

Bangladesh, Iraq, Syria, Yemen

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 10/10/18 TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Caroline Teyssier	(Global ETC), UAE
CRS	Dan Carr	USA
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
International Medical Corps	Daniel Wu	Bangladesh
InterNews	Anahi Ayala Ianucci	UK
UNHCR	Alexander Thomas	Denmark
UNICEF	Antonio Fortes Gomes	USA
	Ghassan Al Ammari	Yemen
UNRWA	Moayad Ayoub	Syria
WFP	Mark Maulit	Bangladesh
	Min Sun	Bangladesh
	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
	Habib Shashati	UAE
	Ozdzan Hadziemin	UAE
	Shahan Ara Quadir	Egypt
	Phyza Jameel	Italy

Teleconference started at 12:05 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Bangladesh update**
- 2. Iraq update**
- 3. Syria and surrounding countries update**
- 4. Yemen update**
- 5. AOB**

Minutes

1. BANGLADESH

General Overview

- Cyclone preparedness is the top priority across Bangladesh with response planning and risk mitigation efforts continuing in coordination with Government and national partners. As of 23 September 2018, 43,640 refugees have been relocated into newly-developed sites or within their camps, mostly due to landslide and flood risks.

ETS Response

- Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) Internet connectivity in Madhu Chara Logistics hub has been extended to cover the new areas of the hub enabling more humanitarians to access reliable Internet connectivity and continue to do their work effectively.
- The ETS has handed over 64% of the equipment (power solutions, multimedia projectors and sound systems) for 29 of the Information Hubs run by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Terre des Hommes and Radio Naf. This equipment will enable humanitarians to display critical information to refugees about the response and the assistance available to them.

2. IRAQ

Security situation

- The security situation in the south of the country is tense. Several demonstrations took place in recent weeks. In Mosul, the situation remains volatile.

ETC Response

- The ETC conducted a Let's Comm Digital training exercise in Erbil between 9 and 13 September. A total of nine participants from five organisations attended the training.
- The ETC team conducted a mission to As Salamiyah camp to relocate the main Internet service connection to a new location as requested by UNHCR and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) teams. This will enable both organizations to maintain a database registration for all IDP families that are resident in the camps.
- The ETC attended the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Community Resource Centre (CRC) steering committee meeting to discuss the status of the CRC project. IOM confirmed that it plans to open CRCs in 13 camps, while exploring the possibility of opening additional CRCs in 10 other camps.

3. SYRIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Security situation

- The security situation remains tense across the country.

ETC Response

- The ETC has submitted inputs for the first draft of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019 for Syria and the surrounding countries (Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon). From 2019, the Humanitarian Response Plan will now include returnees.
- Three new humanitarian hubs are planned in newly-liberated areas: Deir El Zour, Raqqa and one other location which is yet to be confirmed.
- The ETC continues to participate in talks with the government over the importation of certain security telecommunications equipment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior have now given the ETC permission to import some equipment into Syria which will enable the ETC to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in the country.
- The ETC is planning to conduct a number of teambuilding and inter-agency capacity building exercises in 2019. The ETC hopes to conduct the first inter-agency ICT training in November 2018.

Whole of Syria

Turkey

- The ETC is planning a mission in mid-November to review the needs for ETC services at the UN hub in Gaziantep as some agencies have now left the common area.

4. YEMEN

Security situation

- The security situation is deteriorating across Yemen, especially in Al Hudaydah. Aden is being significantly impacted as the demand for connectivity and IT support is increasing rapidly.

ETC Response

- The ETC held an inter-agency ICT capacity building training in Aden. 19 participants from eight organisations attended. The ETC received positive feedback and another training session is now planned in Sana'a in November pending visa approvals.
- The ETC completed assessments of all its ETC hubs and will proceed with upgrading the bandwidth in some of these hubs including Al Hudayah where ETC connectivity is the only available network. The ETC will also open four new hubs to help address the needs of the increasing number of humanitarians. New hubs include one in Aden, one in Sa'ada hosted by UNICEF and two new hubs in Al Hudaydah.
- The ETC will host a Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission in Aden between 18-24 November to assess the feasibility of deploying Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) in the country.
- The equipment needed to upgrade UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) radios and establish a new UNDSS Communications Centre (COMCEN) is now on its way to Aden from Djibouti.
- The ETC is continuing to finalize the project plan for the planned Services for Communities (S4C) project in Sana'a University.



AOB

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:31 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 14 November at 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

ACF	Action Contre la Faim / Action Against Hunger
ACLAB	Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
COMCEN	Communications Centre
CRC	Community Resource Centre
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
FITTEST	WFP's Fast IT, Telecommunications and Coordination Support Services Team
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HF	High Frequency
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IM	Information Management
IMO	Information Management Officer
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
JRP	Joint Response Plan
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RETS	Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector
SMT	Security Management Team
S4C	Services for Communities
TESS	Telecommunications Security Standards
UN	United Nations
UNCAF	UN Common Accommodation Facility
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme



WHO World Health Organization
WVI World Vision International

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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