

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #49

Reporting period 12/01/2018 to 18/02/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 18/03/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Services for Communities (S4C) Advisor deployed to Iraq to oversee the implementation of the expansion of S4C services.
- The ETC is now providing Internet connectivity in two additional sites in Hajj Ali Airstrip bringing the total number of sites with access to ETC Internet connectivity to 14.
- The ETC is also collaborating closely with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Internally Displaced People (IDP) Call Centre. This enables affected communities in camps where the ETC is providing Internet connectivity to call the official helpdesk for support and information.



The ETC finalises the deployment of security telecommunications services in As Salamiyah.
Photo: WFP/ Erika Iglesias

Situation Overview

Around 3.2 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have returned to their places of origin although 2.6 million are still displaced in the centre south region of Iraq. More than 800 families have been re-displaced to other camps and there are increasing protection concerns over disappearances, collective punishments and a volatile security environment in Shirqat district in particular.

The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan was launched in early February which focuses on addressing the needs of the 3.4 million people in Iraq who are most vulnerable, with an overall budget of around US\$569 million.

Tensions between Baghdad and Erbil continue after the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) held a referendum on independence in September 2017. The central government has since retaliated by taking control of Kirkuk and the surrounding areas in the disputed territories, while imposing a ban on international flights from two major



airports in Kurdistan, including Erbil. Humanitarians must now travel to Baghdad International Airport.

Response

- The ETC requires US\$1.9 million in 2018 to ensure humanitarians in Iraq have access to reliable Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to enable their response. Of this, the ETC has US\$1.2 million in carry over from 2017 but no new funds have been received.
- To ensure the provision of vital communications services in the long term, the ETC has posted two vacancy announcements for 1x Information Technology (IT) assistant and 1x Information Management associate.
- The team conducted an assessment mission to West Mosul to identify ways to expand the security telecommunications services to support the humanitarian response.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC continues to run its S4C project in Domiz camp, Dohuk and supports World Food Programme (WFP)'s Tech for Food project in Arbat camp by providing Internet connectivity to 100 refugees who are students there.
- The ETC S4C Advisor is currently on mission in Iraq to oversee the implementation of the expansion of the S4C project to affected communities in northern Iraq.

Planned Response

- As part of the ETC activities included in the HRP for 2018, the ETC is planning to conduct several training sessions in Erbil, including ICT Emergency Management for Government and Partner (ICT4Gov) which is tentatively scheduled for April.
- The ETC is collaborating with WFP to incorporate e-vouchers into the SCOPE¹ ID cards handed out to affected communities to access Internet services in refugee camps. This mechanism will replace the existing delivery of an Internet paper voucher to refugees and will lead to more efficient monitoring and use of the ETC Internet services.
- In line with the decision adopted by the UN Country Team (UNCT), the ETC is working to hand over the management of the Inter-Agency Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). This is expected to be completed by the end of March 2018.
- The ETC is planning to conduct further assessment missions in Anbar and Ninewa governorates to expand the security telecommunications services and support the humanitarian response in those operational areas.

Challenges

¹ SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform that supports the WFP programme intervention cycle from beginning to end. SCOPE is used for beneficiary registrations, intervention setups, distribution planning, transfers and distribution reporting.



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- The security situation remains volatile across the country. Movements of humanitarian aid workers are heavily restricted.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on 28 February.
- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 14 March.

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. 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 		Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) ICT helpdesk 		Humanitarian community
	(UNHCR office, WFP Food Distribution Centre, CDO Community Centre)	WFP, Ericsson Response, CDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) COMCEN Radio programming Radio training 		Humanitarian community

	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) 		Humanitarian community
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk 		Humanitarian community
Qayyarah (Mosul response)	Haj Ali	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity 		Humanitarian community
	IOM office (link)				
	Qayyarah Jad'ah 1, 3-6	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity 		
	Qayyarah Airstrip: IOM office (link) DRC office (link)	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity 		
As Salamiyah (Mosul response)	As Salamiyah camp Hammam al Alil 1 &2 (link)	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications (radio) 		Humanitarian community
Hassan Sham (Mosul response)	Hassan Sham camps I, U2, U3 Khazer camp M1	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity 		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-29-january-2017>



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Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CDO	Community Development Organization
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HF	High Frequency
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
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