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Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #46

Reporting period 18/09/2017 to 09/11/2017

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly approximately. The next report will be issued on or around 30/11/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) team has completed a tower installation in Haj Ali, expanding provision of Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in Haj Ali and Jeddah camps.

- The Arbat camp has been identified as the next location to be provided Services for Communities (S4C). Deployment of an S4C Advisor will take place within the coming months.

- Increasing security concerns have compelled the ETC team to cancel 3x missions to Qayyarah, Haji Ali and As Salamiyah.

The ETC team is setting up security telecommunications services and Internet connectivity in Adha IHP camp. *Photo: WFP/ ETC Iraq*

Situation Overview

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has been activated in Iraq since 2014 after heavy fighting erupted between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the armed opposition groups. As a result, an estimated eleven million people across Iraq are in need of life-saving assistance.

The country has remained extremely volatile with telecommunications infrastructure having been severely damaged by the conflict while provision and restoration of communications services are required to support the response community.

As the global lead of the ETC, the World Food Programme (WFP) is convening the ETC in Iraq to meet vital communications needs, responding with government, the private sector and humanitarian organizations to ensure a coordinated response.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

Response

- The ETC has completed a telecommunications assessment mission to Hasansham and has identified the location with a suitable tower that will be used to set up security telecommunications and Internet connectivity.

- The ETC team has completed a tower installation in Haj Ali expanding provision of Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in Haj Ali and Jeddah camps

- The ETC completed a mission to a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) - Mercy Hands - to demobilize ETC equipment and transfer it to IOM camp in Haj Ali.

- The ETC is in contact with UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to expand telecommunications network by using the already available UNAMI infrastructure. With this expansion, staff using handheld radios will be able to reach Erbil radio room from Qayyarah.

- The ETC has conducted 2x radio training for 32 humanitarian staff from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

- 18x radios were programmed for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and World Food Programme (WFP) partners in Erbil.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC has identified Arbat as the next location to be provided with common ICT services to affected communities.

- The ETC is in the midst of identifying an S4C advisor and is planning for the deployment to take place within the coming months.

Planned Response

- Due to the fluid security situation, the ETC team continues to assess possibilities of providing Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to the humanitarian community in Al Qayyarah (Qayyarah Jad'ah 3-6,) Hassan Sham (Hassan Sham M2, Hassan Sham U2, Hassan Sham U3), Khazer M1, As Salamiyah, Hammam Al Alil 1 and 2, and Nargizliya,

- The ETC is requesting government permission to enter a new site identified to connect ETC repeaters to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) network to increase radio coverage for both UNAMI and United Nations (UN) personnel.

    o Analogue radio repeaters will be installed in Hassan Sham and As Salaminyah to provide Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with security telecommunications services.

Challenges

- The ETC team was compelled to cancel 3x missions to Qayyarah, Haji Ali and As Salamiyah due to rising security concerns.

- Another mission to Haji Ali ended abruptly during its deployment due to security instability.

- Plans for future field missions are hampered due to the volatile security situation.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on 29 November.

- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 23 November.

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.

Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	USER
Dohuk	Domiz camp	WFP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
		UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio)		
		WFP, UNFPA, Ericsson Response	• Internet - UNFPA Youth Centre (Domiz)		Affected community
		WFP, UNHCR, Ericsson Response	• Internet café		
	WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • ICT helpdesk • Assessments		Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp (UNHCR office, CDO Community Centre)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio) • ICT helpdesk		Humanitarian community
		WFP, Ericsson Response, CDO	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Assessments		Humanitarian community

	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio)		
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk • Assessments		Humanitarian community
Qayyarah	Haj Ali IOM office (link)	WFP, Ericsson Response	• Security telecommunications • Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
	Qayyarah Jad'ah	WFP	• Security telecommunications		
	Qayyarah Airstrip: IOM office (link) DRC office (link)	WFP, Ericsson Response	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments		
Mosul	IHP overnight camp (Athbah Field Hospital)	WFP, MSB/IHP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Generator		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-november-6-2017

ETC Factsheet: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-factsheet-31-october-2017

Contacts

Iraq.ETC@wfp.org

Prakash Muniandy, ETC Coordinator
prakash.muniandy@wfp.org
Cellphone: +964 782 780 6736

Gloria Botero, ETC
Information Management Officer
gloria.botero@wfp.org

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
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commission for Refugees
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