

Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 17/01/19

TIME: 14:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Jalal Shah	(Global ETC), Italy
CRS	Ahmed Shoukry	Egypt
DFS	Hadi Ahankoob	USA
	Sylbert Matthias	USA
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
ICRC	Sami Alio	Syria
IRC	Ahmad Al Abbadi	
	Pierre Sfeir	Lebanon
UNHCR	Alexander Thomas	Denmark
	Nizar Zeidan	Switzerland
	Abdulla Khalil	Denmark
UNICEF	Antonio Gomes	USA
	Ahmed Baobeid (GSSC)	
WFP	Pastor Lovo	Tunisia
	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
	Shahan Ara Quadir	Egypt
	Wali Noor	Yemen
World Vision	Antoine Karam	Lebanon

Teleconference started at 14:05 UTC

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. IRAQ

Security situation

- Nothing significant to report.

ETC Response

- ETC Iraq has finished the warehouse inventory and will share the final report by 31 January.
- The tender for the provision of a queuing system in the three International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Community Response Centres (CRCs) in West Mosul, East Mosul and Fallujah are under procurement. The ETC expects to sign the contract with the vendor around mid-February.
- The ETC is in close collaboration with the Logistics Cluster to conduct a joint formal closure.
- The ETC Coordinator in Iraq will share information on the ETC-UNOPS project with the ETC Coordinator in Yemen.

2. Libya

Security situation

NSTR

ETS Response

- The Emergency Communication Framework (ECF) has been completed with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The objective of the ECF is to establish the mechanism to address communications needs in the country as well as to define the modality to establish hubs aside from Tripoli, including definition of roles and response times and the equipment needed.
- The main communications network to be used will be UHF. (VHF is being phased out as per UNDSS) and this has been agreed by the ETS Working Group. The specifications for UHF equipment has been finalised and the ETS has gathered quotations from local suppliers.
- The ETS is recruiting a local telecommunications assistant to be based in Tripoli and also radio operators.
- The UN hub in Benghazi will now open on 27 January. The ETS hired a local IT assistant to be responsible for the customer support (helpdesk). ETS services, including customer support and Internet connectivity, will be operational by 27 January.
- The ETS agreed with UNSMIL to deploy UNSMIL equipment that is already in-country until the ETS receives permission to import equipment. Installation will be done by UNSMIL tech team.
- The ETS Coordinator is scheduled to receive his visa for Libya tomorrow and is scheduled to fly to Libya on 20 January.

3. SYRIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Security situation

- Hotspots remain in Aleppo and Idlib with serious fighting ongoing. Clashes also continue between various factions in Deir Ez-Zour.
- The US army is due to withdraw from Syria and negotiations continue between US and Turkey to set up a 30-km demilitarized zone to protect the Kurdish people.

ETC Response

- The ETC will conduct a customized version of the IT Emergency Management Training in Damascus to IT staff from UN agencies and NGOs between 3-6 February. 14x participants are confirmed and three trainers from Dubai will travel to conduct the training.
- The ETC will now install the ISP link upgrade in the UN hub in Homs.
- The ETC has been planning to go to Deir Ez-Zour to assess the possibility of deploying ETC services but requests for approval to MOFA have not been granted. This is becoming an urgent issue as there are a lot of staff there who have no access to security communications or Internet connectivity. The ETC together with UNDSS has sent another request to MoFA.
- A new UN hub will be established in Sweida in the south as there are many returnees. The building has not yet been identified but the ETC is ready to install and deploy services as required. The ETC will deploy equipment using the global Ikom LTA owned by UNHCR to be used in analogue mode.
- The HRP 2019 is complete and the ETC has submitted its narrative and activities for this year. The ETC's total budget for Syria and the surrounding countries for 2019 is US\$995,000.

Whole of Syria

Turkey

- The ETC is maintaining services in the Gazientep hub (customer support [helpdesk] and UHF network).

4. YEMEN

Security situation

- The situation is unpredictable countrywide.
- On 16 January, the UN Security Council adopted a new resolution to deploy 75 international observers to Yemen, particularly Al Hudaydah, for six months to monitor the ceasefire.
- The ceasefire has been respected so far by both parties although some clashes have been reported.

ETC Response

- The ETC is appealing for US\$5.5 million for 2019. US\$2.7 million has been approved from CERF and US\$500,000 from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The ETC will request US\$900,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund.
- Last year, the ETC had 21 partners (13 UN, 8 INGO) in Yemen and this year is targeting 40 partners.



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- The ETC is planning to open a new INGO hub in Aden.
 - Following the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission, the ETC has established relations with national security through UNDSS. UNDSS has already cleared the first shipment of digital radios and other equipment required to open three new offices planned in the south.
 - Priorities this year are to support the humanitarian scale-up in Al Hudaydah as well as to open offices in Mocha, Mukkala and Tourbah (all in the south)
 - There are currently 11 ETC hubs but there are plans for a total of 18 as part of scale-up activities. With six ETC staff in-country, there are plans to recruit another five to support new locations.
 - The UN Special Envoy office in Al Hudaydah used IT/ETC services during the mission in December.
 - The ETC has completed technical assessments for the scale up and placed orders for the necessary equipment.
 - The team is looking into expanding VHF coverage in three cities where coverage is limited.
 - On 24 January, the ETC will hold a one-day workplan Plenary session with all partners to develop the ETC workplan for 2019.
 - Sylbert Matthias from DFS says there are plans to focus most activities in Al Hudaydah once there is a building. In the meantime, he will discuss bilaterally with the ETC Coordinator to use WFP facilities in the interim.

AOB

- The Global ETC team will consider how ETC coordinators can better share updates, experience and advice more regularly and to liaise on how to send local staff to international training opportunities.
- Calls for applications for the ETC Coordination training in Rome will close tomorrow. So far, 50 applications have been received.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 14:49 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 14:00 UTC.

Acronyms

ACF	Action Contre la Faim / Action Against Hunger
ACLAB	Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
CiC	Camp in Charge
COMCEN	Communications Centre
CRC	Community Resource Centre
DC	Deputy Commissioner
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
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
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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