

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #30

Reporting period 01/12/18 to 31/12/18

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 03/02/19.

Highlights

- The ETC conducted a joint mission with WFP IT to Al Hudaydah to assess and enhance where possible the ETC services to support the humanitarian operation and the UN Special Envoy mission that is monitoring the ceasefire agreement.
- The ETC has ordered additional equipment required to support the scale-up activities planned in Al Hudaydah.



An ETC/WFP IT team conducted a mission to Al Hudaydah to assess and enhance ETC services to support the Humanitarian Operation and the UN monitoring mission.

Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

A UN-brokered ceasefire in Al Hudaydah was agreed to during peace talks in Sweden on 13 December 2018 and was due to come into effect on 18 December. Under the terms of the ceasefire, both parties had 21 days to fully withdraw their troops from the city and management of the crucial Al Hudaydah port will be handed over to the UN.

In late December, retired General Patrick Cammaert headed a UN advance team to Al Hudaydah to facilitate and monitor the ceasefire for an initial 30 days. The ceasefire remains fragile with clashes continuing in the city.

Response

- The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has extended the grant that was due to expire on 31 December to the end of March 2019.
- The total ETC budget for 2019 not including Al Hudaydah scale up is US\$2,746,842. The ETC budget for scale-up activities in Al Hudaydah is US\$2,171,375.
- The PU'AMA office in Al Hudaydah which hosts the ETC Internet hub for International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), agreed to re-open their office and provide access to the hub now that the security situation has calmed.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for the ETC hubs in the existing five operational areas that were due to expire at the end of December have now been extended to the end of 2019.
- The ETC has completed drafting the procurement plan for 2019.
 - The equipment order needed to upgrade ETC services at the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Communications Centres (COMCENS) is now on the way from Dubai to Djibouti and then on to Aden.
 - Additional equipment required for the scale-up in Al Hudaydah has been procured and is expected to arrive in Yemen by the end of January 2019.

Planned Response

- The ETC will provide critical security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the first two waves of humanitarians who will go into Al Hudaydah to conduct assessments and manage operations at Al Hudaydah port.
- The ETC plans to provide critical services in three new offices that are due to open in the south of Yemen: Mukalla, Mocha and Tourbah.
- The ETC will provide services at a new ETC hub in Aden WFP guesthouse when it opens in early 2019.
- The ETC will open a new hub for UN staff at the guesthouse in Aden. Discussions are underway on where to host the planned hub for International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs).
- Following the success of two inter-agency capacity building sessions in Yemen this year, the ETC is planning to conduct an advanced training exercise in 2019.

Challenges

- The security situation remains increasingly volatile across the country, especially in Al Hudaydah. Humanitarians face insecurity and movement restrictions.



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- The difficulties in obtaining visas for technical 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.
 - The lack of access and logistical limitation continues to impact the humanitarian operation.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference:

Global ETC Joint teleconferences are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 January at 1400 UTC.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: 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

Acronyms

| | |
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| 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"> • Coordination hub • Customer support • Radio user training • Radio programming • VHF radio coverage • HF radio coverage • 24/7 COMCEN • Internet Hotspot in DTF • Internet Hotspot in INGO |
| Al Hudaydah | WFP/UNDSS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage • Radio user training • 24/7 COMCEN • Internet Hotspot in UN hub (WHO premises) • Internet Hotspot in INGO hub (PU-AMA) • Internet Hotspot in international staff guesthouse • Internet Hotspot in national staff accommodation |
| Aden | WFP/UNDSS/UNHCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF Radio Coverage • Radio user training • 24/7 COMCEN • Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises) |
| Ibb | WFP/UNICEF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMCEN operating during office hours • Satellite base station • Internet Hotspot in UN hub (UNICEF premises) • Internet Hotspot in INGO (ACTED premises) |
| Sa'ada | UNICEF/UNDSS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF base radio • VHF radio coverage • Satellite phone |

ETC Yemen Dashboard: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-yemen-dashboard-november-2018>



ETC Yemen Focal Points

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