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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFM</td>
<td>Common Feedback Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETC</td>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Response Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISP</td>
<td>Internet Service Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoT</td>
<td>Ministry of Telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4C</td>
<td>Services for Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Security Operations Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UN Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDSS</td>
<td>UN Department of Safety and Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>UN High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UN Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHF</td>
<td>Very High Frequency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://www.ETCluster.org)

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [Global.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Global.ETC@wfp.org)

**Minutes:** Triwik Kurniasari, WFP