

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #46

Reporting period 01/07/2020 to 31/07/2020

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlights

- The ETC in Yemen has revised its contingency plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 611 humanitarians across 11 sites in Yemen, and communications services, including security telecommunications to a total of 2,452 responders across the country.
- Since 1 January 2020, the ETC Helpdesk has received and resolved 6,456 issues from responders.



The ETC has revised its contingency plan in Yemen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: ETC Yemen

ETC Activities

COVID-19 response

- The ETC is waiting for the required Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be cleared before it can proceed with setting up the two COVID-19 hotlines in Sana'a and Aden for the Ministry of Public Health and Population.
- On 27 July, the ETC started installing the new network in the isolation centre in Al Hudaydah to support the COVID-19 response. ETC services and systems are being maintained on a regular basis to ensure they are operational/accessible by partners.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved the upgrade of the existing 26 Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) in response to the COVID-19 response. The ETC is waiting to receive the required funding from WHO.
- Most ETC staff, including all national staff, continue to work from home as part of social distancing efforts to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

ETC activities

- Following severe flooding in June which severely damaged the UN hub in Tourba hosted by UNHCR, a joint ETC/UNDSS assessment of hub was conducted and the site is now operational again after the ETC set up

the Security Operations Centre (SOC) in a new location and installed a satellite terminal to provide connectivity to responders.

- The ETC has received approval to move ETC equipment from Aden to Marib where a new UN hub will be set up, managed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The ETC will provide connectivity to responders at this site.
- The ETC, in line with its partners' capacity building plan, is arranging a virtual/online training exercise (technical and soft skills) for partners.

Aden

- The ETC is coordinating with the Resident Coordinator/OCHA and the team in Aden to ship the equipment that was procured in February 2019 from Dubai to Aden.
- The ETC team in Aden continues to maintain all IT services and support by closely monitoring the connections and the status of IT infrastructure.

Sana'a

- The ETC is assessing the extension of ETC Wi-Fi services to the UN quarantine centre.
- In Al Hudaydah, the team is preparing to install a firewall in the UN common offices to give more security to the ETC network.
- The ETC has been requested to technically support World Food Programme (WFP), the Ministry of Education, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in exploring ways to establish a digital platform to conduct online distance learning for Yemeni students. Discussions are ongoing.
- The ETC together with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) and Aden Net ISP has been requested to provide Internet connectivity services at Aden International Airport. The ETC in coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is reviewing the request to ensure it is in line with its mandate.

ETC Planned Activities

- The ETC will provide communications services in two new sites, Taizz and Socotra, which will be operational soon. However, the team is facing logistical constraints due to restrictions on movement because of COVID-19.
- The ETC still has plans to collaborate with the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) team on the expansion of the VHF coverage in Aden city to strengthen the safety and security of responders.

Funding

- The ETC in Yemen is funded to maintain its current service provision and implement its agreed activities in Yemen until the end of 2020.

Key Information

- All information on the ETC response in Yemen can be found [here](#).
- The latest ETC Dashboard and [infographic](#) are also available on the www.etcluster.org website.
- The next Global ETC Joint Teleconference on Libya, Syria and Yemen will be held on 16 September.
- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

Key Contacts

Title	Agency	Name	Duty Station	Email
ETC Coordinator	WFP	Wali Noor	Sana'a, Yemen	wali.noor@wfp.org
ETC IMO	WFP	Suzanne Fenton	Dubai, UAE	suzanne.fenton@wfp.org