defence meetings on 7 May.
- The ETC is currently working on an S4C project with Sana'a University. An assessment was done following a request to provide services such as Internet connectivity and solar power charging stations. The ETC is currently developing a project plan to submit for funding.
- The ETC continues to support the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) EOC project as part of the cholera response in Yemen. So far, the team has completed the deployment of a solar power solution, Internet connectivity and cabling at 8x EOCs.
  - A further 17x EOCs are planned in the coming months. As the ETC team cannot access the 17x sites due to security restrictions, it has outsourced the work to a local company.
- 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 Hudaydah. Given the pressing needs on the ground, the ETC has decided to extend the provision of vital Internet and security telecommunications services in those operational areas until the end of 2018 to support the humanitarian response.
- The ETC in Yemen is currently 42% funded. Of the US\$2.2 million requested to cover activities for 2018, the cluster has received US\$929,597, including funds carried over from 2017. The ETC is working to secure additional funds.

## Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct an Inter-Agency IT capacity building training.
- The ETC is planning an Information Management and Communications mission to Aden and Sana'a as soon as the visas are granted.

## Challenges

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

## Meetings

**Global ETC teleconference:**



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Global ETC Joint teleconferences are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 June at 1200 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
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
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 Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-yemen-services-map-may-2018>



## ETC Yemen Focal Points

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