

Libya, Mozambique, Syria, Yemen

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 26/09/19

TIME: 12:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Prakash Muniandy	(Global ETC), UAE
Cisco TacOps	Matt Wood	USA
ICRC	Sami Alio	Syria
UNHCR	Ghaith Al Hakeem	Jordan
UNICEF	Mazen Shwaikany	Syria
	Ali Al Dhayani	Yemen
UNRWA	Moayed Ayoub	Syria
WFP	Ahmed Elsheikh	Libya
	Chris Alagna	Libya
	Pastor Lovo	Mozambique
	Balamine Ouattara	Syria
	Wali Noor	Yemen

Teleconference started at 12:01 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Libya**
- 2. Mozambique update**
- 3. Syria update**
- 4. Yemen update**
- 5. AOB**

Minutes

1. LIBYA

ETS response

- The coordination for establishing the inter-agency common feedback mechanism (CFM) in Tripoli is continuing and progressing well.
- The ETS is responsible for obtaining the radio licencing for the Very High Frequency (VHF) network which will be used as a back-up network. The ETC has the necessary equipment but has not yet received the licences.
- The ETS has not received any permission to use any form of security communications in Benghazi so humanitarians are only able to use mobile phones.

2. MOZAMBIQUE

Security situation

- Presidential elections are due to take place on 15 October with preparations underway. UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has issued security recommendations to all staff, with organizations encouraged to put business continuity arrangements in place.

ETC response

- In Cabo Delgado, the ETC is appraising the need to expand the VHF radio network as requested by security personnel operating in the area.
- The Services for Communities (S4C) project involving the rehabilitation of 6x community radio stations in Sofala province is moving ahead with towers installed in Buzi and Nhamatanda and installation of electronic equipment including transmitters, mixers and microphones due to take place next week. The installations are expected to be completed in two weeks with a ceremony planned to mark the occasion.
- The ETC submitted an application for a Stand-by Partner to work in close consultation with government entities and other stakeholders to develop a communications response plan that can be activated during future emergencies to enhance and enable national readiness to prepare for and respond to disasters.

3. SYRIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Security situation

- The security situation remains volatile with shelling, attacks and airstrikes reported in Daraa, Idlib, Hama, Tartous and Deir ez-Zour.

ETC Response

- The ETC Syria Coordinator is in Cairo attending the Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 workshop.
- The ETC received approval to migrate all radio equipment in Syria and has now started to procure the necessary equipment.
- A three-day radio communication capacity building was held for 20x participants in Toulouse, France from 10-12 September. The training aimed to build technical capacity for all agencies using the new equipment for VHF radio within the country
- The ETC received approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to move the satellite terminal from Homs to Deir ez-Zour. The satellite terminal has been moved by road.
- The ETC is finalising the network in Deir ez-Zour with the main activity being the deployment of the security communications infrastructure. The equipment is ready and the ETC has sent a request to MoFA for approval before the equipment can be deployed.
- The ETC Coordinator for the surrounding countries (Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and the Global ETC Coordinator are planning to conduct a joint mission to Syria in the week starting 3 November.

Turkey

- ETC activities in Turkey may need to be reviewed due to funding constraints.

4. YEMEN

Security situation

- The security situation in Yemen continues to be volatile and unpredictable with armed clashes reported across the country. UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) recently issued a new advisory following the recent drone attacks on Saudi Arabia with all staff advised to have limited movements.

ETC Response

- The scale up of humanitarian operations in Yemen continues to pose challenges for ETC capacity and connectivity to upgrade and expand services. The ETC is working with UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to identify gaps. UNDP manages a number of UN compounds in Yemen, including in Sana'a.
- Following technical assessments in 11x hubs, the ETC placed new equipment orders for deployment of 7x satellite terminals which will be used to replace terminals in existing hubs or will be used at new hubs. TeleYemen is the only local service provider and is facing difficulties in importing equipment which impacts ETC activities.
- ETC partners have been invited to the first official inter-agency meeting in Al Hudaydah. The ETC will develop a new plan to determine needs and how to address them.
- After the inter-agency capacity building assessment, ETC is still planning to organise a technical training at the end of November/early December.
- The ETC and UNDSS will conduct a Security Operations Centre (SOC) management training in Al Hudaydah and then replicate it in the other five SOCs.
- Recent clashes in the south of Yemen are delaying the establishment of new ETC hubs in Hajjah, Tourba and Al Mokha.



-
- Design drawing of 30-metre antenna for 5x locations is under revision with engineering to get it approved.
 - In response to a few requests from local NGOs to join the ETC in Yemen, the Coordinator is discussing with OCHA and the Global ETC team in Rome on how to best accommodate the requests.
 - The ETC supported the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Al Hudaydah to determine their requirements for the provision of IT infrastructure and services in their new office.

Teleconference / Meeting ended at 12:33 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 23 October 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:
Global.ETC@wfp.org

Minutes: Suzanne Fenton, WFP