

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #34

Reporting period 21/04/19 to 31/05/19

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 04/07/19.

Highlights

- The ETC has identified a national Information Management staff member who will join the team within the next month.
- The ETC is now providing services including connectivity at 12x hubs across four Governorates in Yemen.
- The ETC is deploying additional resources to provide critical services in 3x new sites in response to the humanitarian operation's needs.



The Global ETC Coordinator and the ETC Coordinator for Yemen work at the UN common guesthouse in Al Hudaydah
Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

After four years of relentless conflict, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is the worst in the world, driven by conflict, economic collapse and the ongoing breakdown of public institutions and social services. A higher percentage of people face death, hunger and disease than in any other country. Eighty percent of the entire population requires some form of humanitarian assistance and protection, an increase of 84 percent since the conflict started in 2015. Twenty million Yemenis need help securing food and a staggering 14 million people are in acute humanitarian need

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 denied and missions are delayed at checkpoints.

Response

- The ETC is now providing Internet connectivity services to the INGO community in Aden at ZOA. The ETC is in the process of opening another new hub for INGOs in Mokha that will be hosted by PU-AMI.
 - The ETC is now providing connectivity at 12x sites across Sana'a, Hodeida, Ibb and Aden.
- The ETC will conduct a joint mission with UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to Mokha on 18 June to move ahead with setting up the Security Operations Centre (SOC).
 - The ETC still needs to plan missions to Mukalla and Tourba and is waiting for the WFP office in Aden to confirm with the authorities.
- The ETC is procuring equipment needed to provide communications services in 3x new sites. The equipment will be stored in Aden.
 - **Marib:** The ETC is planning a joint mission with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to assess the feasibility of setting up the SOC and an ETC hub.
 - **Hajjah:** The UN plans to set up an area office in Hajjah led by WFP, therefore the ETC will need to plan a more extensive ICT set up. The equipment ordered in response to the Hodeida operation scale up is still waiting for the pre-importation certificate for the defacto authority. The ETC Coordinator is confident that the team will be able to deploy some of this equipment in Hajjah once approval is obtained.
- The full-scale return of humanitarian staff to Hodeida started in mid-May, however equipment required to upgrade and expand services there is still in Dubai pending approvals.
- The ETC is in the process of setting up three new ETC hubs in the south: Mokha, Mukalla and Tourba. Resources are in place but the team is waiting for approval from the authorities to deploy it from Aden to the sites.
- The ETC is still waiting for approval to get the frequencies to expand VHF coverage.
 - 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 is requesting an extension of the US\$3.5 million funding received from Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) until Dec 19.
- The newly-recruited IM specialist is expected to join the ETC team in Sana'a by the end of June.



Planned Response

- An ETC Services for Communities (S4C) mission will be conducted at the end of July to explore potential opportunities and projects to support the provision of critical information to affected communities.
- In response to the ETC WG capacity building, the team is identifying the exact needs of staff and expertise required to expand technical knowledge in Yemen.

Challenges

- The security situation remains increasingly volatile across the country, especially in Hodeida. 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 19 June 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

EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross



ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
SOC	Security Operations Centre
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



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-march-2019>



ETC Yemen Focal Points

TITLE	AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
ETC Coordinator	WFP	Wali Noor	Wali.Noor@wfp.org	+967 73 955 5104
Information Management Officer (Remote, from United Arab Emirates)	WFP	Suzanne Fenton	Suzanne.fenton@wfp.org	+971 56 6529 560