Libya, Mozambique, Syria, Yemen

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 19/06/19   TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Jalal Shah	(Global ETC), Italy
CRS	Dan Carr	USA
Ericsson Response	Mark Armstrong	Mozambique
NetHope	Dag Brynjarsson	Iceland
OICT, UN Secretariat	John Linehan	USA
UNICEF	Ali Al Dhayani	Yemen
UNRWA	Moayed Ayoub	Syria
WVI	Anthony Kimani	Kenya
WFP	Shahan Araquadir	Egypt
	Phyza Jameel	Italy
	Pastor Lovo	Mozambique
	Catherine Boyle	South Africa
	Balamine Ouattara	Syria
	Christopher Alagna	Tunisia
	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
	Izeldin Hassan	Yemen

Teleconference started at 12:04 UTC

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. YEMEN

Security situation

- The National Authority for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (NAMCHA) held a press conference in Sana'a discussing the ongoing negotiations between the authorities and World Food Programme (WFP).

ETC Response

- ETC activities continue in south Yemen with the ETC conducting a joint mission with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to install equipment needed to set up a Security Operations Centre (SOC) in the UN hub led by UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Mukallah.
- The ETC is now providing Internet connectivity at its INGO hub in Aden hosted by ZOA.
- The ETC is currently installing connectivity services at its INGO hub in Mokha hosted by PUAMI as there are no local services or providers in that area.
- The appointment of a telecommunications specialist to support ETC operations in Al Hodeidah has been confirmed.

2. LIBYA

Security situation

- The UN hub in Benghazi is open with international staff visiting and national staff working out of the hub.
- There is a limit on how many international staff can be in Tripoli due to limited accommodation. The ETS Coordinator will go to Tripoli as soon as there is an available slot and accommodation.
- There has been severe flooding in Ghat in south-west Libya. While this has impacted infrastructure and has displaced thousands of people, the ETS is not directly involved in the response but is monitoring the situation.

ETS Response

- A request has been sent to the Ministry of Telecommunications to add agencies to the existing UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Tetra licence. The ETS on behalf of all agencies, funds and programmes will submit a request through the Humanitarian Coordinator for VHF and HF licensing and to introduce the ETS to the Ministry of Telecommunications.
- In Benghazi, the ETS has established a 24/7 SOC which is currently using only mobile phones until the licencing issue in Tripoli is resolved. In Benghazi, the ETS is requesting permission from the authorities to build a radio tower at the UN hub in order to be able to use radios. A mission is travelling to Benghazi this week and the security focal point will meet with the authorities to discuss this.

- In Benghazi, the ETS is currently relying on a back-up ISP connection to provide connectivity for approximately 20x staff. The local ISP has established a new site for the ETS and installed a microwave link however there have been some difficulties in connecting to the Internet backbone.
- The ETC S4C adviser recently conducted an assessment mission in Tunis ahead of the planned implementation of a hotline which remains a priority as an Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) mechanism. However, the ETS has not received any confirmed funding for the hotline.

3. SYRIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Security situation

- The situation in Damascus is calm although an explosion was reported on Sunday.
- The situation remains volatile across the rest of the country with missile attacks close to the Golan Heights, rebel group attacks around Dara'a and Sweida and other groups active around Homs and Hama. Intensive fighting and airstrikes continue in Idlib, IED explosions have been reported in Raqqa and the surrounding areas and clashes reported between various parties around Deir ez-Zour.
- Agencies are reminded to be extremely careful in their movements.

ETC Response

- The fibre link at the UN hub in Homs is now fully operational. The local ISP was able to use a router at the hub to share connectivity services with UN staff.
- UNDP has sent a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to upgrade the ISP link at the UN hub in Aleppo.
- The ETC participated in the Collective Community Engagement workshop that was held in Beirut. Final decisions will be taken on what kind of services will be deployed and how the ETC can support the initiative.
- The ETC and UNHCR had been planning to conduct a specialized radio training this week in Beirut however the company couldn't ship the necessary equipment for the simulation in time. The training has been postponed until September when it will be held in Toulouse, France.
- The ETC is still waiting to receive the radio equipment needed to deploy in Deir ez-Zour.
- The ETC has received a quotation for the new infrastructure needed to migrate all radio equipment in Syria. The next step is to send a request for MoFA's approval before going ahead with the equipment order and deployment planning.
- An interview will be held on 24 June for an IT Associate position in Deir ez-Zor. The new recruit will start between the late July to early August.

Surrounding countries

Turkey

- A TESS mission will be conducted from 7-21 July with the aim of looking at the future of security communications system within Syria.

4. MOZAMBIQUE

Cyclone Kenneth

- The ETC is starting to scale down its activities in response to Cyclone Kenneth as the humanitarian response heads towards early recovery.

- ETC Internet connectivity services are starting to be transitioned to local ISPs in the three areas where the ETC is providing connectivity services: Pemba, Macomia and Ibo island. The ETC plans to phase out all connectivity services by mid-July.

  o On **Ibo island**, the team has demobilized some equipment so only 1x Eutelsat remains operational.

  o In **Macomia**, the ETC plans to expand connectivity services to Oxfam but will remove the Ericsson Response equipment. An ISP link will also be established here next week.

  o In **Pemba**, there is already an ISP connection so for now will move satellite terminal back-up.

- The ETC will install an SOC for Very High Frequency (VHF) and High Frequency (HF) radios in Macomia and will start interviewing operators. The SOC will operate from 0600-1800 and the ETC will fund it for three months. The ETC installed a VHF repeater on a mountain in Macomia which is now operational and also now plans to install an additional repeater on a mountain in Mucojo.

  o A senior UNDSS radio operator will assess the SOC and train operators.

  o The ETC is also programming VHF and HF radios for UN and NGO staff and is loaning satphones to staff for up to seven days.

- The ETC has identified three community radio stations that require rehabilitation as part of its Services for Communities (S4C) activities. The radio stations will send the ETC a list of equipment that is required.

Cyclone Idai

- The ETC has decommissioned all connectivity services in Sofala province and transitioned services to local ISPs.

- The ETC continues to supervise the SOC in Beira until the end of July. The ETC has approached UNDSS to decide on the continuation of services after this time.

- UNDSS requested the ETC to submit a comprehensive project document specifying the investments for SOCs in Beira and Macomia. This will now be discussed by the Security Management Team (SMT).

- As part of its S4C, the ETC is working with the National Forum for Community Radios in Mozambique (FORCOM) to rehabilitate 6x community radio stations. The ETC will start to deploy equipment next week.

- Following a request by the National Institute of Communications in Mozambique (INCM), the ETC is preparing to conduct a preparedness workshop that will bring together all communications stakeholders and the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) to devise an action plan to include telecommunications in the country's emergency and response plan.

  o The ETC will deploy a preparedness officer to agree on the workshop agenda and participants.

  o UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is currently planning to conduct a roundtable session to discuss the response in Mozambique which the ETC will participate in. The session will take place in the UN City in Copenhagen in the summer.

- The Stand-by Partner (SBP) network is conducting an After-Action Review mission in Maputo and Beira from 18-21 June to evaluate the SBP interventions in the Cyclone Idai and Kenneth emergencies. The ETC provided inputs to the evaluation as 18x SBPs have supported the ETC response in Mozambique.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:55 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 12:00 UTC.

Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IT	Information Technology
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNCAF	UN Common Accommodation Facility
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNSMIL	UN Support Mission in Libya
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme

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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