

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #33

Reporting period 01/03/19 to 20/04/19

These ETC Situation Reports are issued every six weeks. The next report will be published on or around 31/05/19.

Highlights

- The ETC completed the installation of the new hub in Aden in March and is extending Internet connectivity services to three UN common guesthouses and the UNDSS radio room in Aden.
- The ETC has received the equipment required to open new hubs that will provide connectivity and radio communication services in Al Mukalla, Al Mokha and Al Tourba.
- The ETC has also received the equipment needed to upgrade UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Communications Centres (COMCENs) in Aden, Saa'da, Al Hudaydah and Ibb.



Situation Overview

Two years after Yemen suffered its worst cholera outbreak, the number of reported suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhea has spiked with around 229,521 suspected cases and 516 associated deaths recorded.

Significant challenges to humanitarian efforts remain: sharp escalation in conflict across the country, access to the Red Sea Mills in Hudaydah which contain enough grain to feed 3.7 million people as well movement and customs clearances are withheld, visas are denied and missions are delayed at checkpoints.

Response

- The ETC is currently providing services in 11 hubs across Sana'a, Hodeidah, Ibb and Aden.
 - The team completed the installation of the new hub in Aden in March.
 - The ETC is extending Internet connectivity services to three UN common guesthouses and the UNDSS radio room in Aden.
 - In response to a request from the UN Special Envoy, the ETC is installing VHF radio communication base station at the UN guesthouse in Al Hudaydah to support the humanitarian operation.
- The ETC has received the equipment required to open new hubs that will provide connectivity and radio communications services in Al Mukalla, Al Mokha and Al Tourba. However, approval from the authorities, for deployment of the equipment from Aden to these sites, is needed/under process before installing this equipment.
- UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and WFP (ETC) submitted an official request to the Ministry of Telecommunications to obtain UHF frequencies for the expansion of VHF coverage in Aden city as per the recommendations that came out of the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission.
- The ETC has received Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment required to upgrade UNDSS COMCENs in Aden, Saa'da, Al Hudaydah and Ibb. The ETC team is engaging with UNDSS to carry out the installation.
- An international IT candidate technician has been identified for Al Hudaydah to support the scale up-activities and provide inter-agency ETC support.
- So far, the ETC has received US\$3.5 million from CERF. Due to restriction and delays in shipment of the equipment, the ETC will meet today with OCHA on extension of the funding until end Oct 2019.
- Procurement of equipment required for ZOA, an International Non-Government Organisations (INGO) hub in Aden has started and it will hopefully be set up in the next few weeks.
- On the World Health Organisation (WHO) cholera response, the ETC has received a request from WHO to conduct a technical assessment and establish IT set up for the Ministry of Health in Aden.
- The ETC is also supporting the University of Aden's Faculty of Medicine which will enable on-line learning programme with the University of Florence. This includes but not limited to IT basic infrastructure upgrade and connectivity, funded by WHO.
- The ETC is planning a Services for Communities (S4C) mission to visit its new partner, the All Girls Foundation, to determine how their activities and planned projects with other agencies may be supported by the ETC.

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, and five COMCENs which will be managed by UNDSS;
 - Explore the opportunity of obtaining 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;
 - Upgrade its services in all hubs in line with the scale up;
 - Organize and conduct IT capacity building technical training for partners; and
 - Identify and explore S4C opportunities with the potential partners to support the communities

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 and shortage of accommodation are 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 and donor condition on timely utilization of the funding
- 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 15 May 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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