Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #50

Reporting period 19/02/2018 to 27/03/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 30/04/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Services for Communities (S4C) Advisor completed a mission to Iraq to determine what S4C activities may be implemented.

- To ensure the safety and security of responders and to ensure that security telecommunications services are used correctly, the ETC assisted the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) with radio programming activities.

Habib Shashati, ETC's security telecommunications specialist, installs a radio repeater in As Salamiyah.
Photo: WFP/ Erika Iglesias

Situation Overview

Heavy rains and flooding in the second half of February affected around 33 camps and sites and 200,000 displaced people, predominantly in northern and central governorates. From mid-January 2018 until the end of February, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster has reported the arrival of 23,208 displaced people in camps in Ninewa governorate.

In a joint announcement, published on 6 March, the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and its partners launched their 2018 humanitarian plans for Iraq: the Government's Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization of Displaced People and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The humanitarian community is appealing for US$ 569 million through the HRP to respond to the needs of the 3.4 million most vulnerable people in Iraq. This year, approximately 8.7 million people, nearly half of them children, will require some form of humanitarian assistance while as many as two million displaced Iraqis are expected to return.

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

Response

- The ETC deployed Internet connectivity services for humanitarians in As Salamiyah camp, covering Hammam al Ali camps 1 and 2 as part of the Mosul response.

- The ETC carried out assessment and monitoring missions on ETC Internet connectivity services provided through a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Hassan Sham, Haj Ali, Qayyarah, Jad'ah camps 1 to 6 and Jad'ah airstrip.

- The transfer of the ETC Communications Centres (COMCEN) operations in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah to UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is ongoing.

- The ETC has appealed for 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. Although no new funds have been received, the ETC has US$1.2 million in carry over from last year.

- To ensure the provision of vital communications services in the long term, the ETC is shortlisting candidates for two positions: 1x Information Technology (IT) assistant and 1x Information Management associate.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC continues to run its S4C project in Domiz camp, Dohuk and supports (WFP)'s Tech for Food project in Arbat camp by providing Internet connectivity to 100 refugees who are students there.

- The ETC is meeting with agencies, such as International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNFPA to determine how S4C can support existing Communicating with Communities (CwC) activities.

Planned Response

- 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 in the first week of April.

- The ETC is planning to conduct a telecommunications assessment missions Salahaddin and Anbar. S4C assessments in both locations will also be conducted.

Challenges

- 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 March.

- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 25 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	• 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		Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp (UNHCR office, WFP Food Distribution Centre, 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		Humanitarian community

	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Qayyarah (Mosul response)	Haj Ali IOM office (link)	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		Humanitarian community
	Qayyarah Jad'ah 1, 3-6	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		
	Qayyarah Airstrip: IOM office (link) DRC office (link)	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		
As Salamiyah (Mosul response)	As Salamiyah camp Hammam al Alil 1 &2 (link)	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
Hassan Sham (Mosul response)	Hassan Sham camps I, U2, U3 Khazer camp M1	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		Humanitarian community

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

Contacts

Iraq.ETC@wfp.org

Habib Shashati, ETC Coordinator
Habib.shashati@wfp.org

Suzanne Fenton, ETC Information Management Officer
suzanne.fenton@wfp.org

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
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
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