

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #31

Reporting period 01/01/19 to 31/01/19

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

Highlights

- The ETC received confirmation of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funding allocation of US\$2.7m for its scale-up activities in response to Al Hudaydah crisis.
- The ETC has held a workshop on 17 January with partners on the ground to determine priority activities and define the workplan for 2019.



The ETC is planning to hold an advanced capacity building exercise to local staff in Yemen in 2019.
Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

World Food Programme (WFP) is in the process of scaling up its activities to reach 12 million people with food assistance each month across Yemen. The scale up plan includes the provision of in-kind food assistance to 8.2 million people, commodity vouchers to 2.8 million and a longer-term plan to provide a further one million people with cash-based transfers.

Food assistance has played a critical role in preventing Yemen slipping into famine. The current scale-up is in response to increased needs caused by the ongoing conflict which has also exacerbated an economic decline that has resulted in food prices 66-162 percent higher than before the crisis. About 20.1 million people are currently food insecure which is a staggering two-thirds of the population and represents a 13 percent increase from 2018. This makes Yemen the world's largest food security crisis.



Response

- The ETC has received confirmation of the CERF funding allocation US\$2.7m for its scale-up activities. US\$ 500k from USAID/OFDA contribution has been extended to 2019 to support ETC normal activities.
 - 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, bringing the total ETC budget in 2019 to US\$5.5 million.
- The ETC has carried out an assessment to establish a new Internet connectivity hub for INGOs in Aden and is now working on the bill of quantity for setting this up. The new ETC hub for UN agencies became operational in Aden in early January. This new site will complement the Internet connectivity hub established by the ETC in the UN guesthouse in another part of Aden.
- On 17 January, the ETC held an all-day plenary workshop at the UN compound in Aden. Participants from approximately 48 different UN agencies and INGOs attended the workshop with the objective of reviewing 2018 achievements, challenges and areas of improvement as well as to define the priorities of the 2019 ETC workplan.
- The ETC has requested that the equipment ordered from WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) is kept in Dubai until pre-clearance is received from the authorities.

Planned Response

- In line with its priorities for 2019 the ETC plans to:
 - Carry out needs assessments for the scale-up and opening of six new ETC Internet connectivity hubs;
 - Obtain blanket approval for the importation of ETC equipment through the support of the Humanitarian Coordinator's (HC) office;
 - Expand the VHF coverage in both the north and south of the country, as per the recommendations of the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) assessment;
 - Continue to support existing operations and continue with the capacity building activities successfully initiated in 2018;
 - Upgrade its services in all hubs in line with the scale up; and
 - Provide critical services in three new offices that are due to open in the south of Yemen: Mukalla, Mocha and Tourbah.



Challenges

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

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>



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