

## **YEMEN – Conflict**

### **ETC Situation Report #39**

**Reporting period 01/10/19 to 31/10/19**

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly.

#### **Highlights**

- The ETC is providing critical Internet connectivity to 884 humanitarians across 11 hubs in Yemen.
- As part of the ETC's S4C project, fibre Internet connectivity services continue to be provided to 3,365 students at the University of Aden.
- The ETC has registered and resolved 3,000 calls across its helpdesks since the beginning of the year.



A member of the ETC team checks a solar panel installed at the UN hub in Al Mokha.  
*Photo: WFP/ETC*

#### **Situation Overview**

As part of the so-called Riyadh Agreement, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced the completion of the withdrawal of its forces from Aden after handing over security in the city successfully to Saudi forces. The move came days after the UAE-backed separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) agreed to an initial power-sharing deal designed to end infighting in Yemen's south.

On 28 October, four Saudi-led Coalition airstrikes targeted Sa'ada city, landing less than 400 metres away from the UN hub. Due to the proximity, shrapnel from the strikes landed within the compound premises. All staff are safe and accounted for.

748,500 suspected cholera cases and 980 associated deaths have been reported so far in 2019. One child under the age of five dies every 12 minutes in Yemen mostly from lack of water, basic nutrition, healthcare & medicine due to the conflict.

## Response

- The ETC is now providing connectivity to 884 humanitarian responders in 11x hubs across Sana'a, Al Hodeidah, Ibb, Aden, Al Mukalla and Al Mokha.
- The ETC is reviewing its budget utilization for 2019 to make the required adjustment and identify requirements for 2020.
- On 16 October, the ETC conducted a technical mission to Al Mokha in the south of Yemen, ahead of opening a new ETC Internet connectivity hub where WFP will host the UN compound and guesthouse in this location.
- The installation of the four 30-metre self-supporting towers is currently delayed as the towers were stopped at a checkpoint outside Sana'a.
  - The installation of these towers will be coordinated by the hosting agencies, namely UNHCR in the UN compound in Tourba, WFP in the UN compound in Al Mokha (one tower) and as per the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) recommendations, two towers in Aden.
- The ETC has received a request from its local partner, All Girls Foundation to establish an internet café for the use of women in Sana'a. The ETC has reviewed the proposal and conducted a technical assessment. The ETC Coordinator will liaise with the S4C Advisor on how to proceed.
- The ETC's planned inter-agency IT capacity building training that was due to happen at the end of November in Amman has been delayed due to the length of time required to obtain visas. The training will now be held in Amman in mid-January 2020.
- On 16 October, an ETC mission went to Al Mokha where a new WFP-hosted compound is being established. The mission assessed the progress of the installation of the SOC. The ETC is deploying the required equipment from Aden.

## Planned Response

- The plan to conduct an ETC inter-agency capacity building exercise to expand local technical knowledge in Yemen has been postponed to January 2020 to allow enough time to process the required visas.
- The ETC will conduct a technical assessment of the hub infrastructure and feasibility of upgrading services at the ETC Internet connectivity hub hosted by ACTED in Ibb.

## Challenges

- The ETC plans to deploy a satellite terminal at the ETC hub in Ibb. However, TeleYemen, the only local provider of satellite communications equipment in Yemen, is facing issues with their stock in the country.
- The security situation remains increasingly volatile across the country. 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 20 November at 1200 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
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-24-september>



## ETC Yemen Focal Points

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