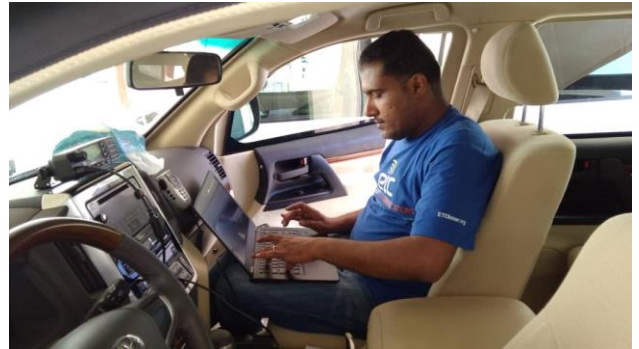# YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #36

Reporting period 01/07/19 to 31/07/19

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 04/09/19.

Highlights

- The ETC conducted a mission to establish a new Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Mukalla to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian responders.

- The ETC now has a dedicated coordinator in place covering the response in Al Hodeidah.

- The locally-recruited Information Management Officer (IMO) has now joined the team based in Sana'a.

- The ETC is providing critical Internet connectivity to 611 humanitarians across all its hubs in Yemen.

The ETC team prepares to establish a new Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Al Mukalla, southern Yemen, where the UN is expanding its presence.
Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

Since May, WFP has warned that governing authorities in northern Yemen are denying access to some populations most in need of assistance, preventing an independent retargeting campaign, and are hindering the implementation of a bio-registration system for beneficiaries. These warnings culminated with WFP's decision in June 2019 to suspend humanitarian food assistance in Sana'a City, which targets approximately 850,000 beneficiaries per month. Meanwhile, WFP has continued and scaled up its nutrition programming in Sana'a City.

For more than two years, Yemen has faced the largest food security emergency in the world and continues to face a risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) in a worst-case scenario.

Response

- The ETC now has a dedicated coordinator on the ground in Al Hodeidah covering the scale up of activities.

- The ETC has established a new SOC in Al Mukalla which is now operational and will ensure the safety and security of the increasing number of humanitarians in the area.

- The ETC has completed the set-up of a new hub for INGOs in Al Mokha hosted by PU-AMI. The provision of a stable internet service is critical to support the increasing needs of the humanitarian operation in the south.

  o The ETC is now providing connectivity to 611 humanitarian responders at 12x hubs across Sana'a, Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Aden and Al Mokha.

- The ETC has conducted a survey to assess the training needs of partners ahead of the planned ETC capacity building. Now the team is working on ways to organise a capacity building exercise.

- The equipment required to expand services to support the scale up in Al Hodeidah is still being stored in Dubai until pre-clearance is received to import it.

- The ETC in coordination with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has requested UHF frequency from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) in order to improve the radio coverage as part of TESS mission recommendations to Yemen.

- The ETC will install the necessary equipment in 3x new Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) to support the World Health Organization's (WHO) cholera response. The ETC continues to provide regular oversight of the EOCs that are already established.

- As of late July, as part of the ETC Services for Communities (S4C) project, the ETC is providing a video conference system and Internet connectivity over fiber-optic solution to 3,365 students at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aden.

- The locally-recruited IMO joined the team based in Sana'a and will support IM activities and the planned Services for Communities (S4C) project.

Planned Response

- An ETC Services for Communities (S4C) mission is still planned to explore potential opportunities and projects to support the provision of critical information to affected communities.

- To expand local technical knowledge in Yemen, the ETC is working on a capacity building exercise that will take place this year.

- As the demand for ETC services continues to evolve rapidly across the country, the ETC will host a mid-year review in early August with all partners.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)
www.ETCluster.org

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 18 September 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	• 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	• 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	• VHF Radio Coverage • Radio user training • 24/7 COMCEN • Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	• 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	• 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