

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #45

Reporting period 01/08/2017 to 30/09/2017

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 31/10/17.

Highlights

- Given the increasing number of users in the camp, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) enhanced the Internet services for the humanitarian community at the Arbat camp.
- The ETC has identified an alternative local Internet Service Provider (ISP) which will support the humanitarian response in Qayyarah and Hasan Sham camps.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) has agreed to host the ETC radio tower at their camp in Haj Ali which will enable provision of security telecommunications services to humanitarians.



The ETC team setting up equipment from the ETC member Ericsson Response in Jeddah camp 1.
Photo: WFP/ ETC Iraq

Situation Overview

In the early hours of 20 August 2017, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) began operations to retake the town of Tal Afar from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters. Within a week, the town had been retaken by ISF. Around 40,000 people have fled the area since April 2017.

Large-scale fighting in Mosul is over, but the situation remains life-threatening for the Iraqi civilians – with explosive devices widespread and violent incidents. Livelihoods in these areas was severely affected by the disruption to local labour economies during years of conflict and ISIL occupation. An estimated 32,000 homes were destroyed in western Mosul, while over 700,000 people are still displaced. While eastern Mosul is slowly recovering, the people of western Mosul will need comprehensive humanitarian assistance for some time.

Humanitarians are closely monitoring the security situation post the referendum on the independence of Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which took place on 25 September.



Response

- The ETC team hosted a high-level visit from the Chair of the ETC and the World Food Programme's (WFP) Deputy Regional Director. The delegation visited the ETC's Services for Communities (S4C) project in the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Centre in Domiz camp.
- The ETC team in Iraq conducted an assessment mission to provide Internet connectivity to the humanitarian community in Haj Ali, Hassan Sham, As Salamiyah and Qaymawa camps. The ETC has requested the required approvals to deploy services at Qaymawa and Nargzila camps.
- Standby partners from Ericsson Response and the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB) have supported the ETC team in Iraq during the reporting period. The IT specialist from Ericsson Response joined the ETC team on 14 August and departed on 9 September. Starting in September, the IT specialist from MSB is supporting the ETC operation for six months.
- The ETC team carried out a support mission at Arbat camp in Sulaymaniyah to connect ten desktops computers in the Civil Development Organization (CDO). Given the increasing number of users in the camp since 2014, the ETC also enhanced the Internet services for the humanitarian community.
- The ETC carried out a support mission to Domiz camp in Dohuk to improve Internet services to both humanitarian workers and affected community.
- The ETC identified an alternative ISP which will support the humanitarian response in Qayyarah and Hassan Sham camps with the provision of Internet connectivity. The procurement process of these services is ongoing. The previous ISP stopped operations in those areas due to the security situation.
- The ETC team has carried out a technical support mission to Haj Ali camp to improve the Internet connectivity services provided to humanitarians.
- IOM has agreed to host the ETC radio tower at their camp in Haj Ali to provide security telecommunications services for humanitarians. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been sent to IOM for signature.

Services for Communities

- The ETC is focusing on deploying S4C in Arbat in the coming months.

Planned Response

- The ETC team will assess the possibility of providing Internet connectivity to the humanitarian community in Haj Ali (Qayyarah, Jadaa camp, Jadaa airstrip, Jadaa camp 3, 4, 5, and 6), Hassan Sham (Khazer M1, Hassan Sham M2, Hassan Sham U2, Hassan Sham U3 and Chamakor), As Salamiyah (Hammam Al Alil 1 and 2), Nargzila (Nargzila 1 and 2), and Qaymawa.
- The ETC has initiated discussions with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to connect ETC repeaters to the UNAMI network to increase the radio coverage for both UNAMI and UN personnel. Analogue radio repeaters will be installed in Hassan Sham and As Salaminyah to provide Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with security telecommunications services.



Challenges

- As the Mosul operation continues to evolve, the security situation remains volatile across the country. Movements of humanitarians are expected to be restricted around referendum dates.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on Wednesday, 11 October.
- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on Thursday, 19 October 2017.

Information

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) responders operating on the ground in Iraq are encouraged to share their contact details with Iraq.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination. For ETC support, please call +964 782 780 6767.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website www.etcluster.org/emergencies/iraq-conflict. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall humanitarian response.
- Members of the Local ETC Working Group are encouraged to share information by emailing Iraq.TWG.User.List@wfp.org. All documents related to the ETC operation in Iraq are available on the ETC portal.



Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	USER
Dohuk	Domiz camp	WFP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	Humanitarian community
		UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		
		WFP, UNFPA, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet - UNFPA Youth Centre (Domiz) 		Affected community
		WFP, UNHCR, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet café 		
	WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications COMCEN Radio programming Radio training ICT helpdesk Assessments 	Humanitarian community	
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp (UNHCR office, CDO Community Centre)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) ICT helpdesk 	WIDER	Humanitarian community
		WFP, Ericsson Response, CDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 		
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) COMCEN Radio programming Radio training Assessments 	Humanitarian community	



	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) 		
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk • Assessments 		Humanitarian community
Qayyarah	Mercy Hands office (town)	WFP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 	WIDER	Humanitarian community
	Haj Ali IOM office (link)	WFP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications • Internet connectivity 		
	Qayyarah Jad'ah	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications 		
	Qayyarah Airstrip: IOM office (link) DRC office (link)	WFP, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		
Mosul	IHP overnight camp (Athbah Field Hospital)	WFP, MSB/IHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Generator 		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/IRQ_ETC_Services_A3L_20170919.pdf



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Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website: www.ETCluster.org. For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Iraq.ETC@wfp.org