

## **YEMEN – Conflict**

### **ETC Situation Report #37**

**Reporting period 01/08/19 to 31/08/19**

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly.

#### **Highlights**

- World Food Programme's (WFP) new Head of IT for the Al Hodeidah area is also dedicated ETC coordinator for activities in Al Hodeidah and is now on the ground.
- The ETC is providing critical Internet connectivity to 737 humanitarians across 11 hubs in Yemen.
- The ETC has installed equipment to provide vital Internet connectivity services to staff at the UNHCR guesthouse in Aden.



Laurent Bukera, new WFP Yemen Country Director with ETC Field Coordinator, Solomon Welle, inspecting equipment providing critical connectivity to humanitarians in Al Hodeidah.  
*Photo: WFP/ETC*

#### **Situation Overview**

Preliminary reports indicate that 13 people have been killed and at least 70 wounded during clashes in Aden and Abyan governorates since 27 August. The streets of Aden are empty as families are trapped in their homes by fighting, while flights to and from Aden airport are temporarily suspended.

Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Nearly 80 per cent of the total population, 24.1 million people, requires some form of humanitarian assistance and protection. Ten million people are a step away from famine and starvation and 7 million people are malnourished.

However, commitments made by donor countries at the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen convened by the UN Secretary General in February 2019 have failed to materialize. USD2.6 billion was pledged to the UN and humanitarian partners to meet the urgent needs of more than 20 million Yemenis. To date, less than half of this amount has been received.

Unless the funds promised are received soon, food rations for 12 million people will be reduced and at least 2.5 million malnourished children will be cut off from the services which keep them alive. The 2019 Yemen



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Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) requires US\$4.2 billion to assist more than 20 million Yemenis including 10 million people who rely entirely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs every month. As of today, the YHRP is 34 per cent funded.

## Response

- The ETC is now providing connectivity to 737 humanitarian responders at 11x hubs across Sana'a, Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Aden, Al Mukalla and Al Mokha.
- The ETC now has a dedicated coordinator on the ground in Al Hodeidah covering the scale up of activities.
- The ETC conducted an assessment mission in Al Hodeidah to determine communications needs on the ground. Once the report is finalized, the team will develop a plan of action.
- Due to the humanitarian operation scale-up in country, the number of staff has dramatically increased at the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a. The ETC is therefore ordering equipment to expand Internet connectivity services to meet the rising demand.
- The ETC has installed equipment to provide Internet connectivity services at the UNHCR guesthouse in Aden.
- The ETC has installed backup power and connectivity solutions at the new Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) building in Aden as part of its continued support to the World Health Organisation (WHO) cholera response activities.
  - The ETC plans to replenish stock for the WHO Emergency Operations Centre project in Sana'a and Aden. As the project is likely to continue, the team is liaising to extend the Service Level Agreement (SLA) which will expire in October.
  - The ETC has stated the procurement of equipment needed for new EOCs that will open in Socotra and Taizz.
- The ETC hosted a mid-year review on 4 August with all partners to review the annual workplan to reflect the emerging challenges and growing demand for ETC services in country. The ETC in Yemen is working on a plan of action to implement the recommendations issued following the review.
- The ETC ordered two satellite terminals to upgrade connectivity at the hubs in Ibb and Sana'a.
- As part of the S4C project, fibre Internet connectivity services have now been activated for 3,365 students at the University of Aden.

## 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 planning to conduct a capacity building training in November. The exercise may be held in Amman or in Yemen due to difficulties to get visas for Yemeni nationals for Cairo and Dubai.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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



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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"> <li>• Coordination hub</li> <li>• Customer support</li> <li>• Radio user training</li> <li>• Radio programming</li> <li>• VHF radio coverage</li> <li>• HF radio coverage</li> <li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in DTF</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO</li> </ul>
Al Hudaydah	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li> <li>• Radio user training</li> <li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (WHO premises)</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO hub (PU-AMA)</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in international staff guesthouse</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in national staff accommodation</li> </ul>
Aden	WFP/UNDSS/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li> <li>• Radio user training</li> <li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)</li> </ul>
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COMCEN operating during office hours</li> <li>• Satellite base station</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (UNICEF premises)</li> <li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO (ACTED premises)</li> </ul>
Sa'ada	UNICEF/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VHF base radio</li> <li>• VHF radio coverage</li> <li>• Satellite phone</li> </ul>

ETC Yemen Dashboard: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-yemen-dashboard-august-2019>



## ETC Yemen Focal Points

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