

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #35

Reporting period 01/06/19 to 30/06/19

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 04/08/19.

Highlights

- The ETC conducted a joint mission with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) ahead of setting up a Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Mukalla.
- The ETC is now providing services including connectivity at 12x hubs across four Governorates in Yemen.
- The telecommunications specialist candidate required to support ETC activities in response to the scale up of the humanitarian operation in Al Hodeida has been confirmed.
- The ETC, in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), is deploying additional resources to provide security telecommunications and connectivity services in 3x new sites in response to the humanitarian operational needs.



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

Situation Overview

On 20 June, the United Nations World Food Programme started a partial suspension of food assistance operations in areas of Yemen under the control of the Sana'a-based authorities. The decision was taken as a last resort after lengthy negotiations stalled on an agreement to introduce controls to prevent the diversion of food away from some of the most vulnerable people in Yemen.

At this stage, with the support of the entire United Nations system, WFP is suspending activities in Sana'a city only, affecting 850,000 people. WFP will maintain nutrition programmes for malnourished children, pregnant and nursing mothers throughout the period of suspension.

As WFP is the lead of the ETC, this impacts ETC operations in Sana'a. ETC activities continue in the south.

Response

- The ETC conducted a joint mission with 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 in the south.
 - The ETC also plans to set up 2x other hubs in the south: Al Mokha and Tourba. Required 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 currently setting up a new hub for INGOs in Al-Mokha hosted by PU-AMI. Due to limited and unstable internet service, provided by the local ISPs, provision of stable internet service is critical in response to humanitarian operation needs in the South.
 - The ETC is now providing connectivity at 12x hubs across Sana'a, Al Hodeida, Ibb and Aden.
- The appointment of a telecommunications specialist to support ETC activities in response to Al Hodeidah humanitarian operations scale up has been confirmed.
- The ETC received a new request from UN agencies in Ibb to establish an ETC hub there. The team is waiting for the authorities to approve the opening of the hub which will be hosted by WFP and will provide secure internet services to UN guesthouses and UN agencies as required.
 - The ETC continues to support the UNDSS SOC in Ibb which is now operational and has provided new Thuraya docking stations.
- The ETC is appointed by the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) to take over the management of the four meeting rooms and three work stations at the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a. In the coming weeks the ETC will install the required equipment.
- The ETC continues to support the World Health Organisation's (WHO) cholera response through the establishment and regular oversight of the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC). The ETC will support the opening of 3x new EOCs to support WHO.
- The ETC is still waiting for approval to obtain the frequencies needed to expand security communications coverage in Aden.
 - UNDSS and the 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 extension of the US\$3.5 million funding received from Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) until the end of December 2019 was granted.



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.
- The newly-recruited IM specialist is expected to join the ETC team in Sana'a in July.
- In response to the ETC Working Group capacity building plan, the team is identifying the exact needs of the IT 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 17 July 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>



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