

Libya, Syria, Yemen

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 22/01/2020 TIME: 13:00 UTC

Attendance

Chair	Prakash Muniandy	(Global ETC), UAE
Samaritan's Purse	Don Jamison	USA
UNICEF	Mazen Shwikany	Syria
	Ali Al Dhayani	Yemen
WHO	Khaled Shamseldin	Cairo
WFP	Ahmed Elsheikh	Libya
	Jalal Shah	Italy
	Wali Noor	Yemen
	Balamine Ouattara	Syria
	Sarah Mace	Libya

Teleconference started at 13:02 UTC

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. LIBYA

Security situation

- Clashes have been reported in the south of Tripoli and east of Misrata.

ETS response

- The ETS has submitted requests to the Ministry of Telecommunications (MoT) to obtain the licenses required to use Very High Frequency (VHF) radios and satellite communications services. The ETS will continue to follow up with MoT on the request.
- The contract to provide internet connectivity services for a digital literacy education project in Sebha in conjunction with UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and two NGOs has been awarded to a local ISP.
- The Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) project, the inter-agency call centre, should be ready to go live in early February. The ETS team is working together with 10 UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on launching this project.

2. SYRIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Security situation

- There were clashes in north-west Syria around Qamishli, near the border with Turkey, as well as in the north-east around Idlib, Aleppo and Hama.
- In Dara'a, south-western Syria, the situation continues to be volatile with unknown groups taking control of some areas in the city.

ETC Response

- The ETC is finalizing the draft input for this year's HRP for Syria to be submitted to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) before presenting it to the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC).
- The ETC has obtained all the necessary approvals to proceed with the deployment of the new security telecommunications infrastructure in Tartous to enhance the safety and security of humanitarians operating in the area.
- The ETC's plan to migrate the security telecommunications radio infrastructure is proceeding well. The required equipment has now been cleared at customs and will be transported to the WFP warehouse in Damascus. The ETC will later meet with the inter-agency team to discuss the migration and planned deployment schedule for Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, and Qamishli.
- The power issue impacting the provision of connectivity services at the UN hub in Deir ez-Zor has been resolved after the ETC coordinated with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide a new generator at the hub. UNICEF has now installed the new generator to power the satellite terminal ensuring the provision of services.

3. YEMEN

Security situation

- The security situation across Yemen remains tense and unpredictable, especially in Sa'ada Governorate near the border with Saudi Arabia.



ETC Response

- The ETC currently has around USD240,000 from the 2019 budget which will cover the ETC operation until March. It is expected that the operation will receive its new budget by April.
- The fibre connection which was cut outside Yemen on 9 January has impacted humanitarian operations as it affected around 80% of the country's Internet service. The ETC managed to restore connectivity services in ETC hubs, including at the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a.
- The ETC has completed setting up services, including the establishment of United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)-managed Security Operations Centres (SOC), in new UN hubs in Al Tourba which is managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in Al Mokha, managed by WFP. The ETC will provide Internet connectivity and user support services.
- On 21 January, the ETC joined a mission to Socotra to access the feasibility of setting up a new ETC hub, including an SOC, for humanitarian responders.
- The ETC is liaising with local ISPs to deploy new satellite terminals to reactivate connectivity in hubs in Sanaa and Ibb.
- On 25 January, the ETC conducted a mission to Aden to assess the technical and operational performances of ETC equipment and services.

Teleconference/Meeting ended at 13:32 UTC

Next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on 19 February 2020.

Acronyms

CFM	Common Feedback Mechanism
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Sector
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HRP	Humanitarian Response Planning
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoT	Ministry of Telecommunications
S4C	Services for Communities
SOC	Security Operations Centres
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency



VSAT Very Small Aperture Terminal
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: Triwik Kurniasari, WFP